**RE; REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PURSUANT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 24/18 AND 16/2.**

Mandate of the special Rapporteur on human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

**SECTION (1) Question for the report on gender equality.**

* **What are the particular issues to be addressed to achieve gender equality with respect to water, sanitation and hygiene, and what measures are being taken to address these?**

(a) Access to safe drinking water is a basic human right and essential for achieving gender equality.

1. Sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

(c).Providing physically accessible clean water is essential for enabling women and girls to devote more time to the pursuit of education, income generation and even the construction and management of water and sanitation facilities.

(d) Mainstreaming of gender at policy, operation and in monitoring and evaluation.

1. Strengthen the voice of men and women in WASH.

**SOLUTIONS**,

GWIN (a gender budgeting initiative) which has a project provided by the Ministry of water Resources that specifically aims at addressing gender issues and the monitoring of those projects by the Federal Ministry of women Affairs. The Establishment of Water, sanitation and hygiene commodities in local communities in some states (e.gTaraba) with the stipulation that 40% of the membership of those communities should be women.A mechanism exists to promote cooperation to mainstream gender in the water sector it is in the Ministry of Water Resources.

* **What measures can be taken to accommodate and embrace biological differences (such as menstruation)? What measures can be taken to accommodate (assumed) different priories in the use of water, sanitation and hygiene services?**

(a) Replacing the silence and shame of menstruation with pride and confidence; equipping women and girls with the knowledge and means to manage their menstruation hygienically and with dignity;

(b) Providing means for the safe disposal of menstrual waste.

(c) Providing MHM in schools encourages adolescent girls to continue their education, improving their long-term development and self-confidence.

(d) Helping to prevent early marriage and early pregnancy, and contributing to ending the cycle of poverty.

(e) Non- governmental organization should be encouraged to dig wells or sink boreholes for female headed households (who are not entitled to land).

(f) Adequate gender mainstreaming including gender analysis at all levels of government and at all levels of the project should be conducted. These include policy provisions like stating that the management of WASH initiatives should have female representatives

g. Formulate a strategy or action plan that address biological difference

h. Conduct training and capacity building on gender inclusiveness for both women and men.

* **What measures can be taken to combat stereotypes, change harmful practices and challenges socio-cultural norms and perceptions that disadvantage women and girls with respect to access to water sanitation and water?**

(a)Access to water and sanitation are recognized as fundamental human rights incorporated in the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

(b)The rights to water and sanitation require that these basics are adequate,

(c) Gender analysis of the water sanitation and hygienic sector to identify harmful practices, socio cultural norms and perceptions that affect water, sanitation and hygiene.

(d) Advocacy to community leaders to change perceptions of stereotypes.

(e) Capacity building of service provides.

* **What role can men and boys play in ensuring gender equality in the context of sanitation and water?**

(a)Men traditionally may have a greater role than women in public decision-making. Because of these different roles and incentives, it is important to fully involve both women and men in demand-driven water and sanitation programs, where communities decide what type of systems they want and are willing to help finance

(b) Men and boys should be more supportive of women especially female heads of households (e.g. help them build wells and other WASH facilities)

(c) Men should encourage women in decision making on WASH activities.

* **What measures can be taken to combat gender –based violence in the context of sanitation and water?**

(a)Women are often vulnerable to harassment or violence when they have to travel long distances to fetch water, use shared toilets, or practice open defecation.

(b)Women and girls often wait until nightfall to defecate, which increases the risk of assault. Many choose to ‘hold it’ or limit their consumption of food and drink to delay the need to relieve them, which can increase the chance of urinary tract infections.

(C) There should be awareness creation on the VAPP act (Violence against Peoples Prohibition) Act 2015.

(e) Coordinated implementation of the VAPP act.

(f) Concerted efforts should be made to build more indoor toilets.

* **What measure can be taken to redress existing disadvantage based on entrenched discrimination in the context of sanitation and water?**

(a) A notable lack of research on the links between a lack of access to WASH and increased vulnerability to violence perpetuates these challenges. WASH policies and programmes must priorities safety and privacy for women and girls, and actions aimed at reducing violence against women must highlight the importance of access to safe water and sanitation.

(b) Implementation of more gender budgeting initiatives.

(c) Comprehensive gender mainstreaming in WASH.

(d) Implementation of gender responsive provision of policies (e.g. National Gender Policy).

* **What role does the legislation play in ensuring gender equality in access water, sanitation and hygiene? What can water, sanitation and hygiene polices and strategies achieve? What is the role of institutions in promoting better representation of water? How can financing and budgeting in the WASH sector be gender-responsive?**

(a)With improved access to WASH, women have more time to undertake income generating activities.

(b) WASH programmes also provide women with the water needed to carry economic activities and can create opportunities for paid work.

(c) Easier access to water can, for example, enable a woman to water a kitchen garden, improving their family’s food security and providing an opportunity to earn money by selling the surplus.

(d) Women’s involvement in decision-making about water resources and in WASH programmes is critical to their empowerment, but it is important not to overburden them with additional unpaid work on top of their existing responsibilities.

(e)Legislation enables standards and appropriate regulation be applied to WASH while providing for punishment for violation.

(f)WASH policies ensures uniformly of application and that emerging issues are addressed. The policies are also vital in ensuring that minimum standard of gender inclusiveness are adhered to.

* **What measures can be taken to ensure meaningful and inclusive participatory processes at all levels of decision making? How can an increased role for woman and girls translate into actual influence in decision making?**

(a)The Women Leaders for WASH are championing the role of women in decision-making, capacity building, educating children on sanitation and hygiene, and mobilizing political will around other priorities such as the linkages between water, sanitation, and hygiene.

(b)These leaders constitute the critical mass needed to get gender integrated into water and sanitation policies and programmes.

(C) Working closely with these dynamic women leaders is important for advancing a gender perspective at global and national levels during the ‘Water for Life’ Decade, and developing a network on gender and water.

(d) Relevant policies regarding inclusiveness in WASH initiatives should be promoted and adhered to.

(e) Enhanced advocacy and sensitization should be undertaken.

**How can monitoring in the sanitation and water sectors be in proved to capture gender inequalities in intra-household and extra-house hold setting?**

(a)A focus on gender differences is of particular importance with regard to sanitation initiatives, and gender-balance approaches should be encouraged in plans and structures for implementation.

(b)By developing a monitoring and evaluation process that uses gender sensitive indicators and which adequately involves men and women

(c) When the monitoring process involves both men and women it ensures enhanced results as a result of collective action

(d)Such monitoring should be defined by clear cut guidelines.

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* **How can measures to ensure gender equality adequately reflect inter- sectional analysis that acknowledges the heterogeneous back grounds, living conditions and challenges women and girls face?**

(a) Such measures should be adopted based on wide consultations with stakeholders who represent a variety of backgrounds.

**11. QUESTION; for the report, and development co –operation.**

**What measures can be taken to ensure that development co-operation does not risk violating human right? What safe guards can be put in place?**

(a) Women to take part in advocacy and human rights training.

(b)The women formed groups in their villages, held meetings to raise awareness about women’s issues, and analyzed solutions and strategies that could help improve their lives.

(c)They organized workshops between community leaders and the Rural Water Supply Department aimed at making the department more responsive.

(d)They developed support networks and used the media to pressurize the government to take corrective measures.

(e)They also demanded their rights through peaceful rallies and demonstrations.

* **What role is there for human rights impact an assessment in development cooperation?**

(a)The Donors should commission assessments or evaluations of its water and sanitation projects and programmes from the perspective of human rights. The aim should be to catalyze discussion with staff and development partners and develop policies, guidelines or practices as appropriate.

(b)A rights-based approach to development cooperation can significantly contribute to the realization of human rights

(c)The application of these ensures the empowerment of the poorest and most vulnerable, in particular of women and girls, which in turn contributes to poverty reduction efforts.

* **What measures can be used to ensure that human rights obligations are followed in the process of determining priorities and deciding which countries and programs will receive financial and other support?**

(a)States and international organizations to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance and cooperation, in particular to developing countries, in order to *scale up efforts* to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all

* **What measures can be used to ensure that human rights obligations are followed in the process of designing the programs and projects?**

(a)There should be is a strong focus on gender equality, covering female employment in projects, participation by women in water management and project implementation, and emphasis on sanitation in schools to engender higher participation by girls.

(b)These obligations could be stated in Basic Standard Assistance Agreements entered into between donors and beneficiaries.

* **What measures can be used to ensure that development co-operation promotes equality and tackles discrimination?**

(a)The Convention sets out an agenda to end discrimination against women, and explicitly references both water and sanitation within its text.

(b)**Article 14(2)(h)** of CEDAW provides: States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the rights.

* **What mechanisms can be used to ensure that development co-operation promotes transparency and access to information?**

1. The state must make information available on about current and planned water and sanitation law, policies and programmes, including for example on the provision of services, tariff systems and the quality of water and sanitation.
2. A transparent government furthermore assures visibility and accessibility of information. Transparency establishes openness of information without the need for proceeding requests, through for example dissemination of information on the radio, internet and official journals. Transparency should therefore be integrated throughout the entire legal framework, institutions and proceedings of the state.
3. Development cooperation should be based on an international collectively formulated toolkit/framework on development co-operation which emphasizes non- discrimination, inclusivity and equality

* **What measures can be used to ensure that development co-operation programs and projects are based on participatory processes**

(a)The human rights to water and sanitation can only be realized in an effective manner when people become part of all processes that relate to the realization of these rights. Participation must be active, free and meaningful.

(b) It must provide for real opportunities to influence the planning process. Participation ensures better implementation and enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions, as it ensures that local conditions and needs can be taken into account. Opportunities for participation, including community needs assessments, must be established as early as possible. Any plan or decision-making that relates to the realization of the rights to water and to sanitation must be developed through a participatory and transparent process

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* **What monitoring mechanisms can be put in place to assess development co-operation programmes and projects with respects to human rights?**

(a) Human rights principles apply across all of international human rights law and therefore must be complied with.

(b)The full set of human rights principles comprises the principles of non-discrimination and equality, participation, accountability, access to information, and transparency.

(c)Development Cooperation frameworks should emphasize that transparency and access to information is included as criteria for accessing assistance under development cooperation.

* **What accountability mechanisms can be put in place so that people affected by development co-operation programmes or projects can effectively have complaints addressed?**

(a) Service providers and the government must be accountable to users. Individuals or groups who feel that their rights have been violated must have access to independent review mechanisms and courts to have their complaints heard and resolved.

(b) Mechanisms must be enacted that establish oversight and control between both public and private actors in water and sanitation provision. Clear institutional mandates must be defined to build accountability into the entire system of water and sanitation provision.

(c) Actions taken or decisions made under those mandates must be accountable and regulated through a system of oversight responsibilities.

* **What measures can be taken to ensure the sustainability of development co-operation in line with the human rights principles?**

(a)Sustainability is essential to the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, as it must be ensured that once services and facilities have been improved, these improvements must be maintained.

(b) Also, water and sanitation must be provided in a way that respects the environment.

(C) Services must be available for present and for future generations, and the provision of services today should not compromise the ability of future generations to realize their human rights to water and sanitation.

(d)Therefore, sufficient investments in operation and maintenance of existing services have to be ensured.

(e) Appropriate guidelines or frameworks should be developed for development cooperation which has provisions that ensure the propagation of human rights in sustained manner**.**

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