



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE:

28 January 2014

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to request for your views to inform my annual thematic report to the General Assembly. This year's report will focus on the issue of participation in realizing the human rights to water and sanitation.

I seek to explore what the human rights to water and sanitation require in terms of participation. I am interested in looking at processes at various levels (local, national and international) as well as at the relationship and differences between stakeholder participation and participation by concerned individuals and communities. I will particularly focus on inclusive participatory processes, discussing ways to ensure how the most marginalised and/or vulnerable individuals and groups can exercise their right to participate and influence decision-making.

I would like to benefit from diverse views and perspectives by encouraging all stakeholders to submit their views on this issue, including responses to the questions listed in the following pages. In particular, I would welcome submissions that reflect the experience of groups and individuals who have taken part in participatory processes or have undertaken their own initiatives seeking to influence policy-making or other measures. In many instances, participatory processes will be constant and ongoing, while in other instances a particular process might be completed.

In order to have the submissions considered for the report, all stakeholders are encouraged to submit their contributions at their earliest convenience but no later than **31 March 2014**. Submissions can be transmitted electronically to [srwatsan@ohchr.org](mailto:srwatsan@ohchr.org) (preferred) or be addressed to:

*Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*  
*Sustainable Human Development Section*  
*Special Procedures Branch*  
*UNOG-OHCHR*  
*Palais des Nations*  
*CH-1211 Geneva 10*  
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I look forward to receiving your valuable contributions.

Yours faithfully,



Catarina de Albuquerque  
Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation

### Questions

*Please answer the following preliminary questions to help me understand your or your organization's status and functions:*

- A. Please indicate the type of stakeholder you are representing, for example:
1. Non-governmental organization or civil society
  2. Community-based organization
  3. International organization or donor agency
  4. Concerned individual
  5. Concerned group of people
  6. Other (please specify)
- B. Please indicate your or your organization's role in the process, for example (you may choose multiple answers):
1. Developed and facilitated a participatory process
  2. Took part in a participatory process facilitated by others
  3. Initiated a participatory process yourself to influence decision-making
  4. Other (please specify)

*For the thematic report, I would particularly welcome your answers to the following questions:*

1. Please indicate and describe a participatory process or processes in your country that are related to the human rights to water and/ or sanitation. Which authorities and organizations are involved in the design and facilitation of the process? What are the costs of designing and facilitation the process? Who covers the costs?

2. What does the process seek to ensure – participation in legislative proposals, policy-making, budgeting, service provision or other measures? At what level does the process take place – the national, local or international level?
3. Has there been a history of mobilization in your country to ensure participation in decision-making? In general, is the government (at the various levels) viewed as responsive to such demands? How has the government responded to people's demands for (increased) participation?
4. Is there a legal or policy basis for participation? Specifically, is participation with respect to improving access to water and sanitation provided for in legislation, policy or practice in your country?
5. How have the geographical reach of processes and the concerned individuals and groups been defined? How do processes ensure inclusiveness? How do processes seek to ensure that not just major stakeholders, but also concerned individuals can participate?
6. Are certain individuals or groups meant to represent others? How does the system of representation work? What is the role of NGOs? Who do they represent, if anyone? Is there any process of verifying their claim to represent, i.e. are they required to produce any type of proof?
7. What are the opportunities for participation? Are there consultations, hearings, opportunities to submit written responses and online fora?
8. What measures are in place to enable people to participate? What measures are taken to overcome barriers that people face, in particular marginalized groups and individuals?
9. What channels have been used to disseminate information about the envisaged measures and the participatory process?
10. How are the inputs taken into account? What is the impact of participatory processes on decision-making and the design of measures and policies?
11. What follow-up has been put in place? Are people informed about the outcome of processes? Are they informed about whether and how their proposals have been taken into account?
12. Would you describe the participatory processes as successful? If the specific process referred to above has been completed, please comment on what accounts for its success or failure. Has the process been evaluated? What lessons does it offer for future processes?