



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 Human Rights Council. This year's report will focus on the issue of identifying common violations of the human rights to water and sanitation.

I seek to develop a typology of common violations of the right to water and relate these to their underlying structural causes and power relations. I intend to explore avenues for redressing such violations and seeking accountability (judicial and non-judicial mechanisms at the national, regional and international level). While primarily focusing on the role of States, I also seek to address the role of other actors, discussing how quasi-judicial bodies (including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) can best address cases and complaints and how civil society organisations can strategically support bringing forward relevant cases on the rights to water and sanitation.

I would like to benefit from diverse views and perspectives by encouraging all stakeholders to submit their views on this issue. In particular, I would welcome submissions that reflect the experience of groups and individuals who have litigated the rights to water and sanitation or who allege that their rights are violated. However, it should be noted that submissions for the present report are not the place to address specific complaints about alleged violations to the Special Rapporteur. Information on addressing complaints to the Special Rapporteur and other human rights mechanisms can be found at:

www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Communications.aspx.

In order to have your submissions considered for the report, all stakeholders are encouraged to submit their contributions, including responses to the questions listed in the next pages, at their earliest convenience but no later than **28 February 2014**. Submissions can be transmitted electronically to 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 Division
UNOG-OHCHR



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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

The Special Rapporteur would particularly welcome submissions that address the following questions. Please only answer the questions that are relevant to your role / experience. Please attach supporting information such as judgments and decisions by other bodies where relevant.

1. Have you identified any violations of the rights to water and/or sanitation? If yes, please explain.
2. What do you regard as the structural causes and underlying determinants of the human rights violations you have identified? How do these relate to power relationships between various groups and sectors of society?
3. Have you identified particular groups and individuals whose rights have been violated disproportionately? Which individuals and groups?
4. What activities do you undertake to monitor the realization of the human rights to water and/or sanitation and alleged violations?
5. Have you taken any cases on the rights to water and/or sanitation to court? If yes, please elaborate.
6. Have you been involved in procedures before other accountability mechanisms? If yes, please elaborate.



7. Have you sought to address the lack of policy design or policy implementation, the failure to take steps, the failure to take targeted measures, the lack of sufficient budgetary allocation or similar failures? How have you framed these failures as human rights violations? What standards of review have you relied on?
8. Have you sought to address and seek remedies for discriminatory practices? Have you sought to address structural inequalities in the realization of the rights to water and/or sanitation? If yes, please elaborate.