national commission for human rights

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**THE RWANDA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY`S REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHT TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

The following are the answers to the questions corresponding to the situation that prevails in Rwanda:

**Question A:** The National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda.

**Question B:** The National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda sensitizes different groups of people on human rights in general, including the rights to clean water and sanitation.

**Answer to Q1**

The local population determines together the needs in water and sanitation for their community. The authorities involved in the design and facilitation of the process are the local government authorities and the Ministry in charge of natural resources. The cost is sometime shared between the local government and the members of the community and sometime fully covered by the national budget.

**Answer to Q2**

The process seeks to ensure participation in legislative proposals, budgeting and policy-making. The process takes place at local and national level.

**Answer to Q3**

In Rwanda the process is initiated by the government which in turn involves the population.

**Answer to Q4**

Yes. There is a legal or policy basis for participation. But the legal /policy basis is the general policy for population welfare not specific for water and sanitation only.

**Answer to Q5**

Here inclusiveness is obvious. The local population decides together the priority needs for their community. In this way no one is set aside.

**Answer to Q6**

There is no representation. The entire population is required to participate. Once the need in water and sanitation has been detected, NGOs may only participate in the financing of water supply project chosen by the population as priority.

**Answer to Q7**

Generally participation is done via consultations and hearings. Only in extremely rare occasions, can submission of written response be required.

**Answer to Q8**

The very nature of our local government functioning involves population participation in the decision-making concerning their community. No one is marginalized. There is no need of peculiar measures to enable people to participate. Participation flows naturally.

**Answer to Q9**

The channels used to disseminate information are authorities` communications to people.

**Answer to Q10.**

The population wishes are fully taken into account in the decision-making.

**Answer to Q11**

Follow up by the population of the outcome of their proposals is made via questions the people ask in the meetings with local authorities.

**Answer to Q12**

The participatory process in the Rwandan context is satisfactory and successful. Its success is due to the absence of marginalization and the full involvement of the entire population.

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