



PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Questionnaire for States

The principle of accountability in the context of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

As part of his research, the Special Rapporteur welcomes responses to the following questions:

1. Please provide information on how the **principle of accountability is defined and applied** in the legal, policy and institutional frameworks, particularly to ensure the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.
2. Please describe **challenges or gaps** identified in the application and implementation of the principle of accountability to ensure the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. How have these challenges and gaps been addressed?

Responsibility

3. Please describe how and where (law, policy, administrative documents) the **roles and responsibilities of the actors** involved in the provision of water and sanitation services are defined in accordance with the normative content of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. In other words, how are defined the roles of the actors responsible for the accessibility, availability, affordability, acceptability and quality of water and sanitation services in an equal and non-discriminatory manner.
4. Please provide information on existing **performance standards, and monitoring and assessment mechanisms** to ensure accountability for actions of the State that affect the enjoyment of human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of people both **within and outside its borders**.
5. In situations where non-State actors provide water and sanitation services, how does the State ensure accountability for the actions of those actors? What documents and mechanisms exist to define the **responsibilities and performance standards of non-State actors**, and to **monitor and assess** their behaviour in a transparent and objective manner?

Answerability

6. Please provide specific examples of cases where the **State provided reasoned justifications for their actions and decisions** to those whose human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation were affected.
7. Please provide specific examples of good practices on how individuals and groups – including those who are particularly hard to reach – are **informed of available accountability mechanisms**, and what measures exist to **support and empower** them to access and utilize those mechanisms.
8. Please provide examples of mechanisms in place that provide **a platform or forum for participation and discussion on remedy measures** specifically on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. (These may include monitoring bodies, platforms for civil society to participate, consultations, public hearings, civil society monitoring.)

Enforceability

9. Please provide **examples of effective mechanisms*** to ensure that State and non-State actors at all levels are subject to **enforceable sanctions or remedial actions** in relation to the violation or abuse of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.
*Examples may include judicial, quasi-judicial, administrative, political and social mechanisms.
10. Please provide examples of cases where **State and non-State actors were held accountable** for their obligations and responsibilities with regard to the human rights to water and sanitation in front of a judicial, quasi-judicial, administrative, political and other mechanisms.
11. Please provide examples of cases where **State effectively monitored and held non-State actors accountable** for their actions that negatively affected the enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation **within and outside its borders**.
12. Please provide information on how **outcomes** of accountability mechanisms are implemented and complied with.