**1. The use of the human rights framework for water, sanitation and hygiene to identify and assess appropriate types of services and management models taken into account the specific contexts:**

At the very beginning it needs to be noted that Slovenia is a member of the European Union and as such it co-creates the EU legal regulation, transposes the adopted acts into its own legal order and is responsible for implementation of EU legislation

Slovenia is one of the few countries in the world that has incorporated the right to drinking water in its constitution. In Slovenia, the right to drinking water is ensured by supplying water to homes and also wherever people spend most of their time (e.g. educational institutions, shops, health care institutions). Drinking water is provided mainly through public water supply, with possibility of own drinking water supply or as self-sufficiency of certain facilities through intercepted rainwater. Only in exceptional cases water is supplied in other ways (e.g. water tank access) outside of the residences.

Slovenia is a country relatively rich with water, so in principle there are no major problems with water supply. Residents who are supplied with water through public water supply system are provided with sufficient water availability, where drinking water supply takes precedence over the use of water for other purposes. Each public water supply system must be provided with reserve catchments for drinking water to provide enough water in case of emergencies, at least in the necessary volume of drinking water consumption. Another independent public water supply system may also be considered as a reserve catchment with drinking water. In the case of a smaller number of inhabitants, the public service provider may replace the reserve drinking water catchments by supplying drinking water to public water supply systems, whereby at least the necessary volume of drinking water consumption must be ensured for each inhabitant. Through this, a sufficient and uninterrupted supply of water is ensured for both personal and domestic use. In accordance with the granted water right, a sufficient and uninterrupted quantity of drinking water is also available to residents who are supplied with drinking water through their own supply. In exceptional cases (e.g. drought), water is also delivered by tankers. Thus, settlements with 50 or more permanent residents and with a population density of more than 5 permanent residents per hectare must be equipped with public water supply.

Regarding the principles related to "sanitation", it should be emphasized that we cover the legislation and requirements concerning wastewater management, which is not equal to term “sanitation”. In Slovenia, the implementation of public service in the field of wastewater management, collection and treatment of municipal wastewater is quite fragmented, as there are approx. 115 public service providers, and about 90 providers of drinking water (in 212 municipalities). Contractors may be responsible for both drinking and waste water. The local community provides economic public services in the following forms: overhead plant, public economic institution, public company or by granting concessions. For the area of ​​wastewater, it is considered that for approx. 85% of the population public service is performed in the form of a public company or overhead plant, and the remaining 15% through concessions. In the areas of dispersed settlement, equipping with public sewerage is not prescribed, so the owners of facilities are obliged to provide arrangements for their own facilities.

According to data from public service providers, which were reported in 2018, the connection to the public sewerage system in dense settlements (agglomerations) was 78%, and the connection to the municipal wastewater treatment plant was 75%. As a rule, the remaining residents have individual arrangements (septic tanks, small municipal treatment plants), but there are also cases when wastewater is discharged into the environment without preliminary treatment. In areas outside of agglomerations or in dispersed settlements, residents usually have individual arrangements, and slightly less than 10% of the population is connected to the public sewerage system.

**2. Measures that have been implemented to redress gender inequalities in water and sanitation provision by addressing gender discrimination:**

Regulations in the field of wastewater treatment and drinking water in Slovenia apply equally to all inhabitants without any differentiation according to gender or any other circumstances, such as race, skin colour, language, religious, political or other beliefs, nationality, social origin, affiliation to national minority, property, birth… For the whole population, terms and services (e.g. public service) are provided under the same conditions.

**3. Efforts made by relevant actors to align development cooperation policies and operations with the framework on human rights to water and sanitation:**

**a) Balanced water and sanitation projects and coverage of those interventions between urban and rural areas…**

**b) Selection, design and implementation of projects apply the framework – prioritizing those people in the most vulnerable situations…**

**c) Design and implementation of projects are carried out in a transparent manner with the participation of related stakeholders…**

**d) Reconciliation between a sustainable financing strategy for long-term service provision…**

According to the legislation, the implementation of public services in the field of providing drinking water and urban wastewater collection and treatment is the responsibility of municipalities. As municipalities are also owners of the infrastructure for drinking water supply and wastewater treatment, it is their responsibility to invest and carry out any such project. Nevertheless, all areas need to be equipped with such infrastructure that the compliance with EU (and national) legislation is assured. For that purpose municipalities can apply for the EU funds, where certain rules must be met.

**4. Targeted measures and instruments have been implemented in order to ensure that the most disadvantaged access water… who are the targeted groups of these measures and instruments…**

According to the decree the price of an individual public service for the territory of ​​the municipality is proposed by the public service provider with a study on setting the price of public service (the study contains prescribed components) and submitted to the competent municipal authority for confirmation. The municipality determines the confirmed price of an individual public service and a possible subsidy, and the contractor creates and publishes a price list with a confirmed price, reduced by a possible subsidy. The municipality can therefore, for various reasons (e.g. purchasing power of citizens, unemployment), subsidize the difference between the confirmed and charged price by burdening the municipal budget. In this way, it reduces the costs of the public service of drinking water supply and wastewater collection and treatment for all residents under its jurisdiction.

Some municipalities offer subsidies for the purchase and installation of small municipal wastewater treatment plants to their inhabitants, but it should be emphasized that this is an independent decision of local communities based on their financial capacity and interest in helping inhabitants to resolve certain issues. The Eco-Fund of Slovenia offers favourable loans to citizens for various measures in the field of water protection as well (e.g. purchase and installation of small municipal wastewater treatment plants, connection to public sewers).

**5. What measures have been in place to prohibit disconnection that results from the inability to pay?**

The Environmental Protection Act and the regulations adopted on its basis The Decree on Drinking Water Supply do not explicitly regulate the interruption of drinking water supply in the event of non-payment for these services. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, the drinking water supply is a mandatory municipal economic public service for environmental protection. Municipalities independently regulate this public service with their regulations in a manner that must not be in conflict with the regulations that apply to the performance of this public service at the state level. It is also the responsibility of municipalities to determine more detailed conditions for the interruption or restriction of drinking water supply. The obligations of municipalities include the permanent and uninterrupted provision of drinking water supply, so decisions regarding the interruption of drinking water supply are made on a case-by-case basis. In principle, no major problems have been identified in Slovenia due to possible interruptions in the supply of drinking water.

With regard to wastewater treatment the regulation governing the provision of public service does not contain provisions regarding the suspension of the provision of any public service due to non-payment of costs. It should be emphasized that the provision of public service is regulated in more detail in municipal regulations. Municipalities can therefore define in more detail in their regulations the performance of the public service, the method of connection to the public sewerage system, the obligations of users, offenses and sanctions in this regard, etc.

In addition, the state offers assistance to families and individuals living in poor social conditions through social transfers. In 2015 the Act on the Conditions for the Implementation of the Debt Forgiveness Measure was adopted, which enables the write-off of debts arising from regular household expenses, which includes water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services as well.

**6. Water framework or a regulatory body in place to cover water and sanitation provision, measure to ensure the body is effective, independent,…**

In accordance with the law governing environmental protection, as well as the supply of drinking water, the discharge and treatment of municipal and storm water is mandatory municipal public utility service of environmental protection, which means that local authorities are responsible for public service and infrastructure construction. Tasks in the field of water or in the field of drinking water and wastewater collection and treatment are divided among different institutions, as already explained by the Republic of Slovenia in the answers to the Special Rapporteur from 2017 (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Water Agency, Environmental Agency).

The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning prepares regulations in the field of drinking water supply and municipal wastewater collection and treatment, methodology for pricing public services, supply standards and technical maintenance, organizational and other measures and norms for public service. The Ministry is responsible for the preparation of the Operational Program for Urban Waste Water Collection and Treatment and the Operational Program for Drinking Water Supply. The Ministry prepares methodology for setting the prices of the public service of waste water collection and treatment and drinking water. The Ministry implements the requirements of the EU Council Directive Concerning Urban Wastewater Treatment in its regulations. The Ministry keeps various records in the field of public service and keeps an information system in which municipalities and utility companies report the prescribed data regarding the public service. These areas are contained in particular in the following regulations: Decree on the emission of substances and heat in the discharge of wastewater into water and public sewage systems, Decree on the discharge and treatment of municipal wastewater, Decree on drinking water supply, Decree on the methodology for pricing mandatory services municipal public utility services for environmental protection,

The Water Agency of the Republic of Slovenia is a body within the scope of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. It performs professional, administrative and development tasks in the field of water management in accordance with the regulations governing water at state level. In connection with the right to drinking water, it conducts procedures and grants water rights (e.g. drinking water supply which is performed as a public service and for own drinking water supply).

The Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia is a body within the scope of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. In the field of water monitoring, it performs the following tasks:

- prepares programs for monitoring the status of waters (rivers, lakes, groundwater and the sea),

- assesses the chemical and ecological status of surface waters and the chemical and quantitative status of groundwater,

- observes and performs measurements of individual elements of the water cycle at water metering stations for surface waters (watercourses, lakes, sea) and for groundwater and springs, restoration of groundwater resources,

- determines river flows on the basis of hydrometric and level measurements, monitors their regime and detects changes,

- warns against floods of rivers and the sea and the decline of surface and groundwater levels,

- protects water in all its forms, taking into account different principles (e.g. promoting sustainable water use, achieving good water status in terms of quantity and quality).

Regarding the regulatory body and its operation, it should be clarified that the legislation (e.g. the Local Self-Government Act, the State Administration Act) stipulates that state bodies control the legality of the operation of municipalities. In matters transferred to municipalities by the state, state bodies also exercise control over the suitability and professionalism of their work. State control over the work of local community bodies is exercised by the government and ministries. Ministries, each in its own field, in supervising the legality of the work of local community bodies, supervise the legality of general and individual acts issued by local community bodies in matters within the competence of local communities. Supervision over the implementation of regulations in the field of the environment is performed by the inspectorate responsible for environmental protection. Each body is independent in the conduct of proceedings and decision-making in matters within its competence within the legal framework.

**7. Measures in place to guarantee the human rights to water and sanitation by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in transit or at their destination with the same conditions as those granted to nationals…**

We are not aware of the situation with regard to any additional measures to ensure the right to water and sanitation for migrants.

**8. How has State and humanitarian actors ensured immediate access to the minimum essential level of water and sanitation…**

We are not aware of any special measures of how the state and humanitarian organizations have provided immediate access to a minimum level of access to water and sanitation.

**9. When responsibilities for service provisions are transferred to actors other than States…**

As already mentioned, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, the wastewater collection and treatment and the supply of drinking water is a mandatory public utility service in the competence of municipalities. The municipality is thus responsible for the performance of this public service and it selects the contractor in accordance with the regulations governing economic public services.

The state and other participating bodies, both at the state and local levels, are each responsible for fulfilling their obligations in their respective areas. Failure to comply with the obligations may also be sanctioned in accordance with the regulations. The rights and obligations of users are determined by municipal regulations.

**10. Measures taken to identify informal providers of water and sanitation services…**

According to the law, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning is obliged to keep records of public service providers. At the Ministry, we have access to data on public service providers by municipalities, as reported by municipalities in the information system of the Ministry for the Monitoring of Public Services. The records are public.

In Slovenia, the majority of the population is supplied with drinking water from the public water supply system. The Public Utilities Act and the Decree on Drinking Water Supply stipulate that a public drinking water supply service provider or a public water supply operator may be a legal entity designated or selected by the municipality as a public service provider. The Public Utilities Act specifies the forms in which a public service can be performed. It is clear from the above that the supply of drinking water from the public water supply system is carried out exclusively by formal public service providers who are appointed or selected in accordance with the prescribed procedure and who meet specific conditions. A small proportion of the population is supplied with drinking water through their own drinking water supply. The operator of a private water supply system can be a legal or natural person with whom the owners of a private water supply system have concluded a contract on its management. Even in these cases, the water supply operator must meet certain conditions.

The municipality is obliged to provide a public service of wastewater collection and treatment in the entire territory of ​​the municipality in accordance with regulations. The use of the services is mandatory. The public service provider is a legal or natural person who is selected or determined by the municipality in the prescribed manner in accordance with the regulations governing public utility services. The municipality is thus obliged to provide public infrastructure for wastewater management. The legislation determines cases, when owners of facilities provide arrangements (e.g. small municipal treatment plants) for their own objects – this is a rule generally applied in areas outside agglomerations.

**11. Effective oversight system to trace the conduct of actors whether the performance standards are met…**

The basic implementing regulation in the field of municipal wastewater collection and treatment determines the types of tasks performed within the public service and supply standards and technical, maintenance, organizational and other measures and norms for public service. Fines are prescribed for a public service provider if it does not perform the prescribed public service services or does not perform other prescribed obligations from the Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater. Supervision over the implementation of the provisions of the Regulation regarding the obligations of the public service provider shall be performed by the inspectorate responsible for environmental protection. As already mentioned, the performance of public service is prescribed more in detail in municipal regulations.

**12. Public spaces**

Regulation in the area of wastewater refers generally to management of wastewater collection and treatment.

**13. Local governments and public spaces**

Regulation in the area of wastewater refers generally to management of wastewater collection and treatment.

**14. Examples of mega-projects where an assessment of the human rights impacts…**

**15. Examples of mega-projects where human rights obligations and responsibilities of actors clear in each stage of mega-project**

**16. Mega-projects where the assessment of human rights to water a precondition for granting a licence/approval**

**17. Preventive measures and compensation,… in the event of a disaster that affects the enjoyment of the human rights**

In the first place we have to mention that in Slovenia no mega-projects have been undertaken in the area of water and sanitation at the state level. As already mentioned the local authorities are in charge for such investments within their territory and the municipalities are at the same time the owners of the infrastructure for drinking water supply and wastewater treatment, so it is their responsibility to invest and carry out any such project. Nevertheless, all areas need to be equipped with such infrastructure that the compliance with the EU legislation is assured. For that purpose municipalities can apply for EU funds, where certain rules must be met. As already explained, regulations in the field of wastewater treatment and drinking water in Slovenia apply equally to all inhabitants without any differentiation according to gender or any other circumstances, such as race, skin colour, language, religion, political or other beliefs, nationality, social origin, affiliation national minority, property, birth… For the population, conditions and services (e.g. public service) are provided under the same conditions.