



Our Ref: 03-02/967

Date: 22 November, 2013

Dear Ms. Albuquerque,

With regard to your request on providing information to develop the Handbook for implementing the human rights to water and sanitation and to provide a positive contribution on this, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova is liable to provide the necessary information, within its jurisdiction, on the mentioned requests, as follows.

Regarding the first issue, **“what are the opportunities and challenges faced by your State in realizing the human rights to water and sanitation”**, one of the Republic of Moldova’s main objectives is to establish equal opportunities for women and men on access to water supply and sanitation.

Gender equality, as one of the basic European norms in many social directions, has been identified as an important challenge on realization the human rights on water and sanitation for Republic of Moldova, and for that it’s considered an important aspect in all the initiated water supply and sanitation projects by our State at national level.

The legislative framework on realisation the human rights to water and sanitation considering the gender equality, in order to achieve the settled targets, is:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova nr. 87 dated 28.04.1994
- European Union - Republic of Moldova Action Plan
- Governmental decision of March 2005 on the Millennium Development Goals (2005-2015)
- Law on the prevention and combating human trafficking, nr. 241-XVI dated 20.10.2005
- Law on equal chances equality between men and women, nr. 5-XVI dated 09.02.2006
- Law on the prevention and combating domestic violence, nr. 45 dated 01.03.2007
- National Development Strategy for the period 2008-2011, the Law of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova nr. 295 dated 21.12.2007
- Strategy of the National System on the protection and assistance of the victims of human trafficking or 2009–2011 and Action Plan
- National Programme on Gender Equality for 2010-2015 and Action Plan.

In another train of thoughts, Republic of Moldova established the commitment of the full implementation of liability regarding realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation, wich will include the specific needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Another goal on national level regarding equal rights on water and sanitation is to provide drinking water and sanitation infrastructure to rural areas. For that, the biggest challenge is to turn the efforts towards planning and coordination at the local and national, funding and adequate investments, ensuring an efficient regulation framework.

Regarding the second question, “are there any specific examples of legislation, policies, budgeting processes, service delivery programmes and projects or accountability mechanisms in force in your country that would be relevant to the realisation of the rights to water and sanitation”, Republic of Moldova’s legislative framework includes a set of documents which stipulates the regulation of realisation of the human rights to drinking water and sanitation. Here we can highlight the National Strategy of Water Supply and sanitation for 2014-2028. This policy document includes general and specific development directions of the water supply and sanitation sector for the above mentioned period. The Action Plan for the construction of WSS systems covers the most vulnerable rural areas in access to drinking water. At this moment, the project of the National Strategy of Water Supply and Sanitation for 2014-2028 is going through necessary procedures in order to be approved.

Therewith, there are a series of projects which implement construction and rehabilitation works on water supply and sanitation systems in urban and rural areas. These projects aim inter alia vulnerable groups from these zones or public institutions like schools and kindergartens.

On this line, the most important projects are:

- National Water Supply and Sanitation project, funded by World Bank;
- Development Program for Water Supply and Sanitation Companies, funded by EBRD, EIB and NIF;
- Public-Private Partnership Project for Water Supply in some localities in North and Center of Republic of Moldova, funded by EBRD and initiated by Government Decision nr. 400 dated 08.06.2011

Sincerely,

Valentina ȚAPIȘ

Deputy minister



To: Catarina Albuquerque, UN Special Rapporteur on human right to safe drinking water and sanitation