

Dear friends and colleagues,

Ahead of my travel to NY for the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, I would like to share some updates on the mandate activities.

- Thematic report to UNGA74 – impact of megaprojects
- Event at the margins of UNGA74 – consultations for thematic report and event on mega-projects
- Online consultations for thematic report
- Adoption of HRC42 resolution and 2020 celebrations
- 3rd Youth Challenge – Deadline Extension

1. Thematic report to UNGA74 – impact of megaprojects

On 18 October (Friday) in the afternoon, I am presenting my thematic report on “the impact of mega projects on the human rights to water and sanitation” at the UN General Assembly.

In my report, I introduce the framework of megaproject cycle for the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, consisting of seven stages, each of which entailing different impacts, challenges and enabling factors to realize the human rights to water and sanitation.

I clarify each stage of the megaproject cycle and provide a list of questions, similar to a checklist, that constitute guidelines for accountable actors to implement their human rights obligations and responsibilities.

- Official version of the report in all UN languages is available [here](#).
- A friendly version of the report is available [here](#).

THE IMPACT OF MEGA-PROJECTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION



Report to the 74th session of the UN General Assembly
by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to
water and sanitation
Mr. Léo Heller

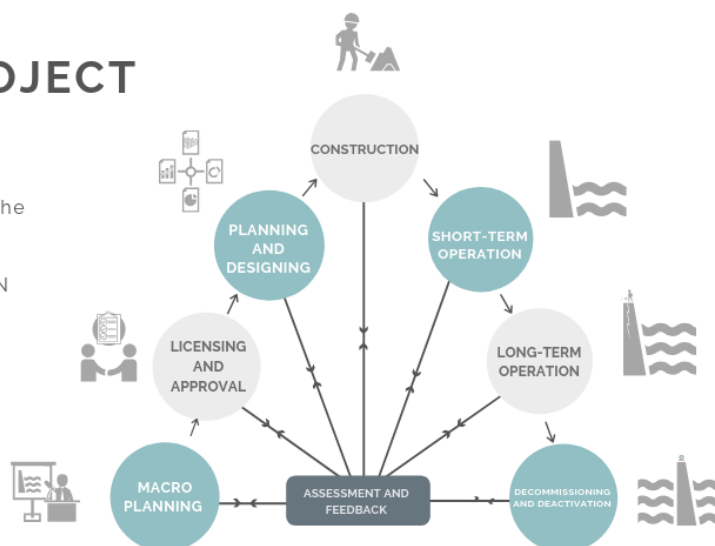
Throughout the stages of their lifecycle, megaprojects have a long-lasting impact on various aspects of the society, including human lives, the economy and the environment. Such projects are promoted through a narrative of contributing towards the enhancement of the livelihood of the people, but they often impede the enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation. In particular, the extensive usage of land required for the implementation and the massive exploitation of water sources may have dire consequences for the availability and quality of water and, in general, for the way the population accesses water and sanitation services.

I observed some of those impacts during official visits, and also addressed them in allegation letters. As I was not able to address all examples and cases in the report, due to the word limit, I have prepared complementary information from country visits and communication letters.

- [See](#) collection of extracted information from my official country visits.
- [See](#) collection of extracted information from the letters of allegations and other communication letters that I sent

THE MEGA-PROJECT CYCLE

The Impact of Mega-projects on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (A/74/197)
 Report to the 74th session of the UN General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation
Mr. Léo Heller



2. Event at the margins of UNGA74 – consultations for thematic report and event on mega-projects

I will be travelling to New York for the UN General Assembly and taking the opportunity to be in New York, I will be organising and participating in a series of events.

- 17 October 2019 (Thurs) 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.: Consultation with private operators (Venue: TBC)

My last report to the GA in 2020 will be on privatization and the human rights to water and sanitation. In this context, AquaFed (the International Federation of Private Water Operators)

is organizing a consultation with private service providers in New York. To participate and to be involved, please contact: Mr. Thomas Van Waeyenberge thomas@aquafed.org

- 21 October 2019 (Mon), 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Event on the mega-project (Venue: NYU)

Franciscans Internationals and their partner organizations are organizing an event at New York University where I will introduce and speak about my thematic report on the 'impact of mega-projects on the human rights to water and sanitation'.

- 21 October 2019 (Mon) 3:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.: Public consultation on privatization (Venue TBC).

Following the expert consultation in Geneva and consultation with private operators in New York, I am convening a public consultation to discuss the topic with those who will be in New York.

Please register [here](#) and indicate your area of expertise and contribution to the topic by 15 October 2019.

[Background document](#) for the consultation is available.

See also flyer attached.

- 22 October 2019 (Tues) 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Public consultation on progressive realization (Venue: Baha’I International Center)

My last report to the HRC in 2020 will be on the concepts of progressive realization, maximum available resources and minimum core obligations, translated into the context of the water and sanitation sector. The public consultation will be the first consultation I am convening on this theme and I plan to brainstorm and discuss the topic with several of you.

Please register [here](#) and indicate your area of expertise and contribution to the topic by 15 October 2019.

[Background document](#) for the consultation will be available tomorrow.

See also flyer attached.





PRIVATIZATION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

REPORT TO UNCA75 IN 2020

PUBLIC CONSULTATION



3. Online consultation for thematic reports

- [Online consultation on progressive realization](#)

For those who cannot attend the physical consultation on 22 October in New York City, I invite them to participate in the bilateral online consultation. Please register [here](#).

- [Online consultation on privatization report](#)

For the preparation of my 2020 report on 'privatization and the human rights to water and sanitation', I have and continue to engage and consult wide range of stakeholders. Information on the several consultations can be found [here](#).

I have also decided to change the modalities of the expert consultation, initially scheduled for November in Brazil and to hold online consultations instead of a physical consultation. I am aware of the impact of travelling by air on climate change and this is a small practical contribution and support from my side.

My team and I will be continuing to conduct online consultations in both English and Spanish and I invite all those who have expertise and knowledge on the theme of privatization to register a session [here](#).



PRIVATIZATION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

ONLINE BILATERAL CONSULTATION

18 SEPTEMBER - 23 OCTOBER 2019

Sign-up for the online bilateral consultation
Concept note (with guiding questions) and background paper are available

4. Adoption of HRC42 resolution and 2020 celebrations

I am very happy to announce that the Human Rights Council has adopted a resolution extending the mandate, and requesting me to organise a campaign celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Councils resolutions on the human right to water and sanitation and to collect good practices.

The Human Rights Council

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the

Recalling

Reaffirming

Recalling

1. Welcomes

safe drinking water and sanitation

2. Decides to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for a period of three years Requests the Special Rapporteur to continue to report, on an annual basis, to the Human Rights Council and to submit an annual report to the General Assembly;

5. Encourages the Special Rapporteur to facilitate, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders,



Requests the Special Rapporteur,

in view of the tenth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 64/292 and Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of 30 September 2010 recognizing the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

to initiate and participate in awareness-raising activities, including through social media and with the use of accessible materials, and in collaboration with States, to compile good practices at the local, national, regional and international levels in order to promote the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

and to report thereon to the Human Rights Council at its forty-fifth session;

Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the resources and assistance necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate;

8. Decides to continue its consideration of this matter.

A/HRC/42/L.1

The year 2020 is a special year for all those committed to the human rights to water and sanitation. 10 years ago, in July 2010, the General Assembly adopted a resolution, which explicitly recognized that water and sanitation are human rights (GA res 64/292). Subsequently, the Human Rights Council, in September 2010, reaffirmed this recognition (HRC res 15/9).

2020 is also the last year of my mandate. I will finish my second term in November 2020. In order to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the GA and HRC resolutions and to raise awareness that water and sanitation are human rights, I would like to open a call to all stakeholders to work together to have a continuous celebration throughout 2020.

During 2020, I will be initiating several activities, on a monthly basis, around the thematic reports that I have presented as the Special Rapporteur, exploring the progress made since 2010 by compiling best practices by States and presenting salient actors that the mandate has worked with to promote the human rights to water and sanitation.

I look forward to reflecting on and celebrating a decade of the human rights to water and sanitation.

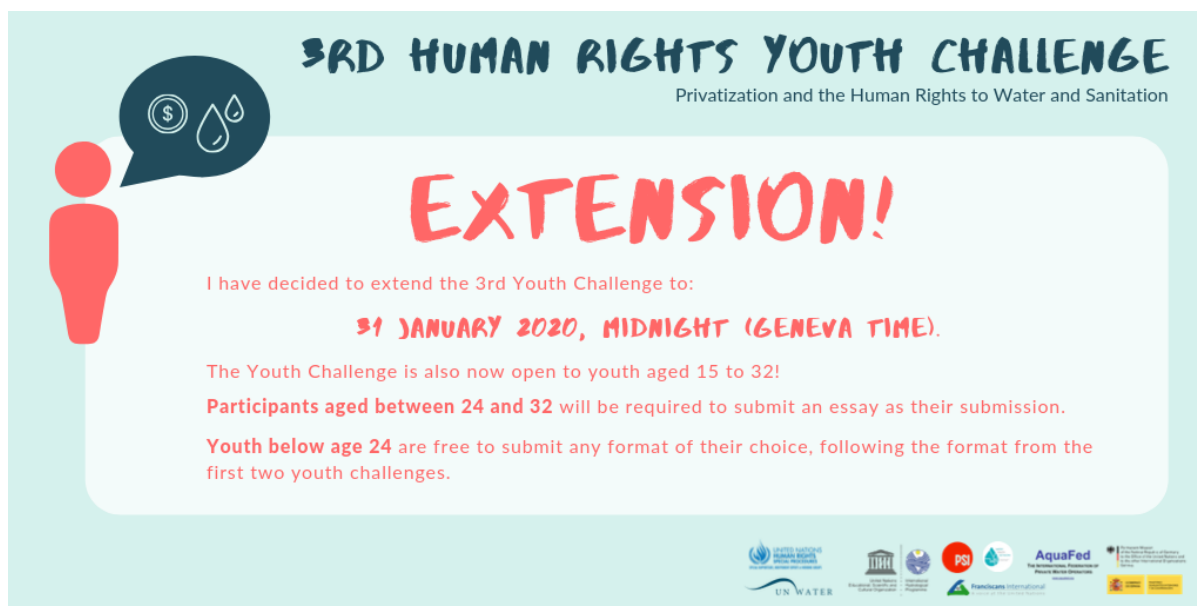


5. Third Youth Challenge – Deadline Extension

I launched the 3rd Youth Challenge earlier this year. After the deadline, I received some essay submissions. In line with my aim and vision for organizing youth challenges, that is, to have youth participate, learn about the human rights to water and sanitation and youth themselves raise awareness and distribute information, I have decided to extend the 3rd Youth Challenge to 31 January 2020, midnight (Geneva time) and to extend the scope, opening it to youth aged 15 to 32.

I had planned to invite the winner of the 3rd Youth Challenge to an expert consultation in November in Brazil. Following my decision to change the expert consultation to an online consultation, the winning prize for the 3rd Youth Challenge will also change to an invitation to speak at a HRC side-event in 2020.

a



3RD HUMAN RIGHTS YOUTH CHALLENGE
Privatization and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

EXTENSION!

I have decided to extend the 3rd Youth Challenge to:

31 JANUARY 2020, MIDNIGHT (GENEVA TIME).

The Youth Challenge is also now open to youth aged 15 to 32!

Participants aged between 24 and 32 will be required to submit an essay as their submission.

Youth below age 24 are free to submit any format of their choice, following the format from the first two youth challenges.

Logos at the bottom include: UN WATER, United Nations Office for Human Rights, PSI, Aquafed, and others.

Kindest Regards,

Léo Heller

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

Follow the mandate!   

The [website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) remains the number one place to discover the mandate's past and upcoming activities.

The mandate is also present on major social media platforms [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) (@SRWatSan), where it actively engages with the global community on issues related to the human rights to water and sanitation.