Questionnaire for Non-State Actors

Background

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation, Léo Heller, will focus his 2019 Human Rights Council report on the human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the households, in particular in public spaces.

During his country visits, the Special Rapporteur has observed that access to water and sanitation in public spaces is often not ensured or regulated as part of the human rights to water and sanitation by authorities, while attention has been increasing in other spheres of life such in schools and health facilities. Access to water and sanitation must be ensured in all spheres of life in accordance with the normative content of the human rights (accessibility, quality, affordability, availability, acceptability, privacy and dignity).

In this report, the Special Rapporteur is intending to examine the status and the impact of the inadequate access to water and sanitation on people, in particular those living in homelessness and informal street workers, as well LGBTI people, older persons, women, children and persons with disabilities. He will also look at the regulation, accountability mechanisms and monitoring of access to water and sanitation in public spaces.

In this respect, the Special Rapporteur would welcome answers to the following questions:

- 1. Please outline your organisation's purpose, target populations, and methods of achieving your stated aims.
- 2. How does your organisation define public space and does this differ from how public space is defined in the legislative or policy framework of the country where you operate?
- 3. Please describe your involvement in ensuring or improving access to water and sanitation in various public spaces (e.g. streets and squares, markets, bus stations, train stations and airports), including details of any past, current, or future projects in this area.

- 4. Please outline the major difficulties faced by populations needing to access water and sanitation in public spaces.
- 5. Please describe the main obstacles faced by people that live or work in public spaces in the country where you operate in accessing water and sanitation in accordance with the normative content of the rights and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, participation, sustainability, progressive realization and access to remedies, and accountability.
- 6. Please describe your organization's assessment of access to water and sanitation in public spaces in the country where you operate, providing both positive and negative examples, including costs for use, availability of the services, safety of users during access, quality of facilities and other human rights concerns. Please outline any research or assessment that have been done in this regard.
- 7. Please specify how access to water and sanitation in public space is regulated and monitored, and whether this monitoring and regulatory framework is effective.
- 8. Please give details of any relevant judicial or quasi-judicial action at both domestic or international level you have been involved in, or are aware of, that concerns access to water and sanitation in public spaces, and which applies a rights-based approach.