**High-Level Political Forum of the Sustainable Development on the implementation of SDG6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

**Intervention by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr. Léo Heller**

First of all, I would like to applaud the UN Water for the comprehensive report that competently shows the global picture of SDG6 around the world, based on the available data. The report suggests where we are, shows progresses on some of the targets, and especially the huge challenges we need to face in the future.

Particularly regarding the SDGs 6.1 and 6.2 related to water and sanitation access, the report is strongly based on the latest JMP report and reflects elements of human rights.

The human rights to water and sanitation are a key foundation of the 2030 Agenda. It is important to mention that the human rights to water and sanitation are some of the few human rights explicitly mentioned in the 2030 Agenda. But, in my opinion, we need to go further in the incorporation of the human rights, in the monitoring and reporting, especially in the implementation of the Agenda.

In my view, a stronger focus is needed on the affordability principle of the human rights. I believe that we need to work strongly on the development of methodologies, and to report and monitor affordability. But also, inequalities should have a stronger focus in the report, not only disaggregating data but also embodying inequalities into the indicators. I know that the UN Water is working strongly on these two elements and I look forward to the outcomes of the work of working groups established.

On the implementation, the human rights framework must structure different aspects of the processes, from development cooperation to national public policies, including regulation of service provisions. Human rights should also be applied to highlight the needs of special groups, addressing gender issues, forcibly displaced populations, populations that need water and sanitation in public spaces, besides schools, health centers. The needs of water and sanitation go beyond households.

Human rights should also be a way to ensure accountability, both at the High-Level Political Forum, but also at the national level.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that the human rights framework can be a key basis for the guidance of national reviews, as a cross-cutting concept to address different elements around the access to water and sanitation services.

Thank you.