

TUESDAY
11 SEPTEMBER
2018
NOITALIANI

15H30-17H00
PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM XXII
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

#YOUTH4WATSAN: THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

OVERVIEW

On the occasion of International Youth Day in 2018 (12 August), the UN Special Rapporteur, Léo Heller, convened an online initiative aiming to raise awareness among the youth population on the human rights to water and sanitation, a challenge entitled "the Human Rights Youth Challenge: Show your understanding of the rights to water and sanitation." Youth were encouraged to demonstrate knowledge of the human rights to water and sanitation and express what these rights mean to them by submitting original contribution via social media channels.

More than 150 youth from around the world sent in submissions ranging from infographics, animated videos, videos with interviews and on-site visits, short stories, poems, songs, academic works and essays.

The water and sanitation sector is in urgent need of new ideas on how to raise awareness that access to water and sanitation services are human rights. Youth, with their creativity and different ways of thinking, can contribute to bringing innovation to this sector and advancing a much needed paradigm shift from traditional focus on infrastructure and finance to placing people at the centre.

AGENDA

- Display selected Youth Challenge submissions
- Opening remarks and moderations by Mr. Léo Heller, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Video message from Asniya Mohamad, winner of the Youth Challenge
- Remarks by Ms. Sandra Carolina Ascencio from El Salvador, Franciscans International
- Concluding remarks Mr. Cristobal Gonzalez-Aller Jurado, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Spain

OBJECTIVES

- To present the winning submission of the Youth Challenge, by Asniya Mohamad from the Philippines (Her submission - <https://tinyurl.com/yc592ko3>) together with a selection of other submissions to demonstrate the level of awareness of youth and their passion for the human rights to water and sanitation
- To discuss the role of youth and how they can further participate to raise awareness about the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- To discuss how the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council can systematically incorporate youth participation into the activities of the mandates

HRC39 side-event co-organized by UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Permanent Mission of Germany, Permanent Mission of Spain, and Franciscans International