Briefing note: official visit to Tunisia
by Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Who is the Special Rapporteur?

The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council. UN independent experts regularly undertake country visits to report on human rights issues. The Special Rapporteur works on a voluntary basis; he is not UN staff and do not receive a salary for his work. He is independent of any government or organisation and serve in their individual capacity.

Mr. Pedro Arrojo Agudo is the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. He was appointed by the Human Rights Council in September 2020 and started his mandate on 1 November 2020. From 2016 to 2019, he served as an elected member of the Spanish Parliament. He was Professor in the Area of Fundamentals of Economic Analysis at the University of Zaragoza from 1989 to 2011, and has been professor emeritus since 2011.

Information about official visits

The Special Rapporteur conducts country visits at the invitation of governments to investigate the enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. The purpose of Mr. Arrojo's country visit is to understand, in the spirit of co-operation and dialogue, how the State endeavours to implement the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. Mr. Arrojo intends to identify good practices and possible obstacles in the realization of those rights, at the national and local levels. The visit will consider specific issues related to the realization of the rights to water and sanitation such as:

- To examine challenges faced in the country with regard to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as good practices
- To study all aspects of the human rights to water and sanitation and human rights principles
- To monitor the way in which the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are being realized
- To pay particular attention to persons belonging to marginalized groups and those in vulnerable situations

At the conclusion of country visit (on 4 March 2022), the Special Rapporteur will present a detailed statement of his initial findings at a press conference. He subsequently will submit a final report to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September 2022. The report will contain findings and recommendations intended to strengthen the protection and promotion of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in the country.

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