

# Topic 4.1: Implementing the right to water and sanitation for improved access



Macarena

The right to water and sanitation (RTWS) is an entitlement held by all human beings that is solidly anchored in international human rights law. For this right to be truly meaningful, its recognition must result in improved access to water and sanitation, particularly for the poor and vulnerable, and those in conflict situations.

COHRE, FAN, WaterAid, UN-HABITAT, OHCHR, UNESCO Etxea and Action Contre le Faim use Topic 4.1 in the 5th World Water Forum to explore the use of RTWS and its contribution to improving access.

## Tuesday March 17

**Session 4.1.1: From right to reality – good government practices for implementing the right to water and sanitation**

**Time: 9.00 – 13.00**

**Place:** Sutluce Congress and Culture Centre/A Block

**Convenor:** Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)/Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)/UNESCO Etxea

**Moderator:** Dr. Uschi Eid, Vice-chair UNSGAB, Member of Parliament, Germany

### **Presenters:**

Ms. Shanta Sheela Nair, Government of India

Ms. Celestine Kaseve, Nairobi Water Company, Kenya

Mr. Ivan Lanegra, Representative of the Ombudsman Office, Peru

Vibhu Nayar, Ministry of Water, Tamil Nadu, India

Simone Klawitter, GTZ

Cyprian Mazubane DWAF, South Africa

Henri Smets, French Water Academy

### **Panelists**

Lucinda O'Hanlon, OHCHR

Francois Muenger, SDC

Roger Aertgeerts, WHO

Mr. Sabin Intxaurreaga, Basque Water Agency (URA)

### **Objective**

This session will present and facilitate informed discussion on examples of good practices by governments for the implementation of the right to water and sanitation. The focus of the session will be on steps governments have taken to realise the key elements of the right – availability, physical accessibility, affordability, accountability, non-discrimination, participation and access to information.

## Tuesday March 17

**Session 4.1.2: Rights in action – sharing experiences in how civil society utilises RTWS as a tool to improve access for the poor and marginalised**

**Time: 14.30 – 16.30**

**Place:** Sutluce Congress and Culture Centre/A Block

**Convenor:** Freshwater Action Network (FAN)

**Moderator:** Clarissa Brocklehurst, Chief, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF

### **Presenters:**

Community Water Center, USA

Centre for Rural Studies and Development, India

Freshwater Action Network – Central America (FANCA)

Ass. Pour la Defense des Droits des Consommateurs (ADC), Chad  
ANEW

Frente Amplio Opositor Mineira, Mexico

### **Panelists:**

Neil MacLeod, Head of Water and Sanitation at the eThekweni Municipality – South Africa

Abel Meija, Director of the World Bank Water Anchor

Vibhu Nayar, Ministry of Water, Tamil Nadu, India

Hameda Deedat, gender, trade and water activist, Umzabalazo We Jubilee, South Africa

### **Objective**

To share experiences about using RTWS as a tool for communities to understand and claim their rights. The discussion will consider the challenges and identify the steps needed to improve the ability of communities to use RTWS to hold governments and other sector actors to account. As a result we will develop a set of recommendations around how to improve RTWS as a useful advocacy tool.

## Tuesday March 17

### Session 4.1.3: Making the right to sanitation work

**Time:** 17.00 – 19.00

**Place:** Sutluce Congress and Culture Centre/A Block

**Convenor:** UN-Habitat, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and WaterAid

**Moderator:** Oliver Cumming, WaterAid

#### Panelists:

Jamillah Mwanjisi, African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)  
Lindy Morrison, Regional Director, Mvula Trust, South Africa  
Hasin Jahan, Programme Director, WaterAid, Bangladesh  
Lucinda O'Hanlon, Special Procedures Division, UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights  
Wilson Bezwada, Safai Karamchari Aandolan (SKA), India  
Andre Dzikus, Water and Sanitation Section, UN-Habitat  
François Muenger, SDC  
Sulabh Sanitation Movement, India  
Representative of Government of South Africa  
Representative of Government of India  
Representative of Government of Laos  
Rose George, Author, *The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World of Human Waste and Why It Matters*

#### Objective

In the International Year of Sanitation the issue of sanitation as a human right has attracted much attention. The session will begin to explore the limits of the right to sanitation; what are the obligations of governments in regard to sanitation, where have human rights been used to help realize the right to sanitation, either by government or civil society and how can the right to sanitation be integrated into development partner/donor policy?

## Wednesday March 18

### Session 4.1.4: Rights-based approach in emergencies: limits and opportunities

**Time:** 8.30 – 10.30

**Place:** Sutluce Congress and Culture Centre/A Block

**Convenor:** Action against Hunger France

**Moderator:** Jean Lapegue, Action against Hunger France

#### Presenters

Cyril Laucci, ICRC  
Fuad Bateh, Adam Smith International, consultant for the Palestine Liberation Organisation  
Lara El Jazairi, COHRE, Palestine  
Jakaranda Neptune, MINUSTAH, Haiti  
Antoine Delepierre, Terre Des Hommes, Peru  
Paul Sherlock, UNICEF/Global WASH Cluster

#### Panelists:

Mara Tignino, University of Geneva  
Arab League  
Abulkarim Jouada, UNRWA, Palestine  
Aboubacri Mbodji, CODESEN, RADDHO, Senegal

#### Objective

So far, discussions on the right to water and sanitation have focused on development situations and on the chronically underserved, with little attention being paid to emergency situations. This session will consider the value that a human rights-based approach can add to emergency response both in terms of advocacy and field activities, and in making the transition from response to long-term rehabilitation and development. It will consider what steps are needed for the humanitarian sector to better entrench human rights.

## Wednesday March 18

### Session 4.1.5: Wrap-up – implementing RTWS for improved access

**Time: 11.00 – 13.00**

**Place:** Sutluce Congress and Culture Centre/A Block

**Convenors:** COHRE, FAN, WaterAid, UN-HABITAT, OHCHR, UNESCO Etxea and Action Contre le Faim

#### Objective

During the wrap-up session there will be two panels. The first will feedback on the previous four topic sessions, and the second will move on to where we should be going: Conclusions, Recommendations and Challenges. The panels will be representative of the various regions and stakeholders groups, bringing a range of experiences and recommendations.

**Find FAN at the Water Fair.** The exhibition stall will showcase the initiatives of members of Freshwater Action Network. Visitors will see how civil society organisations are responding to local issues through innovative solutions. Experienced development practitioners from civil society organisations will staff the stall to talk to interested visitors.

**Find COHRE at the Water Fair**

**For more information go to:**

[www.freshwateraction.net](http://www.freshwateraction.net)  
[www.cohre.org/](http://www.cohre.org/)  
[www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)  
[www.actioncontrelafaim.org/](http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/)  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)  
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