



OMBUDSMAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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**Subject: National Human Rights Initiative for good water governance**

Dear Colleagues,

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation has been recognised as a human right in 2010. Therefore, a fundamentally different approach is required to water governance that takes into account the obligations of states and the rights and duties of non-state actors under human rights law. In that context, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) have a potential role to play in monitoring the human right to water in the post 2015 era.

Against this backdrop, I am pleased to share with you the launch of an initiative to support NHRIs in the execution of this crucial function. The National Human Rights Initiative for good water governance envisages a more prominent role of NHRIs in relation to the right to water, and as a result in broader water governance. It is grounded in a human rights approach which accords prominence to the minimum legal standards for water governance.

The objectives of the initiative are twofold. First, the aim is to create a network of NHRIs that can exchange experiences and best practices with each other, thus establish a community of practice in relation to the right to water. Second, it is envisaged to support and build the capacity of NHRIs to strengthen their role in ensuring a human rights based approach to water governance.

This initiative is an open call for collaboration to all interested NHRI colleagues who wish to strengthen their role in the advancement, promotion and protection of the right to water and related human rights, thereby contribute to an enhanced human rights based water governance. It also wishes to attract NHRIs who via their active role with regards to the right to water are already in a position to share valuable experiences/practices/tools/resources, along with supporting those NHRIs whose position in investigating, promoting and protecting human rights is currently relatively limited.

This initiative is expected to result in an increased capacity of NHRIs to monitor water governance through capacity building and sharing of best practices/experiences among peers. The improvement of the existing redress/complaint mechanism of NHRIs to further enhance the protection of human right to water is also envisaged. For further information, please find attached the terms of reference of the initiative.

I hereby encourage you to join this initiative as I am hopeful that our combined efforts will contribute to the promotion of human right to water, and thereby to the overall aim of protecting human rights and a human rights based water governance.

Yours sincerely,

  
Marcel Szabó

