UNESCO-IHE WaterLex
MoU signature seminar
UNESCO-IHE, Delft, 22.06.2015

How Human Rights Can Improve Water Governance and Help Realize SDGs
VISION

“a world in which water resources management and governance secure human rights and sustainable development for everyone.”
MISSION

“Sustainable solutions based on human rights to improve water governance worldwide.”
OUR IDENTITY

✓ **Identity:** International public-interest development organization and membership association UN - ECOSOC consultative status.

✓ **Objective:** Assisting key stakeholders in making the human right to water a reality

✓ **Partners:** UNESCO-IHE; Academics at 85 universities; Global Water Partnership; UN-Water; UNDP Cap-Net, GWS; UNEP GWI; UNECE; UN ECOSOC; Swiss Water Partnership; NGOs (e.g., IUCN, Freshwater Action Network)
OUR ACTIVITIES

Legal Desk:
✓ Research and publications
✓ Helps shape consistent water law and policy frameworks which promote effective water governance and human rights compliance;
✓ Capacity building or “HelpDesk” activities for a wide range of stakeholders (parliamentarians, NHRIs, CSOs, legal professionals, etc.).

Operations Desk:
✓ Elaboration of national action plans for the realization of HRWS based on country mappings and other assessments;
✓ Field assistance/training for governments, civil society networks;
✓ Tools and learning materials for various stakeholders.
REGIONAL TRAINING FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN NHRIs IN EL SALVADOR
REGIONAL TRAINING IN UGANDA
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND WATER GOVERNANCE

COMPILATION OF GOOD PRACTICES
How human rights can improve water governance and help realize SDGs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUMAN RIGHTS</th>
<th>HRBA IS ‘GAME CHANGER’</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Ethics</td>
<td>• Focus on people and peoples</td>
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<td>✓ Rules to respect</td>
<td>• Switches from moral imperative to legally binding rules: a legal entitlement, not charity</td>
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<td>✓ Tools to use</td>
<td>• Links global, regional and local issues (SDGs)</td>
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<td>✓ Access to justice</td>
<td>• Improved indicators and tool on governance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Access to international procedures and courts</td>
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# WHY DEAL WITH WATER?

## REALITIES

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<tr>
<th>Recognition of the human right to water and sanitation – IMPLEMENTATION IS LAGGING BEHIND</th>
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<td><strong>768 million</strong> people do not use an improved source of drinking-water.</td>
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<td>- Over 306 million are in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.5 billion</strong> people lack access to an improved sanitation facility.</td>
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<td>- Over 569 million in Africa</td>
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## HRBA IS ‘GAME CHANGER’

- **Redefinition of access:** 4.1 billion without sanitation, 1.6 billion without safe water

- **Ensures shift in priorities** requiring focus on marginalised groups: women, low income groups, rural areas, informal settlements, etc.

- **Requires monitoring of impact** on poorest groups, which MDGs failed to do
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

• Human rights approach

• Importance of human rights in the post 2015 accountability mechanism:
  ✓ Human Rights (and NHRIs, academics, etc.) can give practical effect to the commitments contained in the SDGs at national and international level.
  ✓ Human rights mechanisms and NHRIs are uniquely placed to ensure a human rights-based monitoring of the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda.
  ✓ Role of human rights experts vis-à-vis the indicators of the SDGs (collection of data, etc.).

Importance of SDG indicators

➢ Current indicators are missing important dimensions, such as equitable access and affordability.
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
Environmental component, increasingly important in a world with environmental degradation, extreme weather, natural disasters and other climate-change impact.

What water (sources) do we leave future generations?

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and increasing recycling and safe reuse by \([x]\) per cent globally

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
Water Governance, Sustainable Development Goals:

Human rights play a crucial role

THANK YOU!

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