**HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO WATER AND SANITATION**

Water and sanitation programmes should be directed to promote and protect human rights, based on agreed international human rights standards through the following five principles:

1. **Participation**
   Processes with genuine opportunity to express demands and concerns and influence decisions.
   - Community Development Associations in El-Salvador: administrative water councils with six-monthly meetings and elected positions.

2. **Transparency**
   The right to seek, receive and impart information on water issues.
   - Guatemala has trained interpreters for all 23 languages spoken, in coordination with Academy of Mayan languages.

3. **Non-Discrimination**
   Avoid discrimination on civil, social or political grounds, in law and in practice.
   - Nicaraguan Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS) promote gender and generational equality.
   - 35,000 volunteers, 41% women, youth included.

4. **Accountability**
   Responsive and accountable institutions, with clear responsibilities and coordination between entities.
   - The Human Rights Office in Guatemala monitors the compliance of the state to respect, protect, and promote the HRWS, and serves as bridge between State and civil society.

5. **Sustainability**
   Practices must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.
   - Water councils in El Salvador invest in reforestation and have negotiated variable tariffs based on the capability of citizens to pay.

Source: