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# Recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation by UN Member States at the international level

An overview of resolutions and declarations  
that recognise the human rights to water and sanitation

# Introduction

The human right to water and the human right to sanitation are part of binding international human rights law. They are derived from the human right to an adequate standard of living, which is enshrined in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), a treaty to which 163 United Nations (UN) Member States are party and which an additional six countries have signed. The right to an adequate standard of living is also contained in Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which has 194 State Parties, including all but three UN Member States, and in Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which has 151 State Parties. The rights to water and sanitation are also inextricably linked to other human rights, including the right to health, the right to life, and to fundamental principles such as human dignity. They are therefore also relevant in countries that may not be Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but are Party to treaties recognising rights whose contents require access to water and sanitation.

The rights to water and sanitation have also been recognised by independent experts elected or appointed by States. In 2002, the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the treaty body responsible for monitoring State compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted General Comment No. 15 on the human right to water. General comments are authoritative interpretations of the ICESCR, clarifying the content of human rights. General Comment No. 15 affirmed that the human right to water is implicitly derived from the human right to an adequate standard of living.<sup>1</sup> It also emphasised that ensuring that everyone has access to adequate sanitation is not only fundamental for human dignity and privacy, but is one of the principal mechanisms for protecting the quality of drinking water supplies and resources.<sup>2</sup>

In 2008, the UN Human Rights Council established the role of an Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, renamed in March 2011 as the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The Independent Expert adopted a report in 2009 which recommends the recognition of sanitation as a distinct human right.<sup>3</sup> In November 2010, the CESCR recognised in its 'Statement on the Right to Sanitation' that because sanitation is fundamental for human survival and for leading a life in dignity, the right

<sup>1</sup> UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 15, The right to water, (2002) UN Doc. E/C.12/2002/11, para. 3

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, para. 29

<sup>3</sup> Report of the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, by the UN Independent Expert, Catarina de Albuquerque, (1 July 2009) U.N. Doc. A/HRC/12/24, para. 81.

to sanitation is an essential component of the right to an adequate standard of living, enshrined in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>4</sup>

In 2006 Germany and Spain presented in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC or Human Rights Council) the first ever decision on access to water and sanitation by that body. Because of diverging views among States, this decision and subsequent HRC resolutions did not go as far recognising water and sanitation as human rights, but only referred to ‘human rights obligations relating to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation continued to be hotly debated in political bodies.

A turning point was the adoption in July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 64/292, sponsored by Bolivia, recognising these rights. While declarations on water and sanitation as human rights existed prior to the adoption of this resolution, this was the first time a high-level United Nations political body recognised the human rights to water and sanitation. This was followed by the first Human Rights Council resolution to affirm these rights to water and sanitation as legally binding in September 2010.<sup>5</sup> Since then, many more resolutions have further consolidated the consensus on the human rights to water and sanitation among UN Member States and the rights are now universally recognised.

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## The human rights to water and sanitation

The UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions refer to the ›right to safe drinking water and sanitation.‹ Amnesty International and WASH United interpret these references as implying two rights: a right to water and a right to sanitation. This is similar to the freedom of thought, conscience and religion which is made up of three distinct but related rights. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on these rights both consider that water and sanitation are distinct human rights in international law.<sup>6</sup> It is important to specify that these are distinct rights as any national and international programmes to promote ›water and sanitation‹ often tend to ignore the latter. There is a consensus in the development community that sanitation deserves special attention in order to prevent its neglect.

<sup>4</sup> UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ›Statement on the Right to Sanitation‹ on 19 November 2010, UN Doc E/C.12/2010/1, para. 7.

<sup>5</sup> See for example, ›United Nations: Historic re-affirmation that rights to water and sanitation are legally binding‹, Amnesty International, AI Index: IOR 40/018/2010 (1 October 2010)

<sup>6</sup> UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ›Statement on the Right to Sanitation‹ on 19 November 2010, UN Doc E/C.12/2010/1, para. 7, Realising the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: A Handbook by the UN Special Rapporteur Catarina de Albuquerque, (2014) Introduction, p. 19.

This document gives an overview of the most important resolutions and declarations that recognise the human rights to water and sanitation, including the positions individual states have taken when those documents were adopted. This document does not contain a full overview of State positions on the content of the human rights to water and sanitation – it is limited to the mere recognition of the existence of these rights. This document also lists the individual positions of 77 countries. The document was originally drafted to support advocacy by Amnesty International and WASH United. The countries selected were those that were active in discussions at the United Nations on these rights and/or were countries in which Amnesty International and WASH United was in a position to engage with national-level decision makers through national presence. If your country is not listed and you require this information, please contact [info@wash-uk.org](mailto:info@wash-uk.org). You may also obtain such information by checking Section 1 of this document, which lists relevant international resolutions and declarations, listing all States that agreed to these documents.

Information is presented in two sections:

**1. International resolutions and declarations on the human rights to water and sanitation**

This section contains all United Nations resolutions on »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation« or the »the human right to water and sanitation«. It briefly explains the significance of each document for the recognition of water and sanitation as human rights and lists co-sponsors or, where relevant, the voting record. The section further contains a number of important international and regional declarations on the human rights to water and sanitation.

**2. Individual country positions**

This section contains a detailed overview of the position a given country has taken in resolutions and declarations on the human right to water and sanitation. This detailed overview is available for 77 UN Member States. Countries for which a detailed overview is not available are still listed in section 1 whenever they have supported an international resolution or declaration.

In the annex, a table gives an overview of all UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions on the human rights to water and sanitation and the positions individual states have taken when those documents were adopted.

This publication has previously served as an internal reference guide for Amnesty International and WASH United advocates. We hope that publishing it as a public document will help others to identify the position that a country has taken on the human rights to water and sanitation at the international level, and to advocate for the human rights to water and sanitation in their own national context. We also hope that it will be useful in ensuring that human rights will not be ignored in the formulation and implementation of national water and sanitation laws and policy. And we hope it will help in advancing strategic litigation before national, regional and international justice mechanisms.

**Acknowledgement**

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# 1. International resolutions and declarations on the human right to water and sanitation and their supporting States

This section contains all United Nations resolutions on »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation« or on »the human right to water and sanitation«. It briefly explains the significance of each document for the recognition of water and sanitation as human rights and lists the supporting States according to their regional groups. These resolutions demonstrate the increasing recognition of these rights, and their contents over time, and greater consensus on them as countries that originally opposed these rights subsequently accepted them.

Support for United Nations resolutions can be shown in two ways:

## 1. Resolutions adopted without a vote

Most resolutions contained in this document were adopted without a vote, meaning that the relevant UN body adopted the resolution by consensus. Countries can show their strong support for a resolution by becoming co-sponsors of the text. Lists of co-sponsors are provided in the text and are organised by regional group. States sometimes decide to clarify their position by making a statement at the time of adoption of the resolution; occasionally, States dissociate from consensus on the resolution or parts of its text.

## 2. Resolutions adopted by vote

When consensus cannot be reached during negotiations, a resolution will be put to vote. In those cases, States can vote for or against a resolution, or abstain on the vote. In addition to voting in favour of a resolution, countries can show their active support for it by becoming co-sponsors of the text. The voting record, including countries that were absent, and the co-sponsorship are listed by regional group.

This section contains the full record of all UN Member States. Readers who are interested in a country that is not listed in section 2 below can find out what position a state has taken on any of the resolutions by checking the list of co-sponsors or the voting record.

## 1.1 Resolutions

The following resolutions are presented in chronological order rather than by UN body in order to show how the rights and support for them have developed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/292 in 2010, in which the »right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right« was first recognised by a UN political body.

### → UN General Assembly resolution 64/292 (July 2010)

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This resolution recognised the right to water and sanitation by stating that the General Assembly:

»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights«

This resolution was adopted by vote (see below).

#### Co-sponsors:

**African States:** Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Eritrea, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles

**Asia-Pacific States:** Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji, Maldives, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

**Eastern European States:** Georgia, Serbia

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay, Venezuela

The vote was as follows:

#### In favour:

**African States:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Libya,

Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

**Asia-Pacific States:** Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay, Venezuela

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland

**Against:** None

**Abstentions:**

**African States:** Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Zambia

**Asia-Pacific States:** *Cyprus*, Kazakhstan, Japan, Republic of Korea

**Eastern European States:** *Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine*

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago

**Western European and Other States:** Australia, Austria, Canada, *Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA*

**Absent:**

Albania, Belize, Cameroon, Chad, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Swaziland, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan

Two months after this vote 17 of the abstaining countries co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010 – thereby providing strong endorsement of these rights. These 17 co-sponsoring countries are italicised in the list of abstaining countries above. All of the abstaining countries eventually recognised the rights to water and sanitation in other resolutions and declarations, including in General Assembly resolution 68/157 of 2013, which recognised that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living ...*« and was adopted without a vote.

### → UN Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 (September 2010)

With this resolution the Human Rights Council affirmed that the human rights to water and sanitation are legally binding by stating:

»Affirms that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living.«

This HRC resolution effectively affirms that the rights to water and sanitation are implicitly contained in the right to an adequate standard of living, which is enshrined, among other instruments, in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and therefore are legally binding rights.

This resolution was adopted without a vote, with only the United Kingdom dissociating itself from the consensus.

#### The 56 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia

**Asia-Pacific States:** Cyprus, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Maldives, Palestine, Qatar, Vietnam, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, France,

Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland.<sup>7</sup>

The members of the Human Rights Council in September 2010 were:

**African States:** Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia

**Asia-Pacific States:** Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Thailand

**Eastern European States:** Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Belgium, France, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA

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### → UN Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 (24 March 2011)

This resolution re-affirms that

»the right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living«.

It refers for the first time to the November 2010 statement of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizing the right to sanitation, which the Committee treats »as a complement to the Committee's general comment No. 15« on the right to water.

This resolution was adopted without a vote, with only the United Kingdom dissociating itself from the consensus.

The 62 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Chad

**Asia-Pacific States:** Cyprus, Jordan, Maldives, Palestine, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam, Yemen

<sup>7</sup> Source: Report of the Human Rights Council on its fifteenth session, UN index A/HRC/15/60

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

**Latina American and Caribbean States:** Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts & Nevis, Uruguay, Venezuela

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.<sup>8</sup>

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The members of the Human Rights Council in March 2011 were:

**African States\*:** Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia

**Asia-Pacific States:** Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Thailand

**Eastern European States:** Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Belgium, France, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA

*\* Libya's HRC membership was suspended from 1 March to 18 November 2011*

<sup>8</sup> Source: Report of the Human Rights Council on its sixteenth session, UN index A/HRC/16/2

### → World Health Assembly resolution 64/24 (24 May 2011)

The World Health Organization's supreme decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted resolution 64/24, which

»urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.

The Preamble also includes the following:

»Recalling further the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292, which recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking-water and sanitation as a »human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights« and the Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 affirming that the »human right to safe drinking-water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the right to life and human dignity«.

The resolution was adopted without a vote but United Kingdom dissociated itself from the references to the right to water and sanitation in the resolution, stating that it recognised water as an element of the right of everybody to an adequate standard of living, and acknowledged that inadequate sanitation undermined the protection of human rights. It did not, however, consider that a »right« to sanitation currently existed under international human rights law.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> WHO, Sixty-Fourth World Health Assembly, UN index WHA64/2011/REC/3, p. 289

The 27 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal

**Asia-Pacific States:** Japan, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Armenia, Hungary, Moldova, Slovenia

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland<sup>10</sup>

### → UN Human Rights Council resolution 18/1 (28 September 2011)

16

This resolution re-affirms that

»the right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living«.

This resolution was adopted without a vote.

The United Kingdom, which was not an HRC member in September 2011, made a statement specifying that it did not recognise the right to sanitation.

The 68 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

**Asia-Pacific States:** Cambodia, Cyprus, Maldives, Palestine, Qatar, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> WHO, Sixty-Fourth World Health Assembly, UN index WHA64/2011/REC/3, p. 277-283

<sup>11</sup> Report of the Human Rights Council on its eighteenth session, UN index A/HRC/18/2



The members of the Human Rights Council in September 2011 were:

**African States\***: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda

**Asia-Pacific States**: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand

**Eastern European States**: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russia

**Latin American and Caribbean States**: Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay,

**Western Europe and Other States**: Austria, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, USA

*\* Libya's HRC membership was suspended from 1 March to 18 November 2011*

### → »The future we want« – Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), June 2012

The Rio +20 outcome document, under the section on »water and sanitation«, states:

»We reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively realized for our populations with full respect for national sovereignty. We also highlight our commitment to the 2005-2015 International Decade for Action, Water for Life.<sup>12</sup>«

The UN General Assembly endorsed the outcome document in resolution A/RES/66/288, adopted without a vote. All 193 UN Member States agreed to the document. This was the first United Nations declaration in which all UN Member States recognised the rights to water and sanitation. In the negotiations of this document, Canada, a leading opponent of these rights, agreed to move [forward](#) to recognise the »human right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.«

<sup>12</sup> Paragraph 121.

## → UN Human Rights Council resolution 21/2 (20 September 2012)

This resolution, reaffirms that

»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living«.

This resolution was adopted without a vote and was the first HRC resolution recognising these rights in which no State dissociated from consensus. The United Kingdom had recognised the right to sanitation in June 2012, in a [statement](#) recognising the right to sanitation and supporting the reference to this right in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), which was endorsed by the General Assembly (see above).

The 80 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda

**Asia-Pacific States:** Bhutan, Cambodia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Maldives, Palestine, Qatar, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom<sup>13</sup>

The members of the Human Rights Council in September 2012 were:

**African States:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo,

<sup>13</sup> Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-first session, UN index: A/HRC/21/2 (advanced unedited version -- available on the HRC extranet)

Djibouti, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal,  
Uganda

**Asia-Pacific States:** Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait,  
Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Qatar,  
Saudi Arabia, Thailand

**Eastern European States:** Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Moldova,  
Romania, Russia

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador,  
Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Austria, Belgium, Italy, Norway,  
Spain, Switzerland, USA

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### → UN Human Rights Council resolution 24/18 (27 September 2013)

This resolution, in addition to re-affirming that

»the right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living«,

for the first time includes a definition of the human rights to water and sanitation (preambular paragraph 15):

»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity«.

This definition explicitly affirms the content of the right to water and the right to sanitation, but does not include the criteria of »socially and culturally« in connection to the content category »acceptability«.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> The Special Rapporteur (then Independent Expert) on the human right to water and sanitation developed a definition of sanitation in human rights terms, which included social and cultural acceptability. See: Report of the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, by the UN Independent Expert, Catarina de Albuquerque, (1 July 2009) U.N. Doc. A/HRC/12/24, para. 81.

This definition was endorsed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its Statement on the Right to Sanitation. See: UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 'Statement on the Right to Sanitation' on 19 November 2010, UN Doc E/C.12/2010/1, para. 8

The USA [dissociated itself](#) from the consensus on that paragraph.

**The 111 co-sponsors of the resolution were:**

**African States:** Benin, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, as well as the other 49 countries of the African Group as a result of co-sponsorship

**Asia-Pacific States:** Cyprus, Maldives, Qatar

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom <sup>15</sup>

**The members of the Human Rights Council in September 2013 were:**

**African States:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Uganda

**Asia-Pacific States:** India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

**Eastern European States:** Czech Republic, Estonia, Montenegro, Poland, Moldova, Romania

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela

**Western European and Other States:** Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, USA

<sup>15</sup> Source: Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-fourth session, UN index: A/HRC/24/2 (advanced unedited version -- available on the HRC extranet)

## → UN General Assembly resolution 68/157 (18 December 2013)

This resolution, adopted without a vote, is the first resolution in which all UN Member States affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is legally binding in international law. It states:

»Recalling that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and is inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity«

The resolution thereby affirms the content of resolutions by the Human Rights Council from 2010 onwards which specify that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Article 11), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Article 27) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Article 28).

The General Assembly's view is significant because it comprises all States parties to these instruments.

Unfortunately, as a result of pressure from the USA, the main sponsors of the resolution, Germany and Spain, removed from the final draft a paragraph that outlined the content of the rights, which was previously adopted in HRC/RES/24/18 (September 2013). For further information, see the Amnesty International press release.<sup>16</sup>

### The 90 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia  
**Asia-Pacific States:** Cyprus, Fiji, Jordan, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia,

<sup>16</sup> Amnesty International, United Nations: General Assembly makes progress on the human rights to water and sanitation, but only so far as the US permits, 26 November 2013, AI index IOR 40/005/2013

Qatar, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, (Costa Rica withdrew its co-sponsorship after the deletion of the content categories paragraph)

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland, USA<sup>17</sup>

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### → UN Human Rights Council resolution 27/7 (25 September 2014)

This resolution reiterates the previous language on the derived right and includes, in preambular paragraph 21, the full definition of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, this time including »socially and culturally« in connection to the content category »acceptability«.

»Reaffirming that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity«

This resolution was adopted without a vote. However, the USA [dissociated itself](#) from the consensus on the above-mentioned paragraph.

The 74 co-sponsors of the resolution were:

**African States:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Egypt,

<sup>17</sup> Source: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixty-eight session, Volume I, UN index A/68/49 (Vol. I)

Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal,  
Sierra Leone, Togo

**Asia-Pacific States:** Cyprus, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Thailand,  
Timor-Leste, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia,  
Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Palestine,  
Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica,  
El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay,  
Peru, Uruguay

**Western European and Other States:** Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium,  
Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland,  
Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco,  
Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden,  
Switzerland <sup>18</sup>

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The members of the Human Rights Council in September 2014 were:

**African States:** Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo,  
Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia,  
Sierra Leone, South Africa

**Asia-Pacific States:** China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait,  
Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea,  
Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam

**Eastern European States:** Czech Republic, Estonia, Macedonia,  
Montenegro, Romania, Russia

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica,  
Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela

**Western European and Other States:** Austria, France, Germany, Ireland,  
Italy, United Kingdom, USA

<sup>18</sup> Source: Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-seventh session, UN index: A/HRC/27/2 (advanced unedited version -- available on the HRC extranet)

## 1.2 Declarations

This section contains declarations or outcome documents of United Nations conferences, regional summits and other conferences that have contributed to consolidating the recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation, often long before the recognition by the UN General Assembly in 2010.

### 1.2.1 United Nations declarations

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#### → Programme of Action of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development - September 1994

The 1994 [Programme of Action](#) adopted at the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, states in Principle 2:

»... People are the most important and valuable resource of any nation. Countries should ensure that all individuals are given the opportunity to make the most of their potential. They have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation.«

All 179 participating States adopted the Programme of Action.

#### List of signatories:

**African States:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe



**Asia-Pacific States:** Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

**Western European and Other States:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cook Islands, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

**Others:** European Community, Holy See, Kiribati<sup>19</sup>

### → Habitat Agenda of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) – June 1996

The 1996 [Habitat Agenda](#) adopted at the 1996 Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) states in paragraph 11:

»Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation, and to the

<sup>19</sup> Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, UN index A/CONF.171/13, Chapter II

continuous improvement of living conditions.»

The Habitat Agenda was adopted by consensus of all 175 participating States.

**List of signatories:**

**African States:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Asia-Pacific States:** Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen

**Eastern European States:** Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Ukraine

**Latin American and Caribbean States:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

**Western European and Other States:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

**Others:** Holy See, Kiribati

## 1.2.2 Regional declarations

### → Abuja Declaration of the first Africa-South America Summit – November 2006

In the 2006 Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 30 November 2006, 65 African and South American States committed to

»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«

#### Signatories:

**African States (53):** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**South American States (12):** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

### → Message from Beppu of the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit – December 2007

At the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, 3-4 December 2007, ten Heads of State and Government, 37 States from the wider Asia-Pacific region unanimously adopted the »Message from Beppu«, which recognises the

»people’s right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.«<sup>20</sup>

#### The signatories were:

Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Japan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan

### Delhi Declaration of the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) – November 2008

The Delhi Declaration, adopted by eight South Asian countries at the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III), 16-21 November 2008, recognises in Paragraph 1 that

»access to sanitation and safe drinking water is a basic right, and according national priority to sanitation is imperative.«

#### Signatories:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

<sup>20</sup> Available at: <http://www.apwf.org/>

### → Colombo Declaration of the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) – April 2011

The Colombo Declaration, adopted by eight South Asian countries at the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), 4-16 April 2011, stated that the Heads of States

»unanimously agree and commit: In light of the recent UN resolution recognising the right to sanitation, to work progressively to realise this in programmes and projects and eventually in legislation.«

#### Signatories:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

### → Kathmandu Declaration of the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) – October 2013

Eight South Asian countries at the Fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN V) 22-24 October 2013, in Kathmandu, Nepal, adopted the Kathmandu Declaration in which they declared to:

»Renew our joint commitment to the Human Right to Sanitation adopted by the United Nations and endorsed by SAARC nations to work progressively to achieve an open defecation free and hygienic South Asia, through accessible, affordable, appropriate, acceptable and environmentally safe sanitation and hygiene services that all people can use and maintain with dignity, safety and comfort«

#### Signatories:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

### → Panama Declaration of the Third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) – June 2013

The Third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013 concluded with the signature of the Panama [Declaration](#).

This is the first LatinoSan Declaration that contains an explicit reference to »the human right to water and sanitation«. It states:

»We agreed ... to reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.« [Unofficial translation]<sup>21</sup>

#### Signatories:

Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

<sup>21</sup> Original text: Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social.

## 1.2.3 World Water Forum declarations

The World Water Forum is organised every three years by the World Water Council, an NGO, in conjunction with a host government, which prepares a Ministerial Declaration to be agreed without a vote.

### → Declaration of the Fifth World Water Forum – Istanbul 2009

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At the Fifth World Water Forum, Istanbul, 2009, 25 countries adopted a separate declaration on the right to water and sanitation, stating as follows:

»The Ministers or their representatives herein signing at the 5th World Water Forum, declare before the participants of this Forum, the international community and the people of the world, the following: We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«

#### Signatories to this separate declaration:

Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela

### → Declaration of the Sixth World Water Forum – Marseille March 2012

At the Sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, 145 countries were represented.

The [Ministerial Declaration](#) fails to clearly commit States to the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation. As a result of pressure led by Canada (which did not recognise these rights until the adoption of outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012), draft language which clearly affirmed the recognition

of the human rights to water and sanitation was removed from the Ministerial Declaration.

Instead, the Declaration includes an ambiguous reference to these rights. The Ministerial Declaration referred to the recognition of these rights by the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council and only commits signatories to implement »human rights obligations relating to access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation«:

»Reiterating our commitment to fully achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and following the adoption of United Nations resolutions (A/RES/64/292, A/HRC/RES/15/9, A/HRC/RES/16/2 and A/HRC/RES/18/1) related to the recognition of the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, we commit to accelerate the full implementation of the human rights obligations relating to access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means as a part of our efforts to overcome the water crisis at all levels.«

The Ministerial declaration however gives a list of some criteria that are needed to achieve access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, reflecting the content of the CESCR General Comment 15, saying that it requires

»availability, quality, acceptability, accessibility and affordability, focusing on the most vulnerable and taking into account non-discrimination and gender equality«.



## 2. Individual Country Positions

This section contains a detailed overview of the position a given country has taken in resolutions and declarations on the human rights to water and sanitation. This detailed overview is available for 77 UN Member States. Countries for which a detailed overview is not available are still listed in section 1 whenever they have supported an international resolution or declaration.

The overview is divided into two parts. For each country, this section shows:

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### 1. Previous recognition of the human right to water and sanitation

- This section shows previous declarations and resolutions to which the State has joined that recognise the human rights to water and sanitation, The UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions that a country has co-sponsored, thereby explicitly adding its support to the text.
- Whether the country was a member of the Human Right Council when it adopted without a vote its resolutions of September 2010, March 2011, September 2011, September 2012, September 2013, and September 2014, which affirm that »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living«. These resolutions therefore affirm that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),
- The derivation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation from the right to an adequate standard of living, which was confirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/157 in 2013.
- The full definition of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as contained in Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18 of September 2013 and resolution 27/7 of September 2014.

### 2. Further information

For a number of countries, background information is included that is useful for planning advocacy. Where information is available or relevant, the section outlines any particular statements made by the State, which highlight their position, or any reasons for resisting recognition of the right.

The UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions refer to the ›right to safe drinking water and sanitation.‹ Amnesty International and WASH United interpret these references as implying two rights: a right to water and a right to sanitation. This is similar to the freedom of thought, conscience and religion which is made up of three distinct but related rights. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on these rights both consider that water and sanitation are distinct human rights in international law. In the country positions below, we have referred to the ›right to safe drinking water and sanitation‹ in order to reflect the exact terminology used by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

## Algeria

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION:

Algeria has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Algeria voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010** which ›*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*‹

Algeria co-sponsored the following Human Rights Council resolutions: **Resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Algeria was a member of the Human Rights Council when it cosponsored **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. All above resolutions were adopted without a vote.

Algeria is a member of the UN General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Algeria thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore

contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.« Algeria thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Algeria, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.« In a statement to the 10th session of the Human Rights Council on 9 March 2009, Ambassador Jazairy confirmed that Algeria recognizes the human right to water and sanitation in its internal law.<sup>22</sup>

## Angola

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Angola has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Angola voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Angola was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and **resolution 18/1** of September 2011. Angola co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Angola also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

<sup>22</sup> »Nous soulignerons que l'Algérie est l'un des rares pays à avoir reconnu, dans sa législation interne, le droit à l'accès à l'eau et à l'assainissement pour satisfaire les besoins de la population dans le respect de l'équité, aux termes d'une loi adoptée en 2005.« <http://www.mission-algeria.ch/index.php/fr/droits-de-lhomme/58-droits-de-lhomme/85-declaration-d-idriss-jazairy-conseil-des-droits-de-lhomme-dixieme-session-ordinaire-point-3--rapport-du-rapporteur-special-sur-le-droit-a-l'alimentation-potable-rapport-de-lexperte-independante-sur-l'accès-a-leau-et-a-l'assainissement-rapport-de-l>

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Angola thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Angola thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Angola, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

## Argentina

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Argentina has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Argentina voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Argentina was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Argentina is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

**Except General Assembly resolution 64/292**, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Argentina thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Argentina thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Argentina, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

## Australia

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Australia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Australia is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, affirming that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Australia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Australia co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014. This resolution recalls that the right is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. This resolution reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity«* Australia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, Australia, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the *»Message from Beppu«*, which recognises the *»people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.«*

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Australia abstained on **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010, which recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«*. The representative of Australia [stated](#) that *»access to water and sanitation was linked to a range of civil rights, and noted that more than half the people in the Asia-Pacific region lacked access to water and sanitation. Despite having increased its development assistance, Australia nevertheless had reservations about declaring new human rights in a General Assembly resolution. Indeed, when new rights were recognized, consensus was essential. Australia had followed the work of the independent expert, who should have been able to report on it before the text was tabled.«* Australia clearly reversed this position when in 2014 it co-sponsored **Human Rights Council 27/7**.

# Austria

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Austria has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Austria co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, and was a member of the Human Right Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and Human Rights **Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote.

Austria furthermore co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Austria thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Austria thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Austria abstained on **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010, which recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«*. It recognised the right to safe drinking water and sanitation in March 2011 when it co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2**.

## Bahrain

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Bahrain has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Bahrain voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Bahrain was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 16/2** of March 2011.

Bahrain is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Bahrain thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Bahrain is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 **resolution 64/24** which »*urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses*«.

## Bangladesh

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Bangladesh has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Bangladesh voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sani-*



*tation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.»*

Bangladesh was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012.

Bangladesh is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Bangladesh thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

At the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III), in November 2008 in Delhi, Bangladesh, along with seven other South Asian countries, unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration, which recognises that *»access to sanitation and safe drinking water is a basic right, and according national priority to sanitation is imperative.«*

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Bangladesh signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating, that *»We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«*

Bangladesh is signatory to the Colombo Declaration, adopted by eight South Asian countries at the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), 4-16 April 2011, stated that the Heads of States *»unanimously agree and commit: In light of the recent UN resolution recognising the right to sanitation, to work progressively to realise this in programmes and projects and eventually in legislation.«*

Bangladesh is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which *»urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.*

Bangladesh is signatory to the Kathmandu Declaration, adopted at the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN V), 22-24 October 2013, in which signatories declare to: *»Renew our joint commitment to the Human Right to Sanitation adopted by the United Nations and endorsed by SAARC*

*nations to work progressively to achieve an open defecation free and hygienic South Asia, through accessible, affordable, appropriate, acceptable and environmentally safe sanitation and hygiene services that all people can use and maintain with dignity, safety and comfort.»*

## Belgium

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Belgium has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Belgium voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Belgium co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, all adopted without a vote. Belgium also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Belgium thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Belgium thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the

Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## Benin

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Benin has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Benin voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Benin was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote. Benin also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Benin thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Benin thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in 2009, Benin signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating; »*We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.*«

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Benin, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

## Brazil

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Brazil has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Brazil voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Brazil was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. During its membership it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Brazil is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Brazil thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Brazil thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Eco-

nomic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Brazil, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

Brazil was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, *»Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.«* [Unofficial translation]<sup>23</sup>

## Burkina Faso

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Burkina Faso has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Burkina Faso voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Burkina Faso was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014 that were all adopted without a vote.

As a member of the United Nations General Assembly, Burkina Faso co-sponsored **UN General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, which was adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Burkina Faso thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking

<sup>23</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de America Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Burkina Faso thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Burkina Faso, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

## Canada

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Canada has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Canada is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013 that affirms that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Canada thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Canada is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May

2011 **resolution 64/24** which »urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Canada abstained on General Assembly **resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. Canada significantly changed position and recognised »the right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation«. During the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Canada in a [letter](#) to the Secretary-General of the Conference, recognized the right to water and sanitation as a human right in the outcome document »The Future We Want« (See Section 1.2 above).

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## Cameroon

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Cameroon has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Cameroon co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and - as a member of the African Group - co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Cameroon was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 21/2** of September 2012.

Cameroon is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Cameroon thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 states: »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable,

*physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Cameroon, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in 2009, Cameroon signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that *»We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«* In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Cameroon, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Cameroon was absent during the voting procedure for the **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010.

## Chile

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Chile has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Chile voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Chile co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote.

Chile is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Chile thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water



and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Chile thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Chile signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that *»We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«*

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Chile, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

## China

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

China has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

China voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

China was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

China is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. China thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« China thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Furthermore, at the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, China, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the »**Message from Beppu**«, which recognises the »*people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.*«

## Costa Rica

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Costa Rica has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Costa Rica voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Costa Rica co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote.

Costa Rica is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Costa Rica thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Costa Rica thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Costa Rica was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, *»Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.«* [Unofficial translation]<sup>24</sup>

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Costa Rica firmly supported the inclusion of the content categories/definition paragraph in **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013 and withdrew its co-sponsorship after the deletion of the paragraph (upon pressure by the USA). For further information, see the [Amnesty International press release](#).

<sup>24</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de America Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

## Côte d'Ivoire

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Côte d'Ivoire has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Côte d'Ivoire voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Côte d'Ivoire co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and was a member of the Human Right Council when it co-sponsored – as a member of the African Group - **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Côte d'Ivoire was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, adopted without a vote.

Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Côte d'Ivoire thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Côte d'Ivoire thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Côte d'Ivoire, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

# Croatia

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Croatia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Croatia co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote. Croatia was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 16/2** of March 2011. Croatia also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Croatia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Croatia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Croatia abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Croatia recognised »the right to safe drinking water and sanitation« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## Cuba

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Cuba has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Cuba voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Cuba was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Cuba is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Cuba thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Cuba thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Cuba signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that »*We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.*«

# The Czech Republic

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

The Czech Republic has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

The Czech Republic was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014 that were adopted without a vote.

The Czech Republic is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The Czech Republic thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« The Czech Republic thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Czech Republic abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. The Czech Republic recognised »*the right to safe drinking water and sanitation*« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 21/2 of September 2012.

# Denmark

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Denmark has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Denmark co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. Denmark also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote. Denmark also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Denmark thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and resolution **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Denmark thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Denmark abstained on **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010, which recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*«. Denmark recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010.



# Djibouti

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Djibouti has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Djibouti voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Djibouti co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and – as a member of the African Group - **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Djibouti was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, both adopted without a vote.

Djibouti is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Djibouti thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Djibouti thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Djibouti, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

# Ecuador

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Ecuador has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Ecuador voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010 which »Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«

Ecuador was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013.

Ecuador is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except **General Assembly resolution 64/292**, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Ecuador thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Ecuador thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Ecuador, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions*.« At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Ecuador signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that »*We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right*.«

Ecuador was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, »Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.« [Unofficial translation]<sup>25</sup>

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

At the adoption of **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9**, [Ecuador stated](#) that while joining the consensus, it does not share some of the provisions. It stated that water cannot be a derived right, but must be ensured as a primordial duty of the State. This implies that Ecuador's view is that the right to water must be a self-standing right. (This interpretation would mean that the right to water is not contained in the ICESCR and other international instruments). Ecuador has since changed position. At the adoption of **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18**, [Ecuador stated](#) that international standards do not preclude a state from adopting a national position that affords stronger protection to a right. Ecuador thereby accepts the derived right at the international level. Ecuador's Constitution enacted in October 2008 explicitly recognises the right to water and sanitation.

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## Egypt

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Egypt has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Egypt voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«

Egypt co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. It co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 as a member of the African Group.

Egypt is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted

<sup>25</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

without a vote **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Egypt thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Egypt thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Egypt, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

## Finland

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Finland has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Finland voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Finland co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. Finland also co-sponsored **General Assembly**

**resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Finland thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Finland thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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## France

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

France recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

France voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

France co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, both adopted without a vote. France also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right

to an adequate standard of living. France thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* France thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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## Gabon

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Gabon has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Gabon voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Gabon was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 without a vote and when it co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, also on behalf of the African Group. Gabon was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014, without a vote.

Gabon is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Gabon thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in

human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore provide a definition of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Gabon thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Gabon, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

## Guatemala

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Guatemala has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Guatemala voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Guatemala was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. During its membership of the Human Rights Council, Guatemala co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and **resolution 18/1** of September 2011. Guatemala also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Guatemala thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking

water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity«*. Guatemala thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Guatemala signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that *»We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«*

Guatemala was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, *»Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.«* [Unofficial translation]<sup>26</sup>

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

At the adoption of HRC resolution 15/9, [Guatemala insisted](#) that recognition of the right to drinking water and sanitation must be in conformity with current national legislation. It also stated that adoption of the resolution would not generate any type of right or obligation, which is justiciable at the international level or among states.

<sup>26</sup> Original text: Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de America Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social



# Ghana

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Ghana has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Ghana voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Ghana was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and as a member of the African Group, it co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Ghana also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Ghana thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. As part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, Ghana thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Ghana, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

# Hungary

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Hungary has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Hungary voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Hungary co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Hungary also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Hungary thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Hungary thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

# India

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

India has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

India voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

India was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

India is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. India thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« India thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III), in November 2008 in Delhi, India, along with seven other South Asian countries, unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration, which recognises that »*access to sanitation and safe drinking water is a basic right, and according national priority to sanitation is imperative.*« Furthermore, at the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, India, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the »**Message from Beppu**«, which recognises the »*people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human*

*right and a fundamental aspect of human security.»*

India is signatory to the Colombo Declaration, adopted by eight South Asian countries at the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), 4-16 April 2011, stated that the Heads of States *»unanimously agree and commit: In light of the recent UN resolution recognising the right to sanitation, to work progressively to realise this in programmes and projects and eventually in legislation.«*

India is signatory to the Kathmandu Declaration, adopted at the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN V), 22-24 October 2013, in which signatories declare to: *»Renew our joint commitment to the Human Right to Sanitation adopted by the United Nations and endorsed by SAARC nations to work progressively to achieve an open defecation free and hygienic South Asia, through accessible, affordable, appropriate, acceptable and environmentally safe sanitation and hygiene services that all people can use and maintain with dignity, safety and comfort.«*

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## Ireland

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Ireland has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Ireland co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014 which were adopted without a vote. Ireland also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Ireland thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination,*

*to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*» Ireland thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Ireland abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. Ireland recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 of March 2011.

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## Israel

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Israel has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Israel co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2** of March 2011, which was adopted without a vote.

Israel is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Both of these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Israel thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Israel is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which »urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Israel abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*«. Israel recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 of March 2011.

## Italy

**PREVIOUS RECOGNITION**

Italy has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Italy voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Italy co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, and as a Member State of the Human Rights Council co-sponsored **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote. Italy also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Italy thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Italy thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## Japan

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Japan has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Japan co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, adopted without a vote, and was a Member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Japan is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

These resolutions all affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Japan thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Japan thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, Japan, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the *»Message from Beppu«,* which recognises the *»people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.«*

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Japan abstained on **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. Japan recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## Jordan

**PREVIOUS RECOGNITION**

Jordan has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Jordan voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Jordan co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011. Jordan also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Jordan thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Jordan is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which »*urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses.*«



# Kenya

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Kenya has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Kenya co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Kenya, as a member of the African Group, cosponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. As a member of the Human Rights Council, it co-sponsored **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, adopted without a vote.

Kenya is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Kenya thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Kenya thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Kenya, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Kenya abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«*. Kenya recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«* when it

co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 of March 2011.

## Kyrgyzstan

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Kyrgyzstan has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Kyrgyzstan voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Kyrgyzstan was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010.

Kyrgyzstan is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Kyrgyzstan thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, Kyrgyzstan, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the »**Message from Beppu**«, which recognizes the »*people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.*«

Kyrgyzstan is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which »*urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses.*«

# Libya

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Libya has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Libya voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Libya was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 adopted without a vote. Libya, as a member of the African Group, co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, which was adopted without a vote. Libya also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Libya thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Libya, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

# Malaysia

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Malaysia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Malaysia voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Malaysia was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013.

Malaysia is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Malaysia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Malaysia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

# The Maldives

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

The Maldives has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

The Maldives voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

The Maldives co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote. The Maldives also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The Maldives thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« The Maldives thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Maldives is signatory to the Colombo Declaration, adopted by eight South Asian countries at the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), 4-16 April 2011, stated that the Heads of States »*unanimously agree and commit: In light of the recent UN resolution recognising the right to sanitation, to work progressively to realise this in programmes and projects and eventually in legislation.*«

At the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III), in November 2008 in Delhi, the Maldives, along with seven other South Asian countries, unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration, which recognises that *»access to sanitation and safe drinking water is a basic right, and according national priority to sanitation is imperative.«*

Maldives is signatory to the Kathmandu Declaration, adopted at the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN V), 22-24 October 2013, in which signatories declare to: *»Renew our joint commitment to the Human Right to Sanitation adopted by the United Nations and endorsed by SAARC nations to work progressively to achieve an open defecation free and hygienic South Asia, through accessible, affordable, appropriate, acceptable and environmentally safe sanitation and hygiene services that all people can use and maintain with dignity, safety and comfort.«*

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## Mauritania

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Mauritania has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Mauritania was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Mauritania, as a member of the African Group, co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, adopted without a vote.

Mauritania is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Mauritania thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and afford-*

able water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity». Mauritania, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Mauritania, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Mauritania was absent during the voting procedure for the **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010.

## Mauritius

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Mauritius has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Mauritius voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Mauritius was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 without a vote. Mauritius, as a member of the African Group, cosponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Mauritius also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Mauritius thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore

contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Mauritius, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Mauritius, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions*.«

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## Mexico

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Mexico has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Mexico voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights*.«

Mexico co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 without a vote and when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, both adopted without a vote. Mexico also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Mexico thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«*

Mexico thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Mexico was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, *»Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realization of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.«* [Unofficial translation]<sup>27</sup>

## Moldova

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Moldova has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Moldova was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, and when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Moldova also co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 and **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Moldova thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes

<sup>27</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Moldova thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Moldova abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«*. Moldova recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«* as a member of the Human Rights Council, when the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 15/9 of September 2010 without a vote.

## Montenegro

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Montenegro has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Montenegro voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Montenegro co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Montenegro was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014, both adopted without a vote. Montenegro also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Montenegro thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Montenegro thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## The Netherlands

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

The Netherlands has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

The Netherlands co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. The Netherlands also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The Netherlands thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* The Netherlands thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

The Netherlands abstained on **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010, which recognised the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The representative of the Netherlands said he had abstained although his country recognized the right to clean water and good sanitation. He explained in his [statement](#) that this is reflected in the assistance of the Netherlands promoting access for 50 million people by 2015. *»However, the text placed insufficient responsibility on national Governments, upon which citizens must be able to rely and from which they must obtain redress. In addition, it would make reports of the Human Rights Council's independent expert counter-productive, he said, adding that he was also not happy with the General Assembly's »ad hoc« declaration of the right since the resolution had unnecessary political implications.«* The Netherlands recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«* when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010. At the national level, the Dutch Government explicitly recognized the right to water and sanitation in a [letter](#) to the parliament on 13 May 2008.

## Nigeria

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Nigeria has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Nigeria voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human*

rights.«

Nigeria co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Nigeria also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Nigeria thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Nigeria thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Nigeria, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Nigeria signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that *»We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«*

# New Zealand

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

New Zealand has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

New Zealand is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, which affirms that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. New Zealand thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, New Zealand, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the »Message from Beppu«, which recognises the *»people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.«*

New Zealand is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which *»urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

In spite of its acceptance of the Message from Beppu, New Zealand abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The representative of New Zealand [stated](#) that New Zealand was concerned that the text had been tabled before the delegation had had an opportunity to consider its provisions. New Zealand recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation« as a member of the UN General Assembly, when it adopted without a vote General Assembly resolution 68/157 of December 2013.

# Norway

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Norway has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Norway voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«

Norway was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. It also co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013, **resolution 27/7** of September 2014 and **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, all adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Norway thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Norway thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

# Pakistan

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Pakistan has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Pakistan voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Pakistan was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Pakistan is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Pakistan thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Pakistan thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III), in November 2008 in Delhi, Pakistan, along with seven other South Asian countries, unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration, which recognises that »*access to sanitation and safe drinking water is a basic right, and according national priority to sanitation is imperative.*«

Pakistan is signatory to the Colombo Declaration, adopted by eight South Asian countries at the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), 4-16 April 2011, stated that the Heads of States »*unanimously agree and*



*commit: In light of the recent UN resolution recognising the right to sanitation, to work progressively to realise this in programmes and projects and eventually in legislation.»*

Pakistan is signatory to the Kathmandu Declaration, adopted at the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN V), 22-24 October 2013, in which signatories declare to: *»Renew our joint commitment to the Human Right to Sanitation adopted by the United Nations and endorsed by SAARC nations to work progressively to achieve an open defecation free and hygienic South Asia, through accessible, affordable, appropriate, acceptable and environmentally safe sanitation and hygiene services that all people can use and maintain with dignity, safety and comfort.«*

## Paraguay

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Paraguay has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Paraguay voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Paraguay co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013, **resolution 27/7** September 2014 and **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, all adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Paraguay thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially*

*and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.» Paraguay thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.*

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Paraguay signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that *»We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.«* In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Paraguay, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

Paraguay was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, *»Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.«* [Unofficial translation]<sup>28</sup>

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) held its third global High Level Meeting (HLM) convened by UNICEF and hosted by the World Bank in Washington DC on 11 April 2014. In its [Statement of Commitments](#), Paraguay has stated that;

*»[...] The Government commits to comply with the right to access universal health that encompasses the right to water, sanitation and hygiene in line with the UN resolution of July 28, 2010. [...] SMART Commitments:*

*1. Progress toward universal human right to water, sanitation and hygiene, with social equity, institutional and technical sustainability.*

*3. Creation of a public entity solely governing the right of universal access to sanitation, water and hygiene to ensure institutional, technical and social sustainability, as part of Decree 874/10/12 / 2013 from the Comité Interinstitucional de Coordinación del Sector Agua Potable y Saneamiento (Interagency Coordinating Committee for Drinking Water and Sanitation). [...]«* [Unofficial translation]

<sup>28</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de America Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

## Peru

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Peru has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Peru voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Peru co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and **resolution 16/2** of March 2011 and was member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. Peru also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Peru thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Peru thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Peru, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

Peru was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and

agreed to inter alia, »Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.« [Unofficial translation]<sup>29</sup>

## Poland

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### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Poland has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Poland co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, all adopted without a vote. Poland also co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 and **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, both adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Poland thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Poland

<sup>29</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de America Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Poland abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. Poland recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## The Philippines

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

The Philippines has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

The Philippines was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all without a vote.

The Philippines is a member of the General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The Philippines thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« The Philippines thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, the Philippines, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the **»Message from Beppu«**, which recognises the *»people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.«*

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

The Philippines was absent during the voting procedure for the General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010.

## Portugal

#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Portugal has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Portugal voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which *»Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«*

Portugal co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. Portugal also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Portugal thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure,*

*socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*» Portugal thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## Qatar

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Qatar has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Qatar voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Qatar co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013.

Qatar also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Qatar thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Qatar thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

# The Republic of Korea

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

The Republic of Korea has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

The Republic of Korea was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote.

The Republic of Korea is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The Republic of Korea thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* Korea thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, the Republic of Korea, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the **»Message from Beppu«**, which recognises the *»people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.«*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Republic of Korea abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«*. The Republic of Korea recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water*



and sanitation« as a member of the Human Rights Council, when the Human Rights Council adopted without a vote resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## Russia

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Russia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Russia voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Russia was a member of the Human Rights Council resolution when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Russia is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Russia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. It reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Russia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## Saudi Arabia

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Saudi Arabia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Saudi Arabia voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Saudi Arabia was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Saudi Arabia is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Saudi Arabia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. It reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Saudi Arabia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

# Senegal

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Senegal has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Senegal voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Senegal was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Senegal co-sponsored Human Rights Council **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 as a member of the African Group. It also co-sponsored **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Senegal is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Senegal thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Senegal thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Senegal, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) held its third global High Level Meeting

(HLM) convened by UNICEF and hosted by the World Bank in Washington DC on 11 April 2014. In its [Statement of Commitments](#), Senegal has stated that; »[...] under the 2014-2017 'Programme Sénégal Emergent' that prioritises to stimulate and support the economic and social development, the Government of Senegal plans to extend access to water services in rural areas that meet the highest quality standards and are consistent with the principles of the human right to water. [...] 2014 'SMART' Commitments

2. Promoting universal access to water and sanitation as well as the right to water:

[...] the Government will enact the new Water Code before the end of 2014. In fact, this revised version, provides an explicit provision on the recognition of the Human Right to Water and commits to implement actions effectively through its basic principles, which are: availability, accessibility, quality, acceptability and affordability.« [Unofficial translation]

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## Slovenia

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Slovenia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Slovenia voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.«

Slovenia co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, resolution 16/2 of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. Slovenia also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Slovenia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »the human right to

*safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.»* Slovenia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## Slovakia

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### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Slovakia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Slovakia co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. Slovakia also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

These resolutions all affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Slovakia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.»* Slovakia thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Slovakia abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. Slovakia recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## South Africa

**PREVIOUS RECOGNITION**

South Africa has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

South Africa voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

South Africa, as a member of the African Group, co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013. South Africa was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 27/7** of September 2014. South Africa also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. South Africa thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« South Africa thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the

Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, South Africa signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that » *We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.*«

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, South Africa, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to » *promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

## Sweden

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Sweden has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Sweden co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, which were adopted without a vote.

Sweden is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

These resolutions all affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Sweden thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that » *the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Sweden thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur

on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Sweden abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. Sweden recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation« when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 of March 2011.

## Switzerland

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#### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Switzerland has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Switzerland voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Switzerland co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, all adopted without a vote. Switzerland also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Switzerland thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and af-*



*fordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*» Switzerland thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

## Thailand

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Thailand has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Thailand voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Thailand was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Thailand also co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 and General Assembly **resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Thailand thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Thailand thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to

safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, Thailand, along with 36 other countries, unanimously adopted the »**Message from Beppu**«, which recognises the »*people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security.*«

## Togo

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Togo has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Togo voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Togo co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, both adopted without a vote.

Togo also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Togo thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Togo thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the **Abuja Declaration** adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Togo, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

## Tunisia

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Tunisia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Tunisia voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Tunisia co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and, as a member of the African Group, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013, all adopted without a vote.

Tunisia is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Tunisia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Tunisia, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking

water and sanitation.

In the **Abuja Declaration** adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Tunisia, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

## Turkey

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Turkey has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Turkey is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, which affirms that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Turkey thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Turkey is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which »*urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses.*«

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Turkey abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The representative of Turkey [stated](#) that the Human Rights Council had recently created the mandate of the independent expert and passed a resolution on the same subject, said the matter was before the Council and the Geneva process was ongoing. The text prejudged the outcome of those discussions and Turkey would therefore abstain from the vote. As a member of the UN General Assembly, Turkey recognised »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*«

when the General Assembly adopted without a vote General Assembly resolution 68/157 of December 2013.

## Uganda

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Uganda has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Uganda was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010 and when it co-sponsored **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Uganda, as a member of the African Group, co-sponsored **resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Uganda also co-sponsored General Assembly **resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Uganda thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity«*. Uganda, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Uganda, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Uganda was absent during the voting procedure for the General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010.

## Ukraine

**PREVIOUS RECOGNITION**

Ukraine has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Ukraine co-sponsored **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, and was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010. Ukraine also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Ukraine thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Ukraine thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Ukraine abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised »the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Ukraine recognised »*the human*

*right to safe drinking water and sanitation*» when the Human Rights Council adopted without a vote resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## The United Kingdom

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Since 2012, the United Kingdom has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

The United-Kingdom co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 21/2** of September 2012 and **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 that were adopted without a vote. The United Kingdom was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

The United Kingdom is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The United Kingdom thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.«* The United Kingdom thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

The United Kingdom abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. According to the [UN report](#) on this session, the representative

of the United Kingdom stated that *»her delegation had abstained for reasons of substance and procedure. Concerning substance, there was no sufficient legal basis for declaring or recognizing water or sanitation as freestanding human rights, nor was there evidence that they existed in customary law. As for procedure, it was disappointing that the text pre-empted the work going on in the Human Rights Council, she said, noting that the United Kingdom had supported the resolution establishing the independent expert, as well as the text on human rights and access to safe water and sanitation, adopted in 2009. Indeed, the work in Geneva had been progressing, she added.«*

Although the United Kingdom was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted resolution 15/9 on 30 September 2010 without a vote, the United Kingdom made a [statement](#) dissociating itself from the consensus. It stated that the United Kingdom cannot support recognition of *»right to safe drinking water and sanitation.«* *»Neither a right to water nor a right to sanitation has been agreed to in an UN human rights treaty.«* It explains that it does recognise the right to water as an element of adequate standard of living in Art 11 (1), but that there is no basis in international law for recognising a human right to sanitation. It further took the view that there is no clear internationally agreed definition of sanitation, and therefore no internationally agreed definition of the content of the right.

The United Kingdom was the only member of the World Health Organization that dissociated on the recognition of the right to sanitation of the **World Health Assembly resolution 64/24**, adopted by consensus in May 2011. This resolution *»urges Member States to ensure that national health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.*

Right before Rio + 20, the United Kingdom announced on 15 June 2012 that *»they are in a position to support the inclusion of commitments to the right both to safe drinking water and to sanitation as a human right in the Rio+20 outcome document. United Kingdom government has confirmed that it has reviewed its legal position and »recognizes the right to sanitation as an element of the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living under article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.«* In a [statement](#) issued on 27 June 2012, the United Kingdom Government officially recognised sanitation as a human right under international law without, however, recognising all its components. The United Kingdom recognised the components of *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«* when it co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 24/18 of September 2013.



## The United States of America

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Since 2010, the USA has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions. However, it has refused to accept the definition of the content of these rights as set out by the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The USA was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011, **resolution 21/2** of September 2012, **resolution 24/18** and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

While **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the USA [dissociated](#) itself from preambular paragraph 21 of the resolution, which reaffirms that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*«

The USA co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All the above-mentioned resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. The USA thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Following the adoption of resolution 15/9 of September 2010, the USA stated that it was proud to join consensus on this important resolution regarding the right to safe drinking water and sanitation which is to be progressively realised. It also stated that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the ICESCR and as such, State parties to that Covenant undertake to take steps with a view to achieving progressively its full realisation.<sup>30</sup>

The USA is a member of the World Health Organization, whose decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, adopted by consensus in May 2011 resolution 64/24 which »urges Member States to ensure that national

<sup>30</sup> Oral statement delivered by the representative of the USA, Mr. Mark j. Cassyre, on 30 September 2010 regarding HRC/RES/15/9 [available on HRC extranet]

health strategies contribute to the realization of water- and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals while coming in support to the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation that entitles everyone, without discrimination, to water and sanitation that is sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses«.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The USA [position](#) at the Human Rights Council on 30 September 2010 refers only to the ICESCR as a source of the right, which was significant since the USA is not a party to the ICESCR although it is a signatory. The USA' statement at the Council explicitly pointed out that the right to water and sanitation is not protected in the American Constitution nor justiciable in its courts. The USA also did not specifically recognize in its statement that the right to water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. This may be because the latter right is contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The USA has repeatedly opposed the inclusion of the full definition of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. When the full definition was for the first time included in **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 the USA made a [statement](#) in which it dissociated itself from consensus on this paragraph: »*The language used to define the right to water in that paragraph is based on the views of the CESCR, but the Council has never previously adopted it, nor does it appear in an international agreement. The USA does not agree with this definition due to the expansive way this right has been articulated. This language does not represent a consensus position.*«

In the negotiations on the resolution later that year at the UN General Assembly, the USA firmly opposed the inclusion of a paragraph defining the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in the **draft GA resolution 68/157**. The paragraph was excluded as a result of this pressure (for more information see [Amnesty International press release](#)).

In September 2014 the Human Rights Council resolution again included the full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The USA made a [statement](#) in which it dissociated itself from consensus on the paragraph in this resolution (27/7): »*The language used to define the right to safe drinking water and sanitation in that paragraph is based on the views of the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which does not appear in an international agreement and does not represent a consensus position.*«

# Uruguay

## PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Uruguay has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Uruguay voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Uruguay was a member of the Human Rights Council when it co-sponsored **resolution 15/9** of September 2010, **resolution 16/2** of March of 2011, **resolution 18/1** of September 2011 and **resolution 21/2** of September 2012. Uruguay co-sponsored Human Rights Council **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014, both adopted without a vote. Uruguay also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Uruguay thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.*« Uruguay thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Uruguay signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that »*We recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.*« In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Uruguay, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

Uruguay was present at the third Latin American and Caribbean Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan) of June 2013, where it signed the Panama Declaration and agreed to inter alia, »*Reiterate the political will and commitment to achieve the universal realisation of the human right to water and of integral sanitation services by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean for the development of our peoples, prioritizing rural areas and vulnerable populations. To this end, we will promote public development policies with a focus on the right to sanitation, comprehensively and on the basis of social equity.*« [Unofficial translation]<sup>31</sup>

## Venezuela

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Venezuela has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Venezuela voted in favour of **General Assembly resolution 64/292** of July 2010 which »*Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.*«

Venezuela co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 16/2** of March 2011. Venezuela was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 24/18** of September 2013 and **resolution 27/7** of September 2014.

Venezuela is a member of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted, without a vote, **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013.

Except General Assembly resolution 64/292, these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Venezuela thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolutions 24/18** of September 2013 and **27/7** of September 2014 furthermore contain a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **Human Rights Council resolution 27/7** of September 2014 reaffirms in preambular paragraph 21 that »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination,*

<sup>31</sup> Original text: *Acordamos .... Reiterar la voluntad y compromiso político para alcanzar la universalización del derecho humano al agua y de los servicios de saneamiento integral de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe en favor del desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, priorizando el ámbito rural y las poblaciones vulnerables. Para ello promoveremos políticas públicas de desarrollo con un enfoque de derecho al saneamiento, con integralidad y equidad social*

*to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.»* Venezuela thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, Venezuela signed, along with 25 other countries, a declaration stating that they »*recognize that access to water and sanitation is a human right and we are committed to all necessary actions for the progressive implementation of this right.*«

In the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Venezuela, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to »*promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.*«

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## Zambia

### PREVIOUS RECOGNITION

Zambia has recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on several occasions.

Zambia, as a member of the African Group, co-sponsored **Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013. Zambia was a member of the Human Rights Council when it adopted without a vote **resolution 15/9** of September 2010. Zambia also co-sponsored **General Assembly resolution 68/157** of December 2013, adopted without a vote.

All these resolutions affirm that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living. Zambia thereby affirmed that the right to an adequate standard of living includes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The right to an adequate standard of living is enshrined in human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Human Rights Council resolution 24/18** of September 2013 furthermore contains a full definition of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Preambular paragraph 15 of this resolution states: »*the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable*

*water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity*«. Zambia, as part of a co-sponsorship by the African Group, thereby recognized all the content categories of the right as developed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Furthermore, in the Abuja Declaration adopted at the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006, Zambia, along with 64 other African and South American States committed to *»promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.«*

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Zambia abstained on General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 2010, which recognised the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Zambia recognised *»the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation«* when the Human Rights Council adopted without a vote resolution 15/9 of September 2010.

## Co-sponsorship and voting record by UN Member States at the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly

With the exception of General Assembly resolution 64/292, all resolutions shown in this table have been adopted without a vote. Countries marked with an X have co-sponsored the respective resolution.

Country	HRC 27/7 (September 2014)	GA 68/157 (December 2013)	HRC 24/18 (September 2013)	HRC 21/2 (September 2012)	HRC 18/1 (September 2011)	HRC 16/2 (March 2011)	HRC 15/9 (September 2010)	GA 64/292 (August 2010)
<b>African States</b>								
Algeria	X			X	X		X	Yes
Angola	X	X		X				Yes
Benin	X	X	X	X	X	X		Yes
Botswana					X			Abstention
Burkina Faso	X	X		X				Yes
Burundi		X					X	Yes
Cameroon						X	X	Absent
Cape Verde				X	X			Yes
Central African Republic								Yes
Chad	X				X	X		Absent
Comoros								Yes
Congo	X	X		X				Yes
Côte d'Ivoire					X			Yes
Democratic Republic of the Congo								Yes
Djibouti				X	X		X	Yes
Egypt	X						X	Yes
Equatorial Guinea	X	X		X				Yes
Eritrea		X					X	Yes
Ethiopia								Abstention
Gabon			On behalf of African Group					Yes
Gambia								Absent
Ghana		X						Yes
Guinea				X				Absent
Guinea-Bissau		X						Absent
Kenya	X			X		X		Abstention
Lesotho		X						Abstention
Liberia		X						Yes
Libya		X		X				Yes
Madagascar		X	X	X				Yes
Malawi		X						Absent
Mali		X						Yes
Mauritania				X				Absent
Mauritius		X						Yes
Morocco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Mozambique								Absent

Country	HRC 27/7 (September 2014)	GA 68/157 (December 2013)	HRC 24/18 (September 2013)	HRC 21/2 (September 2012)	HRC 18/1 (September 2011)	HRC 16/2 (March 2011)	HRC 15/9 (September 2010)	GA 64/292 (August 2010)
Namibia		X		X				Absent
Niger								Yes
Nigeria	X	X	X	X	X			Yes
Rwanda		X		X				Absent
Sao Tome Principe		X						Absent
Senegal	X			X	X	X	X	Yes
Seychelles								Yes
Sierra Leone	X							Absent
Somalia		X						Yes
South Africa		X						Yes
South Sudan (since 07/11)		X						
Sudan								Yes
Swaziland								Absent
Togo	X	X						Yes
Tunisia				X	X		X	Yes
Uganda		X		X				Absent
Tanzania		X						Abstention
Zambia		X						Abstention
Zimbabwe					X			Yes
<b>Asia-Pacific States</b>								
Afghanistan								
Bahrain								
Bangladesh								Yes
Bhutan				X				Yes
Brunei Darus- salam								Yes
Cambodia				X	X			Yes
China								Yes
Cyprus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Democratic People's Republic of Korea								Yes
Fiji		X						Absent
India								Yes
Indonesia								Yes
Iran								Yes
Iraq								Yes
Japan							X	Abstention
Jordan		X				X	X	Yes
Kazakhstan								Abstention
Kuwait								Yes



Country	HRC 27/7 (September 2014)	GA 68/157 (December 2013)	HRC 24/18 (September 2013)	HRC 21/2 (September 2012)	HRC 18/1 (September 2011)	HRC 16/2 (March 2011)	HRC 15/9 (September 2010)	GA 64/292 (August 2010)
Kyrgyzstan								Yes
Lao People's Democratic Republic							X	Yes
Lebanon		X		X				Yes
Malaysia								Yes
Maldives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Marshall Islands								Absent
Micronesia								Absent
Mongolia		X						Yes
Myanmar								Yes
Nauru								Absent
Nepal								Yes
Oman								Yes
Pakistan								Yes
Palau								Absent
Palestine	X			X	X	X	X	
Papua New Guinea	X							Absent
Philippines								Absent
Qatar		X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Republic of Korea								Abstention
Samoa								Yes
Saudi Arabia								Yes
Singapore		X				X		Yes
Solomon Islands					X			Yes
Sri Lanka								Yes
Syria								Yes
Tajikistan		X			X			Yes
Thailand	X	X						Yes
Timor Leste	X							Yes
Tonga								Absent
Turkmenistan								Absent
Tuvalu								Yes
United Arab Emirates								Yes
Uzbekistan								Absent
Vanuatu								Yes
Viet Nam						X	X	Yes
Yemen	X			X	X	X	X	Yes

Country	HRC 27/7 (September 2014)	GA 68/157 (December 2013)	HRC 24/18 (September 2013)	HRC 21/2 (September 2012)	HRC 18/1 (September 2011)	HRC 16/2 (March 2011)	HRC 15/9 (September 2010)	GA 64/292 (August 2010)
<b>Eastern European States</b>								
Albania		X	X	X	X	X		Absent
Armenia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Azerbaijan							X	Yes
Belarus								Yes
Bosnia & Herzegovina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Bulgaria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Czech Republic	X		X	X				Abstention
Estonia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Georgia	X	X	X	X	X			Yes
Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Latvia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Lithuania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Macedonia	X	X		X	X	X		Yes
Moldova	X	X	X	X	X	X		Abstention
Montenegro	X	X	X	X	X	X		Yes
Poland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Romania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Russia								Yes
Serbia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Slovakia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Slovenia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Ukraine	X	X	X	X	X			Abstention
<b>Latin American and Caribbean States</b>								
Antigua & Barbuda								Yes
Argentina								Yes
Bahamas								Yes
Barbados								Yes
Belize								Absent
Bolivia								Yes
Brazil	X					X		Yes
Chile	X		X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Colombia	X		X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Costa Rica	X		X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Cuba								Yes
Dominica								Yes
Dominican Republic		X	X	X				Yes

Country	HRC 27/7 (September 2014)	GA 68/157 (December 2013)	HRC 24/18 (September 2013)	HRC 21/2 (September 2012)	HRC 18/1 (September 2011)	HRC 16/2 (March 2011)	HRC 15/9 (September 2010)	GA 64/292 (August 2010)
Ecuador								Yes
El Salvador	X	X	X		X			Yes
Grenada		X						Yes
Guatemala		X			X	X		Yes
Guayana								Abstention
Haiti	X	X						Yes
Honduras	X	X	X	X	X	X		Yes
Jamaica								Yes
Mexico	X	X	X	X				Yes
Nicaragua			X				X	Yes
Panama	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Paraguay	X	X	X					Yes
Peru	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Saint Kitts & Nevis					X	X	X	Absent
Saint Lucia								Yes
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines								Yes
Suriname								Absent
Trinidad & Tobago								Abstention
Uruguay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Venezuela						X		Yes
<b>Western European and Other States</b>								
Andorra	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Australia	X							Abstention
Austria	X	X	X	X	X	X		Abstention
Belgium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Canada								Abstention
Denmark	X	X	X	X	X		X	Abstention
Finland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
France	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Germany	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Iceland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Ireland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Israel						X		Abstention
Italy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Liechtenstein	X	X	X	X				Yes
Luxembourg	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
Malta	X	X	X	X				Abstention
Monaco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes

Country	HRC 27/7 (September 2014)	GA 68/157 (December 2013)	HRC 24/18 (September 2013)	HRC 21/2 (September 2012)	HRC 18/1 (September 2011)	HRC 16/2 (March 2011)	HRC 15/9 (September 2010)	GA 64/292 (August 2010)
Netherlands	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Abstention
New Zealand								Abstention
Norway	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Portugal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
San Marino		X	X	X				Yes
Spain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Sweden	X		X	X	X	X		Abstention
Switzerland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Turkey								Abstention
United Kingdom			X	X				Abstention
USA		X						Abstention
<b>Other</b>								
Kiribati								Absent
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>111*</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>122**</b>

\*Including all African countries as a result of co-sponsorship by Gabon on behalf of the African Group

\*\* 122 countries voted yes; 41 countries abstained; 29 countries were absent



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