



**Social
and
Human
Sciences
Sector**



In cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' MEETING ON ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION AS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

7 and 8 July 2009

The meeting will be held at UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning – Address: 7-9, rue Eugène Delacroix, 75016 Paris, France, Tel: +33 1 45 03 77 76

Objectives of the meeting

The meeting's main objective is to contribute to the elaboration of recommendations concerning the fulfillment of the human right to water. To this end, 'good practices' will be identified and the issue of developing appropriate indicators will be discussed.

The results of the meeting will feed into the ongoing work that each of the participating institutions is carrying out in accordance with its mandate.

UNESCO intends to share the recommendations coming out of the meeting with its Member States. UNESCO's Secretariat has prepared a working document which will serve as a basis for the experts' meeting. The expertise garnered therefrom will in turn help to improve the document before it is finalized and included in a booklet that will be distributed during the 35th Session of the General Conference (to be held from 6 to 23 October 2009).

The booklet will contain a review of the following questions:

- What is the human right to water?
- Where and how is it proclaimed?
- How is it fulfilled in some places around the globe?
- How can governments who have not yet incorporated it into their domestic legal systems do so?

The meeting will welcome Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, whom in September 2008, the Human Rights Council appointed Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations regarding access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The Independent Expert will share her work and experience with the participants. The

discussion will also focus on how cooperation between UNESCO and the Independent Expert can be further strengthened, inter alia, in providing follow-up to the meeting's recommendations.

Structure of the sessions

The meeting will rely on the discussions between the various experts and the exchanges of ideas for the formulation of recommendations addressed to Member States, based on the working document. No formal power point presentations are expected from the participants.

Each session will start with an introduction on the sessions' objectives. Guiding criteria will be proposed in order to steer the discussions.

7 July 2009	
9:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening session:</p> <p>András Szöllösi-Nagy, Secretary of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, Deputy Assistant Director General for the Natural Sciences Sector.</p> <p>Vladimir Volodin, Chief of Section, Human Rights and Gender Equality, Division of Human Rights, Human Security and Philosophy.</p> <p>Mikel Mancisidor, Director of UNESCO ETXEA, UNESCO's Centre in the Basque Country.</p> <p>Vanessa Edwards, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR.</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation of all the experts and of the meeting's objectives
10:30 – 11:00	Discussion on the structure of the working document
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break and payment of the per diem</i>
11:30 – 13:00	General session on the right to water (based on the first part of the working document)
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Intervention of the Independent Expert's work and discussion on the collaboration between her and UNESCO toward the implementation of the recommendations of the experts' meeting.
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Discussion on UNESCO's position on the right to water
17:30 – 19:00	Discussion on examples of good practices
19:30	<i>Dinner offered by UNESCO ETXEA</i>

8 July 2009	
9:00 – 10:30	Discussion on indicators related to the fulfillment of the right to water and sanitation
<i>10:30 – 11:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Continued discussion on indicators related to the fulfillment of the right to water and sanitation
12:00 – 12:30	Kick-off discussion on recommendations
<i>12:30 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Brainstorming on recommendations and discussion
<i>15:30 – 16:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Final discussion on recommendations
17:30 – 18:00	Closing