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**Enrico Muratore Aprosio – Technical Expert, Leave No One Behind, Equality and Non-Discrimination and Gender**  
**All photos ©WSSCC/Joel Sheakoski**

# Introduction and rationale of the roundtable

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In 2020, the world will celebrate Agenda 2030's 5th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the recognition of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (UNGA Resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010), acknowledging that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights. The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights joined hands to co-host a roundtable on Interdependencies and mutual impacts between the human right to water and sanitation, and sanitation and hygiene in particular, with other human rights, especially for specific left behind individuals and groups.

The roundtable provided an opportunity for the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education and for diverse civil society groups engaged at the UN on social justice policy advocacy platforms (Women; Children and Youth; Older Persons; Persons with Disabilities; Indigenous Peoples; Education and Academia; ESCR-Net – International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Human Rights Institute, Columbia University<sup>1</sup>) to discuss how to fully **integrate the framework of the human rights to water and sanitation in WSSCC's strategic approach to support countries in the implementation of SDG 6 and particularly 6.2:**

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***“By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”.***

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WSSCC is developing its new strategic plan for the period 2021 – 2025. **Leaving No One Behind in sanitation and hygiene is central to WSSCC's mandate.** Given the interconnections and interdependencies within and beyond the WASH sector, with the full range of other human rights and SDGs, **WSSCC is stepping up its engagement with non-WASH and non-traditional stakeholders across sectors**, including in education, healthcare, livelihood and employment, environment and climate change, human rights, equality and non-discrimination and gender, and social movements, organizations and networks representing the interests and rights of **key populations** that face specific challenges in their access to WASH and other services.

The questions open for discussion were:

- How can we practically engage in-country with the furthest behind to include them in WASH and other essential services and reduce inequalities, ensuring societal support and mutual accountability?
- How can we ensure those who are most affected by poor sanitation and hygiene are meaningfully represented in policy and decision-making at national, regional and global levels? What tools and information are needed?

The **expected outputs** of the roundtable were:

- Creation of grounds for longer term relations with key participants, to promote integrated, multi-stakeholder approaches to realize SDG 6.2. leaving no one behind.
- Consultation with human rights mechanisms and CSOs representing key populations and identification of key recommendations for strategic, integrated, coordinated policy and operational interventions and actions at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

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<sup>1</sup> See full list of participants in annex.

## 1. Opening of the roundtable

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### James Wicken, Head of Global Policy Advocacy and Innovation, WSSCC

On behalf of WSSCC it is my pleasure to welcome each and every one of you to this roundtable meeting. We are especially delighted to be joined by Special Rapporteurs and representatives of the different key populations, experts and advocates. We share a vision of a world where everyone enjoys basic human rights including the human right to water and sanitation. This is why the Leave No One

Behind agenda is central to our work. Next year, together with all of you will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. In the last few years, WSSCC has also been closely cooperating with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.



Left to right: Leo Heller, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and James Wicken, WSSCC

**We are in a process of strengthening a rights-based approach to strategy and programming, as well as stronger strategic cooperation with human rights mechanisms and procedures globally and in countries where we intervene. We would like to step up our engagement with non-WASH actors to make ‘Leave No**

**One Behind’ a real way of working and not just a catch phrase.** To reinforce this approach, WSSCC has proactively sought the partnership and support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and this roundtable is the first output of this cooperation.

### Craig Mokhiber, Director, OHCHR New York Office

**Water and sanitation are human rights, they are not privileges** to be inherited, or to be invited into, they are not commodities for sale to those who can afford it, but they are basic human rights to which all human beings are entitled, simply by virtue of being born human. This is not an opinion, or some sort of progressive agenda only, but

it’s a matter of international law. **The legal imperatives of equality and non-discrimination mean that the human rights to water and sanitation have to apply equally to all regardless of race, sex, language, religion, disability, minority status, migrant status, indigenous status, gender all of those categories... and age.**

We see an enormous gulf between what the international standards say, and what the human experience is on the ground, and that this is not an accident of nature, or an accident of where you were born, or a mere misfortune, that is a violation of internationally agreed human rights standards, it is the result of conscious choices that are made in the public and in the private sector globally and nationally.

**I would like to talk about ‘capture’:** political, regulatory, economic capture; the closing off of the free, active and meaningful participation of rights holders, those people who are supposed to benefit from adequate water and sanitation, and the free prior and informed consent in the case of indigenous peoples. The capture of the public sector by wealthy and powerful private sector actors in decision

**The good news is that we’re not unarmed in the struggle. We have the human rights framework,** built up over 70 and plus years, that says that we have the law on our side. **We have the Sustainable Development Goals,** a miracle of international diplomacy, because it’s the first human rights-based global development framework, that’s explicitly human rights-based. Agenda 2030 defines for us what our goals are and brings political authority with it. We have courageous indigenous water defenders, and social movements and civil society actors, and then, believe it or not, there is no shortage of resources, that the idea that the realization of economic and social rights is unreasonable and unfeasible because we can’t afford them, is nonsense.

But just to offer some proof: last year global military expenditure was 1.7 trillion dollars. The average CEO pay for the largest corporations was 12.9 million: that’s 380 times more than the average US worker. So, it’s not a question of lack of resources: it’s a question of capture of the rules of the game, to align them not on behalf of the realization of human rights like the rights to water and sanitation, but to align them to very narrow interests of wealth and power.

making in global institutions and clearly in national decision-making processes as well, and that these forces have been very much dedicated to the accumulation of wealth and power, not to the public well-being, not to human rights, but simply profit over people, profit over the planet.

This was an approach invented in the north, applied in the north and imposed in the south with the structural adjustment policy and austerity programmes and so on, and the result we know now is this **extreme concentration of wealth and power in a fraction of the 1% at the top, and more and more deprivation of economic and social rights including water and sanitation for everybody else, not least those who are the most left behind.**



Craig Mokhiber, Director, OHCHR New York Office

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*“We can ensure that the rights to water and sanitation to all people is realized without discrimination, including for women and girls, who face the dangers of long treks for water, or to relieve themselves in unsafe places, for universal access to menstrual hygiene for example, and for water that brings life instead of disease and poisoning, and death. That’s the promise of the human rights to water and sanitation.”*

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2. Interdependencies and mutual impacts between the human rights to water and sanitation and other human rights, and between SDG 6 and all SDGs, and collaboration between UN teams and national CSOs to monitor and support States to integrate human rights in WASH processes, policies, budgets and programmes

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### Leo Heller, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

Congratulations to WSSCC to convene this event. The concept note brings a number of relevant issues in the context of a UN Agency. **The first one is how to infuse the human rights framework into the WSSCC agenda.** What is the point of a UN agency to have this approach? To demonstrate that incorporating human rights is not an 'à la carte' menu, but it's a framework. All the parts of the framework must be applied in an integrated manner.

**So, to operationalize this framework through a UN entity could be a benchmark, a showcase to the other actors in the field.** It would be very important to learn how to do that. We need to articulate different elements of the human rights frameworks: to look at the most disadvantaged, to create participatory spaces, to deal in a different way with the right to information, and to work on accountability mechanisms, and articulate all these issues together, in a comprehensive way.

Next year we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. My question is: what happened at the UN level during these ten years? **What has changed in**



Sally-Anne Way, Human Rights Officer, Sustainable Development Section

**terms of incorporating the human rights to water and sanitation? The more we have agencies pushing this agenda, the better.**

The human rights framework says that all the rights are interdependent, interrelated and indivisible. All the rights are very integrated, and it is strategic to think in comprehensive ways, without of course losing the identity of each agency, such as the

WSSCC, focused on sanitation and hygiene.

**Hygiene is a very interesting entry point for this approach, particularly menstrual hygiene management, to look at the integration of the rights and, again, to showcase how, in field works, in the national interaction, in the international interactions, the interdependence of the rights can be mobilised and operationalised.**

### 3. Progress and challenges towards the operationalization of the equality and non-discrimination, gender and LNOB goals in UN member countries in education, and linkages with the water, sanitation and hygiene, and health LNOB agendas

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#### **Koumbou Boly Barry, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

I want to congratulate you and your team for wonderful collaborative work. I want to talk about challenges of two kinds. The first one, talking about the right to education today, is access. The second is the quality of education. Are our kids learning really? Another issue is the decentralization of the management of the education system. **If the education system is centralized, and decisions and financial resources are not decentralized, we will not be able to adequately address the links with water, sanitation and hygiene, and health.**



A number of States have organized themselves to use the human rights approach for WASH and education in their policies. Civil society has a key role to play. Craig talked about privatization and how companies are taking care of everything. This is not only true for water and sanitation; it is

also true for education. For this reasons we built a tool, the Abidjan Principles on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education and to regulate private involvement in education. Privatization of public services is a common trend and we must work together on that.

## 4. Leaving No One Behind: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams

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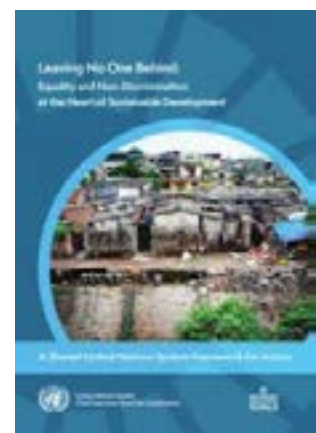
### Sally-Anne Way, Human Rights Officer, Sustainable Development Section, OHCHR

The reference UN guidance documents are *Leaving No One Behind: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams* and *Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development*.

**Leaving no one behind is not just about how do we reach the poorest of the poor, it is about addressing the structural reasons why people are still marginalized, excluded and discriminated against, and the economic reasons why there is still such vast inequalities in water, in education and in all of the rights.**

The questions are:

1. who is left behind, which groups are marginalized, which is always different in different countries, with different forms of discrimination, different forms of inequalities;
2. why are they still left behind, what are the root causes, to be able to address them;
3. what should be done, and
4. who should do it.







**UN LNOB guidance looks at people as rights-holders, and the governments are duty-bearers.** How we can increase participation of people who are left behind in all SDG processes and increase accountability? We cannot reach the SDGs unless we are strongly monitoring and reviewing progress. The Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) methodology is relevant to monitor the reduction of inequalities in the achievement of the right to water, and in sanitation and it's fed directly into the broader processes on leaving no one behind. Guidance incorporates the human rights-based approach,

promoting data disaggregation and the human rights based approach to data. There are concerns around collecting data. We need to count groups that are invisible, though we also must take account of the risks that this may imply for groups at particular risk: privacy concerns, surveillance concerns, and other kinds of concern. We've engaged in UN processes to infuse human rights in the way the UN implement the SDGs, so it ensures non-discrimination, accountability and participation; and respects, promotes, protects and fulfils all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

## 5. Harnessing the power of social movements to address exclusion and boost societal engagement to LNOB in WASH under WSSCC's strategic plan 2021 – 2025

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### Enrico Muratore Aprosio, Technical Expert, EQND, Gender and LNOB

WSSCC has been focusing on sanitation and hygiene since a very long time, when we realized that actually sanitation and hygiene were 'the poor relative' of the MDGs, including the water goals. So, we have been focusing on demonstrating how achieving sanitation and hygiene goals is essential for the achievement of all MDGs.



The situation has not much improved under the SDG era. No inclusive access to education can be achieved without sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools and the same for healthcare facilities.

We must look at the missed opportunity for the economic growth of countries, and job creation: there is a lot of money being lost because of the

lack of attention for sanitation and hygiene. **Investment in sanitation and hygiene, as demonstrated by the 2019 World Water Development Report on Leaving no one behind which was issued under UN-Water, demonstrates that the investment of one dollar in sanitation and hygiene ensures a return of more than 5.5 dollars.**



**Strong acceleration is needed to meet the goal for everyone to access at least basic sanitation from here to 2030.** WSSCC's strategy at country, regional and global levels, is to bring together all relevant actors, not only WASH actors, from human rights organizations, civil society groups,

to engage and elevate voices across society, and secure the benefits of sanitation and hygiene and menstrual health and hygiene for all, confront cultural misconstructions and misconceptions, taboo and stigma, and the barriers, at the origin of inequalities.



The SWA framework

**We place special stress on accountability, partnering with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) to promote mutual accountability mechanisms, and work with human rights mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs, to support States in reporting on progress, and engage**

with society to contribute to States' efforts to deliver on all SDGs and particularly SDG 6. WSSCC wants to mobilize all of you, organizations from civil society representing key populations, so we can really walk the talk.

6. Discussion part one: how can we practically engage in-country with the furthest behind to include them in WASH and other essential services and reduce inequalities, ensuring societal support and mutual accountability?

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**Jennifer Rigg, Executive Director, Global Campaign for Education-US Education and Academia Stakeholder Group**

**Many of the people who are still not able to access school, are also left behind on many of the global goals. So, we need not only to engage them, but also support them to be able to achieve their human rights directly.**

The earlier we start in the lifecycle, the better, if we wait until somebody goes to school, to start thinking about

hygiene in schools, or access to facilities, MHM is critical, but we need to embed these key components early on, to also make sure that we're not just including schools and hygiene facilities and sanitation and stopping there, but **we're also looking to empowering young women and young men at the same time.**



Jennifer Rigg



Orsolya Bartha

## Orsolya Bartha, Senior Advisor, International Disability Alliance (IDA) Stakeholder Group for Persons with Disabilities

Building facilities in an accessible way will reduce the cost versus rebuilding or refurbishing the facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. The impacts on education are direct, because many children with disabilities drop out of schools because they lack access to sanitation, and lack access to information, for example in braille or sign languages, which can facilitate access for persons with disabilities.

**Discrimination and stigma push persons with disabilities to the end of the line**, which is a key health issue: many persons with disabilities rely on water and sanitation for their health needs. So, **if we want to achieve Goal 6, we cannot leave behind all the other SDGs: they have to be realized in conjunction**. I was very happy to see that WSSCC provided data, indicators showing worldwide access to WASH services, however can you disaggregate these numbers by vulnerable groups? **Can you show how many are persons with disabilities, or elderly above a certain age, or women and girls? Because to talk about these issues with data is extremely important, especially when we come to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).**



Billboard with data on vulnerable groups in India. Picture taken at LNOB Summit in Rishikesh, India, 16 - 18 December 2019; WSSCC supported the organization of LNOB consultation with 14 vulnerable population groups on SDG 6. The report is shared with the UN Country Team in India as input in the national report of India for the 2020 Voluntary National Review of SDG 6

## Thea Gelbspan, Membership and Solidarity Director ESCR-Net – International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

One of the main sets of human rights issues affecting water and sanitation, and education, and a series of these interconnected rights issues, has to do with decisions made by governments, often prompted by private sector actors, in the name of development, that are actually putting in place **development policies or programmes that are actually really tipping the playing field in favour of some as opposed to others.**

So, these are actually political decisions,

these are decisions that in many parts of the world are made without sufficient accountability on how they are made, within each government. The reason I'm voicing this concern, is also this point of capture, a lot of our **members are talking about corporate capture of fundamental functions of states.**

**Craig Mokhiber** We see around the SDGs growing emphasis on public-private partnerships without scrutiny on the risks for sectors like water, sanitation and education.



## JoAnn Kamuf Ward Human Rights Institute, Columbia University

On access to sanitation in the US, the disparity is not only on the economic and social lines, but impacts on African American communities who have been long excluded from access to voting, for instance communities made of migrants or immigrant residents, Therefore, to say 'citizens' it's challenging as so many people who are lacking access are not necessarily citizens, but are still entitled to the rights and the social protections.

In the US, indigenous populations are those who experience the least sanitation and water. The right to water has started to permeate the work of human rights bodies and it's important to engage with Geneva entities, developing standards and recommendations to governments with more legal links.

## Erica Dhar, Director of Global Alliances, AARP's International Affairs Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA)

From the lens of disaster risk and humanitarian, introducing interventions to make drinking water

available to older persons with reduced mobility, and to provide washing and toilet facilities that are appropriate,

accessible for older persons, including outreach services for older persons who cannot leave their homes, is necessary.

## **Rochelle Diver, North America focal point for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) of the Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa from the Great Lakes region,**

Indigenous peoples in developed countries face issues such as water scarcity, low sanitation access and the violation of our basic human rights. It's important that we are acknowledged as separate from civil society, and not as vulnerable groups but as indigenous people, and that links us directly to the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, which can help us

to further our fight for human rights.

The biggest threat for water in North America, is extractive industries, coming along with extreme environmental toxics, persistent chemicals in the water are forever, live in our women and they're passed to our children and affect our new-born.



## **Curtis Segarra, Free-lance journalist United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)**

Communicating with the public is the key to structural change for rights, many activist journalists are trying to serve the people, get change and the discussion going.

We bring backroom deals that have impacts on the public and on marginalized people, to marginalised people. This can incite change from their side as well.

7. Discussion part two: How can we ensure those who are most affected by poor sanitation and hygiene are meaningfully represented in policy and decision-making at national, regional and global levels? What tools and information are needed?

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## **Moderator: Rockaya Aidara, WSSCC Policy Specialist**

Those left behind face multiple types of discrimination and issues are interlinked. In developing our new strategic plan, we want to adopt a holistic perspective, and strategically see how we can involve these groups in the policy design cycle. Any group who's not involved will be further left behind; it won't be considered in national development plans. If we look at water and sanitation in public places, the WASH sector needs to work with the ministries of transport, education, labour, etcetera.



## Jennifer Rigg, Executive Director, Global Campaign for Education-US Education and Academia Stakeholder Group

It's critical for policy making bodies to truly engage in a really participatory way, going beyond a box-checking exercise, and making sure that everybody, not just citizens –it's really critical to ensure that even people who did not get birth registration or were not officially counted be also engaged as well – are able to participate at these policy making

levels, Working in collaboration with policy makers on participatory processes does take further investment, but it's so worthy, making sure that after inputs are received, there is a feedback loop, to then let people know so that people feel that the time they invested in being a part of these policy making processes, was worthwhile.

## Frances Zainoeddin, International Federation on Ageing Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA)

These are the conversations that we expect our governments to have, and they're not having them. NGOs know who is left behind, but don't always have access to the government. WSSCC's role is to facilitate, and the Strategic Plan must be formulated also considering political systems and regulatory frameworks, and the involvement of the recipients of water, and the awareness of their rights.



## Craig Mokhiber, Director, OHCHR New York Office

When look at inequalities, many groups are not organized at global levels, and live enormous gaps in terms of participation. For people who live in poverty, homeless persons and so on, facilitation is needed, their voice, reality and experience need to be involved, without co-opting, without replacing

their voice or even translating it. Those in a position to support, to act in solidarity, bring these voices forward, need to do it. This is true for water and sanitation, as it is for climate change, and for any other human rights.

## Rockaya Aidara, WSSCC Policy Specialist

But how to change the mindset? Here in New York, we see people sleeping outside, and we get used to that, we start normalizing it, and this is maybe why we are not reacting,

that's maybe why some groups are seeing it as normal, so how do we change the mindset?

## Erica Dhar, Director of Global Alliances, AARP's International Affairs, Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA)

For us ageism is one of the 'ism' that people don't talk about. We talk about racism and sexism but we don't talk about ageism. AARP carries out amazing campaigns where they shock you into realizing you've got ageist attitudes.

We did a food truck where we invited people in the street to come, and then we'd say, how old are you? They would say, 40, and we would say, sorry, not serving anyone 40 and over, and people would be standing there and say, what? Seriously? And going more and more irate. (See How Age Discrimination Works). This is only to give you an idea of how people over the age of 50+ in the US, 60 or 65, feel like when you say to them, sorry, you can't have services past the age of so and so, or we're not collecting data on violence against women past the age of 49, therefore there are no services for you, that's how ageism feel like. So, I think using media is a very effective tool.



## Sally-Anne Way, OHCHR

Just watching the news this morning, we see so many countries erupt into protest and riots. Most of them are about cost of living, our governments now are facing massive riots, in many countries we're seeing crackdowns and disproportionate use of force. Governments have to recognize that providing a basic standard of living for everyone is just unavoidable, because if you don't, people will be on the street, so participation is obviously part of that.

The fact that people are not able to participate in public policy processes is why people are on the street, to protest, and maybe as the current Secretary-General talks about prevention, we need to prevent conflict, we need to provide basic standards for everyone, and non-discrimination is the core of prevention.



## 8. Closing remarks and commitments

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### **James Wicken, Head of Global Policy Advocacy and Innovation, WSSCC**

Leo set the challenge to WSSCC of more systematically including a human rights framework into our strategy, and Sally-Anne shared the toolkit that gives us a framework within which we can do that. And Craig, you introduced the whole element of power dynamics and capture, which many others also said, we need to be talking about it more clearly, front and centre, if we want to address the root causes of what we are talking about today.

Enrico mentioned that we will have a similar consultation in Geneva, next year, and we would love to do it again with OHCHR. Again, thank you for coming, this is the first step, and we would like to build further this connection with you.



### **Koumbou Boly Barry, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

Today we heard many good ideas and there are good perspectives for WSSCC to take on board and this is good advice. So congratulations, and I am ready and available to see the next steps, because if WSSCC and you all can support me with good data, good research on these matters, I will dedicate one of my next reports to the mutual influences of the human rights to water and sanitation, health and hygiene, and education.



## 9. Conclusions

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The following conclusions are drawn from the interventions made at the roundtable:

In 2020, the world will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation, which are essential to, and depending on, the realisation of all human rights. The extent to which countries (and UN Country Teams) have integrated the legal framework of the human rights to water and sanitation over the last 10 years needs to be verified.

In 2020 the United Nations, all member countries, and non-State actors, will need to take stock of five years of implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 6. Just like the human rights to water and sanitation, SDG 6 is essential to, and depending on, the realisation of all SDGs in conjunction.

States are primary duty bearers for both the realization of human rights and SDG implementation. Countries' progress is measured through two official global reporting systems: the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and Voluntary National Reviews, and the UN Human Rights Council, and human rights mechanisms that include the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Treaty-Bodies and Special Rapporteurs.

Under international human rights law, States have “to take steps” to the maximum of their available resources to achieve progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights and sustain such realization (principle of non-retrogression). Through Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, UN Member States have agreed to set 2030 as the deadline for the sustainable realization of economic, social and cultural rights for everyone, and eliminate discrimination. States must now dedicate the maximum of their available resources to realizing Agenda 2030.

The equality and non-discrimination and gender principles and the LNOB agenda combined, require that States must

prioritize and allocate disproportionate financial support to LNOB policies, plans and programmes aimed at fast-tracking and monitoring the sustainable development of most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups to reduce economic, social, gender and other inequalities with better-off social groups.

All human beings (documented citizens, as well as unregistered, undocumented homeless, and registered or unregistered refugees, migrant workers, stateless) are rights-holders. As such, not only they are equally entitled to the benefit of all human rights and all SDGs without discrimination: they are actors in the process of realizing rights, SDGs and related services and opportunities.

For this reason, all UN processes under Agenda 2030 and the international human rights framework require that when reporting on the realization of VNR, UPR or Treaty Bodies reports, States and UN Country Teams support and facilitate the organization of national inclusive processes where the various social actors can be meaningfully represented and consulted and that those furthest behind are identified and supported to make sure their legitimate representatives can meaningfully participate in all human rights and SDG-related processes.

Leaving no one behind requires that countries and their partners adopt and use a human rights-based approach to development and humanitarian programming which puts most marginalized individuals and groups at the centre of decision-making processes affecting their lives. This process should take place at all levels of SDG implementation, from the central level down to decentralized administrative areas. Participation should be systematic and requires institutionalization, which in turns entails regular costs that need to be budgeted.

## 10. Key messages and recommendations to WSSCC

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The following recommendations were offered to WSSCC:

1. 10 years after their formal recognition, to what extent the human rights to water and sanitation were incorporated by countries? WSSCC may explore to what extent were the human rights and LNOB frameworks integrated in UN Country Teams' work.
2. It is important to infuse the human rights framework into the WSSCC agenda also as a benchmark for other actors in the field.
3. Hygiene is a very interesting entry point for the rights-based approach, particularly menstrual hygiene management, to look at the integration of rights and showcase how, in field work, in national and international interactions, the interdependence of the rights can be mobilised and operationalised.
4. Leaving no one behind means addressing the structural reasons why people are still marginalized, excluded and discriminated against, and the economic reasons why there is still such vast inequalities in water, in education and in all of the rights.
5. The questions are: 1) who is left behind, which groups are marginalized, which is always different in different countries, with different forms of discrimination, different forms of inequalities; 2) why are they still left behind, what are the root causes, to be able to address them; 3) what should be done, and 4) who should do it.
6. The concept of 'capture' of the functions of State needs to be integrated in WSSCC analysis and strategy. When engaging in public-private partnerships for SDGs, the risks for sectors like water, sanitation and education, need to be scrutinized. The biggest threat for water in North America, is extractive industries, coming along with extreme environmental toxics.
7. UN LNOB guidance may be used to look at people as rights-holders, and the governments are duty-bearers. It promotes data disaggregation and the human rights based approach to data.
8. In the analysis of rights holders, it is necessary to go beyond the concept of citizenship because many people who are lacking access are not necessarily citizens but are still entitled to the rights and the social protections.
9. Indigenous peoples should be acknowledged not as vulnerable groups but as indigenous people, to link directly to the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, and further their fight for human rights.
10. NGOs know who is left behind, but don't always have access to the government. WSSCC's role is to facilitate participation and also consider political systems and regulatory frameworks, and the involvement of the recipients of water, and the awareness of their rights.
11. Working in collaboration with policy makers on participatory processes requires to make sure that after inputs are received there is a feedback loop, so that people see that the time they invested in being a part of these processes was worthwhile.
12. Stress must be placed on accountability and on working with HLPF and Voluntary National Reviews, and human rights mechanisms, Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs, and sectoral mechanisms, SWA, JMP, GLAAS, TrackFin to support States in monitoring data/reporting on progress.
13. To monitor and report on LNOB progress, data should be disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and by vulnerable groups. To talk about these issues with data is extremely important for the HLPF and the Voluntary National Reviews.
14. Accountability goes beyond the circle of civil society organizations and should reach the wider public, to also engage society in social transformation. Communicating with the public is the key to change the mindset and allow structural change for rights. Using media is a very effective tool.
15. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education requested WSSCC and CSO support to produce a report on the mutual influences of the human rights to water and sanitation, health and hygiene, and education.

# 11. Integration of the roundtable recommendations in WSSCC's 2020 workplan and next steps with CSO Major Groups and Stakeholders Groups

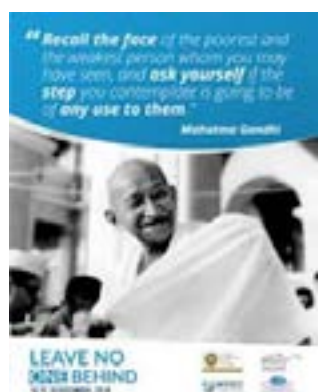
Since the roundtable was held in October 2019, several recommendations have been acted on and integrated into WSSCC strategies and workplans. By way of feedback to

participants of the roundtable some of these activities are briefly highlighted below.

## 11.1. 2019 LNOB consultations on SDG 6 for UN Country Team input in India 2020 VNR report

The first step towards the incorporation by WSSCC of the roundtable's messages and recommendations was the organization of the LNOB Summit in Rishikesh, India, from 16 to 18 December 2019, convened by GIWA - Global Interfaith WASH Alliance with technical support of Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) and overall support by WSSCC. The Summit provided an opportunity to proceed to LNOB

consultations on SDG 6 with 14 vulnerable population groups: 1. Youth; 2. Women; 3. Older persons; 4. Persons with Disabilities; 5. Persons living with HIV; 6. Transgenders and LGBTIQ; 7. Sex workers; 8. Manual scavengers; 9. Dalits; 10. Adivasis; 11. Farmers; 12. Urban poor 1: Shanty dwellers; 13. Urban Poor 2: Homeless; and 14. Migrants and refugees.



The report, drafted based on UN Country Team in India guidelines, and the film of the consultations are shared with the UN Country Team in India for the UN input in the national report of India for the 2020 HLPF Voluntary National Review of SDG 6, which will take place in New York in July.



## 11.2. WSSCC's engagement in the Universal Periodic Review and Voluntary National Reviews

### 2020 UPR and VNR calendar – WSSCC countries

20–31 January	Universal Periodic Review 35th session	23 January <b>Kenya</b>
04 - 15 May	Universal Periodic Review 36th session	5 May <b>Malawi</b>
13 – 16 July	Voluntary National Reviews/HLPF. 49 countries will go for VNR in 2020 – see latest info here.	Asia: <b>Bangladesh, India, Nepal</b> ESA: <b>Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Zimbabwe</b> WCA: <b>Nigeria, Niger</b>
2-13 November	Universal Periodic Review 37th session	4 November <b>Nepal</b>

In **blue** countries going for both UPR and VNR in 2020. In **green** countries going for VNR in 2020 and UPR in 2021. WSSCC countries going for UPR review in 2021 are **Tanzania** and **Togo**. **Nepal** is also a 2020 pilot country for the roll-out of UNSDG LNOB guidance

WSSCC has sought OHCHR partnership to organize a Universal Periodic Review Learning Experience – Review of the national report of Kenya on 23 January 2020<sup>2</sup>. WSSCC invited delegations from Kenya and Malawi<sup>3</sup> (in sight of Malawi UPR in May) to attend the UPR Working Group session and briefings with OHCHR, WSSCC and Kenya and Malawi Permanent Missions. WSSCC National Coordinators engaged at country level with OHCHR Human Rights Advisers in Kenya and Malawi, UN Teams, sector ministries and National Human Rights Commissions. The UPR Learning experience will be followed by a second UPR learning visit on 5 May 2020 (consideration of Malawi's report). Malawi, Nepal, Niger, Togo, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Uganda will be invited, and India ahead of next UPR cycle.

WSSCC will participate in the HLPF meeting in July 2020. 10 countries within the WSSCC portfolio will report on SDG 6 this year: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Niger and Nigeria. WSSCC will organize a VNR/HLPF learning mission for National Coordinators and WASH CSOs from the above countries, on the model of the UPR learning missions. It will seek the cooperation of UNDESA and the OHCHR New York Office for setting up the visit programme. Additionally, always seeking the collaboration of the above mentioned actors and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations



in New York, WSSCC will seek to organize a HLPF side event on leaving no one behind in the VNR reporting process of India on SDG 6.2 with partners Global Inter Faith WASH Alliance (GIWA) and Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FAN-SA). The side event will be an opportunity to showcase the LNOB consultation process held in Rishikesh, India, in December 2019, its findings and recommendations and how these were integrated in the VNR national report of India.

<sup>2</sup> See particularly paragraphs 49 and 50 on the human rights to water and sanitation.

<sup>3</sup> Kenya: WSSCC National Coordinator Alex Manyasi; Patrick Alubbe, Executive Director at Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO) and WSSCC Steering Committee member; Samson Malesi Shivaji, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Water and Sanitation CSO Network (KEWASNET). Malawi: WSSCC Assistant National Coordinator Asayire Kapira, and WES Network Coordinator; Willies Chanzoza Mwandira.

### 11.3. LNOB consultation roundtable for Geneva-based actors. Monitoring and reporting progress for the furthest behind in SDG 6 and in the enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation

As announced follow-up to the New York roundtable, OHCHR and WSSCC agreed to jointly organize the Geneva LNOB roundtable. The Geneva roundtable will target, in addition to another group of key CSO networks representing vulnerable populations in Geneva-based processes, State, non-State, UN and non-UN actors that are actively engaged

in the Geneva processes: human rights, humanitarian and refugee affairs, health, labour, trade and development, conflict prevention and diplomacy. Key Geneva-based WASH actors will also be involved in the preparation of the roundtable, including Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), UN Water, UNICEF and WHO.

### 11.4 Cooperation with Human Rights Special Procedures relevant to the realization of SDG 6 and interrelated SDGs for all, leaving no one behind

WSSCC will deepen cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation during the 10th anniversary year and extending support to other related mandates, including the Special Rapporteurs on Education and on Housing.



### 11.5 Analysis and documentation of specific measures taken by States to reduce and measure inequalities in access to sanitation and hygiene

As reflected in the 2019 UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) report, not all countries have set specific policy and budget targets for LNOB. Several countries have yet to operationalize and implement measures to strengthen national WASH systems to achieve 2030 Agenda WASH targets. WSSCC will analyse

and document States efforts to leave no one behind in access and use of WASH services. The objective will be to identify LNOB lessons learnt, trends and perspectives with regards to planning, financing, achieving, tracking and reporting progress in the implementation of SDG 6.2.

## 12 WSSCC Follow-up actions with CSO and social justice networks, partnership and membership

Following the participation of CSO Major Groups and Stakeholders Group in the roundtable, as explained, WSSCC intends to continue collaboration at global, regional and national/ sub-national levels with key populations and networks members. Therefore, WSSCC invites all

those who participated in the roundtable to kindly share the names and contacts of their respective networks' members in the regions and countries as per below map. Please share the information with Mr. Anthony Dedouche Anthony.Dedouche@wsscc.org.



Countries of WSSCC engagement

As a global, multi-stakeholder membership and partnership organisation, WSSCC has over 5,000 individual and organisational members. These members join our well-connected global network of people who care passionately about leaving no one behind in sanitation, hygiene and MHH and they are motivated to work with others to overcome this injustice. Our diverse network of members represent civil society practitioners, campaigners and activists at local, national and regional level; government members, policy makers and civil servants from ministries for sanitation, water resources, health, education, and women and equalities; academics and researchers; UN agencies; thought leaders and social influencers; and

social and private entrepreneurs working specifically on sanitation and hygiene. WSSCC supports its members by enhancing their skills and knowledge, partnering with them at national level through country engagement plans and National Coordinators, collaborating with them to develop tools and resources, creating networking opportunities for them, and promoting their activities and stories through media channels.

To register as a WSSCC member: <https://www.wsscc.org/membership-registration/> or for more information: [members@wsscc.org](mailto:members@wsscc.org)

## Annex. List of Participants:

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### Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

- James Wicken, Head, Global Policy, Advocacy and Innovation Unit
- Enrico Muratore Aprosio, Technical Expert, EQND, Gender and LNOB
- Rockaya Aidara, Policy Specialist
- Emily Deschaine, Head, Partnership Unit (Acting)

### Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Craig Mokhiber, Director, New York Office
- Sally-Anne Way, Human Rights Officer, Sustainable Development Section
- Ahreum Lee, Human Rights Officer, Special Procedures Branch

### Human Rights Special Procedures

- Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, Mr. Leo Heller
- Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Ms. Koumbou Boly Barry

### Representatives of CSO Major Groups/ Stakeholders' Groups

- Stakeholders Group on Persons with Disabilities – Orsolya Bartha, Senior Advisor, IDA
- Women's Major Group – Lauren Liu, Advocacy Coordinator, WaterAid
- Elderly – Erica Dhar, Director of Global Alliances, AARP's Office of International Affairs; and Frances Zainoeddin, International Federation on Ageing
- Indigenous peoples – Rochelle Diver, North America focal point for the IPMG of the Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa from the Great Lakes region
- Education and academia – Jennifer Rigg, Executive Director, Global Campaign for Education-US
- Children and youth – Curtis Segarra, Freelance journalist and nominated representative for Children and youth

### Other organizations and representatives

- Thea Gelbspan, Membership and Solidarity Director, ESCR-Net – International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- JoAnn Kamuf Ward, Human Rights Institute, Columbia University
- Anne Le Strat, former Paris Deputy Mayor, in charge of water and sanitation

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