

Dear friends,

Please find attached the latest newsletter on my recent and upcoming activities, summarized in the following points.

1. Questionnaire for thematic reports
2. Official visit to Mongolia
3. Agenda during the World Water Forum and Alternative World Water Forum
4. Ask me anything for World Water Day
5. Announcing project to follow-up on official country visits
6. Communications and press releases

\* \* \*

## 1. Questionnaire for thematic reports

For the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, my report will address the **principle of accountability** in the context of the human rights to water and sanitation. All stakeholders with relevant input on this subject are invited to share their input via the questionnaire. The deadline is 20 March 2018 but late submissions are also welcome. (Questionnaire to States [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#); Questionnaire to non-State actors [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#))

For the 39<sup>th</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council in 2018, my report will address the human rights to water and sanitation of **forcibly displaced persons in need of humanitarian assistance**. I am still accepting input from all stakeholders who would like to provide contributions on this subject via the questionnaire. (Questionnaire to States: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#); Questionnaire to non-State actors: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#))

## 2. Official visit to Mongolia

I will be undertaking an official visit to Mongolia to assess the country's situation regarding the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation from 9 to 20 April 2018. The initially planned period to share information has already passed, but I am still accepting relevant input on the human rights to water and sanitation in Mongolia. To do so, consult [these instructions](#).

## 3. Agenda during the World Water Forum and Alternative World Water Forum

I will be participating in the upcoming [8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum](#) in Brasília from March 18 to 23, 2018, as well as in the [Alternative World Water Forum](#), an event held in parallel by civil society stakeholders in Brasília during the same period. My participation in the week's activities can be consulted in the agenda below:

### Sunday, 18 March 2018

- (9:00-17:00) Alternative World Water Forum. "Fiocruz and civil society organizations: Water and territory"

### **Monday, 19 March 2018**

- (9:00-11:00) Alternative World Water Forum. “International Assembly Water Organizations”
- Full-day participation in events at the Alternative World Water Forum
- (19:00) Inauguration of the Alternative World Water Forum

### **Tuesday, 20 March 2018**

- (9:00-10:30) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Session 2.a.2, “Water as a human right: Implementing sustainable financing and institutional tools and strategies”
- (14:30-16:00) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Session 2.b.1, “Realizing the human right to sanitation” (speaker)
- (16:30-18:00) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. “Have the Americas reached the conditions to guarantee the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation?”

### **Wednesday, 21 March 2018**

- (11:00-12:30) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. “How regulatory South American and European authorities could promote the Human Rights to water and sanitation?”

### **Thursday, 22 March 2018**

- (9:00-10:30) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. “The new development agenda: the regional components for the preparation to implement SDG 6 to achieve the targets linked to this goal” (keynote)
- (11:00-12:30) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. “International Mechanisms and Procedures to realize the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation”
- (14:30-18:00) 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. “Public or private provision: barriers and challenges to realizing the human rights to water and sanitation”

### **Friday, 23 March 2018**

- (11:00-12:00) Alternative World Water Forum. “Roda de conversa: Água, Como Direito Humano”

## **4. Ask me anything for World Water Day**

On the occasion of this year’s World Water Day (22 March), I have launched an [online initiative](#) for individuals and groups to ask me anything on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. I am accepting questions until today, 19 March 2018 and I will publish a video response on my social media accounts on World Water Day. I encourage you to share this invitation in your networks and to follow my social media accounts (@SRWatSan on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)).



Léo Heller  
@SRWatSan

For [#WorldWaterDay](#) 2018, ask me anything [#AMA](#) on the [#humanrights](#) to water and sanitation before 19 March and I will publish a video response on the 22nd! Share and take advantage of this invitation!



12:54 PM - 9 Mar 2018

## 5. Announcing project to follow-up on official country visits

As a UN Special Rapporteur, I conduct two official country visits per year to examine the situation of access to water and sanitation and provide support in accelerating the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation. After each visit, I present a report of the visit to the UN Human Rights Council which contains findings and various country-specific recommendations. In order to support a coordinated approach at the country level to ensure follow-up to my recommendations, I have decided to conduct a follow-up analysis of the official country visits that I have undertaken. I will soon hold an online public consultation to engage and consult relevant stakeholders.

## 6. Communications and press releases

The following communications were made public following the publication of the Communications report of Special Procedures at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council.

[Yemen \(15 June 2017\)](#) – Concerning the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of the population of the Republic of Yemen, in particular, in relation to the outbreak of cholera observed in Yemen since October 2016.

[Guatemala \(10 July 2017\)](#) – Regarding displacement, threats of eviction and destruction of housing in the entire community of Laguna Larga (municipality of San Andrés Petén), and approximately 107 families that are now in a situation of humanitarian emergency at the Mexican border in an improvised camp close to the community El Desengaño. The Government replied on 11 August 2017 (see linked documents: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#), [14](#), [15](#))

[Myanmar \(23 Aug 2017\)](#) – Regarding the deteriorating food security situation in the north of Rakhine State where the majority of the population compose of the Rohingya Muslims. The [Government replied](#) on 11 January 2018.

[France \(12 Oct 2017\)](#) –Regarding the situation of access to safe drinking water and sanitation for migrants and asylum seekers in the Hauts-de-France region, particularly the cities of Calais, Grande-Synthe, Tatinghem, Angres and Dieppe. The [Government replied](#) on 21 November 2017.

- A [press release](#) was issued on 16 Oct. 2017 by myself, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez Morales, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, and Ms. Leilani Farha, Special Rapporteur on the adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

[Ukraine \(9 Nov 2017\)](#) – Regarding the recent shelling of facilities containing toxic chemicals and the potential disruption of water treatment and supply infrastructure during military hostilities in the region of Donetsk. No reply was received from the Government by 31 January 2018.

- A [press release](#) was issued on 10 Nov. 2017 by myself and Mr. Baskut Tuncak, Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

[Papua New Guinea \(10 Nov 2017\)](#) – Regarding the situation of refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island in connection with the closure of the Manus Regional Processing Centre. No reply was received from the Government by 31 January 2018.

[Australia \(10 Nov 2017\)](#) – Regarding the situation of refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island in connection to the closure of the Manus Regional Processing Centre. The [Government replied](#) on 11 December 2017.

[Mexico \(22 Nov 2017\)](#) – Allegations of lacking consultation with the Yaqui Indigenous Peoples regarding the Independencia aqueduct of Gasoducto Aguaprieta, and the impact of this on the Yaqui peoples' rights related to their land, territories and resources. No reply was received from the Government by 31 January 2018.

In addition, I led or took part in the following press releases:

- [UN human rights experts urge Turkey not to extend state of emergency](#) (17 January 2018)
- [Latin America and Caribbean urgently need strong, legally binding treaty on environmental rights, say UN experts](#) (27 November 2017)
- [For World Toilet Day, "Sanitation is a Human Right"](#) (19 November 2017)

\* \* \*

**Hoping to see many of you soon at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, and to the rest a happy World Water Day to all in celebration of the human rights to water and sanitation.**

**Léo Heller**

**UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**

Follow the mandate!

