

Dear friends and colleagues,

With two days left until the end of my tenure as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation, it is my pleasure to share with you my last newsletter in my capacity of Special Rapporteur.

1. **Stocktaking of six years of the mandate: survey and event**
2. **2020 Celebrations: 10 years of the human rights to water and sanitation**
3. **3rd Human Rights Youth Challenge: winners and debate**
4. **Privatization and UN Special Rapporteurs**
5. **Introducing the next Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation**
6. **My final remarks as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation**
7. **Communications sent**

## 1. Stocktaking of six years of the mandate: survey and event

On 27 October 2020, 3pm to 4.30 pm CET, I held an event to take stock of the last six years of my mandate, and to ask: what could have been done differently?



**PROGRAMME**

**Moderator:** Mr. **Rio Hada**, Team Leader, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR

**Opening remarks:** Mr. **Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg**, Ambassador Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Germany in Geneva

**Panel of speakers:**

Ms. **Kelly Ann Naylor**, Vice-Chair of UN-Water

Mr. **Mikel Mancisidor**, Member of CESCR and former Vice-Chair

Mr. **Thorsten Kiefer**, CEO of WASH United

Ms. **Lucy McKernan**, Geneva Representative of GI-ESCR

Mr. **Malcom Langford**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo

**Reflections on Stocktaking:** Mr. **Léo Heller**, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

**Closing Remarks:** Mr. **Pedro Arrojo**, newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

**27  
OCTOBER  
2020**

**3 P.M.- 4.30 P.M.  
CEST**

Stocktaking of 6 years of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation,  
**Mr. Léo Heller**

**TO REGISTER, EMAIL  
PGARDE@OHCHR.ORG**

In preparation, I collected responses to a survey about key aspects of the mandate. The [responses](#) to the survey can be found here. For more information, please see the [programme](#) and the [recording](#) of the event (from 0:48).

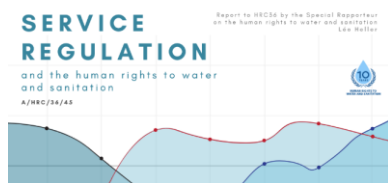
## 2. 2020 Celebrations: 10 years of the human rights to water and sanitation

Throughout 2020, I have been celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the General Assembly resolution 64/292, recognizing the human rights to water and sanitation. Among other things, I revisited each of my thematic reports monthly, and shared original content and collaborations with partner organisations.

In case you have missed it, below is a summary of the calendar, with links to the reports and extra materials. More content, including the versions of the reports in UN official languages can be found on the [web-page](#).



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Interview with the Permanent Mission of Spain](#)
- [Timeline of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation](#)
- [Blog and Quiz](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Interview with the Permanent Mission of Germany](#)
- [The normative content of the human rights to water and sanitation: Explanations and Guiding Questions](#)
- [Blog and Quiz](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [COVID19 and WASH in public spaces](#)
- [Video 1](#) [Video 2](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Interview with UNECE co-secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health](#)
- [Blog and Quiz](#)



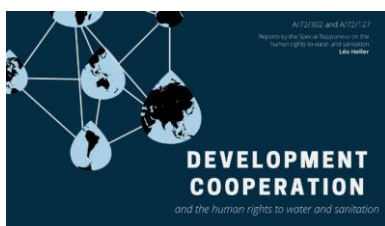
- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Training material on impact of mega-projects on the human rights to water and sanitation – fictional case study + sample answers](#)



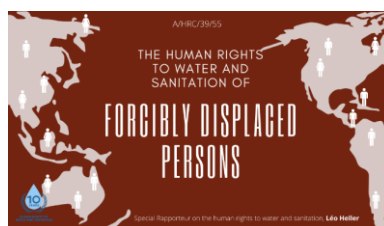
- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Mini report: Menstrual hygiene and the human rights to water and sanitation](#)
- [Mini report: Gender identity and the](#)

[human rights to water and sanitation](#)

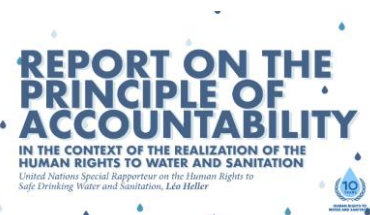
- [Interview with Simavi](#)
- World Water Day Celebrations [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)
- [COVID 19 and handwashing](#)
- [COVID 19 and adequate sanitation](#)
- [COVID19, Gender and water](#)



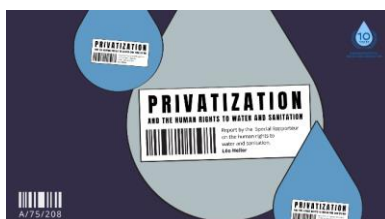
- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Blog](#) and [Quiz](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Blog](#) and [Quiz](#)
- [The human rights to water and sanitation: stories for children](#)
- Join the [“Color My Water and Sanitation Rights”](#) Challenge.
- [“Commemoration of the 10-year anniversary: side-event at High Level Political Forum 2020”](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [HRC45 Virtual side-event “10 years of](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- [Taking time machine back to 2014: “What](#)



- [See the user-friendly version](#)
- Interview with [Asniya Mohamad,](#)

- [the human rights to water and sanitation and HRC mechanisms – mandate of the Special Rapporteur and Universal Periodic Review”](#)
- [Interview with AquaFed](#)
- [could have been done differently?”](#)
- [Stocktaking of 6 years of the mandate](#)
- [Responses to survey](#)
- [winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Human Rights Youth Challenge](#)
- [Interview with Juliana Muller, winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Youth Challenge](#)

### 3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Human Rights Youth Challenge winners and debate

On 16 October 2020, I moderated a discussion between the four winners of the [3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Challenge](#). My heartfelt congratulations to the participations for their engaging presentations and winning essays, which you can find below:

- **Jennifer Barr (US):** "[Whose clean India is it? Private sector and the human rights of sanitation workers](#)"
- **Dylan O'Donoghue (US):** "[Forced labour and water and sanitation as part of employment conditions in Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines](#)"
- **Yushi Yamada (Japan):** "[Suggestion for improving the human rights to water and sanitation through private sector participation in water services \(Concession scheme in Hamamatsu City\)](#)"
- **Arthur Nielsen C. Demain (Philippines):** "[Multi-sectoral Analysis of the Joint Venture Model under PPP to Enhance Domestic Private Sector Participation in Solving the Water and Sanitation Crisis in Metro Manila, Philippines](#)"

More information about the winners, and how they were selected, can be found in the event [flyer](#). See information about previous Youth Challenges [here](#).

GA75 virtual side-event:  
**#OURTURNTO SPEAK**  
**A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**  
**ON PRIVATIZATION AND**  
**THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO**  
**WATER AND SANITATION**

Register on the form!

16 OCT 2020  
3 P.M. – 4.30 P.M.  
CEST

Moderated by the  
Special Rapporteur on  
the human rights to  
water and sanitation,  
**Léo Heller**

Panel of winners from  
3rd Human Rights  
Youth Challenge

Jen Barr  
Dylan O'Donoghue  
Arthur Nielsen  
C. Demain  
Yushi Yamada

### 4. Privatization and UN Special Rapporteurs

After the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, I adapted my mode of working and interacted and spoke in many online events during this period, organized by myself, civil society organizations, international organizations and governments. This change in mode of communication allowed me to interact with several stakeholders in different parts of the world and to reach out a great number of people. Among the interesting events that I attended, I would highlight the "[Enough is enough: privatization and public services](#)". This event was unprecedented in that 9 former, current and newly appointed Special Rapporteurs have gathered in one event and discussed one cross-cutting issue that

applies and relates to all different mandates: the privatization of public services from a human rights perspective".



## 5. Introducing the next Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation

I have the pleasure to announce that the Human Rights Council [appointed](#) Mr. Pedro Arrojo as my successor. With his extensive work with human rights defenders, on conservation of water and on water conflicts that affect human rights of communities in vulnerable situations, Pedro will bring new perspectives for the development of the human rights to water and sanitation. I am sure that Pedro Arrojo meets all the requirements to contribute to the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation worldwide. I wish him a fruitful and smooth tenure and ask you all to collaborate with him, joining forces for the success of the third Special Rapporteur.

## 6. My final remarks as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

In this final communication, I would like to express my enthusiastic thanks to all the support I have received over the past six years. Without the engagement of hundreds of actors with the mandate, the impact of my work certainly would have been much more limited. I am thankful to each and everyone of you for the interactions we had during my tenure of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and I hope to continue this valuable relationship with many of you in my other capacities.

## 7. Communications

The following communications that I sent, or was a part of, were made public in the past months:

[Papua New Guinea](#), [Highlands Pacific Limited](#), [PanAust Limited](#), [Canada](#), [Australia](#) (20 July 2020) - Concerning serious risks posed to the enjoyment of human rights of affected populations, in the context of risk of failure of a proposed tailings dam, and other issues arising from the hydroelectric/tailings dam, mine, waste discharge and associated infrastructure on the proposed Frieda River gold and copper mine and associated tailings dam (“Sepik Development Project”) in Papua New Guinea. [Response](#) received from Canada 17 September 2020. [Response](#) received from Australia 16 September 2020.

[DNB ASA](#), [KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH](#), [Banco de Crédito e Inversiones e Chile](#), [Itaú CorpBanca Head Office](#), [US International Development Finance Corporation](#), [International Finance Corporation](#), [Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo](#), [Chile](#) (18 August 2020) - Concerning possible violations of the right to water in relation to two economic development projects: the run-of-river hydropower plant in Alto Maipo, in the Cordillera province, and the avocado monoculture in the province of Petorca. [Response](#) received from DNB ASA on 14 October 2020. [Response](#) received from KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH on 15 October 2020. Responses received from Chile on 16 October 2020 ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)).

[India](#) (31 August 2020) - Concerning the draft notification “Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020”, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, which, if published, will supersede the Environment Impact Assessment notification dated the 14th September, 2006 and its subsequent amendments.

Kindest Regards,

Léo Heller

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



Follow the mandate!

The [website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) remains the number one place to discover the mandate’s past and upcoming activities.

The mandate is also present on major social media platforms [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) (@SRWatSan), where it actively engages with the global community on issues related to the human rights to water and sanitation.