

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to present a special newsletter focussing on the mandate's participation in the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva, Switzerland. I will be presenting a series of reports and have organised many side-events, outlined below.

I would also like to take the opportunity to let you know my plans to engage and consult various stakeholders for my last report to the General Assembly in 2020 on the theme of private sector participation and the human rights to water and sanitation.

- [HRC42 Reports](#)
- [HRC42 programme and side-events](#)
- [Consultations for my 2020 report on private sector participation](#)

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## 1. HRC42 Reports

On 9 September 2019, the first day of the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, I will be presenting a total of seven reports. This is the first time that I am presenting numerous reports and I am very excited to share my findings.

- [Thematic report on the human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household with an emphasis on public space](#)
- ➔ You can find the report in all UN languages [here](#).
- ➔ A [user-friendly version](#) of the report is also available.

### COMPLYING WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN PUBLIC SPACES



*The human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household with an emphasis on public spaces (A/HRC/42/47)  
Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Léo Heller*

AVAILABILITY

ACCESSIBILITY

AFFORDABILITY

SAFETY/ QUALITY

ACCEPTABILITY, PRIVACY AND DIGNITY

### HUMAN RIGHTS GAPS IN PUBLIC SPACES



*UN resolutions that have recognized the human rights to water and sanitation have clarified that "the human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone [...] to have access to [...] water [...] in all spheres of life"*

(A/RES/72/127)

*The human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household with an emphasis on public spaces  
Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Léo Heller*

- [Country visit report to Malaysia](#)

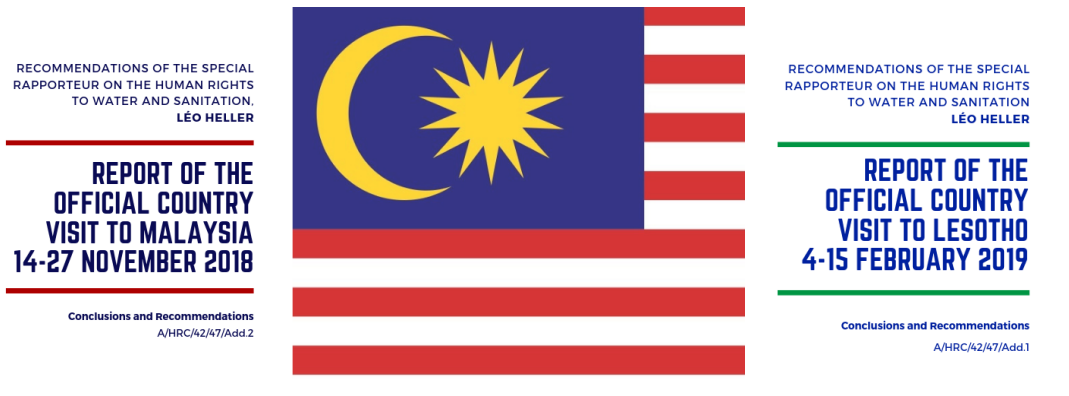
I will also be presenting a report containing findings and country-specific recommendations following my official country visit to Malaysia (14 to 27 November 2019).

- ➔ You can find the report in all UN languages [here](#).
- ➔ And the unofficial translation of the report in Malay [here](#).
- ➔ A user-friendly version of the report is also available [here](#).

- [Country visit report to Lesotho](#)

I will also be presenting a report containing findings and country-specific recommendations following my official country visit to Lesotho (5 to 15 February 2019).

- ➔ You can find the report in all UN languages [here](#)
- ➔ And the unofficial translation of the report in Sesotho [here](#).
- ➔ A user-friendly version of the report is also available [here](#).



- Four follow-up reports

As introduced before, I have conducted a follow-up analysis of the official country visits that I have undertaken. For more information on the project [see](#).

- ➔ The reports can be found at the following links: [Portugal](#), [Botswana](#), [Tajikistan](#), [El Salvador](#)
- ➔ User friendly version of the summaries are available: [Portugal summary](#) , [El Salvador summary](#), [Botswana summary](#), [Tajikistan summary](#).



- Categories for follow-up reports

For the follow-up country visit reports, I have developed and applied the below categories to assess the implementation of recommendations from my country visit reports. See attached PDF for more information.

## CATEGORIES FOR THE FOLLOW-UP REPORTS



### 2. HRC42 programme and side-events

Below are the main events that are important to the mandate in this 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council. I look forward to the enriching discussions, and, if you are in Geneva for the session, I hope to see you there.

- [HRC Interactive dialogue](#)

I will be presenting my reports and participating in an interactive dialogue at **12pm on Monday 9 September 2019**. This session will be broadcast live [here](#).

- [11 September 1 p.m. : Side event on the HRC thematic report](#)

I am organising a side-event about my report on “The human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household, with an emphasis on public space” at 1pm on Wednesday 11 September 2019.

- [12 September 1 p.m.: Side event on the follow-up reports](#)

I am organising a side-event about my follow-up reports, to discuss the process and my findings at 1pm on Thursday 12 September 2019.

- [12 September 10 a.m. : Side event on mega- projects and the human rights to water and sanitation](#)

Finally, I will speak at a side-event organized by Franciscans International to discuss the impact of mega-projects on the human rights to water and sanitation, which is also the theme of my [report](#) to the General Assembly.



ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Comisión Colombiana de Juristas



Megaprojects are often linked to human rights violations. From the lack of free, prior and informed consent to long-lasting environmental impacts, the consequences for the enjoyment of human rights are visible and recurrent.

In order to prevent and mitigate the risks arising from such projects and to ensure compliance with human rights, the Special Rapporteur on safe drinking water and sanitation is introducing a megaproject cycle framework for the realization of these human rights, consisting of seven stages, each of them entailing impacts on access to water and sanitation, challenges and enabling factors to realize the human rights to water and sanitation.

This side-event will provide an opportunity to discuss the findings of the Special Rapporteur ahead of the official presentation of his report to the General Assembly and explore key developments in human rights law based on testimonies from Colombia, Guatemala, and Zambia.

**Panelists**

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|--|--|
| <b>Léo Heller</b><br>Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation    | <b>Rolando Lemus</b><br>Independent consultant on human rights in Guatemala on issues related to water and environmental justice |
| <b>Morgan Katat</b><br>Executive Director of the Zambia Institute of Environmental Management (ZIEM) | <b>Camilo Castellanos</b><br>Colombian NGO Platform for Human Rights, Democracy and Development                                  |

**Moderator**

Sandra Epal-Ratjen  
Franciscans International

- **Location:** Room IV - Palais des Nations
- **Date:** 12 September 2019 • **Time:** 10.00 - 11.00



WEDNESDAY  
**11 SEPT 2019**

13:00 - 14:30  
Palais des Nations, The United Nations Officeat Geneva, Room XVI  
**Human Rights Council side-event**

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN SPHERES OF LIFE BEYOND THE HOUSEHOLD WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC SPACES.**

Organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr. Léo Heller.



THURSDAY  
**12 SEPT 2019**

13:00 - 14:30  
Palais des Nations, The United Nations Officeat Geneva, Room VIII  
**Human Rights Council side-event**

**FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS OF OFFICIAL COUNTRY VISITS BY SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION.**

### 3. Consultations for my 2020 report on private sector participation

For my last report to the General Assembly in 2020, I have chosen to focus on private sector participation and the human rights to water and sanitation. For the preparation of this report, I plan to consult as many stakeholders as possible. My plans for the consultation can be found [here](#) and I will continue to update details. I would like to let you know some of the upcoming events.

I will be focusing my 2020 report on:

## PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

For the preparation of this report, I plan to consult as many stakeholders as possible.

See my timeline for consultation and how you can take part on my website



- [Expert consultation](#)

I invited selected experts from various field to join me on Friday, 13 September 2019 in Geneva to discuss the impact of private sector participation and the human rights to water and sanitation.

- [Online public consultations](#)

In order to consult various stakeholders and to accommodate wide participation as possible, my team and I are organizing a bilateral online consultation sessions on **Wednesdays** from **18 September to 9 October 2019**.

I am inviting maximum of two participants to join the consultation session via Skype. The 45 min consultation session will follow the concept note and the questions therein.

- ➔ The concept note is attached in this email and will also be available [here](#) in the next coming days
- ➔ Sign-up for a 45 minute session [here](#).



**PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION  
AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO  
WATER AND SANITATION**

## ONLINE BILATERAL CONSULTATION

**18 SEPTEMBER - 9 OCTOBER 2019**

Sign-up for the online bilateral consultation  
Agenda as a guideline available on 4 September 2019.

- [Private sector consultation](#)

In cooperation with AquaFed, the International Federation of Private Water Operators, I will hold a half-day consultation on 17 October 2019 in New York. To participate and to be involved, please contact: Mr. Thomas Van Waeyenberge <[thomas@aquafed.org](mailto:thomas@aquafed.org)>

**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.