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

**The human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the households, in particular public spaces**

**Germany would like to answer to the two following questions of the questionnaire of January 29 as follows:**

**7. Please outline national initiatives to promote and ensure access to public water and sanitation for people living in homelessness and people who work in public spaces, in line with the normative content of the human rights to water and sanitation (availability, physical accessibility, quality and safety acceptability and privacy).**

As part of its participation in the UN Water Action Decade, the German Federal Environment Ministry advocates, among other things, the increased use of tap water as drinking water. The aim is to reduce the amount of plastic bottles from the beverage sector that are not properly recycled and to improve the availability of drinking water in public spaces. With this second aspect in particular, the German Federal Environment Ministry has taken up a concern that is also being addressed by the European Commission and the European Parliament in the wake of the 1st European Citizens' Initiative "Right2Water". This initiative is in line with the activities of the Water Action Decade of the United Nations, which should contribute not least to the implementation of SDG 6 of the 2030 Agenda.

The activities undertaken or planned by various actors to set up public water dispensers and drinking water wells call this the "UN Water Action Decade" project.

Institutions (cities, water suppliers, churches, department stores, etc.) that wish to install public water dispensers and public water points can receive the national logo of the UN Water Action Decade and a "letter of commendation" on request and after examination by the German Federal Environment Ministry. The German Federal Environment Ministry is thus promoting and encouraging local actors to increase availability and accessibility of drinking water in public places.

**8. Please describe what efforts have been taken to ensure that the provision of water and sanitation services in public spaces meets the needs of all potential users, including those from vulnerable and minority populations.**

Sanitation for Millions (S4M), a BMZ funded program has the main objective to improve access to safe and adequate sanitation especially in countries afflicted by high numbers of refugees and internally displaced people. Thereby, the global program strategically aims at preventing conflicts over resources, improving the local environmental conditions, mitigating health and environmental risks and seeks to not cause any harm.

So far, S4M has started interventions in three countries – Jordan, Pakistan and Uganda – with the ambition to extend to other countries exposed to flight and migration, including sanitation in mosques and hospitals which are publicly accessible.

Improving sanitation and hygiene entails the collateral benefit of acting as preventive measure on the lingering conflict potential in host communities. Accordingly, improvements in basic services and living conditions contributes to social and political cohesion amongst affected people. Hence, S4M endorses participation of local communities with special attention to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Women and girls in particular are targeted are, while S4M simultaneously also introduces concepts for people with disabilities e.g. by providing barrier-free access.