**Country - Sri Lanka**

**Answers to questions on Human Rights to Water / Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

1. Public places are defined under the Urban Development Authority, Local Authority acts etc. National water Supply and Drainage Board act No 2 of 1974 and the Local Authorities ordinances provide legal framework for the provision of water, sanitation and sewerage services to public places. National Drinking Water Policy, National Sanitation Policy and Rural water Supply and National Sanitation Policy are the relevant policies defining water and sanitation to public places. Policies related to water and sanitation has been revised recently to reflect Human Rights to water in terms of National Human Right Action Plan.

Public Areas and Water and Sanitation Related Enactments

1. *Sanitary Boards Ordinance No. 18 of 1892*
2. Town Councils Ordinance 1933
3. Urban Council Ordinance 1939
4. Municipal Council Ordinance
5. Nuisance Ordinance (1946)
6. Town and Country Planning Ordinance (1946)
7. National water Supply & Drainage Broad Act No 2 of ( 1974)
8. Wells and Pits Ordinance (1864)
9. Urban Development Authority Law (41 of 1978)
10. Food Act (26 of 1980)
11. National Environmental Act, ( 47 of 1980)
12. Coast Conservation Act (57 of 1981)
13. Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No 28 of 1996
14. Water supply and sanitation to public places are the responsibility of the Local Authorities and Management entities and most of the times service provided by National water Supply & Drainage Broad which is the national service provider responsible for pipe water supply to urban and peri urban areas and sewerage services to main cities. Sanitation in public places are the responsibility of local Authorities of the respective areas.
15. Project and programmes formulated for the development of water and sewerage services to urban and rural areas include complementary water and sanitation services to public places with all-inclusive design accommodating facilities for differently able people in line with human right to water. Planning of new facilities are based on guidelines issued by Department of Social Services for design of building for inclusion facilities for persons of disability
16. Water and Sanitation services to public places are maintained by local bodies under the Local Government ordinances and monitored under the Public Health legislative framework self-monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place in accordance to the WHO standards. Apart to this if complains received from stakeholders, the ministry in charge would intervene and rectify the system.
17. Design of public facilities are based on the social surveys and public consultation, design capacity is based on estimated floating population and also taking into account seasonal variations.
18. Charges are levied for public conveniences s in order to maintain the facilities in healthy conditions by the owner of the facilities it may be Urban Development Authority or the Local Body. Charge is a nominal fee(fixed charge) which is affordable for all who uses public places
19. In Sri Lanka there are no statistics on homeless people as almost all of them have shelter and common water and sanitation are provided for the urban poor with a concessionary terms. Workers engaged in public places use public conveniences.
20. All public conveniences are accessible to all regardless of their social standing or ethnicity
21. Strategic Cities Development Programme(SCDP) currently is being implemented by the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development has a key component on development of public conveniences with high standards based on the need assessments carried out in all public places.
22. There are no such quasi-judicial actions reported at national or international level in concerns with access to water and sanitation services for public places. Social Service department issued building guidelines for inclusion of facilities for persons with disability based on a Court Order issued within the provision of the Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No 28 of 1996