

Special Rapporteur  
on the human rights  
to safe drinking water  
and sanitation  
Pedro Arrojo-Agudo



Newsletter

June 2021

Sneak preview 2

## HRC report on planning and vision

### SEE SNEAK PEAK 1

Planning and vision, 2020-2023 - Report to the human rights council by the Special Rapporteur on the Human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

During the month of June (and previous months), I have been working on my first report on the vision and planning for the first three years of my mandate from 2020 to 2023. (See the first sneak preview [here](#))

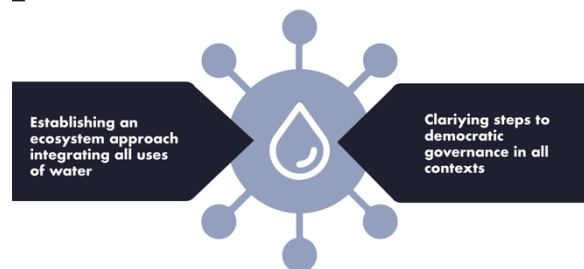
In my report, I outline my vision of the mandate:

1. to establish an ecosystem approach that requires integrated management of the different uses and functions of water; and
2. to clarify steps to promote democratic water governance under a sustainable and human rights-based approach in different contexts.

#### KEY OBJECTIVES - First three years



#### VISION OF THE MANDATE



I also outline my objectives during the first three years as Special Rapporteur: (a) promoting the democratic governance of water, (b) advancing the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation while restoring the sustainability of ecosystems, and (c) promoting water as a key to collaboration and peace.

In the report, you will also find specific plans for my mandate, including themes of my reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly, my plan to strengthen dialogue with actors in the water and sanitation sector, and the focus of my communications and country visits.

## PROGRAMMATIC PLAN



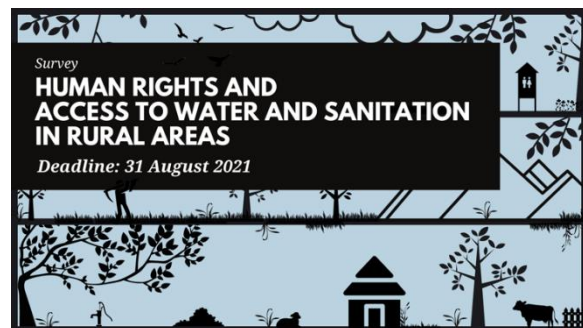
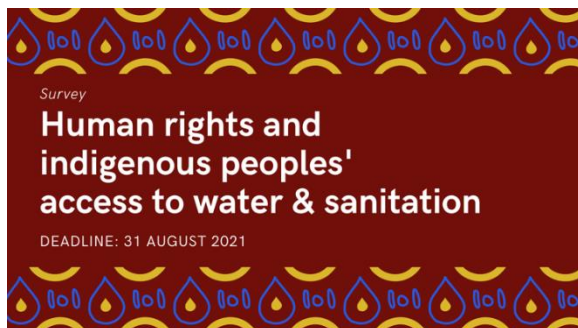
Save the date

## Upcoming Activities

In 2022, I will dedicate my thematic report to the UN General Assembly and HRC on two respective topics: "the human rights to water and sanitation of indigenous peoples" and "the human rights to water and sanitation of people living in rural areas". In order to prepare for those reports, I would like to hear from indigenous peoples and people living in rural areas directly through surveys.

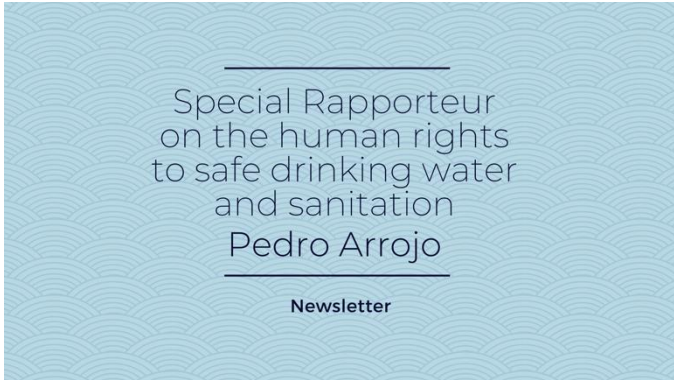
[Survey](#): Human rights and indigenous peoples' access to water and sanitation

[Survey](#): Human rights and access to water and sanitation in rural areas



June 2021

## Activities of the Month

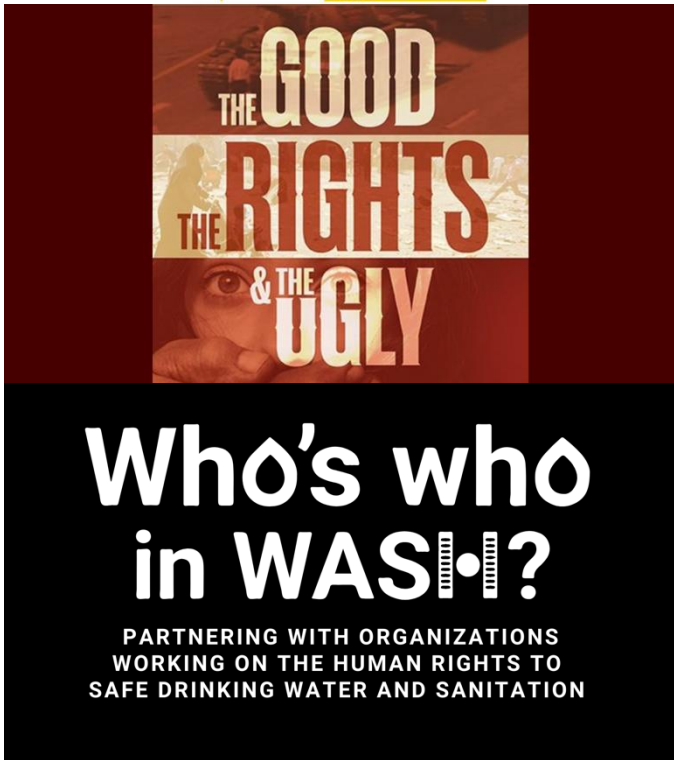


[May Newsletter](#)

To subscribe: email [srwatsan@ohchr.org](mailto:srwatsan@ohchr.org) with the subject line "Subscription"



**4 June 2021** – Roundtable on access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Permanent Mission of Spain



**Podcast** : International Observatory of Human Rights

Listen on [Soundcloud](#) or on [Spotify](#)

**Who's Who in WASH? Partnering with international and regional organizations**

[See](#) two-pager summaries introduce salient work of these organizations as well as the way forward for the Special Rapporteur to collaborate with those organizations during his tenure.

**#COMMODIFICATION  
#FINANCIALIZATION  
#HUMANRIGHTS  
#WASH**

Report to #UNGA76  
by Special Rapporteur on the  
human rights to safe drinking  
water and sanitation,  
Mr. Pedro Arrojo

**PUBLIC  
CONSULTATION**  
14 June 4-6PM CEST (English)  
15 June 4-6PM CEST (Spanish)  
17 June 10-12PM CEST (French)

**Webinar**  
8 Jun | 11:00 CEST | English & French  
WASH AFFORDABILITY AND FINANCIAL  
SUSTAINABILITY – HOW TO MAKE WASH  
SERVICES MORE AFFORDABLE  
THROUGH IMPROVED MONITORING?

unicef World Health Organization

SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL

**Public consultation** on report to the UN General Assembly

See my [10 questions](#) about commodification and financialisation of water.

**8 June 2021** – WASH affordability and financial sustainability – How to make WASH services more affordable through improved monitoring?

See the [recording](#).

## Letters of allegation

Antigua and Barbuda ([30 March 2021](#)) Information received concerning the impacts of the development of an airport and the Barbuda Ocean Beach Club, a luxury tourist structure, on the human rights of the population of Barbuda, including to food, housing, water and sanitation and to a healthy environment and cultural rights.

Democratic Republic of the Congo ([7 April 2021](#)) Informations reçues concernant le manque d'accès à l'eau potable à Goma, et les impacts délétères des mesures prises en réponse à la pandémie Covid-19 sur cet accès.

Switzerland ([19 April 2021](#)) Informations reçues concernant le refus des autorités Suisses d'organiser le rapatriement de deux demi-sœurs qui se trouvent dans le camp de Roj. Les deux filles auraient été enlevées par leur mère et amenées en Syrie où elle s'est rendue pour rejoindre l'organisation de l'Etat islamique. Response received 24 June 2021.

[Ethiopia](#) and [Eritrea](#) (19 April 2021) Information received concerning allegations related to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Eritrean Army in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, including deliberate attacks against civilians and summary executions, indiscriminate attacks, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary



detention, destruction and looting of civilian property and displacement. Responses: [Ethiopia](#), Eritrea [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#)

Lao People's Democratic Republic ([27 April 2021](#)) Information received concerning the situation of the Hmong community located in the Phou Bia region, referred as to "ChaoFa Hmong". More precisely, with regards to reported acts of intimidation and reprisals by the Lao military forces against the relatives of an elderly Hmong man and three Hmong girls, victims of enforced disappearance since March 2020, following an intervention by Special Procedures mandate-holders on 31 August 2020.



**THE SOCIAL SHIELD PROJECT**  
PROHIBITION OF WATER DISCONNECTIONS  
FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT PAY  
From a social shield to safeguarding human rights

## Communications to States

[Ecuador \(24 February 2021\)](#) Información recibida en relación con los cortes en el suministro de agua en el Ecuador y su impacto en los derechos humanos al agua potable y al saneamiento, especialmente durante el periodo de pandemia provocado por la Covid-19.

[Colombia \(24 February 2021\)](#) Información recibida sobre la suspensión de cortes y reconexión del servicio de agua y saneamiento tanto desde un plano normativo general, como en el marco de la pandemia de Covid-19

[Bolivia \(Plurinational State of\) \(24 February 2021\)](#) Información recibida en relación con la legislación y normativa en torno a los derechos humanos al agua y al saneamiento, así como lo relacionado con cortes en el suministro de agua en Bolivia, especialmente durante el periodo de pandemia provocado por la Covid-19.

[Argentina \(1 March 2021\)](#) Información recibida en relación con los cortes en el suministro de agua en Argentina y su impacto en los derechos humanos al agua y al saneamiento.

[Costa Rica \(5 March 2021\)](#) Información recibida sobre las medidas aplicadas en relación a la suspensión de cortes de agua por morosidad y reconexión de los hogares desconectados por impago en el marco de la emergencia por Covid-19 y su finalización.

[Chile \(5 March 2021\)](#) Información recibida sobre las normativas de agua potable y saneamiento en Chile, en concreto sobre cortes de agua y subsidios, así como las medidas aplicadas durante la pandemia por Covid-19 para facilitar el acceso a estos servicios.

[Peru \(9 March 2021\)](#) Información recibida sobre la legislación y normativa en torno a los derechos humanos al agua y al saneamiento, así como lo relacionado con cortes en el suministro de agua en Perú, especialmente las medidas aplicadas durante el periodo de pandemia provocado por la Covid-19.

[Uruguay \(16 March 2021\)](#) Información recibida sobre la legislación y normativa en torno a los derechos humanos al agua y al saneamiento, el marco tarifario que beneficia a las familias en situaciones de vulnerabilidad, así como el aumento de las tarifas en el servicio de agua aplicado durante el periodo de pandemia provocado por la Covid-19.

[Nicaragua \(16 March 2021\)](#) Información recibida en relación con el marco normativo general sobre los derechos humanos al agua y saneamiento en el país, así como lo referido a los cortes en el suministro de agua y sus posibles impactos.

## 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 [Youtube](#) (@SRWatSan), where it actively engages with the global community on issues related to the human rights to water and sanitation.