

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am happy to present my third newsletter of 2019, reporting some achievements and announcing several exciting events of significance to the mandate that are coming up in the following months.

These include:

- 1. Reports to be presented at HRC42**
- 2. HRC42 side events**
- 3. Report to be presented at GA74**
- 4. Preparations for 2020 report – private sector participation**
- 5. World Water Week participation**
- 6. Call for input - Benin**
- 7. Award from the University of Newcastle**

## 1. Reports to be presented at HRC42

From 9 to 13 September 2019, I will be in Geneva to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in September 2019 and present several reports.

- [Thematic report on spheres of life beyond the household with an emphasis on public space](#)

The first will be my report on the “human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household with an emphasis on public space” ([A/HRC/42/47](#)). In this report, I examine the status and the impact of the inadequate access to water and sanitation in spheres of life such as schools, health institutions, detentions centres and workplace. Particularly, I address those impacts on those living in homelessness and informal street workers, as well LGBTI persons, older persons, women, children and persons with disabilities that need services in public spaces. I also look at the regulation, accountability and monitoring mechanisms of access to water and sanitation in those spaces.

I would like to thank all States, civil society and other stakeholders who shared contributions to my research in preparation for this report. The submissions, as well as the original questionnaire, can be found [here](#).

The report is now available in all UN languages [here](#). And the user-friendly version of the report is also available [here](#).

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN SPHERES OF LIFE BEYOND THE HOUSEHOLD

A/HRC/42/47

*Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human  
rights to safe drinking water and sanitation  
Léo Heller*



- Country visit reports – Malaysia and Lesotho

I will also be presenting reports containing findings and country-specific recommendations following my official country visits to Malaysia from 14 to 27 November 2019 ([A/HRC/42/27/Add.2](#)) and to Lesotho from 4 to 15 February 2019 (A/HRC/42/47/Add.1).

The unofficial translation of both reports are also available: Malaysia ([Malay](#)) and Lesotho ([Sesotho](#)).

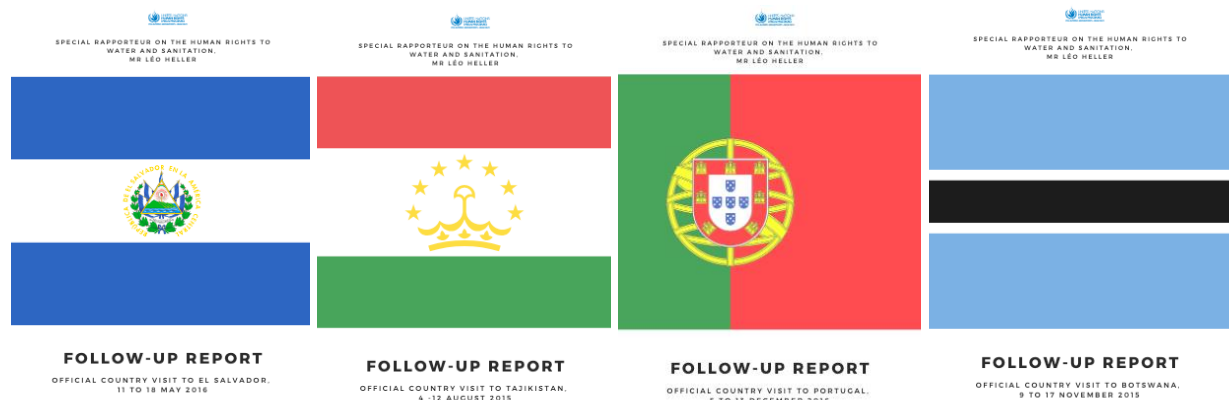


- Follow-up reports

Finally, in order to support a coordinated approach at the country level to ensure follow-up to my recommendations, I have conducted a [follow-up analysis of official country visits](#) that I have undertaken. I would like to thank the Governments of [Botswana](#), [El Salvador](#), [Portugal](#) and [Tajikistan](#) as well civil society and other stakeholders for responding to the questionnaires that I sent as part of the research for these reports.

I will be presenting my follow-up reports on Botswana, El Salvador, Portugal and Tajikistan as addendum reports to the Human Rights Council. In these reports, I provide my assessment on the status of the implementation of recommendations according to the categories: “Good Progress”, “Progress on-going”, “Limited Progress”, “Progress not started”, “Retgression” or “No assessment could be made”.

User-friendly versions of the reports and further explanation of the categorization will be shared soon.



## 2. HRC42 Side-events

Together with several partners, I am organizing two side-events during the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council. I will be sharing more information will follow in the next weeks.

- Side-event on “human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household” 11 September 2019 (Wednesday) 1:00 – 2:30

The side-event will discuss my report on spheres of life beyond the household with an emphasis on public space.

- Side-event on follow-up to country visits 12 September 2019 (Thursday) 1:00 – 2:30

The second side-event will focus on my follow-up analysis project, outlining the process and methodology involved in the assessment of the follow up reports to my official country visits.

- Side-event on “impact of mega-projects on the human rights to water and sanitation” 13 September 2019 (Thursday) Time TBC

The third side-event will focus on my thematic report to the General Assembly on the impact of mega-projects on the human rights to water and sanitation.

## 3. Report to be presented at GA74

My final 2019 thematic report examines “the impact of megaprojects on the human rights to water and sanitation”, and will be presented to the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly on 18 October 2019.

As part of my research for this report, I published questionnaires in which I requested information from States, civil society organisations and experts and I have received numerous submissions that I have considered. The [17 submissions](#) from States and 16 submissions from

civil society organisations and experts were received. I would like to warmly thank all States, civil society organisations and experts that submitted information feeding the preparation process this report.

The report is now available in all UN languages [here](#). A user-friendly version of the report will be shared soon.

#### 4. Preparations for 2020 report – private sector participation

My first thematic report of 2020 will examine the theme of “the impact of private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation”. As part of the research for my 2020 thematic report on private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector, I will convene two expert consultations: one in Geneva on 13 September 2019, and a second one in Belo Horizonte, Brazil (7 and 8 November 2019).

Additionally, in order to accommodate other experts and stakeholders, I will also be holding public online consultations via Skype during the months of September and October. Sign-ups for the online consultation will be available soon. I invite all interested parties to participate in the online consultation, and thank all contributors in advance for sharing their expertise and experiences.

#### 5. World Water Week participation

From 25 to 29 August, I will be in Stockholm to attend the UN-Water meeting and the World Water Week.

- 25 August 2019 (Sun) 4 pm - Mobilising local and national governments for human rights to WASH
- 25 August 2019 (Sun) 5 pm – Proposal for global and national monitoring of WASH services affordability
- 28 August 2019 (Wed) 7:45 am High-level Roundtable on Achieving SDG 6.2 through ‘Complementary Collaboration: Reaching those left behind and least able to respond’
- 28 August 2019 (Wed) 11 am – Sanitation for Society Session 2: Sanitation for all: it’s less complicated than you think
- 28 August 2019 (Wed) 4 pm – “WASH Talk” mini-talk show with WSSCC
- 29 August 2019 (Thurs) 4 pm – "Launching New Gender-Responsive Water Indicators: Towards An Inclusive Water-Secure World"

In addition to the above events, I will participate in the UN-Water meeting on 24 August (Saturday) and have several bilateral meetings with stakeholders.

## 6. Call for input – Benin

I will be undertaking an official visit to Benin from 29 November to 12 December 2019, at the invitation of the Government. I will examine challenges faced in the country with regard to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as good practices, at the national and local levels. In advance of my visit, I have made a [call for input](#). I invite civil society, human rights activists and other interested stakeholders to submit general inputs and specific proposals with regard to:

- Issues of concern related to the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including but not limited to availability, accessibility, quality and safety, affordability and acceptability of water for drinking and domestic usage and sanitation
- Potential areas to visit such as towns or communities during the Special Rapporteur's visit to Benin.
- Relevant organisations and groups/individuals to meet during the Special Rapporteur's visit to Benin.

The deadline for submission is 15 September 2019.



## 7. Award from the University of Newcastle

I am highly honoured to have received the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Newcastle, UK, in July 2019. This award reflects my entire professional and academic career, but to a large extent it recognizes the achievements of the mandate of Special Rapporteur. I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to making this mandate relevant for the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation around the world.



## 9. Communications

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

[Italy \(27 May 2019\)](#) - Concerning the eviction of the Roma community living in Località Ponte Riccio, via Vicinale Viaticale, in the town of Giugliano in Campania, near Naples, on 10 May 2019. The Government of Italy responded on [19 June 2019](#).

[India \(27 May 2019\)](#) - Concerning recent reports of the impact of work on Northeastern Frontier Railway on the water supply of several villages in the state of Manipur, India. The Government has not responded.

15 July 2019 – Concerning the need for ratification of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela](#), [Uruguay](#), [Trinidad and Tobago](#), [Suriname](#), [St Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#), [Peru](#), [Paraguay](#), [Panama](#), [Nicaragua](#), [Mexico](#), [Jamaica](#), [Honduras](#), [Haiti](#), [Guyana](#), [Guatemala](#), [Grenada](#), [El Salvador](#), [Ecuador](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [Dominica](#), [Cuba](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Colombia](#), [Chile](#), [Brazil](#), [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#), [Belize](#), [Barbados](#), [Bahamas](#), [Argentina](#), [Antigua and Barbuda](#)

**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.