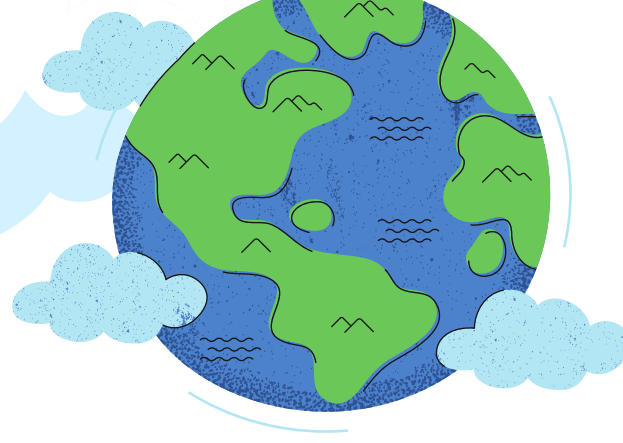


6TH YOUTH CHALLENGE

WATER AS A TOOL FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION



BACKGROUND

Addressing water and sanitation issues necessitates new ideas on how to raise awareness that access to water and sanitation are human rights. Youth, with their creativity and different ways of thinking and expressing, can contribute to bringing innovation to advance a much-needed paradigm shift from the traditional focus on water as a mere resource, to an ecosystems and a human rights-based approach to water. Moreover, there is a broad area of opportunity to strengthen the perception of water as a tool for peace and cooperation. In order to engage young people in this paradigm shift and hear their voices, [the Human Rights Youth Challenge series](#) - organized by the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (the Special Rapporteur)- provides young people with an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm on the human rights to water and sanitation by creating original content.

THEME

This year, on World Toilet Day (19 November 2023), the Special Rapporteur, together with co-sponsors, invites youth (ages between 18 to 24) to produce a video (v-log) or any other digital content on: “**water as a tool for peace and cooperation**”.

In his latest [report](#), the Special Rapporteur highlights the importance of transboundary waters, given that over half of the world’s population resides in countries that share these interconnected water ecosystems. He underscores the need to adopt a human rights-based approach to transboundary waters, which ensures equal participation, transparency, accountability and access to information. He also warns against and denounces the use of water as a weapon against the civilian population in war strategies.

The 6th Human Rights Youth Challenge would provide an opportunity to understand how water is used as an argument for building peace and cooperation between peoples, through the lens of youth and their perspectives. By using social media platforms: Instagram, Youtube, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Tiktok, among others, the Special Rapporteur hopes to engage youth worldwide and to share their experience on this topic. The submissions from youth will contribute to the Special Rapporteur’s advocacy for peace.



INSTRUCTIONS

Age limit: 18-24 years old (at the time of submission deadline, 15 February 2024)

How to participate:

- Upload your short (2-5 minute) video (v-logs) or other digital content to the platform of your preference.
- Include #Youth4Watsan and the hashtags that correspond to your video/digital content: #WaterforPeace, #DialogueforPeace, #preserveWater, #equalWASH4Peace, #environmentalPeace, #WaterforPeaceNotWar, #ParticipationforPeace, #SustainabilityforPeace, #WASHClimateChange.
- Submit the link to your video or other digital content by filling in this [form](#). No other acknowledgements will be sent. Please do not ask for confirmation by email.

Submission deadline: 15 February 2024 midnight (local time in Geneva, Switzerland).

Language: any language with subtitles in English, French or Spanish.

Criteria: The recipient of the award determined by assessing the following criteria:

- Understanding of the human rights to water and sanitation, demonstrating understanding of the principles and nuances associated with human rights to water and sanitation.
- Reliance on facts, and accuracy of statements.
- Effectiveness of communication. Understanding of the target audience (decision-makers), clarity and overall effectiveness in conveying the message.
- Understanding the use of water as an argument for peace and cooperation, insightful understanding of how water can be utilized as a compelling factor for fostering peace and collaboration.
- Use of examples. Proficiency in incorporating relevant and illustrative examples to enhance the video and support key points.

WINNING PRIZE

Winning prize: The prize for the winner of the 6th Human Rights Youth Challenge consists of:

(1) An invitation to join the UN Special Rapporteur as a **speaker at a side-event during World Water Week**, Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2024;

(2) The winner will be **appointed as "Youth Advisor** to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation" (see more information below).

The winner will be announced on World Water Day (22 March 2024). The travel and accommodations cost are covered by the prize.

Role of the Youth Advisor: The Youth Advisor to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation will carry out certain activities with and under the guidance of the Special Rapporteur in championing the awareness among youth, notably on social media. The Youth Advisor shall:

- Advocate for the promotion of human rights to water and sanitation of the youth through social media;
- Raise awareness of the importance of water as a tool for peace and cooperation.
- Promote and strengthen youth capacity to advocate for the human rights to water and sanitation of peoples living in riparian ecosystems, including through social media.

The Youth Advisors will be selected for a non-renewable 12-months tenure with the role of advocating and promote the mainstreaming and inclusion of young people by amplifying their contributions in promoting and protecting human rights to water and sanitation in the mandate's activities during 2024.

The Youth Advisor will also receive an official letter from the Special Rapporteur certifying his or her role as the Youth Advisor, upon successfully completing the tenure from 30 March 2024 to 30 April 2025.

KEY IDEAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

The Special Rapporteur is looking to identify good practices carried out to promote peace, cooperation and participation in riparian communities. He is calling for the youth worldwide to amplify their voices by crafting a video addressing the human right to water and sanitation as tools for peace and cooperation. Content creators have the opportunity to convey a message directed at decision-makers, incorporating the following key elements in the video (v-logs) or other type of digital submissions:

- **#WaterforPeace:** Express your thoughts on how water security and the fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation are key to preventing, addressing and resolving conflicts. Provide examples of good practices where water is an argument for peace and cooperation.
- **#DialogueforPeace:** Share examples of traditional dialogue and twinning of peoples across rivers.
- **#preserveWater:** Present how damage to ecosystems undermines the human right to water of communities in neighbouring countries and how this damage can be prevented.
- **#EqualWASH4Peace:** Highlight any challenges experienced by women and girls, in cross-border conflicts.
- **#EnvironmentalPeace:** Depict how sustainable community-based river and water management can ensure access to safe drinking water and water for daily life.
- **#WaterforPeaceNotWar:** Denounce the use of water as a weapon of war to punish civilians.
- **#ParticipationforPeace:** Highlight the need to meaningfully include the active participation of the public and transboundary communities, particularly women, in discussions and entities relevant for transboundary basin management.
- **#SustainabilityforPeace:** Express how moving away from a vision of water as a resource for competition and its appropriation, to an ecosystem-based vision of water and of shared responsibility for managing transboundary basins can be beneficial for all.
- **#AdressingClimateChange:** Depict how flood and drought risks due to climate change demand a strong collaboration and shared responsibility in transboundary basin management.

Disclaimer: By submitting the video, participants agree to make the submissions public on the official webpage of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Consent and copyright: In the case the video (v-log) involves interviews with people or video footage of people, it is the responsibility of the youth participant to ensure that s/he has obtained consent from those people to be filmed. Please also note that youth participants should not use any materials that are subject to copyright protection.