

19.07.2010

## DRAFT RESOLUTION The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

*Item 48 of the General Assembly: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.*

Antigua And Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba,  
Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saint Vincent And The  
Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Seychelles, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Vanuatu,  
Venezuela, Yemen

### The General Assembly

**PP1 Recalling** its resolutions 54/175 of 17 December 1999, Right to Development, 55/196 of 20 December 2000, proclaiming 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, 58/217 of 23 December 2003, proclaiming the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" (2005–2015), 59/228 of 22 December 2004, 61/192 of 20 December 2006, proclaiming 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation, and 64/198 of 25 February 2010 regarding the Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life," 2005–2015; the Agenda 21 of June 1992, the Habitat Agenda of 1996, the Mar del Plata Action Plan of 1977 adopted by the United Nations Water Conference and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992,

**PP2 Recalling** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

**PP3 Recalling** also HRC all previous resolutions of the Human Right Council on "human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation", inter alia, resolutions 7/22 of 28 March 2008 and 12/8 of 12 October 2009 related to human rights to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, the General Comment 15 of the CESCR on "The Right to Water", the "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the scope and content of the relevant human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments," (A/HRC/6/3) as well as the "Report of the UN independent expert on the issue of Human Rights Obligations related to Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation" on Human Rights Obligations related to sanitation (A/HRC/12/24),

**PP4 Deeply** concerned that approximately 884 million people lack access to safe

drinking water and that over 2,6 billion do not have access to basic sanitation, and alarmed that approximately 1.8 million children under 5 years of age die and 443 million school days are lost each year from water and sanitation related diseases,

**PP5 Acknowledging** the importance of equitable, safe and clean drinking water and sanitation are an integral component in the realization of other human rights,

**PP6 Reaffirming** the primary responsibility of States for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

**PP7 Bearing** in mind the commitments made by the international community to achieve fully the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing, in that context, the resolve of Heads of State and Government, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

**OP1 Declares** the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a universal human right which is essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and human dignity.

**OP2 Calls** upon states and international organizations to provide finance, capacity building and technology transfer, through international assistance and co-operation, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable water and sanitation for all.

**OP3 Welcomes** the decision by the Human Right Council to request the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation to present an annual report to the General Assembly and invites the independent expert, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies, funds, and programs, to include in her report to the General Assembly, at its sixty-sixth session, on the principles challenges related to the realization of the human right to water and sanitation and their impact on achieving Millennium Development Goals.