

**Re: The urgent need to protect and promote the human right to water and sanitation in the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Dear Ambassador,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the General Assembly's Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to explicitly affirm its commitment to protect and promote the human right to water and sanitation within the SDG framework and implementation. We join the repeated and insistent calls from civil society around the world to ensure that the SDGs are explicitly aligned to the human rights framework.

Many of us have actively engaged in the Rio+20 process and have carefully followed and advocated in the General Assembly's Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals since March 2013. We are deeply troubled that despite our clear and urgent call in May 2014, the Zero Draft (June 2, 2014) failed to include an explicit reference to the human right to water and sanitation.

**For the post-2015 development agenda to reach its objective of being just, people-centered, and sustainable, the goals must prioritize—for present and future generations—the human right to water for health, life, food, and culture over other demands on water resources.** This is even more critical given the key role of water for achieving other sustainable development objectives such as sustainable energy and food production, gender equality, and climate change mitigation.

The SDGs must be designed to catalyze increased capacity and political will for States to fulfill their legally binding obligations to respect, protect, and promote the human right to water and sanitation. In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights” (Resolution 64/292, para. 1). This important recognition by UN Member States ratified existing international law at the time as interpreted by the UN treaty bodies.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women provides that State parties shall ensure to women the right to “enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to [...] water supply”, (Article 14(2)). The Convention on the Rights of the Child requires parties to combat disease and malnutrition “through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water”, (Article 24(2)). Persuasively, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concluded that the right to water is essential for securing an adequate standard of living and “inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of health” (General Comment No. 15, para. 3).

However, our organizations fear that the human right to water and sanitation continues to be contested within the context of a global competition for scarce water resources. We are concerned that a development agenda that is not explicitly committed to upholding this vital human right may end up undermining it.

A failure to explicitly name this right in the SDG agenda would be a setback in the progress that UN Member States have made in elevating the recognition and protection for this fundamental human right.

We therefore respectfully call on you to show leadership and commitment to the human right to water during the upcoming sessions of the GA's Open Working Group on the SDGs.

We urge you to insist on a human rights-based approach that:

- a) explicitly names the right to water and sanitation in the goal on water and sanitation;

- b) aligns targets to the human rights framework and guarantees non-discrimination, accountability, and public participation in decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration of this important concern. We look forward to continuing this dialogue during the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group.

Sincerely,

1. Aboriginal Rights Coalition - Australia	Australia
2. Ação Franciscana de Ecologia e Solidariedade (AFES)	Brazil
3. ACLI Service Lecco	Italy
4. ActionAid International	Africa
5. Active Unemployed Austria	Austria
6. Adorers of the Blood of Christ - A.S.C.	Tanzania
7. AEEFG	Tunisia
8. African Network on Environment and Water	Africa
9. African Rivers Network	Africa
10. African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)	Cameroon
11. All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM)	India
12. Alliance of Government Worker in the Water Sector (AGWWAS)-Philippines	Philippines
13. Appalachian Faith & Ecology Center	United States
14. Asociación Civil Hermanos de la Tierra	Argentina
15. Asociación Folklórica Palos Cuerdas y Kotizas - PCK	Colombia
16. Asociación Nueva Vida Pro-Niñez y Juventud	El Salvador
17. Asociacion Raxch' och' Oxlaju Aj (Aj Green Earth 13) AROAJ	Guatemala
18. Associação Moçambicana de Amor à Justiça, Paz e Solidariedade	Portugal
19. Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of ChadAFPAT	Chad
20. Autonome des Travailleurs de la Sénégalaise des Eaux (SAT – SDE)	Senegal
21. Avanza d.o.o	Croatia
22. Berliner Wassertisch	Germany
23. Blue Communities in Switzerland	Switzerland
24. Blue Planet Project	Global
25. Both ENDS	The Netherlands
26. CEAMUJER	Nicaragua
27. Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)	Global
28. Center for Women Policy Studies	United States
29. Centre for Natural Resource Governance	Zimbabwe
30. Centre for Social Studies from the University of Coimbra - Portugal	Portugal
31. Centre for Trade Policy and Development- CTPD	Zambia
32. Centro de Estudios para la Gobernabilidad y Democracia, CEGODEM	Nicaragua
33. CENTRO PIME MILANO	Italy
34. CeVI - Centro di Volontariato Internazionale	Italy
35. Chiadzwa Community Development Trust (CCDT)	Zimbabwe
36. Church World Service	Global
37. CILAP EAPN Italia	Italy
38. Cimi Regional Conselho Indigenista Missionário - Regional Norte I	Brazil
39. Citizens for Justice (CFJ)	Malawi
40. Coalición de Organizaciones Mexicanas por el Derecho al Agua	Mexico
41. College of the Holy Spirit	Philippines
42. Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach	United States
43. Comboni Missionary Sisters	South Sudan
44. Comitato Italiano Contratto Mondiale sull'acqua-Onlus	Italy

45. Comité Cívico no al trasvase del río Guarinó	Colombia
46. Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO)	Spain
47. Confédération des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal (CSA Sénégal)	Senegal
48. Conference of Major Superiors of Men	United States
49. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	Global
50. Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes	United States
51. Congregation of the Mission	Rome, Italy
52. Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy	Ireland
53. Corporate Accountability International	United States
54. Coordination Eau Bien Commun Rhône-Alpes	France
55. Coordination Eau Île-de-France	France
56. Council of Canadians	Canada
57. CounterCurrent	Germany
58. CRAUE (Coordination Rhône-Méditerranée des Associations des Usagers de l'Eau)	France
59. Czech Trade Union of Health and Social Care	Check Republic
60. Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA)	India
61. DECA Equipo Pueblo	Mexico
62. DESCOLPAZ	Colombia
63. Development Workshop Angola	Angola
64. Dominican Leadership Conference / Dominican Sisters International	USA & Rome
65. Don Bosco Network	Italy
66. Dutch WASH Alliance	The Netherlands
67. Earth Law Center	United States
68. EarthLink	Germany
69. East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN)	United States
70. Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) Zambia	Zambia
71. Ecological Society of the Philippines	Philippines
72. EcoMujer e.V.	Germany
73. El CEFOT	Bolivia
74. El Grupo de Trabajo de Cambio Climático y Justicia (GTCCJ)	Bolivia
75. End Water Poverty Coalition	Global
76. Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria	Nigeria
77. EPSU – European Federation of Public Service Unions	Europe
78. European Citizens' Initiative	Europe
79. European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)	Europe
80. European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)	Europe
81. European Water Movement	Europe
82. Familia Franciscana de Colombia	Colombia
83. Federación de Servicios Públicos, FSP-UGT	Spain
84. Federación Española de Ingeniería Sin Fronteras	Spain
85. Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Agua Potable y Alcantarillado del Perú (FENTAP)	Peru
86. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada	Canada
87. Federation of Trade Unions in Health Services-CITUB	Bulgaria
88. Feminist Task Force	Global
89. FEMNET - African Women's Development & Communication Network	Africa
90. FIVAS - Association for International Water and Forest Studies	Norway
91. FOCO-Foro Ciudadano de Participacion por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos	Argentina
92. Food & Water Europe	Europe
93. Food and Water Watch	Global
94. Forum of Women's NGOs	Global
95. Franciscan Action Network	United States
96. Franciscan Center for Defense Law	Brazil
97. Franciscan Movement of Justice and Peace	Bolivia

98.	Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls	MN, United States
99.	Franciscans for Justice	United States
100.	Franciscans International	NY - Geneva
101.	Franciscans International - Bolivia	Bolivia
102.	Freshwater Action Network	Global
103.	Freshwater Action Network- Central America & Asociación Regional Centro Americana Para el Agua y el Ambiente	Central America
104.	Freshwater Action Network- South America	South America
105.	Freshwater Action Network- South Asia	South Asia
106.	Freshwater Action Network-Mexico	Mexico
107.	Friends of the Earth US	United States
108.	Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)	Argentina
109.	Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la MUJER FEIM	Argentina
110.	German Toilet Organization	Germany
111.	Gestar Development Corporation	Colombia
112.	Gestos-HIV, Communication and Gender	Brazil
113.	Global Interfaith WASH Alliance	Global
114.	Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)	India
115.	GRÜNE LIGA	Germany
116.	Grupo Vecinal contra el Fracking	Argentina
117.	HakiMadini	Tanzania
118.	Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights	United States
119.	Hermanas de la Misericordia de las Américas	Central America
120.	Human Rights Institute of Catalonia	Spain
121.	IANRA: The International Alliance on Natural Resources in Africa	Africa
122.	IBON International	Global
123.	IERPE - European Institute of Research on Water Policy	Europe
124.	Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF)	India
125.	Indigenous Peoples Forum – India	India
126.	Indigenous Peoples Links (PIPLinks)	United Kingdom
127.	Initiative K 136	Greece
128.	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)	Global
129.	Institute for Ecology and Action Anthropology (INFOE)	Germany
130.	Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy	United States
131.	Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)	Slovenia
132.	Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia & Papua New Guinea	Australia & PNG
133.	Instituto das Religiosas do Sagrado Coração de Maria - JPIC	Brazil
134.	Integrated Development Initiatives & Alternatives Foundation	India
135.	International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
136.	International Women AIDS Caucus IAWC	Global
137.	IRSP - Integrated Regional Support Program	Pakistan
138.	Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values	Germany
139.	Justiça Ambiental / Friends of the Earth Mozambique	Mozambique
140.	Justice and Peace Commission - Catholic Diocese of Auckland	New Zealand
141.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - Australia	Australia
142.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - Brazil	Brazil
143.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - Italy	Italy
144.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - South Korea	South Korea
145.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - South Sudan	South Sudan
146.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - Spain and Europe	Spain & Europe
147.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - USA	United States
148.	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee; Divine Word Missionaries	Chicago Province
149.	Juventude Franciscana do Brasil - JUFRA	Brazil

150. Keepers of the Waters	Canada
151. KEPKA - Consumers' Protection Center	Greece
152. KRuHA - Koalisi Rakyat untuk Hak Atas Air	Indonesia
153. l'association pour la défense des droits de l'eau et de l'assainissement (ADDEA)	Senegal
154. l'eau est le pont	France
155. La Asociación Intersectorial para el Desarrollo Económico y el Progreso Social (CIDEP)	El Salvador
156. La Coalición Llamado Mundial a la Acción contra la Pobreza (GCAP-ES)	El Salvador
157. La Fundación Cosecha Sostenible de Honduras	Honduras
158. La Fundación Red Nicaraguense de Comercio Comunitario (RENICC)	Nicaragua
159. La Red Vida	Latin America
160. Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre (LHAHRDEV)	Nigeria
161. LACCASO - Latin American and the Caribbean Council of Organizations	Central America
162. Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA)	South Africa
163. Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme (LAMMP)	United Kingdom
164. Leadership Conference of Women Religious	United States
165. Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame du Sacré-Coeur	Canada
166. Loretto Community	United States
167. Mani Tese	Italy
168. Marianist Religious	Colombia
169. Marianists International	United States
170. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	United States
171. Medical Mission Sisters	Global
172. Mennonite Central Committee - U.N. Office	Global
173. Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice	Canada
174. Mercy Global Action, Mercy International Association	Global
175. Misionario Oblato di Maria Inmaculato	Latin America
176. Misiones Salesianas Madrid	Spain
177. Mission Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit	Ghana
178. Mission Congregation: Divine Word Missionaries (SVD)	Ghana
179. Missionárias Servas do Espírito Santo	Brazil
180. Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit	Australia
181. Movimento comunitário, cultural, esportivo e ecológico da Média/ Baixa Serra do Curral (MOC-ECO)	Brazil
182. Movimiento de Justicia y Paz	Bolivia
183. MuGeDe (Mulher, Genero e Desenvolvimento)	Mozambique
184. National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO)	United Kingdom
185. National Association of Professional Environmentalists	Uganda
186. National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)	India
187. National Commission in Defense of Water and Life (CNDAV)	Uruguay
188. National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ)	India
189. Natural Justice	Global
190. Naturefriends International (NFI)	Global
191. Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development-Nigeria	Nigeria
192. Northern Ireland Coalition Against Water Charges ICTU	Ireland
193. Notre Dame de Sion	Italy
194. Oblates of Mary Immaculate	Canada
195. Oikos – Cooperação e Desenvolvimento	Portugal
196. ONE (SINGAPORE)	Singapore
197. Orden Franciscana Seglar	Uruguay
198. Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans)	Ireland
199. Organización Crecer con Esperanza	Argentina
200. Our Water Commons	Americas
201. Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	Pakistan

202.	Pastoral Social de la diócesis del Alto Valle de Río Negro	Argentina
203.	PLANT (Partners for the Land & Agricultural Needs of Traditional Peoples)	Brazil
204.	Politica Internacional y de Cooperacion UGT	Spain
205.	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	United States
206.	Presentation Congregation	Australia, QLD
207.	Presentation Sisters	Australia
208.	Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen	United States, SD
209.	Public Services International	Global
210.	Red de Control Ciudadano	Costa Rica
211.	Red Departamental de Mujeres Chocoanas	Colombia
212.	Red Vigilancia Interamericana para la Defensa y Derecho al Agua	The Americas
213.	Rede de Solidariedade	Brazil
214.	REDES CHACO	Argentina, Bolivia
215.	REDES-Friends of the Earth (FoE) Uruguay	Uruguay
216.	Reformierte Kirchen Bern-Jura-Solothurn	Switzerland
217.	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary	Global
218.	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province	US & Mexico
219.	Religious on Water (ROW)	United States
220.	Religious Sisters of Charity	United States
221.	RIGHTS	India
222.	Rural Education and Action Development Society (READS)	India
223.	Rural Women's Assembly	Africa
224.	Salesian Missions	Global
225.	Salesians of Don Bosco	Global
226.	Salezjanski Wolontariat Misyjny - Mlodzi Swiatu	Poland
227.	Save the Earth Cambodia	Cambodia
228.	Secretaria de Internacional y Cooperacion CCOO	Spain
229.	Servicios Ecumenicos para Reconciliacion y Reconstruccion (SERR)	United States
230.	Sindhica Reforms Society	Pakistan
231.	SINTRACUAVALLE	Colombia
232.	Sisters of Mercy - Southern Province	Ireland
233.	Sisters of Mercy Northeast Leadership Team	United States
234.	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Leadership Team	MD, United States
235.	Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community Leadership Team	United States
236.	Sisters of Mercy, Mercy International Association at the UN	Global
237.	Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Community	PA, United States
238.	Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur	Global
239.	Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill	United States, PA
240.	Sisters of St Joseph Australia	Australia
241.	Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons	India
242.	Sisters of St. Joseph North Bay	Canada
243.	Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie	Canada
244.	Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield	MA, United States
245.	Sisters of the Holy Cross	United States
246.	Sisters of the Holy Union of the Sacred Hearts	Italy
247.	Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary	United States
248.	Slaves No More Onlus	Italy
249.	Slovak Trade Union of Health and Social Services	Slovakia
250.	Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries	United States
251.	Society of Presentation Sisters of Australia & Papua New Guinea	PNG & Australia
252.	Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI)	South Africa
253.	Solidarity Workshop	Bangladesh
254.	South African Province of the Sisters of Mercy	Africa
255.	South Western Ontario KAIROS	Canada

256. Spiritan Sisters	Ghana
257. Steyler Missionare Ordensprovinz Österreich	Austria
258. Study Centre for Governance and Democracy, CEGODEM	Nicaragua
259. Suore Cappuccine del Sacro Cuore	Italy
260. Surplus People Project	South Africa
261. Sustainlabour	Spain
262. SustainUS: U.S. Youth for Sustainable Development	United States
263. Temple of Understanding	United States
264. The Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth	Australia
265. The Mining Working Group at the UN (MWG)	Global
266. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate	Peru
267. The Nicaraguan Network of Community Trade (RENICC) Foundation	Nicaragua
268. The Presentation Sisters Vice Province of Aotearoa New Zealand	New Zealand
269. The Sacred Water Circle, Faith & the Common Good	Canada
270. The Sisters of Charity Federation	United States
271. The Sisters of Mercy New Zealand	New Zealand
272. The Sisters of St. Francis	United States, PA
273. Thought Forum and Social Construction (FPyCS)	Argentina
274. Transnational Institute	Global
275. Transport for Greater Manchester UNISON branch	United Kingdom
276. U.S. El Salvador Sister Cities	Americas
277. UDRUGA ZORA / NGO DAWN	Croatia
278. Umphilo waManzi	South Africa
279. UNANIMA International	Global
280. Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M.	US Province
281. Utthan	India
282. VIVAT International	Global
283. VIVAT International-India	India
284. VIVAT International, Indonesia	Indonesia
285. Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (Keep your promises campaign)	India
286. Wasser in Bürgerhand (WIB)	Germany
287. Wellness Foundation	South Africa
288. West Papua Advocacy Team	United States
289. Women Environmental Programme	Nigeria
290. Women for Peace and Ecology	Germany
291. Women United for Social, Economic & Total Empowerment (WUSETE)	Kenya
292. Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)	Global
293. WoMin, Gender and Extractives Africa Regional Alliance	South Africa
294. Worcester Solidarity and Green Economy (SAGE) Alliance	United States
295. Yamasi People	United States

**For Further information and follow up, Contact:**

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