

Human Rights Council – 18th Session
14 September 2011

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

Madame President,

Franciscans International and WaterLex welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe water and sanitation. In particular, Franciscans International and WaterLex appreciate the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to highlight the importance of a human rights-based planning to ensure that sustainable and equitable results be achieved and accountability be strengthened in water governance.

Unfortunately due to the fragmentation of international law, the July 28th 2010 GA recognition of the “right to safe drinking water and sanitation” remains a little cloud in the air, for as long as land and water regulations, investment agreements and trade regimes are not developed and applied in consistency with human rights and environmental treaty obligations. Today, more than ever, the direct consequences fall, as always on the shoulders of the most poor and vulnerable and impedes a sustainable development, whether economic, ecological or social.

The upcoming World Water Forum in Marseille 2012 and its call for solutions, as well as the Rio+20 Conference and its effort to cope with competitive water uses, are unique deadlines for action that governments of the World will face.

Franciscans International and WaterLex wish to use this opportunity to call upon States to use the human rights-based planning developed by the Special Rapporteur to articulate the implementation of all their water related international legal obligations through **a human rights-based water governance**.

It is time to act. stakeholders and in particular governments have a responsibility to enable an integrated water resources management which is the only solution to ensure a sustainable, safe and sufficient water supply for everyone. Integrated water management is a serious and urgent matter that governments can and should address without further delay. It is today a matter of threats to peace, a matter of development, a matter of realizing basic human rights. This **MUST** be considered a priority by leaders across all regions and countries of the world.

Thanks you Madame President.