

PRESS RELEASE

The Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development, IADB and NGO WaterLex organize a roundtable on human rights and Sustainable Development Goals during World Water Week in Stockholm

The meeting will bring together key actors such as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, with regional bodies (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights), stakeholders from civil society (ONGAWA, Waterlex), financial institutions (Inter-American Development Bank) and actors from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation)

Stockholm / 24 August 2017 — The sustainable development agenda is inextricably linked to the framework protecting the human rights to water and sanitation. Therefore, it is essential that the mechanisms used to measure performance indicators are properly understood. Spanish Cooperation, together with the Swiss NGO WaterLex, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) will look at this issue in more detail during the World Water Week in Stockholm, at a roundtable entitled “Implementation and monitoring of human rights to water and sanitation and SDG6”, to be held on Sunday 27 August.

A number of different entities will participate in the panel (development agencies, financial institutions, civil society) with the aim of moving forward towards effective inclusion of the human rights to water and sanitation in development initiatives. There will also be an in-depth discussion of the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights.

The debate will be held on Sunday 27 August at 4.00 pm, in the Stockholm City Conference Centre, which is hosting World Water Week. The roundtable will open with a presentation from Léo Heller, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, addressing the experiences and challenges that are inherent to application of human rights in the SDG Agenda.

He will be followed by Jamesina Essie L. King, from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, who will focus on Resolution 300, adopted by the Commission to guarantee the right to water in Africa. Rose Osinde Alabasterm, from the NGO WaterLex, will address the issue of implementing the human rights to water and sanitation in Africa.



Then Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), who will explain how to support public service companies, regulators and other institutions in the sector to improve their approach to rights issues. Natalia Gullón, representing the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, will explain the Checklist that Spanish Cooperation has created to verify compliance with the human rights to water and sanitation in projects. Lastly, Mar Rivero, from the NGO ONGAWA, will present a case study from Nicaragua, analysing a proposed system for measuring compliance with human rights to water and sanitation.

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation is also co-organizing three further presentations during Water Week: “What’s new in wastewater reuse financing?”, “Fostering a Wastewater Treatment Revolution”, and “Before/after the toilet: Sewer connectivity and fecal-sludge”. A number of experts from Spanish institutions have been invited, such as Pedro Simón, from the Murcia Region Sanitation and Treatment Body (ESAMUR) and Ignacio del Río, from the Public Works Study and Experimentation Centre (CEDEX).

The World Water Week is an international event, organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute, which brings together the main stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector. The theme of this year’s event will be “Water and waste: Reduce and reuse”.

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