

July 28, 2015

Dear Co-facilitators Ambassador Donoghue and Ambassador Kamau,

On this Fifth Anniversary of the General Assembly resolution 64/292 on the human right to water and sanitation, we applaud the naming of the right to water in the Revised Outcome Document and support Member States' calls to strengthen the human rights reference in Paragraph 8. We also wish to remind you of the call issued by [621 organizations](#), representing millions of people around the world, for the human right to water and sanitation to be explicitly named within the Declaration of the Post-2015 outcome document.

We were pleased to see the number of Member States who have echoed this call during the Intergovernmental Negotiation sessions yesterday and today:

- The Arab Group
- Switzerland
- Palau
- Bolivia
- Mexico
- Costa Rica
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan

It is noteworthy that the naming of this human right warranted no opposition from the blocs of Member States.

We were concerned that yesterday one delegation challenged this language, based on what we believe was a misunderstanding of the legal basis for the human right to water and sanitation.

This human right was officially recognized by the UN General Assembly on July 28, 2010 through resolution 64/292: <http://www.un.org/es/comun/docs/?symbol=A/RES/64/292&lang=E>

It has subsequently been further defined through several Human Rights Council resolutions: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/Resolutions.aspx>

Consensus on the human right to water and sanitation was also established within The Future We Want: Outcome document adopted at Rio+20 and the UNGA resolution 68/157 of 2013: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/157](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/157)

**What we are recommending:**

Declaration, *Our Vision*

8. In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision. Poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions is the overarching priority and central imperative of the Agenda. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels and to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where [the \[human\] right to have access to safe and affordable drinking water \[and sanitation\] is universally realized](#); where food is safe, affordable and nutritious; where there is adequate and accessible sanitation and hygiene. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

We thank you for recognizing the critical importance of this issue.

Sincerely,

Women's Major Group  
Indigenous Peoples Major Group  
Major Group for Children and Youth  
Workers and Trade Unions Major Group

The Blue Planet Project  
NGO Mining Working Group  
Sisters of Mercy (NGO), Mercy International Association: Global Action  
Water Aid  
IBON International  
Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji  
Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development  
International-Lawyers.Org  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council  
Centre for Economic and Social Rights  
Temple of Understanding  
International Presentation Association  
Franciscans International  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Medical Mission Sisters  
Loretto Community  
Feminist Task Force  
Congregation of the Mission  
Amnesty International  
UNANIMA International  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
Public Services International