

Online side-event

45th Session of the Human Rights Council

Ten years after the proclamation of the right to water: challenges and perspectives in times of crisis

23 September 2020
1h00-2h45 pm (Central European Time – CET)

To join, click here: <https://unige.zoom.us/j/97370746727>

The year 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the right to water as a fundamental human right by the United Nations General Assembly. Despite important developments such as its inclusion in national constitutions and legislations or its definition by international mechanisms and bodies, there are still many challenges for its realization at the universal level. These challenges have been highlighted and amplified by COVID-19. The year 2020 is a pivotal year in more than one way: it does not only mark the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the right to water, but it is also 10 years away from the deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, with the current Covid-19 pandemic, the issues at stake and challenges related to the realization of the right to water are particularly highlighted.

The objective of this event is to take stock of the right to water 10 years after its universal recognition. It will highlight the role of the right to water in times of crisis, especially in the context of current humanitarian and health crisis. In this context, the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure developed by the Platform for International Water Law of the Geneva Water Hub and its partners will also be presented.

Programme

Introductory remarks

Catarina DE ALBUQUERQUE, Chief Executive Officer, Sanitation and Water for All.
François MÜNGER, General Director, Geneva Water Hub.

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Contact : mara.tignino@unige.ch

Moderator: **H.E. Ms. Kadra AHMED HASSAN**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations, Geneva.

- The implementation of the right to water: what results 10 years later? - **Makane Moïse MBENGUE**, Professor and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva.
- The right to water and the challenges of multilateralism – - **H.E. M Yackoley Kokou JOHNSON**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations Office, and other international organizations in Geneva.
- The role of the human right to water in the face of the climate crisis - **Yves LADOR**, Permanent Representative of Earthjustice to the United Nations, Geneva.
- The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure - **Mara TIGNINO**, Reader, Faculty of Law and Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva and Lead Legal Specialist, Platform for International Water Law, Geneva Water Hub.
- Water under Fire - **Franck BOUVET**, Deputy Coordinator, Global WASH Cluster.
- The role of non-state actors in the realization of the right to water - **Jean BOSCO BAZIE**, General Director, Eau Vive Internationale.

Debate

Concluding remarks: **Maricela MUÑOZ ZUMBADO**, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva and **François MÜNGER**, General Director, Geneva Water Hub.

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