



**Third Committee of the General Assembly (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
Informal consultation with civil society convened by the Chair of the Third Committee**

3 February 2020

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Franciscans International is a nongovernmental human rights organization that works to reflect the voices of our partners at the grassroots through advocacy at the UN. We appreciate the opportunity to address the Third Committee today, and note the role of the Committee in reinforcing the inextricable link between human rights and Agenda 2030.

In using the example of the right to water- and in parallel SDG 6 which calls for the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all- FI notes the resolution on the right to water passed by consensus in 2019, and that 2020 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the GA resolution first recognizing the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.

Even with these markers, and progress in access to safe water and sanitation, the international community is not currently on track to meet Goal 6 in 2030. In order to continue to better support the implementation of Agenda 2030 more generally, FI urges the Third Committee to ensure that resolutions are fully in line with State obligations under international human rights law and relevant Human Rights Council resolutions.

The 2019 resolution importantly calls on business enterprises to ensure respect for human rights, while calling on States to provide accountability mechanisms where private sector providers cause or contribute to human rights violations. Within this context, FI notes that mandatory human rights due diligence can serve to facilitate the progressive realization of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. FI underscores trans-boundary threats to water quality and supply linked to extractive and other industries, and the need for international cooperation in ensuring effective remedy for abuses related to the right to water. Accordingly, while the role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs is recurrently highlighted in New York, the Committee can also support the Agenda's achievement by underscoring corporate accountability for adverse human rights impacts.

More generally, and beyond the specific example of the right to water, FI welcomes recent efforts made by States within the Human Rights Council to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Two intersessional meetings have already taken place, with reporting that seeks to ensure better interaction between mechanisms and processes between New York and Geneva.

At the national level, where the integration of human rights and SDG implementation must be concretely realized, UN Country teams are launching promising initiatives that should be encouraged. Having this in mind, it is extremely important that specialized UN human rights mechanisms, such as Special Procedures and treaty-bodies have the necessary material and political support to accompany and inform these initiatives, including via the Third Committee.

The ambitious 2030 Agenda requires coherence in delineating State obligations across UN processes. The Third Committee has a key role to play in ensuring this coherence.

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