

To Prof. Leo Heller

Special Rapporteur on the right to safe
drinking water and sanitation
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

Object: *Open Letter from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation to all the United Nations Member States on the final draft of the Post-2015 Development Goals*

Milan, July 24th. 2015

Dear Prof. Heller,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet Dr.ssa Madoka Saji in Genève and in particular for your timely initiative, your open letter calling the States to respect the 2010 UN Resolution on the human right to water and sanitation, just before the last negotiations for the Final Draft of the post-2015 Development Goals.

I imagine that Dr. Madoka Saji reported to you our talk on last July 9th about our care for the implementation of human right water resolution and the motivation at the base of the World Water Contract proposal for an Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. One of the main reasons to this proposal is our worry facing States' refusal of inserting in the Draft of the post-2015 Agenda an explicit reference to the human right to water, as it was initially foreseen in the Draft "A Life of Dignity for All", proposed in July 2013 from the General Secretary and supported also by the Water Movements.

Despite a large mobilization by networks such as Water justice, NGO Mining Working Group and the World Water Contract, and the initial support during 2014 by Government of Italy, Spain and Turkey, no attempt to integrating the human right to water in Goal 6 has eventually been taken into account during the last 6 months.

Your letter recalls States the commitments they assumed by ratifying the Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council for Human Rights, and reaffirms the *universal character* of the human right to water and sanitation. All this represents a strong encouragement for civil society organizations such as the World Water Contract, that has fought for more than 15 years for getting the human right to water acknowledged, respected and implemented.

Furthermore, your letter takes a special political signification with respect to the incoming 5th. anniversary of the UN Resolution on July 28th. and to strengthen the call from the Catholic Pope who in his recent Encyclic "Laudato Si'" has explicitly recalled that *"drinkable safe water is a fundamental human right [...] a condition for the enjoyment of other human rights [...] a social debt toward poor people still denied of water"*.

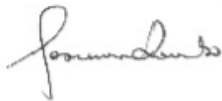
We have forwarded a copy of your letter to the President of Pontificium Councilium De Iustitia et Pace of Vatican and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

Once again, all our thanks for having expressed the worries of all people interested in the human right to water.

I do hope that we will have a chance to meet in Geneva in the next month's for an informal exchange on further actions aimed at stimulating States' commitments to concretize the UN Resolutions on the human right to water.

With our best regards.

Yours,



Rosario Lembo
President, Italian Committee World Water Contract