



Selected Resources on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

Compiled by the GTZ sector project
“Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation”
August 2008

I. Human Rights in German Development Policy

The Development Policy Action Plan on Human Rights issued by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) 2008-2010

This plan extends and specifies the first development policy action plan of the BMZ. Since 2004 it is the explicit policy of the BMZ to mainstream human rights into its development policies. The right to water is featured prominently in measure 14.

<http://www.bmz.de/en/service/infothek/fach/konzepte/konzept167.pdf>

The website of the GTZ sector project “Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation”

<http://www.gtz.de/human-rights> (in German)

Information portal on human rights and development cooperation of the German Institute for Human Rights, the German National Human Rights Institution.

This homepage gives a systematic overview about human rights and development cooperation.

http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/webcom/show_page.php/_c-598/_nr-1/i.html (in German)

II. The Legal Basis of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

ICESCR-Treaty Body, General Comment No. 15 on right to water (E/C.12/2002/11), January 2002

The general comments are interpretations of human rights standards by the treaty bodies. The general comment No. 15 details the state obligations and the core content of the right to water, and as such is an important reference document for the right to water and sanitation.

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/a5458d1d1bbd713fc1256cc400389e94/\\$FILE/G0340229.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/a5458d1d1bbd713fc1256cc400389e94/$FILE/G0340229.pdf)

All General Comments: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/comments.htm>

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

Guidelines for the Realization of the Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation adopted by the UN Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/25), August 2006

These guidelines which were developed by a sub-commission of the UN were passed by the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 2006. They explicitly address the right to sanitation.

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/docs/SUB_Com_Guisse_guidelines.pdf

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the scope and content of the relevant human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments (A/HRC/6/3), August 2007

This report offers additional interpretations of the right to water and sanitation.

<http://files.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/437/G0713655.pdf>

Final report of the Special Rapporteur on the relationship between the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the promotion of the realization of the right to drinking water supply and sanitation (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/10), June 2002

This report was used inter alia for the preparation of the general comment no. 15. It gives a comprehensive assessment the right to water and sanitation with respect to other human rights.

[http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/e06a5300f90fa0238025668700518ca4/5ba923c98b7f221ec1256c05002c3ebc/\\$FILE/G0214153.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/e06a5300f90fa0238025668700518ca4/5ba923c98b7f221ec1256c05002c3ebc/$FILE/G0214153.pdf)

Human Rights Council, Resolution on human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation (A/HRC/7/L.16)

In March 2008 the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution by Germany and Spain on human rights and the access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and decided to appoint an independent expert to this topic. The expert will be selected in September 2008.

http://ap.ohchr.org/Documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_7_L_16.doc

More information:

http://www.cohre.org/store/attachments/RWP%20-%20Information_note_on_HRC_2008_Resolution%2031%2003%2008_Final.pdf

III. More on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

OHCHR, WHO, COHRE, CESCR, WaterAid, Right to Water, Health and Human Rights, Publication Series No. 3, 2003

A thorough introduction to the topic.

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/rtwrev.pdf

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Claiming the Millennium Development Goals: A Human Rights Approach, 2008

This brochure deals with the relationship between the MDGs and human rights. See particularly the section on MDG 7, Target 7c: Water and Sanitation on page 38 ff.

http://www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/Claiming_MDGs_en.pdf

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Manual on the Right to Water and Sanitation, 2007

COHRE is a human rights NGO, which deals specifically with the right to water and housing. This handbook describes the right to water and sanitation and its implications for policymaking.

Furthermore, it provides good practice examples and contains a checklist for the implementation of this right.

<http://www.cohre.org/manualrtws>

COHRE, Legal Resources for the Right to Water and Sanitation, 2008

In this publication, COHRE collected international, regional and selected national legal sources on the right to water and sanitation as well as selected case law.

<http://www.cohre.org/legalresources>

COHRE, Sanitation: A Human Rights Imperative, 2008

This brochure defines the legal basis for the right to sanitation. It discusses the resulting state obligations and what governments need to do to respect, protect and realize the right to sanitation.

<http://www.cohre.org/sanitation>

Right to Water, <http://www.righttowater.org.uk/>

Right to Water is a NGO specialised on the right to water. Their homepage is rich with resources and useful information on the human rights protection system and how it can be employed to advance the right to water and sanitation. See, for example their Frequently Asked Questions on right to water:

http://www.righttowater.org.uk/code/FAQs_2.asp

WaterAid, Tackling the Silent Killer – The Case for Sanitation, 2008

This report of the NGO WaterAid advocates an increased prioritisation of sanitation derived from the human right to sanitation and in view of the substandard supply of sanitation and its fatal effects in many developing countries.

<http://www.wateraid.org/other/startdownload.asp?DocumentID=249&mode=plugin>