



Water Action and Human Rights – Implementing the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation at the Local Level

- a 90-minute session followed by coffee and tea -

24 March 2023, 1-3pm

Auditorium of the German House, 871 United Nations Plaza, NY 10017

Please **RSVP** by 23 March with full name, organisation, email address to pol-s2-vn@newy.auswaertiges-amt.de

The human rights to water and sanitation are at the core of SDG 6. They are universally recognised by all UN Member States. Standards and principles pertaining to these rights are clearly defined. Yet this strong normative foundation has not sufficiently translated into practice at the local level.

Local government institutions are the “frontline duty bearers” of the realisation of water and sanitation services for all (SDG 6.1 and 6.2). Multiple factors pose challenges to achieving this goal, including inadequate financial and human resources, lack of support and dysfunctional systems. National government should take both a guiding and an enabling role.

Local communities with inadequate water and/or sanitation services often make demands to government institutions, including by claiming services as their rights.

This side event will showcase voices from local government institutions and local communities in order to show how the human rights to water and sanitation are already being used, to draw lessons for the practical application of rights at the local level and identify ways national governments and the international community can support the practical realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation.

A panel of experts, including from national government and support agencies, will discuss with the audience what actions can and should be taken in support of the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation at the local level.

