

The Human Rights-Based Approach for Water and Sanitation

Panellist Bios

Dhesigen Naidoo

President of HR2W, Climate Commissioner, CEO, Water Research Commission, South Africa



Dhesigen Naidoo is a Climate Commissioner in the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission in South Africa and CEO of the Water Research Commission. It is South Africa's only dedicated Water research steering and funding institution. He also served as an official in South African government between 1996 and 2007. In this period, he worked for inter alia the Ministries of Water Affairs & Forestry, Environmental Affairs & Tourism, and Science & Technology where he served as Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Resources.

Between 1990 and 1996 he was a medical natural scientist at the University of Cape Town and Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Amanda Loeffen

Chief Executive Officer, Human Right 2 Water, Switzerland



Amanda Loeffen is CEO of Human Right 2 Water and an experienced general manager and business development executive in water, energy and sustainable development with international experience in Australasia, Europe, and North America. Her goal is to provide sustainable solutions based on human rights to improve water governance worldwide. Previously as Director General of WaterLex, she led a team of water governance experts to encourage law and policy reform. Current projects include her leadership of the UNECE People-First PPP Stakeholder Engagement

subgroup to realise benchmarks for developing human rights-based approaches, and she is currently on the steering committee of AGUASAN. Previously, as CEO of a project management company in New Zealand, Amanda delivered environmental resource consent with stakeholder engagement for a community water infrastructure scheme for irrigation and hydro-generation.

Fredy Camarena

Representative of Ngäbe Indigenous People

Director of Water and Sanitation, Pueblo Ngäbe, Panama



Fredy Camarena is a technician in environmental sanitation, a primary school teacher, and a civil servant at the Ministry of Health in Ngäbe District. Part of the Ngäbe Bugle people, she has been involved in the water and sanitation project funded by PRODESO from 2002, and became the regional head of water and sanitation in the Ngäbe Bugle health region from 2009 to 2014 where she monitored the governance programme. Since then, she became a sanitation technician in Miron District where she conducted monitoring and training for the Rural Aqueducts Administrative 'Juntas' and acted as liaison with authorities and traditional leaders on water and sanitation. She is now a Technical Assistant in the Regional Health Directorate, Ngäbe Bugle District.

Saiida Zwawi

President of Agricultural Group, Thuburnica,

Kesra, Tunisia



Saiida Zwawi is a self-taught woman, with only a primary school education (3rd year), who has presided over the Agricultural Development Group in Thuburnica, Tunisia since 2020, in the commune of Galaa Maaden Forgssan (Jendouba). She is 40 years old, and the mother of five children, and an inspiration for agricultural activities: she cultivates an area of 21 hectares, of which she owns 5.6 ha herself. Aside from arboriculture and market gardening, Mme Saiida is interested in the raising of sheep, goats, beekeeping and poultry farming.

Imanol Aguilera

Legal Researcher, Human Right 2 Water, Switzerland



Imanol Aguilera is a young Spanish and Uruguayan professional born and raised in the Geneva Region. Imanol is a legal researcher specialised in International Water Law and Human Rights. Having Worked at WaterLex, he is now part of the Human Right 2 Water team. He holds a bachelor degree in International Relations and Development (University of Sussex, UK) and a masters in International Environmental Law and Sustainable Development (SOAS University, UK). He also pursued his legal studies by completing a Graduate Diploma in Law at BPP University in London, Waterloo. Through his academic and professional experiences, Imanol has become familiar, and has developed extensive skills in the areas of human rights advocacy, legal research and mapping, and capacity building.

Rio Hada

Team Leader Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Switzerland



Rio Hada is currently coordinating the work of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the area of economic and social rights. He is the focal point on human rights to water and sanitation and represents the OHCHR in the work of the UN-WATER. Last year, he co-led the UN-Water campaign for the 2019 World Water Day with the theme of leaving no one behind: “Water for all: whoever you are, wherever you are, water is your human right”. He also leads the work of OHCHR on the human rights of older persons. Together with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OHCHR serves as the joint secretariat for the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly with the mandate to strengthen the protection of human rights of older persons.

Louisa Gosling

Senior WASH Manager for Accountability and Rights

WaterAid, United Kingdom



Louisa Gosling is the Senior WASH manager for Accountability and Rights at WaterAid. She is also the Current Chair of the Rural Water Supply Network. With WaterAid her main role is working with colleagues in different countries to strengthen accountability and the application of human rights in WASH programmes. With RWSN she has worked consistently to promote human rights to water and sanitation with the wide practitioner network and is a founding member of the Make Rights Real coalition.

Jonathan Grabinsky

Senior Consultant, World Bank, Washington DC



Jonathan Grabinsky has been at the World Bank for over four years. He has worked in several operational and analytical pieces across numerous Global Practices, including ample work in Water and Sanitation. He has ample experience with qualitative and quantitative research methods, including previous work in helping design and implement household surveys and in conducting impact evaluations. Jonathan has also been involved in helping write, and piece together, several analytical pieces. Before the World Bank, Jonathan worked doing impact evaluation for Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in the Philippines and covering issues of racial and urban inequality as part of The Economic Studies Program at The Brookings Institution. A native of Mexico City, Jonathan holds a bachelor and master's in Public Policy from The University of Chicago.