



# HR<sub>2</sub>W News

Issue 3 | May 2022

## Our Newsletter

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As we approach our second AGM on June 14<sup>th</sup>, the membership of Human Right 2 Water is able to take stock of the progress and development of the organisation.

This edition is partly in preparation for the AGM itself, featuring a short bio of the current Board Members and the additional members that have been nominated to join the Board. We will be asking our members to vote at the AGM.

We are also taking the opportunity to highlight some of the developments in this sector where we are getting involved. For example, Groundwater and Human Rights, the recently adopted Human Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (and how it connects with the right to water) , and the inclusion of the HRBA in stakeholder engagement for infrastructure development with People-first PPPs. We also have some updates on the Human Right Indicators for Kenya.

The Team at HR<sub>2</sub>W

## Inside this issue

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**p 2**

Message from the Secretary of the Board

Current Board Members

Board Nominees

**p 3**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM

Stakeholder engagement and People-first PPPs

Groundwater and Human Rights

**p 4**

Policy Paper on Human Right Indicators

Open Eyes and Ears to Youth

Human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment

## Message from the Secretary

It is exciting to see over its first two years that Human Right 2 Water has claimed a position as an important actor in the sector for human rights to water and sanitation.

Our work is even more important following two years of a global pandemic, with strained resources in all sectors. It is even more impressive that the team at HR2W (including the active Board, Expert Committee, Country Coordinators, Youth Platform and 81 members, as well as the secretariat) have managed to elevate the organisation to its current status.

As Secretary of the Board, it has been my pleasure and duty to support in the development of detailed bylaws for the organisation. It is with this hat on that I announce the forthcoming elections at the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Please read inside for a list of the exciting new Board nominees.

I look forward to meeting members again next month at the AGM!



Figure 1 Callum Clench, Secretary of the Board, HR2W

## Current Board Members

All current Board Members will need to be re-elected this June, as we have a two-year election cycle. You can find information and their bios on our website here [www.humanright2water.org/board](http://www.humanright2water.org/board).

President: Dhesigen Naidoo

Secretary: Callum Clench

Members: Anand Chiplunkar, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, Alex Knezovich, Andres Sanchez, Dominique Gatel

While each Board member represents him or herself, they also work for very relevant organisations, which are also members and/or supporters of HR2W:

The Organisation of American States, International Water Resources Association, Women for Water Partnership, Toilet Board Coalition, and Veolia.

## Board Nominees

Detailed bios to be found on membership webpage.

### 1. Rashid Mbaziira

Executive Secretary, African Minister's Commission on Water (AMCOW), Nigeria.



Rashid has interests in furthering partnerships that support international human rights law and their rollout of policies in the Region.

### 2. Purna Chandra Misra

Director, Indian Institute of Youth & Development (IIYD), Odisha, India, and Regional Committee Member of Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA).



PC Misra believes that the (human) rights-based approach (HRBA) adopted elsewhere in the world can be replicated in South Asia, giving a gradual shifting from the service delivery approach to the HRBA.

## Board Nominees (*continued*)

### 3. Mamohlosing Tlhagale

Head of International and Stakeholder Engagement at the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa.



Mamohlosing is “passionate about participatory approaches and involving all key stakeholders in finding systemic solutions to global, complex challenges such as access to water”.

### 4. Olcay Unver

Professor of Practice, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Polytechnic School, Environmental and Resource Management Program, Arizona State University, Istanbul.



Olcay’s interests lie in Water governance, policy, SDG6, water and food security, and global environmental policy. He brings recent experience as Deputy Chair of UN-Water, and Director at FAO.

## Our 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM

HR2W has its second Annual General Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June at 14h-16h CET. Members, please mark the date in your diaries. You will shortly be receiving instructions and background information for registration and voting by email.

The agenda will include a review of current activities, and budgets, plus an introduction to the new Board nominees. We are extremely lucky to have four excellent candidates from three continents, including the four nominees listed here.

This year, as we complete a two-year cycle, we also need to re-elect all existing board members. We are expanding the Board to add three new positions so there will be a total of ten Board Members elected. We encourage you to attend in person for the voting. If you are unable to join live, then you are also entitled to vote by proxy (details to follow in the email package that will follow this month).

## Stakeholder Engagement and People-first PPPs

HR2W has supported the UNECE programme to encourage sustainable development through the People-first PPP programme. The outcome, adopted by member States is an evaluation tool that provides a checklist for PPPs to consider all the SDGs through a methodology that includes five outcomes of 1. Access and equity, 2. Economic Sustainability, 3. Environmental Resilience, 4. Replicability, and 5. Stakeholder Engagement.

Leading outcome 5, Amanda Loeffen has included the HRBA in the Pf-PPP tool, and written a guideline for stakeholder engagement. More information can be found on the UNECE website, where the tool is free to use:

<https://unece.org/ppp/em>

## Groundwater and Human Rights

The UN-Water theme this year is on Groundwater, and “making the invisible visible”. It is an opportunity to link the human rights to water and sanitation with groundwater, and also with the Right to a Healthy Environment.

For **World Water Day**, we hosted an interview with David Boyd, the Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment, and experts Jenny Gronwall (SIWI) and Kirstin Danert.

[www.humanright2water.org/webinars](http://www.humanright2water.org/webinars)

This exploratory discussion helped to link groundwater with a range of human rights, and the important role that groundwater has in securing access to drinking water for a huge percentage of the global population. It reinforces the need to protect our ecosystems for the long-term security of our water supplies.



Figure 2 Policy Paper co-published with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, IWRA, and the Swiss Development Corporation.

## Policy Paper on Human Rights Indicators

The research in Mexico and Kenya culminated with a good understanding of the methodology for developing human rights indicators. This information has been shared through an easily comprehended policy, in collaboration with IWRA, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, and SDC.

We are actively discussing options for expanding this methodology to other countries, and to seek ways to scale the approach for a more regional approach.

Please read more about it on the website here :

[www.humanright2water.org/policy-briefs](http://www.humanright2water.org/policy-briefs)

## Open Eyes and Ears to Youth

The HR2W Youth Platform was established a year ago to act as a support for the numerous youth networks on water that already exist. Imanol and Gussie started the process by interviewing youth members, conducting online interviews (on YouTube) and developing a declaration, to find out how our platform could be complementary to other youth networks.

This February, in a workshop-style webinar, Nada and Isa continued the programme in an active webinar discussion with leaders of youth networks and advisors from GIZ and the Women for Water Programme. They highlighted the challenges and needs of young people working in the water sector.

## Human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment

This human right was adopted on 8 October 2021, when the UN Human Rights Council adopted resolution 48/13 recognizing that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

An estimated one in six premature deaths are caused by pollution. Tens of millions of people are displaced each year by climate change. Biodiversity loss threatens the collapse of entire ecosystems<sup>1</sup>.

We plan to explore ways to strengthen this connection between water and ecosystems, climate change and our health. If you are interested in joining our Expert Committee to support this research, then please get in touch on [info@humanright2water.org](mailto:info@humanright2water.org).

