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MANUAL ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION FOR PRACTITIONERS

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Annex B The sustainable development goals

B.1 INTRODUCTION

In September 2015, at a special session of the UN General Assembly, Heads of State adopted the proposal for a new set of international development goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG framework consists of 17 Goals, with 169 targets – building on the MDGs that governed development planning and implementation between 2000 and 2015. The SDGs go beyond the MDGs in terms of ambition, scope and spirit – they embrace universality (they set targets for high-, middle- and low-income countries alike, and aim to “leave no-one behind”); they address all three pillars of sustainability (the economic, social and environmental aspects); and they are geared towards transformation rather than progress.

A dedicated water and sanitation goal in part of this framework: SDG6, Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All. This Goal covers all water and sanitation issues, not only drinking water and sanitation as target 7C of the MDGs did. This comprehensive approach underlines to increasing importance of water scarcity, concerns over water quality and competition for water sources by different sectors. The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation was the only human right specifically referred to in the report of the UN Secretary-General supporting the SDG proposals¹⁹. The human rights criteria overlap importantly with the indicators for targets 1, 2 and 3 under SDG6.

B.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

¹⁹UN (2014). The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/post2015/synthesisreport>

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- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of fresh water to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
- 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
- 6a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.
- 6b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

In this context, 6.1 to 6.6 represent the outcome targets, and 6a and 6b represent the targets for the means of implementation.

Other SDGs also address water issues, notably SDG11, and SDG10 aims to reduce inequalities between and within countries.

B.3 THE PROPOSED INDICATORS

Under the umbrella of UN-Water, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) has developed indicators for targets 6.1 and 6.2 that incorporate technological advances since the start of the MDGs (for example, on measuring drinking water quality as part of household surveys) and reflect the criteria and principles of the human rights to water and sanitation.

It has developed more refined ladders both for drinking water services and sanitation services at home, which make the following distinctions:

DRINKING WATER SERVICE LADDER

Level	Indicator
Sustainable	Percentage of population using a safely-managed drinking water source that reliably provides
Basic	Percentage of the population using an improved drinking water source with a total collection time of no more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queueing.
Unimproved	Percentage of the population using a drinking water source that is not adequately protected from outside contamination, particularly faecal matter, or is not easily accessed (>30 minutes collection time including queueing)
No service	Percentage of the population using surface water (river, dam reservoir, lake, pond, stream, canal, irrigation canal)

The sustainable development goals

LADDER FOR ACCESS TO SANITATION AT HOME

Sustainable	Percentage of the population using a safely-managed sanitation facility that reliably provides expected levels of service, and is subject to robust regulation and a verified risk management plan.
Safely-managed	Percentage of the population using a basic sanitation facility where excreta are safely disposed in-situ or safely transported and treated off-site.
Basic	Percentage of the population using an improved sanitation facility not shared with other households.
Shared	Percentage of the population using an improved sanitation facility not shared with other households.
Unimproved	Percentage of the population using a sanitation facility that does not hygienically separate human excreta from human contact or is shared with other households.
No service (open defecation)	Percentage of the population practicing open defecation (defecating in bushes, fields, open water bodies or other open spaces).

More information on the monitoring of drinking-water and sanitation monitoring can be found at www.wssinfo.org