

ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE INGENIERÍA SIN FRONTERAS (ISF)

PLATAFORMA AGUA ES VIDA

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**Public – Public and public - community partnerships to regain the governance of water**

Roundtable 1: Governance

First part I would like to read a statement written together by international water justice movement.

*Faced with the crisis of civilization imposed by capitalism, which is expressed in the climate crisis and that promotes accumulation, dispossession and limitless consumerism, the water and water justice movements demand that the UN agenda resume the discussion of **water as a substance of life and a common good** which should never be subject to commodification, commercialization and financialization. It is imperative that the call for discussions on water as a common good, water as a right and the integrality of human rights **be informed by the public interest and not by the interests of corporations and global water markets.***

*Water, its uses and its management are **closely related to democratic mechanisms and human rights.** The privatization of water territories, of essential ecosystems to the hydrosocial cycle, of public water systems for human consumption or the privatization of their management components, added to the disregard of territorial and democratic management of water by organized community systems, are corporate devices of dispossession of the material and immaterial heritage of the communities. This appeal calls for the presence and voice of:*

- *indigenous peoples*
- *Afro-descendant communities and peoples*
- *peasant and popular urban communities*
- *women who are the protagonists of the struggles and actions of resistance and management for the defense of water and life in the processes of community water management*
- *union organizations*
- *public water operators and users,*

*based on their own words, experiences and lived practices, fundamental as alternatives to dispossession and privatization.*

On the other hand, from ISF and Agua es Vida platform we have also a demand. In front of the failure of Private-Private Partnerships accomplishing HRTWS, as it is evidenced in the latest reports of Special Rapporteurs of *Human Right to Water and Sanitation*; and due to the increasing abuse of power transnationals exert to local governments affecting local sovereignty. There's an urgent **need to promote**

**Public-Public partnerships** and public community partnerships with the objective of

- Training and development of human resources
- Technical Assistance
- Local governments capacity building
- Generic strengthening of public management
- improvement of participation

We want to highlight their facility to include easy and flexible involvement of civil society representatives, including trade unions, community groups and users. And also the fact that partnerships have been happening for decades and are the ones sustaining water management, and the ones shown most resilient to face the challenges as the climate emergency we are suffering.