

22 of march 2023– Water Conference – NGO Intervention
Freshwater Action Network Mexico / Redes del agua Latin america / NGO mayor group
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Excellencies,

I speak as a NGO mayor group member, and Redes del agua Latinoamérica a CSO articulation platforms with a local to global advocacy approach.

Today is water day and if it wasn't because we are here gathered at this water conference willing to find actions to transit to a more equitable and sustainable model to manage water and ensure human rights to water and sanitation commitments, it would be a sad day due to the level of pollution, grasping, commodification, abuse and conflicts over water that we verify today in the world.

Quality and availability of water is key to ensure health and so it is the access to sanitation and hygiene, particularly hand washing and menstrual health.

We can no longer let economic activities make profit over life. We urge to include in this water action agenda, actions related to generate legal consequences for activities such as extractive industries, agrobusinesses that irresponsibly pollute water, destroy ecosystems, harm livelihoods and violate human rights.

Water and sanitation services must always be guided by human rights. Commodification of services are a risk to the fulfillment of human rights, and should therefore not be considered as main policies, Public funding must increase to strengthen public services and support community water management to address the high inequality gap on rural and peri urban areas.

In most countries, rural populations and those living in informal urban settlements are the most discriminated in terms of access and those who suffer the most in terms of health. Their opinion or experience must be taken into consideration when planning national programs and International cooperation must prioritize these groups when allocating funds.

-Women must be included through effective participation mechanisms to actually help to change the mindset on how decisions are taken in the water sector. It is women in world that carry the burden and responsibility of supplying water to their households to ensure health and wealth being within their communities. Such participation must have the capacity to influence decision making, overcoming false participatory models, which only legitimize decisions taken by societal elites or authorities.

In terms of concrete actions to be included in the action agenda, we need to remember trough the whole conformation of the Water Agenda that access to water and sanitation are fundamental human rights and therefore

All actions that will be included in this agenda must be aligned with human rights. To ensure health, personal and domestic uses of water, must be accessible to all without discrimination and have the highest priority over productive uses, such as agro-business and industry.

We commit as water advocacy networks to Increase the political level of Water at national and global agendas through a local-to-global approach and strengthen capacities and awareness of local authorities and communities to accelerate SDG water targets in respect of human rights.