



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

[Universalization of Basic Sanitation from Human Rights perspective]

[Tuesday 21 March, 2 pm to 4 pm (EST New York), Online
Transmission on YouTube: Link in English

(<https://youtube.com/live/dCf6Hu-egyk?feature=share>) and Link in
Portuguese (<https://youtube.com/live/QSOC5CISvOI?feature=share>)].

Organized by: [World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS); Instituto Trata Brasil, Rede Brasil do Pacto Global, Rede de Desenvolvimento da Maré, Secretaria de Meio Ambiente de Santos/São Paulo, BRK Ambiental, IDB Invest)]

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Sanitation services are essential for maintaining public health and well-being. Water supply, water management, and rainwater drainage are also included in this concept, and without these services, waterborne diseases are more likely to spread, particularly in vulnerable groups such as women and children. The universalization of sanitation is a collective responsibility, and funding and efficient management are crucial to achieving this goal. The new Basic Sanitation Framework has established targets for serving 99% of the population with drinking water and 90% with sewage collection and treatment by 2033, and this event aims to discuss the challenges of Brazil in reaching these targets from a human rights perspective, including community organization, city advancements, and the impact of lack of access to clean and safe water.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/brazilian-business-commitment-water-security-0>

Initiative - Brazilian Business Commitment for Water Security

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- **Concepts of universalization of Sanitation and Human Rights:** Highlighting the importance of universal access to basic sanitation services, including water supply, sewage treatment, waste management, and rainwater drainage, for the protection of public health and the realization of human rights.
- **Regulation:** The need to regulate and adequately fund sanitation services, ensuring efficient and transparent management, as well as incentivizing the adoption of sustainable practices by companies.
- **Relationship between Companies and Government:** The importance of collaboration between companies and government for the universalization of sanitation services, including successful initiatives and projects incorporating technological approach and innovative social participation.
- **Awareness and Engagement of Society:** The importance of involving society and all stakeholders in securing access to basic sanitation services, particularly in vulnerable communities, and addressing the negative impact of lack of access to these services.
- **Investment in Research, Development, and Innovation (RD&I):** The need for investment in research to develop more efficient and sustainable solutions for sanitation services, ensuring equitable access and contributing to the realization of human rights.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Promote discussions on the importance of universal access to basic sanitation and human rights to accelerate good practices, projects and initiatives in the sector;
- Capacity building for companies and society so that the implementation of services of basic sanitation concepts and the combination of actions related to water supply, sewage treatment, waste management, and rainwater drainage is intrinsic in organizations and in our daily lives. Access to knowledge about this topic needs to be facilitated;
- Encourage companies of all sizes, small, medium and large, to implement sustainable actions through public policies that provide legal security and a favorable regulatory framework;
- Define a strategic planning for building advocacy actions for universalization of sanitation putting the people in the center of discussion at federal and state levels in Brazil, as well as defining regulations based on objectives;
- Dissemination of good practices and success cases of companies that are working at the forefront of the topic, encouraging more companies to mobilize for the conscious use of water resources.