Dear Ambassador \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

United Nations Member States have explicitly recognized water and sanitation as a human right.[[1]](#footnote-1) **Yet the human right to water and sanitation remains unmet for hundreds of millions of people.** According to a UNICEF and WHO study, at least 1.8 billion people drink fecally contaminated water. In addition, 2.5 billion remain without access to basic sanitation.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Member States have committed to deliver a Post-2015 Development Agenda that is truly transformative, people-centered, and focused on the most marginalized. To make good on those commitments, safeguarding the human right to water and sanitation is essential. This crosscutting issue will affect the realization of a wide range of SDGs, from education to poverty eradication to empowerment of women and girls.

We commend Member States for naming the human right to water in the [Chapeau](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3770chapeau_clean.pdf) of the outcome document of the Open Working Group. **Now, the human right to water and sanitation must be included in the Declaration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.** We renew the earlier call of [nearly 300 organizations](https://drive.google.com/a/sewanee.edu/file/d/0B9Hf5pXWCNk0Z21Wai10QnZJU1U/edit) of the global water justice movement to ensure that the human right to water and sanitation be made explicit and realized in the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**We request that you draw from the relevant agreed language:**

[**UNGA Resolution 64/292 The human right to water and sanitation**](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/292)

“Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights”.

**[UNGA Resolution 66/288](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E)*****[The Future we Want](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E)*[[[3]](#footnote-3)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E)**

“We reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively realized for our populations with full respect for national sovereignty.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

Placing the human right to water and sanitation in the Declaration gives it needed political recognition and prominence. It ensures that this human right will not be ignored or undermined in the critical Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Your Excellency, on the Seventieth Anniversary of the United Nations Charter and the Fifth Anniversary of Resolution 64/292, we look to your delegation to take the lead at this historic moment to name the human right to water and sanitation in the Declaration. The life and health of our planet demand nothing less.

Sincerely,

The Post-2015/SDG Global Water Justice Campaign

1. UNGA Resolution 64/292 The human right to water and sanitation, 28 July 2010. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. WHO/UNICEF (2014) Progress on drinking-water and sanitation – 2014 update. Geneva, World Health Organization. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNGA Resolution 66/288 The Future we Want, 27 July 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Paragraph 121. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)