



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
1 July 2020

English only

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-fourth session

15 June–3 July 2020

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[04 June 2020]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.20-08777(E)



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## **Water Welfare initiative, a new pathway for delivering the SDGs Goal**

The world is suffering extremely from the COVID-19 pandemic, which affects all aspects of our economy, society and environment. “Water, sanitation and Hygiene, WASH” is at the right center of combating COVID-19. This unprecedented pandemic teaches us how important the “WASH” is.

However, a large fraction of world population still has no access to clean and safe water thus, put them under the great danger of water-related diseases and even death. The rapid population increase and urbanization make the scenario even worse. It left exactly a decade until 2030 for the SDGs. Water, as a cross-cutting issue, it can play a pivotal role in achieving the other Goals.

Asia is the most vulnerable region with regards to water-related problem. Over 60 percent of Global Population are located in many developing countries of Asia. People in Asia suffer from lack of sufficient and safe water caused by drought, river contamination, growing population and urbanization.

Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a key intervention for combating COVID-19, and other water diseases as it is critical in the prevention and the provision of care for all vulnerable areas.

We agree that civil society organisations with governments and private sector must take effective actions to protect and promote the rights for development including water and health, by providing evidence, engaging in advocacy, mobilising national public health associations, building consensus, and providing services related to the social determinants of health, standard setting, regulation and fostering social partnerships.

GIWEH with AWC (Asia Water Council), has been concentrating on raising awareness of regional water-related issues and tackling them through the implementation of practical projects. In addition, AWC plans to drive forth a water welfare enhancement initiative by creating the ‘Asian Water Welfare Index’. It will be used for identifying Water-Stress regions through analysis on water condition of each region in entire Asia and developing concrete water projects. Furthermore, AWC is organizing the 2nd Asia International Water Week (AIWW) in Indonesia, 2020, October with the theme “Sustainable clean and sufficient water for all”. Health, safety and wellbeing is an integral part of our tasks

GIWEH and AWC send their ardent support to the Decade for Action to deliver the Global Goals. In collaboration with its 130 members, AWC and GIWEH will spare no efforts for the achievement of the SDGs. The potential of this intervention needs to be fully tapped if we want to achieve the 2030 SDG’s.

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Asia Water Council (AWC), NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.