



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
26 August 2022

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

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 Community Human Rights and Advocacy Centre (CHRAC), 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.

[15 August 2022]

---

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



## **The Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

Globally, 2.1 billion people lack access to safe, readily available water at home, and 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation. Despite progress, significant challenges still remain for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 and in addressing huge inequalities between and within countries in accessing basic water and sanitation services. My organization wants to bring council attention towards India where more than 6% of this population lack access to safe water and about 15% of India's population is suffering the indignity of defecating in fields, forests, bodies of water, or other public spaces due to a lack of access to toilets. India alone accounted for 90 per cent of the people in South Asia and half of the 1.2 billion people in the world that defecated in the open. Due to this, there is a risk of developing many diseases. In India lack of household water connections and toilets contributes largely to water-borne illnesses, stunting, and death. India has not made any progress in ending open defecation, which significantly impacts improving water, sanitation and hygiene.

Open defecation has historically been most prevalent among the poorest citizens in the cities or the countryside. The risk of spreading diarrheal and waterborne diseases gets compounded by the lack of regular handwashing and microbial contamination of water in their homes and communities. This practice amounted to tonnes of faeces introduced daily into the environment, regularly exposing India's children to excrement through direct contact. The situation contributed to nearly 100,000 diarrhoeal deaths of children under five years in India. In Indian schools, reports showed that 22 per cent did not have appropriate toilets for girls, 58 per cent of preschools have no toilets at all, and 56 per cent of preschools have no water on the premises. Meanwhile, less than 50 per cent of the population has access to safely managed drinking water (located on-premises, available when needed and free of contamination). Moreover, two-third of India's 718 districts are affected by extreme water depletion, and the current lack of water safety and security planning is a significant concern. We urge this council to ask Indian government to control Open defecation and provide better facilities to its citizens for safe drinking water and sanitation.

---