

46th session of the Human Rights Council



Make
Mothers
Matter

Oral Statement
Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on Human
Rights and the Environment

Make Mothers Matter welcomes this important report and its spotlight on the specific vulnerabilities of women and children to water scarcity, water pollution and water-related disasters.

According to WHO, only 71% of the global population use a 'safely managed drinking-water service – one that is located on premises, available when needed, and free from contamination'¹. A staggering 2 billion people's right to clean water and sanitation is not satisfied.

This situation has a greater impact on women and children...

- It puts at significant risk the health and even the lives of new mothers and their babies.
- When they are not sick themselves, women are the ones who care for children and other dependents suffering from water-related diseases.
- They are also mostly responsible for fetching water, carrying heavy loads over long distances to the detriment of their health and safety.

This increases women and girls' unpaid domestic and care responsibilities and work, reducing their ability to pursue education, generate an income or participate in public life.

Environmental degradation only makes things worse, including gender inequalities.

Water is the basis of both human and other forms of life upon which we depend for survival.

We therefore join the call for the universal recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. #TheTimelsNow

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>