

Rapporteur Reporting for Sessions at AfricaSan 4

Name of Session: Unpacking the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and Campaigning for their realisation across Africa.

Session number:

Convenor(s): WaterAid (Lydia Zigoma), End Water Poverty with vision Africa Network, Zambia Warren, Bethlehem WA.

Approx number of participants: 63 participants with 29 Females and 34 Male.

Name of Rapporteur: Grace Alupo

Copies of all slides collected? yes

Please give a short summary of the session: its objective, highlights of speakers and conclusions (max 300 words)

The objective of the session

- To increase understanding of how the human right to water and sanitation is being realised in Africa
- Identifying responsibilities and Challenges for state and non-state actors
- To increase understanding on how to advocate for, implement and monitor a human Rights based approach
- To develop recommendations for how the new pan African commitment can recognise and promote the human right to Water and Sanitation, through the SDGs.

The Special rapporteur on Human Right to Water and Sanitation affirmed that Human Rights are essential for full enjoyment of life and for the highest attainment of health and that it is the obligation of all Governments to reach everyone with the Right to Water and Sanitation progressively not regressively by ensuring that sanitation and water are sufficient, safe, physically accessible and affordable and that privacy and dignity are taken in to consideration.

Countries need to place the Human Right to Water and Sanitation at the centre of development by prioritizing the minority, people with disability, women in menstruation and children.

It was also noted that there is need to demonstrate strategies to the current gaps in realisation of the Right to Sanitation and water by considering context specific and relevant solutions.

It was also emphasised tat the principles of human rights need to be emphasised at implementation level to emphasise participation of citizens ti claim their rights, accountability and engagement of duty bearers through a sector wide approach, and dealing with structural and systemic changes.

It is important to adopt the AAAQ framework in order to encourage physical and economic accountability in order to deliver inclusive and sustainable access to Sanitation and Hygiene by 2030

The sharing from the Hon Member of Parliament from Uganda pointed out the contribution of parliamentarians in terms of monitoring the commitments and implementations which clearly enhances the work of AMCOW.

From the discussions a number of issues were raised with emphasis on

- The need to move away from commitments to Implementation
- The need to identify and engage with members of Parliament for improvement in access to Sanitation and Hygiene and this means the need to get champions from different countries.
- Development of clear strategies for sanitation that are backed up with clear funding mechanisms

Conclusion

The implementation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation has a lot of value addition and underpins the achievement of Global Goals

There is need for AMCOW to rethink the role of Parliamentarians in championing WASH.

It important for Africa to articulate the definition of is meant by realising the right to Sanitation and Water.

More analysis, more Research is required on human rights issues and the civil society must play a role in interrogating sector approaches and the role of private sector in order to improve the realisation of the Right to Sanitation and Water.

What were the 3 main messages/essential points made at the session? (these could come from the summing up, from consensus in the discussion, points made by key speakers or your judgement on what was most important)

2

3

Any recommendations for Ministerial commitments from the session?

1

Any good quotes by speakers that capture the essence of the discussion or the state of the topic?

1

2

3

Any other comments on the session?

Please send this form and all slides to piers.cross@gmail.com on the day of the session. For the Wednesday sessions, please send them as soon as you can after the end of the session.

Many thanks

Piers Cross

AMCOW AfricaSan Advisor