

Lessons Learned Working with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation

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Why is important to engage with IFIs? Who are IFIs?

- ❑ IFIs **have obligations** with regard to the **realization of the rights to water and sanitation (HRTWS)**
 - ✓ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR): General Comment 15 (2002), paras 36 and 60; General Comment 2 (1990); Statement E/C.12/2016/1 (2016)
 - ✓ Special Rapporteur's reports on Development Cooperation (A/71/302; A/72/127)
 - ✓ GA and HRC **resolutions** on the HRTWS adopted by consensus by **States**

- ❑ IFIs are composed by States, who have delegated their power to the IFI. Therefore, **the important role of States parties** to ensure coherence regarding their human rights obligations on the realization of these rights, refraining from adopting measures that would result in human rights violations.

- ✓ Moreover, specialized agencies of UN, such as IMF and IBRD – **World Bank Group**, are obliged to act in accordance with principles of the Charter of the United Nations.



How do IFIs actually deal with equitable access to Water and Sanitation?

- ❑ **Use of same terminology:** inequalities, poverty, access to information, accountability, participation, sustainability BUT without a Legal & HR Approach: THEIR CRITERIA CONTENT IS DIFFERENT
 - Initial resistance to apply the Principle of Non-Discrimination and Equality:
 - ✓ Equality – **None (accountable) planning process has been established yet**
 - ✓ Non-Discrimination – **No enough efforts in place to identify all vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals + lack of knowledge on grounds and causes of discrimination (NORMAL!!!) – HOWEVER, Specialists at country level have a better knowledge and willingness to invest on this topic** - Example of informal Urban Areas in LAC

- ❑ **How to unblock this process? Key role of States parties to:**
 - ✓ **Work closely with IFIs at country/regional level** (advocacy work) / Also with **Donor States**
 - ✓ **Invest on the topic of non-discrimination and equality at country level: with a strong focus on Participation** (involvement of all vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals)



“Policies are a potential tool to make progress”

– let’s discuss!



Thank you for your attention

