



BUDAPEST WATER SUMMIT

SIDE EVENT:

Monitoring Water Governance:

the role of National Human Rights Institutions and civil society

Business Leaders Forum, Thursday 10/10/2013, 15:25-15:55

Abstract

The Budapest Water Summit side event on monitoring water governance will be dedicated to the launch of an initiative to support National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI's) and Civil Society in the monitoring of water governance. In 2010, through resolutions by the United Nations' General Assembly (A/64/292) and the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/RES/18), water has been recognised as a human right. Therefore in the post 2015 era, a fundamentally different approach is required to water governance that takes into account the obligations of states and the rights and duties of non-state actors under human rights law. More than 100 countries currently have National Human Rights Institutions in the form of Human Rights Commissions or Ombudspersons charged with investigating, promoting and protecting human rights. A core function is to independently review the implementation of a nation's human rights commitments and make recommendations for improvement. Another is to address grievances or complaints from civil society alleging violations of national law. Seen in this light, NHRI's can provide a core function in evaluating water governance and providing civil society with an avenue to improve service provision. WaterLex and the Hungarian Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights are spearheading an initiative to support NHRI's in the execution of this crucial function.



AGENDA

- 15:25** **Opening and welcome by Dr. Marcel Szabó, Hungarian Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights**

- 15:35** **Address by Vladlen Stefanov, Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

- 15:45** **Address by Dr. Tobias Schmitz, Director of Operations, WaterLex International**

- 15:55** **Closure**