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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Global Welfare Association, 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.



Poor Situation of water and sanitation system in India

Access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are basic human rights. They are indispensable to sustaining healthy livelihoods and maintaining people's dignity. Human rights to water and sanitation are essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and ensuring that no one is left behind' on the road towards sustainable development. International human rights law mandated States to work towards achieving universal access to water and sanitation for all, without any discrimination, while prioritizing those most in need. My organization wants to bring council attention towards India where nearly 900 million people lives in one of the country's 600,000 rural villages. Around 45 per cent of this population still cannot access safely managed drinking water. Thats approximately 400 million people without proper access to vital resource. 137 villages in the Bundelkhand region, located in north-eastern India where people live in extreme poverty and face serious issues of water scarcity and contamination. They have not access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services. Majority of people from Bundelkhand region belongs to impoverished communities and are forced to collect dirty water from open ponds and rivers or spend most of what they earn buying water from tankers. India loses 2-4% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) each year because of unclean water. Indian government has not started any project in northern India that may help to lay the foundations for healthier communities through improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

In India, gender inequalities are most stark when it comes to water, sanitation and hygiene services. Without proper WASH services, women and girls face insurmountable barriers to leading healthy, safe and productive lives. In India, women and girls disproportionately carry the heavy burden of collecting water, which is unpaid work. This is a task that can steal many hours from the day hours that can be used on education, skill development and accessing economic opportunities. We urge this council to ask Indian government to provide rights to access safe water and sanitation to the people of Bundelkhand region.
