

**NATIONS UNIES**  
HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES  
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**UNITED NATIONS**  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PROCEDURES SPECIALES DU CONSEIL DES  
DROITS DE L'HOMME

SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to  
access to safe drinking water and sanitation**

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13 July 2010

Dear Ms. Mitterrand,

Please forgive me for taking so long to reply. Thank you very much for your contribution to my work in the field of good practices in water, sanitation and human rights. The "Emergency Plan"-practice, which your organization "Frances Libertés - Fondation Danielle Mitterrand" is funding in Cochabamba, Bolivia, will be carefully taken into consideration when I prepare my report on good practices.

I would also like to thank you for sharing your views on the right to water, and your support to this human right. The work and activities of civil society organizations are indeed very important for my activities, and are of extreme help in order to get the rights to water and sanitation formally recognized by the UN as human rights.

On the issue you raised regarding the involvement of the private sector in the provision of water and sanitation services, I agree that this is an issue of utmost importance – not only political but also from a human rights perspective. This is the reason why my main annual report to the Human Rights Council this year is devoted precisely to this matter. In fact, I have just finalized my report on Non-State Service Provision in Water and Sanitation. It will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2010. The Advanced Edited Version of the report is available on: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/iexpert/docs/A-HRC-15-31-AEV.pdf>

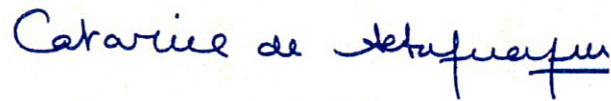
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Ms. Danielle Mitterrand  
France Libertés – Danielle Mitterrand Foundation  
22 rue de Milan  
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Regarding your proposal to meet in Geneva, I would be happy to further discuss your idea on a Global Water Authority with you in person. I am based in Lisbon, Portugal, but I come to Geneva from time to time (the next time will be in September). My assistant Mr. Daniel Spalthoff will contact you in order to find a suitable date.

Thank you again for your contribution and your interest in the mandate.

With my sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catarina de Albuquerque". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent underline on the final "u".

Catarina de Albuquerque  
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to  
access to safe drinking water and sanitation