

**Delegation from the Republic of Peru**  
**Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) are: Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right; Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents; and The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. As the global community has to face many challenges that endanger and violate human rights, Peru advocates the importance of enhanced international cooperation to mainstream human rights as one of the founding pillars of the UN.

**I. Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right**

Worldwide, 844 million people are lacking access to safe drinking water and are thereby denied their unalienable human right to water. The worldwide water crisis has many faces and increases due to climate change and socioeconomic problems. Beyond doubt, the African continent is affected the most, but also South America suffers drinking water problems, despite having some of the largest lakes and rivers in the world. Climate change associated water stress makes Peru particularly vulnerable, since it causes massive migration flows to the capital Lima, the world's second largest city located on a desert. The gap between urban and peri-urban coverage of drinking water services is alarmingly high and further widening. As insufficient access to water endangers people's health, so that they are not only being denied their human right to water, but also their human right to health and an adequate standard of living.

The Republic of Peru is fully dedicated to the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) as its guiding principle, which declares access to safe drinking water an unalienable human right. Peru is welcoming the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* as well as the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Both conventions highlight the inherent right for every person to be granted access to safe drinking water. Peru stands in full support with the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) as a global partnership aiming to achieve universal access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation. On a regional level, Peru is glad to see different states monitoring the fulfillment of the human right to water within the Association of Potable Water and Sanitation Regulators for the Americas. Nevertheless, Peru is taking action also on a national level. The *Bicentennial Plan: Peru towards 2021* focuses on human rights and their universal validity, including objectives targeting at policies to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation for everyone. Furthermore, Peru is proud to see the development of its microfinance market ranking amongst the most developed in the world. To achieve equitable access to drinking water, several successful micro-financing programs have been conducted to provide water and sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas, such as the WaterCredit program or the Crediagua. Ultimately, seeing the urgent need to invest in infrastructures in marginalized rural areas, the National Cooperation Fund for Social Development has proved to be a useful tool to channel governmental resources for improving potable water and sanitation.

To fully implement equitable access to water as a human right worldwide, the Republic of Peru highlights global collective action as the imperative. Since Peruvian microfinancing programs have shown a huge positive impact to help people have access to safe water or sanitation, Peru is recommending all Member States to improve their microfinancing structures. In order to enhance international collaboration on this matter, Peru promotes the establishment of a group of experts tied to the SWA and its High-Level Meeting. This group is going to be tasked to found a platform for microfinancing professionals that provide access to safe water and sanitation. Emerging microfinancing groups will then be able to access the platform as a toolbox for successfully implementing such microfinancing structures to grant everybody their right to access safe drinking water. The Republic of Peru is looking forward to collaborations with all Member States in order to address the pressing need to successfully implement equitable access to safe drinking water as a human right worldwide.

**II. Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents**

As the number of migrants worldwide increases, the number of migrant children and adolescents does so simultaneously, since more than half of all refugees worldwide is comprised of this vulnerable group. Protecting and ensuring their human rights is of utmost importance, particularly targeting children that migrate alone or have been separated from their parents or guardians. As Peru is currently hosting almost two million Venezuelan migrant children due to a severe crisis in Venezuela, their human rights are endangered after a straining way to better life perspectives. Moreover, Venezuelan mixed migration policies increase the pressing risk of statelessness to Venezuelan migrants in the region, which is, beyond doubt, endangering children's right to an adequate standard of living.

Welcoming the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, Peru is standing in full support with its call for global cooperation to combat growing displacement. Together with the *UDHR* in line with the 1990 *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, it guides Peru in its migration policies focussing on the protection of children's rights to ensure their welfare irrespective of their origin. Further, the Republic of Peru stands in full support with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as it plays a pivotal role in enhancing the HRC's dedication to promote migration in a humane and orderly way. Further, Peru is welcoming the Quito Process and its Action Plan as a multilateral initiative together with South American countries to harmonize our domestic migration policies. Looking at the continuing refugee crisis originating in Venezuela and endangering the human rights of many unaccompanied Venezuelan migrant children in Peru and the region, a local Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) led by the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) and the IOM has been founded. As a coordination platform to deal with the refugee crisis, GTRM directly addresses migrant children by conducting campaigns to include them in society. Several initiatives have had positive impact on the situation of unaccompanied migrant children. In this light, a Regional Safe Spaces Network established by the UNHCR and several Peruvian organizations provides a safe shelter for the vulnerable youth, including migrant children, to protect them from human rights violations such as homelessness or trafficking. Another successful campaign has been the #WelcomeThemWithLove campaign led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Latin America, the Embassy of Canada and Peru's Migration Office, which aimed at promoting integration of Venezuelan migrant children in Peru by for instance acknowledging their right to education and integrating them in local schools.

Despite several successful regional and global collaborations to improve the human rights situation of migrant children, ensuring the rights of unaccompanied migrant children remains a challenge due to lacking sufficient data. In order to assess the actual dimension of the problem and ensure all children's welfare, the Republic of Peru urges all Member States to review and advance their data collection on unaccompanied migrant children. Since migration is global and not only a national problem, Peru promotes the establishment of a global platform within the GTRM. This platform is going to aim at improving the exchange of tools and information on gathering reliable and complete data on identifying children migrants' location and their protection needs with a focus on health, nutrition and education.

### **III. The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Severe human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) have been recognized for more than 50 years. Nevertheless, the situation in the oPt tends to become more precarious. This circumstance was triggered by the recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel by the United States of America and the Republic of Guatemala. Ever since, Palestinian protests increased and so did the violation of people's human rights. As a consequence of increased military presence, blockades and punitive demolitions of public institutions, peoples' fundamental human rights to an adequate standard of living, to freedom of peaceful assembly, association and expression are under a constant threat which urgently requires international action.

Since the Republic of Peru has recognized the State of Palestine in 2001 together with 137 Member States, Peru is highly concerned by Israel's actions that seriously threaten and violate human rights of people in the oPt. Guided by the human rights standards declared in the *UDHR*, it is imperative that all people living in the oPt have to be granted their unalienable human rights without any act of violence. The Republic of Peru stands in full support with the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* as well as the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*; both of the Covenants guaranteeing human rights to all people, including those in the oPt. Further, Peru fully supports the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) protecting and providing humanitarian and financial aid to Palestinian refugees within and beyond the oPt.

Highly alarmed by the severe human rights violations in the oPt, the Republic of Peru calls for respect of all fundamental human rights. Seeing the urgent need of protecting people suffering from the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Peru recommends to address the importance of mainstreaming human rights in the oPt by conducting educational campaigns at schools and universities as a collaboration of UNICEF, UNRWA and experienced Non-governmental organizations from different Member States. In order to successfully implement these campaigns, Peru promotes establishing a panel in collaboration with UNICEF and UNRWA to elaborate on this promising approach. Finally, the Republic of Peru wants to stress the urgent need of granting the UNRWA a stable and predictable funding, yet UNRWA relies on the Member States' contributions. This is why Peru recommends the establishment of a working group within the UNRWA composed of regional representatives, being tasked to gather experiences and available tools in order to address the ongoing funding crisis and improve the human rights situation in the oPt.