

# Human Right to Water - from St.Gallen to New York 18.01.2023, University of St.Gallen

## Short biographies

### Pedro Arrojo Agudo

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation.

Pedro Arrojo Agudo was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council in September 2020 and began his mandate in November 2020.

From 2016 to 2019, Arrojo-Agudo was a member of the Spanish Parliament. From 1989 to 2011, he was a professor at the University of Zaragoza in the field of economic analysis. Over the last three decades, he has focused his research and work on the fields of economics and water management, publishing his work in more than 100 scientific articles and 70 books published.



More detailed biography: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-water-and-sanitation/mr-pedro-arrojo-agudo>

### Peter Jans

City Council, St.Gallen

Peter Jans grew up in the city of St.Gallen and has been rooted here for decades. In his younger years, he was involved in the Claro-Weltladen association for fair trade for 10 years. Since 2015, he has been a city councillor and, in his capacity as Director of the Technical Operations of the City of St.Gallen, Vice-President of the Regional Water Supply St.Gallen AG. From 1996 to 2008 and since 2020, he has been a member of the Cantonal Council for the SP. He proposed to the city council to join the "Blue Community" and to introduce a water rapping, which could be realised in 2022.

### Dorothee Spuhler

Researcher, Eawag-Sandec

Dorothee Spuhler was born on the shores of Lake Zurich and water has always been her fascination. As an environmental engineer, she is committed to sustainable development worldwide and looks at the central role of water in particular; as the link between

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civilisation and nature. Today she works at Eawag - the water research institute of the ETH Domain. She is part of the Sanitation and Water for Development department, which conducts research on methods and technologies that promote equitable access to sustainable sanitation, water and solid waste infrastructure and services, especially for low- and middle-income countries.

### **Simon Zbinden**

Head of the Water Section, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

As Head of the Water Section at SDC, a unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Simon Zbinden contributes to international policy processes in the field of resource management, with a vision for systemic change to achieve the sustainability agenda. In this role, he and his team lead a variety of programmes that bring innovation and knowledge to policy makers and practitioners to provide the necessary support to people around the world, especially neglected populations around the world.

Simon Zbinden joined SDC in 2003 and has held various positions in Natural Resource Management, Water Resources and Food Security, both at Headquarters in Bern and in field offices. Simon Zbinden holds a Master of Science in Resource Economics from Cornell University in New York.

### **Gaston Jehle**

Managing Director of the "DRINK & DONATE" non-profit association

DRINK & DONATE stands for the motto "Drink tap water, donate drinking water". The association advocates sustainable consumption of our excellent tap water instead of bottled water transported on roads. In addition, the association enables people to have long-term access to clean drinking water through various concepts.

### **Jeanne Käser**

Student, University of Neuchâtel

Jeanne Käser studies biology in Neuchâtel. Through her studies, her projects and her commitment, she is passionate about the protection of nature in all its forms. River protection is her favourite topic: in recent years she has been working on pesticide pollution in Swiss rivers, for which she won the Swiss Junior Water Prize in 2021. She also campaigns for this issue with various associations, including ProNatura and the Climate Strike. She also runs an exchange project for young activists between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland to save rivers in the Balkans that are threatened by the use of hydropower.

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