

## LETTER TO UN MISSIONS

We, the under-signed organizations, representing civil-society organizations and social movements from around the world, call upon the members of the UN NGO Committee to reject the application of Aquafed, the International Federation of Private Water Operators, for United Nations ECOSOC consultative status at the May 16-24, 2011 session of the committee.

Aquafed is an industry lobby organization created to promote the interests of for-profit water companies. Aquafed violates the criteria for ECOSOC consultative status by not properly being a non-profit and not having accountable, democratic and transparent processes.

The private water companies that Aquafed represents include transnational corporations Veolia, Suez, Agbar, Saur and many other private water companies. Appropriate mechanisms of accountability and democratic and transparent decision-making processes are not uniformly part of the structure of private water companies and it is therefore impossible for Aquafed to claim that it meets these criteria as set out by the United Nations.

Though Aquafed represents itself as a non-profit organization, Aquafed members are some of the largest for-profit organizations in the world. The only criterion for joining Aquafed is that you must be a for-profit private water company. The Committee on NGO's should reject Aquafed's application because Aquafed exclusively represents the interests of for-profit corporations and therefore contravenes the requirement that organizations to be non-profit.

On July 28, 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/64/292 recognizing the human right to water and sanitation.

This resolution was affirmed by the Human Rights Council on September 30, 2010 through resolution A/HRC/15/L.14.

Recognition of the human right to water and sanitation was a historic pronouncement by the United Nations on the obligations that member states bear with respect to water and sanitation.

We, the undersigned representatives of international social movements and civil-society organizations strongly support the member states of the United Nations in passing these resolutions and in the action needed to implement the human right to water and sanitation.

We believe that granting Aquafed consultative status, when it fails to meet the UN's stated criteria, would be seen as support for Aquafed goals of promoting water privatization and commodification.

For these reasons we urge you to reject Aquafed's application.

### Signatories:

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