

# POLITICAL CAFE IN THE BANK WE TRUST

**Testing the water:** How can the right to water and sanitation enhance the World Bank's policy and practice in the sector?



## Testing the water: How can the right to water and sanitation enhance the World Bank's policy and practice in the sector?

**Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 5 pm to 6.45 pm**

**Overflow room for Preston Auditorium,  
World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington D.C.**

In November 2002 the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognized the right to water as a human right. Moreover, the importance of water was acknowledged by nation states in 2000 in the Millennium Declaration, by setting a target for access to safe drinking water. At the Millennium Summit in 2002, access to basic sanitation was included in Target 7c of the Millennium Development Goals.

The World Bank's policies, programmes and projects have never been explicitly or deliberately aimed towards the realisation of human rights. The Bank rather sees its role in creating conditions that allow the attainment of the right to water and sanitation in developing countries. However, in practice the *formal* use of human rights principles can strengthen existing approaches to water supply and sanitation delivery. There are many good reasons for the World Bank to include the right to water and sanitation in an overall package aimed at increasing access to these essential services.

**Please join our 'political cafe': a debate and discussion,  
held just before the World Bank Annual Meetings.  
RSVP by October 6th, 2008 to: [mfi@bothends.org](mailto:mfi@bothends.org)**

### Invited panellists:

- **Mr. Herman Wijffels - Dutch Executive Director to the World Bank;**
- **Ms. Hameda Deedat - Gender, trade and water activist, Umzabalaso We Jubilee;**
- **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala - Managing Director of the World Bank;**
- **Ms. Mary Robinson - Honorary President of Oxfam, former President of the Republic of Ireland, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;**
- **Mr. Donald Kaberuka - President of the African Development Bank Group**

**This political cafe is organised in cooperation with:**



Freshwater Action Network

CENTRE ON  
HOUSING RIGHTS  
AND EVICTIONS



### IN THE BANK WE TRUST

A large sum of the Netherlands' development aid budget is spent by Multilateral Financial Institutions (MFIs), such as the World Bank, the IMF or the Asian Development Bank. Yet the Dutch public is not questioning how these funds are spent. Both ENDS is following the MFI policies with a critical eye, especially where it comes to their activities that impact social- and environmental aspects. Both ENDS' control is a starting point, but the political world and the public could be better informed about MFIs. For this reason, Both ENDS coordinates the MFI Information Centre. This information centre organises four expert meetings and 'political cafes' IN THE BANK WE TRUST a year.

For more information, please check:  
**[www.bothends.org](http://www.bothends.org)**