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Introduction

Water, Sanitation and SDGs in Brazil: challenges, contradictions and governance

Água, Saneamento e ODS no Brasil: desafios, contradições e governança

Halfway through the deadline established in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, which established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this Special Section of *Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente* presents a critical analysis of the implementation of one of these SDGs in Brazil. This edition brings six texts on SDG 6, *Water and Sanitation*, discussing gaps, challenges and possibilities for progress in the ambitious list of 2030 Agenda guidelines on the theme.

As a signatory to this global agenda, Brazil has shown positive results in terms of access to drinking water and in institutional aspects. However, as the official data analyzed in the articles of this special section show, there are important deficits and gaps, especially regarding sanitary sewage and sewage treatment, in guaranteeing access to water as a human right and in management and governance with a focus on present and future generations.

Sub-themes such as the democratization of management, assuring social participation, as well as records of internal and cross-border conflicts and integrated water management are part of both the 8 goals of SDG 6 and the Brazilian laws, as shown by the authors. The elaboration of indicators and the development of robust methodologies to measure them are basic assumptions for the implementation of the SDGs. In this regard, the question that guides the set of articles in this Special Section is: from a critical perspective, how is the current implementation of the SDG 6 goals in Brazil?

Based on transdisciplinary approaches, the texts, in addition to considering inequalities by regions, states, municipalities and social segments, reflect on: the conceptual elements that guide the SDGs, including theses, utopias and management techniques; the environmental injustice in which the themes of water and sanitation are inserted; conflicts over water in Brazil as a case of environmental

injustice; an approach to the indicators of SDG 6 and the need for its improvement; the forms and purposes of valuing the theme of water and women as a goal of SDG 6; the contribution of methodologies such as environmental water accounts to the integrated management of water resources aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to data, the authors present, mainly, concerns and reflections on the fragility of the UN 2030 Agenda and the implementation of national public policies related to the theme SDG 6. They

highlight conceptual, structural and data gaps and the need to strengthen collegiate bodies for participatory management. Finally, they present proposals such as official registration of conflicts, application of water management instruments, attention to extreme climate risks, increase of institutional capacities and opportunities for key actors working on topics related to the guidelines of the SDG agenda.

Enjoy the reading.

The editors