



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Producer: Andrew Paterson  
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### BRAZIL: THE WATER & WASTE WARRIOR

#### INTRO

Clean water for drinking, cooking and washing is beyond the reach of hundreds of millions – and about a third of the world’s population don’t have access to good sanitation. But the sheer scale of the problem doesn’t stop one woman who’s on a mission to see that everyone has safe water. We take you to Brazil.  
(27.28")

#### VIDEO

OPEN WATER FAUCETS  
MONTAGE

MONAGE OF WATER COMING  
FROM TAP/ FILLING WATER IN A  
GLASS/JUG

#### AUDIO

(music)

CATARINA DE ALBUQUERQUE: (In  
English)

*"I think that tap water is the best example or  
a paradigm of democracy. If you ensure  
safe tap water for everyone, say in a city, in  
a country, it means that the pipes are the  
same for the richest person in that city, in*

CATARINA ON CAM

*that country, and for the, the poorest ones. And the quality of the water is the same. So poor and rich -everybody is drinking the same water” (27”)*

MEETING BROLL – TAKING NOTES

NARRATION:

Portuguese law professor Catarina de Albuquerque is the United Nations special rapporteur for safe drinking water and sanitation. She’s determined to make a difference for millions of people living today without this most basic of human rights. (20”)

PLANE / PHOTOS

NARRATION:

Since her position was created by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2008, Catarina’s logged tens of thousands of miles taking this message of inclusion around the world... examining conditions in some of the world’s very poor countries like the island of Tuvalu, and some of its richest, like the United States. (23”)

CATARINA ON CAM

CATARINA DE ALBUQUERQUE: (In English)

*“When I go on mission, I understand that the people don't even know that what we are talking about is a human right, that they are entitled to it. So I try to explain what it*

*means, what it entails” (10”)*

NARRATION:

CATRINA EXPLAINING TO  
PEOPLE IN A ROOM

And what she says, in part, is this... without safe water and sanitation so many other human rights, even the right to life, can be unattainable.

MONTAGE OF WATER COMING  
FROM TAP/SOMEONE WSHING  
HANDS

Water and sanitation should be accessible, affordable, available on a continuous basis... and of course be of quality.

And when these social conditions exist, all of society benefits. (27”)

CATARINA ON CAMERA

CATARINA: (In English)

*“Each dollar that you invest in water and in sanitation, you have a return of at least \$5. For each dollar invested, of productivity that you gain because people are not sick, they go to work, kids go to school, so imagine that money, the amount of money that you, you save, uh just by investing in, in water and, and sanitation.” (22”)*

TRANSITION  
BRASILIA SCENICS / VS  
COUNTRY / AT MAP

NARRATION :

Today, Catarina begins a visit to Brazil in the capital city of Brasilia... part of an eleven-day, five-city tour designed to look at how water and sanitation is reaching people

throughout the country.

The Brazilian government invited her to assess not only what works but also what needs to be improved.

The Rapporteur will make detailed recommendations at the end of her visit. (29")

MORE SCENIC VIDEO OF  
BARAZIL

NARRATION

Nationally, Brazil has shown great improvement in the past decades, in sanitation and access to water.... success resulting from the political will to make these rights a reality. (13")

CATARINA ON CAMERA

CATARINA: (In English)

*"Here in Brazil the, the sweet part of it is that there is money. The investments for sanitation and water are becoming more and more significant - which is good, which is also a sign of prioritization of this area by the government, so that's obviously important."* (18")

CATARINA: (In English)

*"There is a national plan and I think that adopting a national plan is the first step to implementing the rights."* (6")

MONTAGE/ CATARINA STEPPING  
OUT OF CAR

NARRATION:

Maintaining a near-impossible schedule...  
Catarina walks Brazil's halls of power...  
keeping appointments at the Foreign  
Ministry... and the Attorney General's  
office... (10")

CATARINA AT JUSTICE DEPT

CATARINA: (In English)

*"It's an impressive building isn't it?" (2")*

CATARINA IN MEETING ROOM

NARRATION:

As well attending multiple meetings with  
other agencies, all with a hand in the  
development of water and sanitation policy.

She's happy to do the work ... even if the  
work is for free. (11")

CATARINA IN MEETINGS

CATARINA: (in English)

*Normally it's busy because we do this all  
pro bono so it's on my free time on the one  
hand and on the other hand you want to do  
as much as possible. (10")*

NARRATION:

BACK OF TRUCK

The only things that slow her down are life's  
necessities. (4")

CATARINA ON PHONE IN CAR

CATARINA: (in English)

*"If I don't sleep, then I'm in a bad humor and  
then it doesn't work. And if I don't eat, it's*

*the same.” (5”)*

CATARINA TALKING TO  
SOMEONE IN A MEETING

NARRATION:

Meeting after meeting Catarina listens intently at first... and then guides the conversation to what concerns her most.

Catarina seeks to gain insights which she will use in her final report. (13”)

CATARINA: (In English)

*“It’s about selling a product, the human right to water and sanitation. I want to captivate people so that they understand and they get convinced that by using the human rights framework in their work or in water and sanitation, they will do a better job, and they will be better able to serve the people they are meant to serve” (22”)*

CATARINA VISITING SITES

NARRATION:

But her visits are much more than a series of meetings... Catarina goes to learn firsthand how people live. (10”)

VS SOBRADINHO

NARRATION:

Sobradinho lies on the outskirts of Brasilia... an impoverished neighborhood... people here struggle to make ends meet.

But it recently was connected to piped water

and sewerage improving the community's well-being and health. (14")

#### CATARINA WITH RESIDENTS

##### NARRATION:

During a brief tour residents tell Catarina not only of their hardships...

But also about their pride in the quality of their water.

And yet, can they afford it?! (11")

##### CATARINA: *(In English)*

*"It's too much, between ten and twenty-five percent of the household income." (4")*

#### CATARINA WITH RESIDENTS

##### NARRATION:

News of her visit spreads quickly and people gravitate to this small shop... water bills in hand.

It's a scene Catarina knows all too well. People want help tackling the high cost of their water. (14")

##### CATARINA: *(in English)*

#### CATARINA ON CAMERA

*"You realize the hopes that they have. But I always say, being a Rapporteur is living with frustration. That's what I do! So you see how much hope people have in you and of course, you try to do what you can, but then*

*the success depends on the follow up that you manage to have after you leave.” (25”)*

PLANE TRANSITION

NARRATION:

Working on the go Catarina moves on to the next phase of her visit to Brazil...(6”)

TIMELAPSE

NARRATION:

Rio de Janeiro... (2”)

BEACHES

NARRATION:

Already a tourist destination with its beaches...

Rio is getting ready for its close-up, its moment on the world stage...

SOUVENIR STORE

First hosting the 2014 Football World Cup...

OLYMPIC FLAGS

And then the summer Olympics, two years later.

CONSTRUCTION / PIPES

Serious investments are being made in the city, including in the area of water and wastewater.

STREET SCENES

But not everyone here experiences the city's prosperity the same way. (28”)

WS FAVELA

NARRATION:

Nearly 1.4 million people live in favelas, the

informal settlements and hillside slums that dot Rio's landscape.

People like Avanise Melo... an unemployed, single mother of six. (18")

AVANISE ON CAMERA

AVANISE: (In Portuguese)

*"Life here is what you're seeing – precarious. We are forgotten" (7")*

NARRATION:

Avanise and her family get their water from the haphazard PVC piping that runs throughout this community, known as Complexo do Alemão.

Some days though, she says no water flows... so she fills these makeshift reservoirs for back up. (18")

AVANISE ON CAMERA

AVANISE: (in Portuguese)

*"When the water is coming out of the tap, I wash dishes in the sink. But when it's not coming, I go to the pre-filled tank and grab it with a bucket." (13")*

NARRATION:

For years Complexo do Alemão, was controlled by drug gangs.

But in November 2010 the police raided the

area.

## MARKET / CONSTRUCTION

These pacification efforts, as they're known, increased safety in the favela – enabling improvements to infrastructure and increasing connections to city systems. (20")

## ALICIANA IN HER HOME

### NARRATION:

Aliciana Silva lives with her husband, an unemployed mason, and her 13-year old son. They've seen the benefits of the city's police action in Alemão... (10")

### ALICIANA SILVA: (in Portuguese)

*"Thank God, with this pacification, we no longer see those armed men shooting." (5")*

### NARRATION:

But she too remains frustrated by her erratic water service... with random stoppages at least twice a week, despite the small fee she pays. (10")

### ALICIANA SILVA: (In Portuguese)

*"I don't think it's too much because water is so essential in life. I don't think it is too much. But if a pipe breaks, we have to fix it ourselves. We have to pay everything, you know. If there's something to do, my husband has to fix it." (15")*

NARRATION:

And there's plenty of broken pvc pipe around here as Edson Gomes shows Catarina during her visit.

He's president and founder of a local non-governmental organization.

NAT SOT

He says much of Alemao's access to the water company's tanks is basically self-service. (20")

EDSON ON CAMERA

EDSON GOMES: (in Portuguese)

*"The pipes you have seen throughout the community, when it's not the very same resident who makes it, it is usually the residents' association, just to gain access to these sources.*

*It is irregular but we don't consider it illegal. Because it would be worse to die of thirst."*  
(23")

TRANSITION RAIN

CARS ON WET RAINY STREETS

NARRATION:

In Baixada Fluminense, another low-income area just outside Rio's city limits ... Catarina learns of similar complaints.

CATARINA LISTENING TO  
COMPLAINTS OF RESIDENTS

She hears about not enough water reaching  
residents through the pipes ...

And witnesses what happens when too  
much water falls from the sky. (20")

CATARINA: (In English)

*"The sewage mixing the rain water and  
filling the streets where people had to walk  
uh, to catch a bus, to go to work, or to go to  
school." (10")*

PROFILE SHOT CATARINA  
CLIMBING HILLSIDE STEPS

NARRATION:

Climbing the hillside steps of Complexo do  
Alemão, Catarina notices more of the rain's  
aftermath - hard to miss even if you can't  
see it. (9")

CATARINA IN ALEMAO

CATARINA: (In English)

*"Of course the smell is unbearable and  
when you talk with the population they say  
that the kids have skin diseases, there are  
problems of water born diseases etc, of  
course, it's all over the place" (11")*

ALCIANA ON CAMERA

ALICIANA SILVA: (In Portuguese)

*"There's sewage up here that keeps running  
right towards my house. If you go back,  
there's a terrible bad smell over there" (9")*

(NAT -shoveling)

NARRATION:

Catarina believes proactive measures must be taken to eliminate inequalities and reach the people in Complexo do Alemão and Baixada Fluminense.

She acknowledges the Government efforts and investments but she wants more to be done as the current situation is unacceptable. (18”)

CATARINA ON CAMERA

CATARINA :*(In English)*

*“The money’s here. The possibility to do things is a reality. But then somehow people not only don’t get access to water, they don’t have sewage, so what are you doing? You are killing the people. You are slowly killing the people. You are reducing their life expectancy, you are sending them to hospital. You are making sure that kids have diarrhea and other diseases and they cannot go to school.” (26”)*

CATARINA IN A MEETING ROOM  
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE STATE

NARRATION:

And so when Catarina meets with representatives of the state water company and sanitation regulators... people intent on telling her about their newest projects and biggest achievements...she again asks about access to water and sanitation for the

poorest ... people like Avanise and Aliciana.  
(19”)

CATARINA: (in English)

*“Many of the people working on water and sanitation, they are not human rights people. They are engineers and they think about pipes, they think about taps, they think about technology, they think about leakages, they think about connections and disconnections, and that’s what they think about then you put a human face to their work. And I think it makes them think differently.” (21”)*

NARRATION:

Luigi Troisi, a Vice President with the state agency regulating sanitation was at the meeting.

While the city falls outside his agency’s jurisdiction at the moment... he believes the future looks bright. (12”)

LUIGI TROISI: (in Portuguese)

*This is Rio de Janeiro’s time. I think the Olympic games in particular will help “Attract greater investments to the city and basic sanitation will certainly benefit from this.” (20”)*

REGULATOR LUIGI ON CAMERA

CATARINA ON CAMERA

CATARINA: (in English)

*“Yes, It’s about investments and it’s about well, where do you put your money. Where are your priorities?” (6”)*

NARRATION:

At the end of her trip, and after meeting again with government officials, Catarina gives her preliminary conclusions to the press. (8”)

NARRATION:

Her full report will be shared with the Brazilian government before being presented to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. (7”)

COVER BACK HALF OF  
CATARINA OUT IN FIELD WITH  
PEOPLE (SLOWMO FACES)

CATARINA: (In English)

*“I think these missions are hard, because - oops (points to teary eye) no the missions are hard because you see the injustice and it's um, how shall I say it, you don't understand how it is possible that people live in these conditions And it's the faces that then guide me when I'm preparing recommendations. What is this all about? “What is human rights about? It's about the people.” (34”)*

CATARINA VISITING SITES WITH  
RESIDENTS

NARRATION:

Independent experts, like Catarina, can view these situations with a critical eye,

bringing insights from multiple international visits and helping to make a difference.

In Brazil, in spite of significant progress and political will, people are still fighting for the right to safe water and clean sanitation.

Catarina believes that nobody should be left behind. (24”)

CATARINA: *(In English)*

*“They want it for themselves and they want it for their kids. and they believe it is possible and it is possible .It is within reach”. (5.5”)*