**Transcription from Participant Observation notes**

Site: Streets of Santo Domingo

Type of event: Assembly of the Water Defence Committee

Duration: 105 minutes

Date and time: 25 November, 2022. From 18:00 to 19:45 hrs

Additional notes (in addition to field notes): In this assembly I hand out information sheets to participants and start recruiting potential participants

Observer: A

I arrive in Santo Domingo and walk down Tetl street at 6 pm and head towards the place of the assemblies. I walk and see that in Mixtli there is a sound like music, and apparently a procession. I keep walking as there is no time to stop and I approach the assembly. On the street I see shops selling clothes, shoes, snacks, prepared food, cleaning supplies, cigarettes, T-shirts, and tacos. I turn around and continue walking as I approach the meeting place.

As I arrive, I greet people from the commission, and Waldo asks me if I brought the information sheets and consent forms. I found out about this meeting, and the meeting I had earlier with people from the government, through two WhatsApp messages Waldo sent me. In his WhatsApps he told me what each meeting was about, where to see people, what time to see them and what to bring. He asked me to bring the sheets on which we register the list of participants who sign in. I told Waldo that I had brought the information sheets. He proposes that today we invite volunteers to sign up for the interviews. We will make the request for this, and the people will give me their number and contact information so that I can arrange a date, time and place for the interview. Martina and Juan discuss with Waldo how the meeting went and the organisation of dates for future activities. Martina explains how the talk with the water system (SACMEX) engineers went.

The meeting begins. I see a group of about 40 people, of which I recognise a number of people I have seen in previous meetings. I see again more women than men in the meeting. The meeting begins with information about the people who went to the meeting with SACMEX engineers. Martina begins speaking, who gives her explanation of how the meeting went and comments that it was decided to postpone the pouring to Monday, and invites the neighbours to be there on Monday at 11:40 am at the well site, where the engineers will explain how the connection works and show the construction. This is so that there are no doubts about how it will work. Juan takes the floor, who again invites to this activity on Monday and says that the meeting was generally positive. He says that the progress of the well is sufficient and it will be completed on time. He says that on Monday it is important for everyone to be there. Tita then took the floor and again invited everyone to attend. She comments that the well has been an achievement of all the neighbours and that it would be very good for them to be there on Monday. She says that this is thanks to the effort and struggle of everyone. Waldo comments that it will be good to be there on Monday, as this way there will be no doubts or bad comments related to another neighbourhood or another construction. This will help to make it known that the water is for Santo Domingo. And more specifically, for central Santo Domingo. It says the streets that will cover the area benefited by the well. These streets delimit the area that will benefit from more water when the well is completed. It is not the whole neighbourhood, but a specific area. I wonder if all the people who come to this group are from this specific area of the neighbourhood, but there are people who come from other streets. It seems to me that there are people who support the construction of this well, even if they are not part of this area.

Then the issue is raised that some groups have been opposing the well. Waldo says that these groups have been spreading rumours that the well is to bring water to the Azteca Stadium remodelling project. He says that this well is for Santo Domingo, and that if other groups want to blame someone for the Azteca stadium and its consequences, they should complain to the head of government and not to the neighbours of Santo Domingo. The neighbours are not to blame for the construction of the stadium, and the water is only for them and for the neighbourhood. Then he talks about the issue of the adjacent neighbours. The government should fix that problem and it is not the responsibility of the neighbourhood group. He says that the neighbours have asked the government to resolve the situation. If the government does not resolve what they have done wrong as authorities, the adjoining neighbours would be upset. If that happens, the invitation is to support the adjoining neighbours as a Committee. Waldo says that it would be very negative for their efforts and their struggle if it ends in a conflict with the neighbours. That would be detrimental, even though they have the well. That is why they will support these neighbours if necessary. He comments that the government lies and divides, and that this is how they have harmed the neighbours, with their bad administration.

I then take the floor and ask for volunteers who are interested in participating in my research. Waldo supports me by first explaining that volunteers are needed for my study and that they need to approach me if they want to participate. Between 20 and 25 people are required for the study. Waldo comments that it would be good to have the interviews before the well connection is started. I say that participation in this is voluntary, and that those interested should approach me. I explain that I will give them an information sheet, which has my information and my telephone number on it, so that they can read it and ask me all their questions. We ask for a show of hands for those who want to participate. I give them the information sheet and take their names and contact number. I go around and ask who wants to participate. I hand out the sheets and give people pens to sign up. People ask me if they can participate at any age, or if they can participate at any level of participation and experience. I tell them that anyone who is interested can participate without any problem. I tell them that I will write or call them so that we can get together and meet for the interviews. After I hand out the sheets, the meeting ends.

At the end, some other people come up to me to sign up. I go home and I feel that the meeting has been very positive and the progress was quite good. In total 18 people signed up, and I think this will help to gradually get more and more people who are interested.