**Transcription from Participant Observation notes**

Site: Offices of Citizen Participation and Consultation of Mexico City

Type of event: Meeting with staff from the Mexico City Government and SACMEX (Mexico City Water System)

Duration: One hour

Date and time: 25 November, 2022. From 14:05 to 15:10

Additional notes (in addition to field notes): First time I am invited to a meeting with local government people as part of the fieldwork.

Observer: A

On this day, I arrive at 14:05 at a Mexico City government office, where I will be accompanying a group from the Water Defence Committee. When I arrive, I inform the comrades who are inside via WhatsApp, and Beni comes downstairs to pick me up. I accompany him to the first floor where Martina and Juan are also there. Inside the room there are also people from SACMEX. We introduce ourselves and register our names on a sheet of paper. Waldo couldn't come, but he gave me instructions on how to get there, and at the end of the meeting he had a phone call with Beni, who told him what they had talked about.

The meeting begins and a person from SACMEX explains the progress of the work. He says that this well has already been connected to the local network pipe. He also explains that with this, the concrete can now be poured to cover the work, and the construction work will soon be completed. Martina asks for the floor and asks a question. She comments that they should have told them when the connection would be made, as it was an agreement with the neighbours that they would be told when the well would be connected to the network so that they could all see it. The engineer concludes his explanation. Beni then also takes the floor and asks a question about the issue. The problem apparently, and what the neighbours are most interested in, is that there should be transparency and clarity in front of the whole community that the information they are presenting is true for them. Also that the neighbours can see and testify that the well is connected to the Santo Domingo network, and that it is not to take the water elsewhere. One of the government members comments that they can do this so that people who don't trust the committee can believe them, and I notice a certain irony and sarcasm in his comment. Beni talks more about the need for clarity and transparency. Beni comments that this will be good for the neighbours to know that the water is not to be taken elsewhere, but for Santo Domingo.

It is agreed to postpone the pouring for a few days and that on Monday the whole community will be invited to see that the connection has been made, and that they can ask questions. The day and time of this event are agreed upon, and the importance of holding it so that the neighbours can be confident that everything has been done correctly is commented upon. They comment that they want to be clear about what the well is for. An engineer explains how the water cannot be taken elsewhere, as this is directly for the pipeline that helps Santo Domingo, especially to specific streets. He explains that this work will give more water to an area of Santo Domingo mentioning the streets that delimit the benefited area. This speaks to how this Committee and its campaigns relate to benefiting specific areas of the neighbourhood. Martina asks for his name, and she is taking a lot of notes. After agreeing on the date of the day that the explanation will be given to the neighbours, and the importance of doing so, they move on to the next topic.

The first topic of the meeting was very technical, but this second topic is social. The subject of "adjoining neighbours" is discussed. They tell the attendees that there will be a tour of SACMEX and the government of the Mayor's Office in which they will decide how to support the "damages" they have had. It is commented that the Committee is not directly involved in this, but that they will support the neighbours, and also talk to them if necessary. They say that they are different groups, and that the neighbours were opposed to the well while they, the Water Defence Committee, supported it. They say that these neighbours have little or no relationship with the Committee, which has always fought for the well. The members of the Committee say that whatever has to be done with the adjoining neighbours is different from any dealings with them as a committee, as they are not responsible for the agreements that are made with the adjoining neighbours of the well.

The forms of communication and the date of the next meeting to follow up are agreed upon. The issue of the adjoining neighbours shows that it is not so easy to talk about a uniform representation of the neighbourhood. We leave and Tita is outside the building. Martina says goodbye to us. We will meet again later, as there will be a meeting of the Committee in Santo Domingo where they will share this information with the other neighbours.