SPECIAL PROCEDURES
UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

A/79/176

Access to information on climate change and human rights



Version for Children

2025

You can access the original version of this report in this link

What is this report about?

This report explains how good information keeps people safe, makes decisions fair, and protects everyone's rights – especially those most affected by climate change. Over 90 experts and communities shared ideas for this report.



Why is information important?

1. The right to access information is an important human right. It helps people understand how climate change affects their lives, homes, schools, health and future.
2. Having information on what governments and businesses are doing lets people speak up, take action and stay safe.
3. True information based on science ensures people are not confused by false facts.
4. It is important for schools to provide children clear and trustworthy information about climate change and human rights in a way that also supports their mental well-being.

What stops people from getting information?

Some laws make it hard to get information on climate change and human rights. These should be changed so people can access information and seek help if their rights are harmed.

Even when information is available, some people can't access it because of things like poverty, lack of education, or lack of internet connection. Governments should use different ways to share this information, so no one is left out.

Information can sometimes be written in a way that local communities don't understand, it should be available in different languages. It should also be available in child-friendly versions.

Found a tricky word?
Words highlighted in yellow can be found with an explanation in the 'glossary' at the end of this document!

What information?

What information do people need?

People need information about the causes of **climate change** and how it affects their health, homes and future. They should also know about government plans and how they will protect people from harm.

What information is missing and why?

In some places, there isn't enough information to show how **climate change** is getting worse.

War can make it difficult to get information.

Some important information, like how the communities at the highest risk are being affected, is often missing.

What happens when people don't get information?

If information is missing, communities, local governments, and **non-governmental organisations** cannot properly prepare, leading to slow responses, weak **disaster warnings**, and unfair laws about climate change.

People can lose their homes and face life-threatening risks.

People who have to leave their homes because of disasters don't always know their rights or where they can go.

How to solve this?

Governments must work together, share climate information and help local communities watch for climate risks and human rights issues.

Local groups can collect information, share them in local languages, and use social media to let more people know about the information they find.

Local people's knowledge should help us understand the current changes. **Satellites** should be used to monitor and respond to **climate change.**

Schools should teach children how their rights can be best protected from climate change.

Why should we all work together?

Because climate change is a global problem affecting everyone. Countries, organisations, and scientists must work together! Some countries have caused climate change much more than others, and should help the countries that did the least to cause climate change, but are affected by it the most.

Why is this important?

Protecting people's rights

Governments and **businesses** should take responsibility for the damage they cause to the environment. This is easier when information is shared.

Finding solutions

By sharing information, countries and people can work together and learn from each other. This can help them find the best solutions possible.

How can we improve?

What should the government do?

1. Protect climate activists and journalists: Many people who speak out are being attacked or silenced. These activists are important as they are human rights defenders and governments need to ensure their protection.

2. Make digital spaces fair: Some activists do not have access to online platforms and so may be left out of important conversations about climate change. They should have equal access to share their voices and opinions. Digital spaces also have to be safe and inclusive for the children.

3. Listen to local communities: Listen to those most affected, including Indigenous Peoples, and rely on their experiences to make better decisions.

4. Prioritise: States should identify where progress is needed the most and work on gathering information in these areas first.

5. Governments must share information in a clear way so we can all work together to find solutions.

6. Protect from false information: Some companies spread lies about climate change so they don't lose money. Governments must make sure people get the truth.

What should the businesses do?

1. Stop "green washing": Stop lying about being eco-friendly without really doing anything.

2. Protect climate activists: Do not attack people who are trying to speak out about climate change.

3. Tell the truth about the pollution they cause: Share information about their climate impact.

4. Make information easy to understand: Businesses should explain their climate impact in simple language so everyone can see if they are truly helping.

If companies are honest and responsible, people can make better choices about what they buy and support.

Find links to more interesting information at the bottom of this document!



Glossary

Activist - A person who speaks up and takes action to make the world a better place—like fighting for the environment or human rights. Activists can be children or adults.

Climate Change - A long-term change in the Earth's normal weather patterns, mainly caused by pollution from things like cars, factories, and the cutting down of forests. It leads to problems like rising temperatures and sea levels, stronger storms, floods, and droughts, which can harm people, animals, and the planet.

Digital Space - Any place where people connect or share information using the internet, like websites, apps, social media, or online games.

Disaster Warning - An alert that tells people about a possible natural disaster—like a flood, storm, or heatwave—so they can get ready and stay safe.

Greenwashing - When companies or governments pretend to be environmentally friendly, but they are not really taking serious action to protect the planet. They try to look like they are environmentally friendly or "green" without actually doing the work.

Poverty - When people don't have enough money or resources to meet their basic needs, like food, clean water, a safe home, or education. Poverty makes it harder for people to stay healthy and safe, especially during climate disasters.

Priority - Something that is very important and needs to be done first.

Business - When people sell things to make money.

Non-governmal organisation - Organized group helping people in need without expecting money back.

Satellite - Machines we send into space, they help us get information by taking pictures of the earth

Pollution - When something is added to the environment that is harmful.

Interested?

Here you can find extra links to learn more!

NASA Climate Kids
A guide to climate change for children
https://climatekids.nasa.gov/

Climate Basics for Kids
Resources to understand the science behind climate change, the impacts of a changing climate, and how you can help slow climate change and prepare for it
https://www.c2es.org/content/climate-basics-for-kids/

General Comment No.26
United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's child-friendly report on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/crc/gcomments/gc26/2023/GC26-Child-Friendly-Version_English.pdf

Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change
https://www.ohchr.org/en/specialprocedures/sr-climate-change

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