# Submission from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Cooperation with other international organizations

**30 September 2025**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Cooperation with other international organizations.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Human Rights Council (HRC) work to highlight the links between climate change and human rights. OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms it supports have repeatedly called for a human rights-based approach to guide global climate change policies and action. The HRC stresses the importance of addressing human rights in the context of discussions related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The first direct reference to human rights in the context of the UNFCCC was made when decision 1/CP.16 (2010) referred to HRC resolution 10/4, which recognizes the adverse effects of climate change on the effective enjoyment of human rights and calls upon States to ensure respect for human rights in their climate actions. The Preamble to the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (1/CP.21) expands upon this language calling on States, when taking action to address climate change, to "respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights".

The HRC has highlighted the importance of addressing human rights in the context of ongoing discussions related to the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. OHCHR has repeatedly made the results of HRC debates, studies and activities available to the sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

OHCHR's website includes a list of actions that OHCHR has conducted to highlight the importance of mainstreaming human rights in climate action at COPs. It also includes a compilation of OHCHR submissions to the UNFCCC and related mechanisms.

In this sense, OHCHR highlights the importance of cooperation to ensure a coherent and consistent approach to climate action. This includes through engagement with relevant HRC mechanisms (for instance the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change established by HRC resolution 48/14),[1] and engagement with OHCHR.[2]

[1] See e.g. paragraph 1.d) which mandates the Special Rapporteur to promote and exchange views on lessons learned and best practices related to the adoption of human rights-based, gender-responsive, age-sensitive, disability-inclusive and risk-informed approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which could help in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 13 and 14, to address the economic, cultural, environmental and social challenges that climate change poses for the full enjoyment of human rights for all and in particular to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of people in vulnerable situations to respond to the adverse impact of climate change.

[2] See e.g. in the context of migration and climate change A/HRC/RES/35/20 para.10, which requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize an intersessional panel discussion prior to the commencement of phase II of the intergovernmental process leading to the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration, with the theme "Human rights, climate change, migrants and persons displaced across international

Enhanced collaboration between OHCHR and the UNFCCC can support implementation of a human rights-based approach to climate action leading to better and more sustainable outcomes for people and planet. Exchanges that could build on this further include cooperation with other MEA secretariats on human rights issues as a matter of cross-cutting concern. Relevant resources and instances of past collaboration include:

- OHCHR, the UNFCCC Secretariat and the PCCB jointly developed an online introduction course on climate change and human rights which is hosted by UNITAR;
- OHCHR and UNFCCC co-chair an informal UN Advisory Group on Observer Participation in Climate-Related Negotiations ;
- OHCHR worked with the PCCB to organize Capacities for Rights-based Climate Action Day | 5th Capacity-Building Hub; and,
- OHCHR has made numerous submissions to the UNFCCC and related mechanisms.

Additional relevant reports and recommendations on human rights and climate action by OHCHR and HRC mechanisms include, but are not limited to:

- A/HRC/60/95: Climate justice, sustainability and the right to development - Thematic study by the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development;
- A/HRC/60/52: Synthesis report on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to just transition and the full realization of human rights for all people - Report of the Secretary-General;
- A/HRC/59/42: The imperative of defossilizing our economies - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change;
- A/HRC/59/51: Weathering the storm: poverty, climate change and social protection Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights;
- A/HRC/58/51: Understanding the landscape of climate finance, debt, tax and illicit financial flows and human rights – Thematic report by the Independent expert on foreign debt;
- A/HRC/57/30: Analytical study on the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, exploring equity-based approaches and solutions to addressing the same – Report of the Secretary General;
- A/HRC/55/37: Measures for minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

borders", focusing on challenges and opportunities in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights of migrants and persons displaced across international borders in the context of the adverse impact of climate change, and invites the participation of States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations agencies, relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council and other relevant bodies such as the subsidiary bodies and constituent mechanisms, including the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Meteorological Organization, as well as other relevant stakeholders with appropriate expertise, including national human rights institutions.

- A/HRC/56/55: Investors, environmental, social and governance approaches and human rights – Report by the Working Group on business and human rights;
- A/HRC/54/31: Green financing – a just transition to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- A/HRC/53/47: Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food - Report of the Secretary-General;
- A/HRC/52/28: Towards a just transformation: climate crisis and the right to adequate housing – Report by the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing;
- A/HRC/50/57: The impacts of climate change on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations – Report of the Secretary General;
- A/HRC/47/46: Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons in the context of climate change - Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- A/HRC/44/30: Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change – Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- A/HRC/41/26: Analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women – Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- A/HRC/38/21: Addressing human rights protection gaps in the context of migration and displacement of persons across international borders resulting from the adverse effects of climate change and supporting the adaptation and mitigation plans of developing countries to bridge the protection gaps -Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- A/HRC/35/13: Analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of the child - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- A/HRC/32/23: Analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- A/80/188: A human rights-based approach to the energy transition – Report by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change;
- A/80/114: Tipping points: human rights defenders, climate change and a just transition – Report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;
- A/78/155: Extractive sector, just transition and human rights – Report by the Working Group on business and human rights;
- A/70/287: Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food on the adverse impact of climate change on the right to food;
- Policy Brief: Mobilizing Trillions for the Global South: The Imperative of Human Rights-based Climate Finance by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment;
- Policy Brief: "Human Rights-Based Finance for the Environment";
- Key Messages on a Just Transition and Human Rights;

- Information note on climate change and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the Working Group on business and human rights;
- OHCHR guidance on integrating human rights in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance;
- OHCHR key messages on human rights and climate change;
- Country visit reports by Special Procedures which include country-specific recommendations for addressing climate change, such as:
    - Reports by the Special Rapporteur on climate change on country visits to Vanuatu A/HRC/59/42/Add.1; Philippines A/HRC/56/46/Add.2; Honduras A/HRC/56/46/Add.1; and Bangladesh A/HRC/53/34/Add..
    - Reports by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment on country visits to Chile, Botswana, Slovenia, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, Fiji, Mongolia, Uruguay, Madagascar, France and Costa Rica: https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-environment/country-visits
    - Report by the Working Group on business and human rights on its country visit to Japan - A/HRC/56/55/Add.1