The 12th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the Mandate and Programme of Work –
Consideration of Thematic Studies
Palais des Nations, Room XVI, Geneva

Climate finance: vulnerability and responsibility

Monday 27 October 2025, 15:00–16:00

Concept Note
Presented by Isabelle Durant

Introduction

Climate change is an existential planetary threat and a shared concern of humanity, posing profound challenges to human rights, particularly to the right to development.

Integrating climate justice principles into just transition processes enables societies to establish more inclusive and equitable pathways toward sustainable development. However, a just transition cannot remain a theoretical concept; it must be underpinned by robust and specific climate finance mechanisms. These mechanisms can play an important role in upholding the right to development, a fundamental right of both communities and individuals who are increasingly and disproportionately impacted by climate change and threatened by the reduction of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that has been announced and decided by a number of developed countries.

The EMRTD study on "Climate Finance: Vulnerability and Responsibility" will be presented and discussed in the 12th session of the EMRTD. It examines the implementation of mechanisms enshrined in the Kyoto Protocol under the principle of "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities". It highlights particularly Article 6 of the Paris Agreement recently revised and operationalised concerning the carbon markets.

Purpose

The aim of this study is to identify how and under what conditions these initiatives can generate additional resources and revenues to finance a just transition and the necessary adaptation to climate change in accordance with the principles of the right to development, emphasizing participation, human-centered development, transparency, equality, and sustainability.

Guiding Questions

Based on their experiences and expertise, the following questions can guide the panelists in developing their comments on, and analysis of the study and the topic it addresses. It is not expected that panelists address all questions but solely those that may resonate more with them:

1. In your opinion, what safeguards should be put in place to develop a credible and transparent method for assessing avoided CO2 emissions? How can the reliability and quality of carbon credits be improved, thereby enabling access to the European Union Emission Trading System (EU ETS) in the future?

2. How do you assess the potential of carbon credits to monetize repositories? Do you believe that carbon prices and carbon market could pool critical finance for conservation, energy transition and climate adaptation and resilience? Can carbon markets become game changers?

3. How to ensure respect, participation, and access to benefits for local communities, particularly indigenous peoples?

4. Do you consider that the conditions listed in the study for guaranteeing a price per ton of carbon and an income that could contribute to financing the transition and sustainable development are realistic, sufficient and achievable by developing countries? Which are the respective responsibilities of public authorities of low emitters and developing countries and those of the high emitters and industrialized countries?

5. How do you think we can accelerate the widespread adoption of clean cooking? What do you think should be the priorities guiding initiatives and investments in this area?

6. Part of the climate transition relies on the use of digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (in the fields of energy, transportation, robotics, and low-carbon products). How do you assess the relationship between the carbon cost of these technologies and their contribution to the climate transition? To which conditions could the developing countries have access to these technologies for their adaptation and the developed countries for their mitigation?

Expected Outcomes

1. The panel is expected to generate actionable recommendations for climate finance mechanisms to support the right to development, especially through transparent and equitable carbon markets.

2. It will emphasize the integration of climate justice principles into just transition strategies, ensuring inclusive participation and benefits for vulnerable communities.

3. Insights from the discussion will contribute directly to strengthening the EMRTD study and guiding future advocacy for sustainable and fair climate adaptation financing.

* * * * *