Delivering on the Paris Promises

opportunities to address linkages between human rights and climate change at COP-24

#Katowice4Rights
#70udhr
Importance of human rights in climate policies

- Public participation and collective design of climate policies ensure that climate policies are more effective and strengthened by local support.

- Empowerment of men and women to contribute to climate action.

- Considering the right to development and social and economic rights is key to a just transition and to leaving “no one behind” through the decarbonization of the economy.

- Establishing adequate social and environmental safeguards guarantees that projects implemented in the name of climate action benefits local communities and contribute to sustainable development.
Example: Land tenure rights and carbon sequestration

Research focusing on relation between land tenure and forest rights for indigenous peoples and local communities in 14 forests-rich countries

Key findings:

1. When Indigenous Peoples and local communities have no or weak legal rights, their forests tend to be vulnerable to deforestation and thus become the source of carbon dioxide emissions.

2. Legal forest rights for communities and government protection of their rights tend to lower carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation.

3. Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal forest rights maintain or improve their forests’ carbon storage.
Linkages between Human Rights and Ambition

- Ambition and equity are required to guarantee the ability of all states to protect the rights of their people.

Human Rights Frameworks

- Land tenure rights are key to carbon sequestration.
- Public participation and traditional knowledge strengthens design of policies.
- Empowerment of communities increase engagement and support.

Climate Ambition

Prevents human rights impacts

Increase effectiveness of action and support for urgent action
The “Paris Spirit”

- Human Rights
- Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Food Security
- Equity & Ambition
- Gender Equality
- Just Transition
- Public Participation

100% FUTURE
References to human rights under the UNFCCC

- **Cancun Agreements**
  Parties should, in all climate related actions, fully respect human rights.

- **REDD+ Safeguards**

- **Paris Agreement**
  Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights

- **Mandate for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building**

- **Gender Action Plan**

- **Operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform**

- **Implementation Guidelines**

**Timeline:**
- 2010: Cancun Agreements
- 2015: Paris Agreement
- 2016: Mandate for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building
- 2017: Gender Action Plan
- 2018: Implementation Guidelines
What role for COP-24?
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Recognition of the need for more ambition

- Release of IPCC Special Report on 1.5ºC of Global Warming in October
- Facilitative dialogue throughout 2018 regarding climate ambition (incl. high level panels in Katowice)

What outcomes at COP-24?
Parties must endorse the call for an urgent increase of ambition and commit to basing their future commitments on the latest science
Human Rights and the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

NDCs
Invitation to share information regarding participatory processes and the integration of human rights in the planning of their NDCs.

Virtuous learning cycles

GST

Transparency

NDCs
Human Rights and the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

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   Sharing by Parties of their national experience related to human rights aspects of climate policies

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3. **Global Stocktake**
   Collective assessment of progress and lessons learned related to the incorporation of human rights in climate action.

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4. **Article 6 Mechanisms**
   Ensure that establishment of adequate safeguards to guarantee the social and environmental integrity of the mechanisms

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Virtuous learning cycles
Incorporation of human rights considerations under the Paris Agreement

Integrating human rights considerations in the implementation of the Paris Agreement would:

- Strengthen **effectiveness** of climate action and **empower communities** to contribute to policies
- Promote **policy coherence and synergies** between climate action and the promotion
- Enhance **public support** for climate policies

Integrating human rights considerations in the implementation of the Paris Agreement would not:

- Create new obligations beyond those already provided in the human rights framework
- Impose human rights frameworks that States have chose not to recognize
- Lead to any comprehensive review by UNFCCC bodies of human rights compliance
Beyond the Implementation Guidelines

• Operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
  – Process launched in 2015 with great progress at COP-23
  – Objective at COP-24: ensure the full operationalization of the platform in a manner that respects the 5 guiding principles put forward by indigenous peoples

• Committing to a Just Transition
  – Proposal by the Polish presidency of the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration reflecting importance of representative social dialogue
  – Objective at COP-24: States endorse the declaration and reflect its elements in relevant COP agenda items
Civil and political rights during the COP-24

Civil and political rights must be fully guaranteed at the COP-24

• Throughout the negotiation process:
  – maintaining a transparent negotiations
  – enabling civil society to participate effectively

• In the host city: strong concerns voiced regarding the Polish bill on the hosting of the COP-24
  – Exceptional ban on spontaneous demonstrations throughout the COP
  – Additional police powers to gather information on any COP participant
Beyond Katowice: support for implementation

• Role for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building

• Importance to strengthen the institutional capacity of the UNFCCC secretariat so that it can support parties’ implementation

• Potential synergies with existing workstreams:
  – Gender Action Plan
  – Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture
  – Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
  – Warsaw International Mechanism
Thank You for Your Attention

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THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Importance of human rights in climate policies

• Through a human rights lens and through adequate and equitable climate action, governments can guarantee that adaptation policies contribute to promoting and fulfilling the right to livelihood, food, access to water and housing.

• Addressing climate-related displacement through right-based frameworks and placing people at the core of disaster risk reduction contributes to protecting the rights of all including those most vulnerable and exposed to climate impacts.

• Recognizing and protecting the forest and land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities helps prevent deforestation while strengthening livelihoods.

• Climate education enables children to act as agents of change as well as fully understand ongoing and future impacts of climate change.
Human Rights in the Implementation of the UNFCCC

Reporting of Climate Action

Climate Commitments

49 COUNTRIES

12%

13% Substantive Rights
1% Developed
12% Developing

20%

20% Procedural Rights
10% Developed
10% Developing

24 countries referred to human rights in their INDCs

Source: Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice (2015)
Resources


