

Public consultation on human rights and the environment

Concept note

15:00-18:00 on 21 June 2019
1st floor conference room, Palais Wilson

1. Background

The Human Rights Council decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment in March 2018 and appointed Mr. David R. Boyd as the second Special Rapporteur beginning 1 August 2018.

The Council mandated the Special Rapporteur, *inter alia*:

- i) To continue to study the human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- ii) To continue to identify, promote and exchange views on good practices relating to human rights obligations and commitments that inform, support and strengthen environmental policymaking, especially in the area of environmental protection, and in that regard to disseminate and consider updating documents elaborated by the previous mandate holder, as appropriate;
- iii) To promote and report on the realization of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- iv) To work on identifying challenges and obstacles to the full realization of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and protection gaps thereto, including in the context of sustainable development;
- v) To conduct country visits and to respond promptly to invitations from States;
- vi) To submit an annual report, including conclusions and recommendations, to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly.

In the fulfilment of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur, Mr. David Boyd, is preparing two thematic reports focusing on (1) safe climate and human rights (GA report to be presented in October 2019) and (2) good practices on the right to a healthy environment (HRC report to be presented in March 2020).

2. Objectives of the consultation

The objective of the consultation is to have an interactive and constructive discussion centred on the two questionnaires (sent on 11 April) with a wide range of stakeholders.

The questionnaires are available at

(1) Safe climate report:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/SafeClimate.aspx>

(2) Good practices on the right to a healthy environment

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/TheRightSafeClimate.aspx>

3. Outputs

This expert seminar will inform the reports of the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Resolution 37/8, to be presented by the Special Rapporteur to the UN General Assembly in October 2019 (safe climate report) and to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020 (right to a healthy environment).

4. Participation

The consultation is open to States, international organisations, National Human Rights Institutions, members of civil society organizations, academics and all other interested stakeholders.

5. Access to Palais Wilson

If you do not hold a valid UN badge to access Palais Wilson, please request your access by emailing srenvironment@ohchr.org by 17 June.