Integrating Human Rights in Climate Action and the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

Geneva Environment Network COP25 Briefing
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Why and how to promote human rights in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

- For those on the frontlines of environmental degradation, the rights to **food, water and sanitation**, decent **shelter**, **health**, personal **security**, and **life** itself are being eroded.

- **Paris Agreement**: when taking action to address climate change - “**respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights**”.

- For instance, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** recognizes participation and access to information as human rights, reaffirmed in environmental matters by **Rio Principle 10**, the **Aarhus Convention** and the **Escazu Agreement**, and the **Paris Agreement** itself.

- A rights-based approach results in **better outcomes and more sustainable climate action** (e.g. Human Rights Council Resolution 42/21, findings of the IPCC, etc.)
Key entry points for human rights at COP25

- Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform
  
  **COP 25 Decision** – adoption of the first workplan, references to human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples

- Gender Action Plan
  
  **COP 25 Decision** – extension of the Plan, references to human rights and just transition

- Article 6
  
  Safeguards, meaningful and informed participation and access to an independent grievance/redress mechanism

- Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage
  
  Right to protection and effective remedy, Task Force on Displacement

- Action for Climate Empowerment

- OHCHR-PCCB course on climate change and human rights

- Enhanced ambition and Nationally Determined Contributions
The High Commissioner’s participation at COP25

- **Open-Letter to all member States** outlining priorities at COP25.

- **Climate Vulnerable Forum’s COP25 Leader’s Event**, at which the chair of the CVF called for establishment of a new Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change.

- The High Commissioner spoke at events addressing climate change in the context of **just transition**, **business and human rights**, the **human right to participation**, **children and youth**, **youth voices in the Pacific**, and **gender**.
The High Commissioner’s participation at COP25 (II)

- Launch of new ECLAC/OHCHR publication on *Climate change and human rights: contributions by and for Latin America and the Caribbean* and an Intergovernmental Declaration on *Children, Youth and Climate Change*, as well as meetings with representatives of civil society, member States, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary.

- International Human Rights Day (10 December 2019) - special *human rights day statement on youth and climate change.*
Looking ahead: The importance of enhanced ambition and Nationally Determined Contributions

- Ensuring that the NDC planning process and the NDC itself integrates human rights is key to promoting policy coherence and the effectiveness of climate action.

- Strong synergies between the NDCs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – all of the seventeen SDGs as well as the large majority of the SDG targets are reflected in some of the NDCs.

- OHCHR-CIEL Blueprint on integrating human rights (forthcoming)
What we do:
Promote and protect all human rights
Help empower people
Assist governments
Inject a human rights perspective into all UN programmes

Promoting people-centred development

For more information about rights-based, people-centred climate action please visit:
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/HRClimateChangeIndex.aspx
OHCHR Key messages on climate change and human rights

1. Mitigate climate change and prevent its negative human rights impacts
2. Ensure that all persons have the necessary capacity to adapt to climate change
3. Ensure accountability and effective remedy for human rights harms caused by climate change
4. Mobilize maximum available resources for sustainable, human rights-based development
5. International cooperation
6. Ensure equity in climate action
7. Guarantee that everyone enjoys the benefits of science and its applications
8. Protect human rights from business harms
9. Guarantee equality and non-discrimination
10. Ensure meaningful and informed participation