

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

Geneva Environment Network COP25 Briefing
14 January 2020



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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.)



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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**

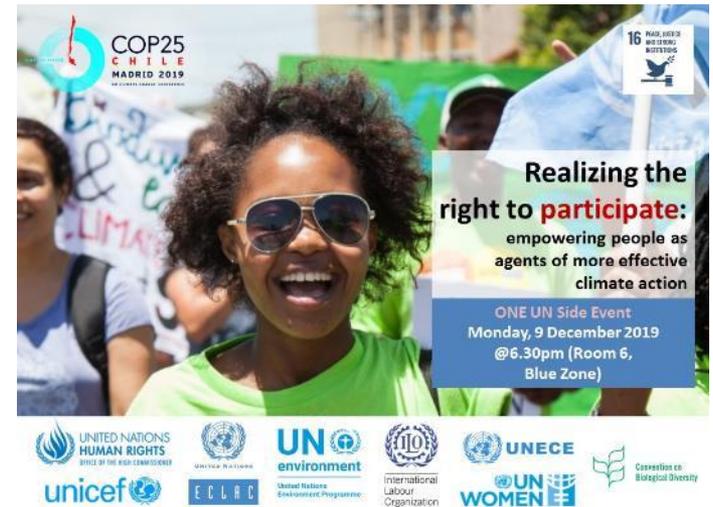
- **Enhanced ambition and Nationally Determined Contributions**



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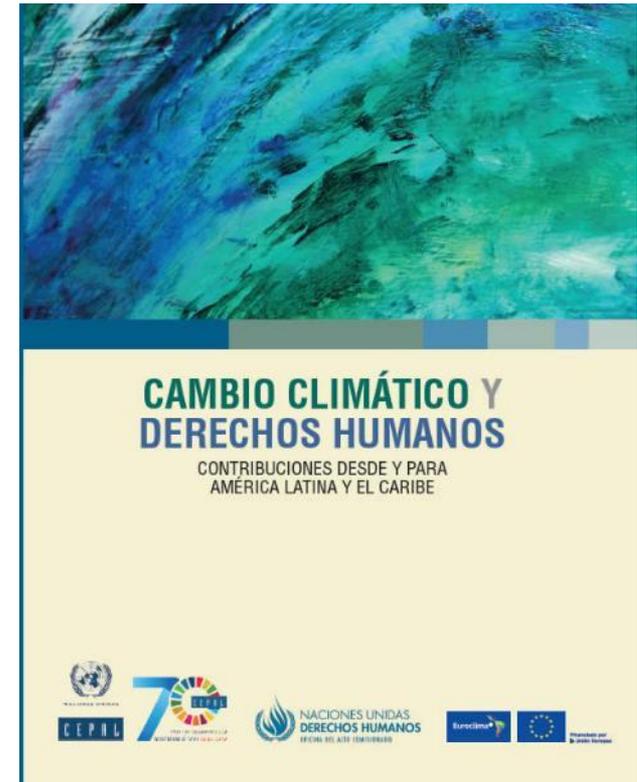
The High Commissioner's participation at COP25

- [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/HRClimatChangeIndex.aspx>



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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**



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