



As a side event to the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

# The IPCC 2022 Climate Change Report and its Relationship with the Effective Enjoyment of the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Date and venue

Thursday, 10 March 2022, 12:30, [Varembé Conference Center](#), Rue de Varembé 9-11, Geneva.

The workshop will be in a hybrid format. A light lunch will be served for those participants attending in person from 12.00 on.

### Registration

All participants are required to register by sending an e-mail message to [secretariatmulti.geneve@eda.admin.ch](mailto:secretariatmulti.geneve@eda.admin.ch) by Monday, 7 March 2022, noon, indicating whether the participant would like to attend in person or online. Due to the limited space available at the conference center, the in-person participation cannot be guaranteed and a personal invitation is necessary for admission. Persons attending by video conference will receive a zoom video link.

### Objective

The side event will provide an opportunity to highlight and discuss the findings of the IPCC 2022 Climate Change report and to explore its relationship with the effective enjoyment of the human right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

### Welcome

- [H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber](#), Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

### Opening statement

- [H.E. Aminath Shauna](#), Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology of the Maldives

### Moderation

- [Matthew McKinnon](#), Head of the Climate Vulnerability Initiative

### Panelists:

- [Dr. Carolina Adler](#) [Chile], and [Prof. Dr. Thomas Bernauer](#) [Switzerland], lead authors WGII
- [Mr. David Boyd](#) [Canada], Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
- [Dr. Sumudu Anopama Atapattu](#) [Sri Lanka, USA], Director of Research Centers and Senior Lecturer at University of Wisconsin Law School
- [Prof. Juan M. Pulhin](#) [The Philippines], University of the Philippines Los Baños, Coordinating Lead Author of "[Human Security](#)" in [WGIAR5](#)
- [Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim](#) [Chad], President of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) (tbc)
- [Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu](#) [The Philippines], Associate Fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (tbc)

## **Background**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options. Its Working Group II assesses the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems to climate change, negative and positive consequences of climate change and options for adapting to it.

On 28 February 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will present its Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (WGIIAR6). In its previous reports, the IPCC did not refer to specific legal rights as enshrined in international human rights conventions. Mainly, the WGII refers to effects of the interaction of climate changes or hazardous climate events and the vulnerability of an exposed society or system on lives, livelihoods, health, ecosystems, economies, societies, cultures, services, and infrastructure. It is therefore up to human rights experts and institutions to consider the implications of the findings of the IPCC Working Group II for the effective enjoyment of human rights.

To date, a multitude of human rights experts and institutions have already invested considerable efforts in considering the implications of climate change for the effective enjoyment of human rights. First and foremost, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted 12 resolutions specifically on climate change and many more thematic resolutions referring to the pertinence of climate change for the effective enjoyment of human rights.

The Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment presented in October 2019 its so-called Safe Climate report (A/74/161) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee of the UN General Assembly. In its report the Special Rapporteur illustrates the devastating effects of the current global climate emergency on the enjoyment of human rights, and the crucial role for human rights in catalysing action to address climate change.

In June 2021, the Committee on the Rights of the Child decided to draft a general comment on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change. The main objective of this forthcoming general comment is to provide substantive guidance to State Parties to undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures of a child-rights approach to environmental issues with a special focus on climate change.

Eventually, in October 2021, the Human Rights Council adopted two seminal resolutions; resolution 48/13 recognising the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and resolution 48/14 creating the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

## **Documents:**

IPCC: Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (WGIIAR6)

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

OHCHR: Frequently Asked Questions on Human Rights and Climate Change, Fact Sheet No. 3

[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet38\\_FAQ\\_HR\\_CC\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet38_FAQ_HR_CC_EN.pdf)