



Diplomatic Briefing
Requesting an Advisory Opinion on Climate Change to the International Court of Justice
Thursday, 16 March 2023 - 2-3 PM CET

Auditorium of the Nations Business Center, Rue du Pré-de-la-Bichette 1 – Geneva
The event is in-person only. Light refreshments will be provided

On 20 February 2023, Vanuatu and 15 other States (Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Uganda, and Viet Nam) communicated to all UN member States the final version of the resolution seeking to request the International Court of Justice to issue an Advisory Opinion on States obligations with regard to climate change. The resolution, which is currently co-sponsored by 112 States, will be voted upon at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, on 29 March 2023.

The resolution requests the ICJ to clarify States' obligations with regard to climate change, with specific attention to vulnerable States and affected peoples and individuals, including future generations. The full text is available [here in English](#) (see also informal translations in [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#)).

This resolution would provide the International Court of Justice with the mandate to address the obligations of States under international environmental law and human rights law with regards to climate change for the first time in its history. The Court will thus be in a position to provide important guidance for States with regard to the measures required by law for States to address the root causes of climate change and to deal with current impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights.

The Permanent Mission of Vanuatu and the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) have the pleasure to convene this diplomatic briefing to discuss the resolution and its implications, and allow Geneva-based representatives of States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations to exchange views on how to support this initiative.

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Sumbue Antas, Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations Office
H.E. Mrs. Lucy Duncan, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations Office
Samira Ben Ali, World's Youth for Climate Justice
Christopher Bartlett, Advisor, Government of Vanuatu
Professor Jorge E. Viñuales, University of Cambridge
Lucy McKernan, Human Rights Watch

Moderator: Sébastien Duyck, Center for International Environmental Law