

WOMEN, GIRLS AND THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

A HRC 52 side event, organized by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

7 March 2023, 14:00 - 15:00

Room XXII, Palais des Nations and online (see link below)



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES
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Opening Remarks

- H.E. Anita Pipan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovenia
- Adriana Quinones, Head, Human Rights and Development, UN Women in Geneva

Introduction

- Message from a girl environmental defender, Nikte' from Guatemala (video)

Panelists

- David Boyd
Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment
- Viviana Tinoco Monge
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica
- Prisca
Youth representative from Rwanda (remote)
- Stephanie Keene
International human rights lawyer
- Soo Young Hwang
Legal Officer, UNEP

Moderator

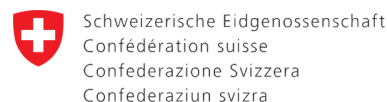
- Diana Rizzolio, Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network

Format

This event will take place in a hybrid format.

To join the meeting online, please use the following link:
<https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=m3153b4ba32bb93bdb64ff3ae9d6b61ff>

Please write to hrc-sr-environment@un.org in case of any queries.



Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas Ginebra



Background

It has been 75 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights boldly stated that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. Despite remarkable progress towards gender equality in some States, systemic discrimination persists. Laws that discriminate against women, girls and gender-diverse persons, sociocultural norms that reduce their agency, and stereotypes about femininity, masculinity and gender-assigned roles continue to restrict the political and economic power of women and girls in every State and every sphere of society.

The planetary environmental crisis affects everyone, everywhere, but not equally. Harmful gender norms, stereotypes, biases and discrimination exclude women and girls from participating in environmental decision-making and enjoying a fair share of nature’s benefits, while imposing disproportionate impacts related to the climate emergency, biodiversity collapse and pervasive pollution.

Sustainable development depends on the gender-transformative realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as recognized in historic United Nations resolutions. In its pioneering resolution 48/13, adopted in 2021, the Human Rights Council emphasized that States must fully respect human rights obligations, including those related to gender equality.

Women and girls are powerful, transformative agents of change who should be primarily viewed not as victims, but as equal, indispensable partners and leaders in the transition to a just and sustainable future. In order for women and girls to realize their rights and potential, nature must be conserved, protected and restored, pollution must be prevented, and urgent action must be taken to achieve a safe climate.

In his report to this 52nd session of the Human Rights Council the Special Rapporteur decided to dedicate his report to the topic of Women, Girls and the Right to Healthy Environment. The report outlines State obligations, business responsibilities and the potential benefits of achieving gender equality and ecological sustainability. It makes recommendations related to dismantling systemic discrimination, empowering women and girls as climate and environmental leaders and ensuring that women and girls are able to fully enjoy their right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The panel will discuss the path towards gender equality and ecological sustainability in the context of the right to a healthy environment.



Read the report (A/HRC/52/33)

Women, girls and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment