



National human rights institutions on the front lines of the UN Call to Action for Human Rights – *Climate action and the right to a healthy environment*

06 October 2021, 0800 to 0915 EDT
Public webinar

[Register](#)
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Objective:

Facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this webinar is jointly convened with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It is co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York, and the Universal Rights Group. This webinar is the public session of the [TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions](#) Annual Review and Partnership Platform Meeting (TPP2021).

This webinar aims at bringing together the UN system, Member States, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and other stakeholders to:

- Improve awareness of NHRIs as key agents and accelerators to support the rights of future generations in the UN Secretary-Generals' *Call to Action for Human Rights*
- Explore opportunities to facilitate and support the work of national human rights institutions to monitor the human rights impacts of climate change
- Share information on how the human rights mechanisms can provide guidance on climate change

Background:

The impacts of climate change and increasing inequality across and within countries are undermining progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, threatening to reverse many of the gains made over the

last decades that have improved people's lives. This directly and indirectly impacts the full enjoyment of human rights, including social, economic, and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

The UN Secretary-General in his *Call to Action for Human Rights* outlines that “*the climate emergency threatens the rights and dignity not only of millions of people worldwide but also of people not yet born*” and highlights the rights of future generations and specifically climate justice as a key area of support from the UN system.

The right to a healthy environment is already recognized by over 150 Member States. Member States are now discussing the adoption of a resolution on the universal right to a healthy environment at the 48th session of the Human Rights Council, and more human rights mechanisms are addressing the human rights implications of climate change (for example, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Periodic Review process).

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are on the front lines of monitoring and supporting rights-based responses to climate change at country level with innovative work ongoing to protect the right to a healthy environment and play their bridging role to support affected populations. This includes: monitoring and reporting on the human rights impacts of climate change, advising the State and others on human rights-based approaches to climate action; supporting communities to participate in decision-making on climate strategies; assisting victims to seek justice and redress; provide education on the human rights impacts of climate change and policies and engage businesses and others on their roles and responsibilities.

Agenda (EDT):

0800 - 0815

Opening statements

- *H.E. Catalina Devandas Aguilar*, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva
- *Ilze Brands-Kehris*, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR

Moderator

- *Katy Thompson*, Team Leader for the Rule of Law, Security, and Human Rights, UNDP

0815 - 0845

Panel discussion

- *Michael Windfuhr*, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
- *Juan José Böckel*, Secretary General of the Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación Argentina
- *Roberto Eugenio Cadiz*, Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights, Republic of the Philippines
- *Soo-Young Hwang*, Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP

0845 - 0915

Q&A

Format:

Following opening remarks, there will be short presentations by the panelists and a moderated question and answer session. Here will be an opportunity for participants to raise questions with the speakers through the Q&A chat function on Zoom.

This is a public event. Registration is required in advance through the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XhM3uYtcRHu9eU8I_st0bw

Spanish, French, and Russian interpretation will be provided.

For further questions please contact Ms. Roqaya Dhaif (Roqaya.dhaif@undp.org) or Ms. Chelsea Shelton (Chelsea.shelton@undp.org)

Key Reference Documents:

- [Climate Change: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions; 2020 GANHRI Annual Conference Statement](#)
- [Joint statement of United Nations entities on the right to a healthy environment](#)
- [GANHRI Statement on climate change at HRC46](#)
- [Secretary- General's Call to Action for Human Rights](#)
- [Safe Climate: A Report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment](#)
- [The Right to a Healthy Environment and the Role of National Human Rights Institutions](#); Report from UNEP webinar series (November 2019)
- Human Rights Council resolutions and studies on climate change on **older persons** ([A/HRC/RES/44/7](#); 2020); **persons with disabilities** ([A/HRC/44/30](#); 2020); **children** ([A/HRC/43/30](#); 2020; [A/HRC/35/13](#); 2017); **women** ([A/HRC/42/26](#); 2019); **migrants** ([A/HRC/37/35](#); 2018); and **physical and mental health** ([A/HRC/32/23](#); 2016).