



## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION

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### **Item 3: Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

2 March 2020

Presenting his report [A/HRC/43/53](#), **Mr. David R. Boyd**, referred to a number of **good practices** (amongst 500 ones from 178 States that had been identified in his report) in recognizing **the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment** and in implementing the **procedural** (access to information, public participation, access to justice and remedies) and **substantive** (clean air, safe climate, safe water and sanitation, healthy food, non-toxic environments, healthy biodiversity) elements of the right.

This fundamental human right is now recognized in law by more than 80 per cent of the UN States Members. The most important **beneficiaries** of the good practices are the individuals and communities who are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of environmental harm and lack access to basic environmental services.

Humanity faces a daunting and unprecedented global environmental crisis. Despite the many good practices, there is much more work to be done. Human Rights Council has an important role to play in this challenge. The **adoption of a resolution** recognizing the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment would be a positive catalyst to accelerate efforts to ensure the enjoyment of this right.

**Special Rapporteur's Country visits:** **Fiji** (Dec-2018): Climate crisis already has devastating impacts on the country, which applies innovative environment and climate adaptation. **Reply of Fiji** (country concerned): The main concerns are technical expertise, human resources and financial capacity. **Norway** (Sep-2019): excellent environmental leaderships, the state has ratified all of the major international environmental treaties. At the same time, Norway is one of the world's major producers of oil and gas. **Reply of Norway** (country concerned): ready to address the "Norwegian paradox".

**Additional Remarks by the Special Rapporteur, Mr David R. Boyd:** Learned about new good practices in Pakistan, Namibia, Togo, Djibouti during this Interactive Dialogue. He noted that in 110 states the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment already enjoys constitutional protection. Mr Boyd referred to his recent report to the General Assembly ([A/74/161](#)). The SDGs are intimately connected with the right to healthy environment. 2020 is a critical year (2<sup>nd</sup> round of NDCs to be submitted, COP 26), rights-based approach to climate change is absolutely essential. Mentioned the International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, and the need for innovation thinking on financial mechanisms. Responding to the questions related to sharing and dissemination of good practices, Mr Boyd said that the regional organizations and regional instruments have a major role to play in this regard.

Mr Boyd also thanked the co-supporters of his mandate, including Slovenia, Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Switzerland and (honourable member) Fiji. Mr Boyd finished his statement condemning all acts of harassment, intimidation against the human rights and environmental rights defenders.

**List of speakers – States:** **African States:** Togo, Djibouti, Namibia, Botswana, Sudan, Egypt, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Morocco, Burkina Faso o/b of the African Group, Côte d'Ivoire. **Asia-Pacific States:** Fiji, Pakistan (o/b of the OIC), Philippines, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Senegal, China, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar. **Middle East:** Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria. **Eastern European States:** Slovenia (o/b of a group of states), Estonia, Croatia, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Georgia, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan. **Western Europe and Other States:** EU, Germany, Switzerland, France, Monaco, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland, Greece, Spain, UK, Iceland. **Latin American and Caribbean States:** Ecuador o/b of a group of States, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela, Paraguay, Jamaica, Peru, Guyana, Haiti, Guatemala, Panama, Barbados

**List of Speakers – Other Stakeholders:** Norwegian NHRI (video), UNICEF, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC). **NGOs:** Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, Franciscans International, Sikh Human Rights Group, Terre Des Hommes Federation Internationale, URG, Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI), Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Earthjustice (on behalf of 9 NGOs), Friends World Committee for Consultation, Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers, ISHR.

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