

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change

27 June 2023

The **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, Ian Fry** presented two reports, namely a thematic report on climate change displacement and a country visit report. The thematic report highlighted the number of people displaced across international borders due to climate change and the subsequent human rights issues these people face. This is particularly the case for women and children, who make up the majority of displaced people. The number of people being displaced across international borders is rapidly increasing, as the effects of climate change become more severe.

He stressed that the human rights implications of climate change displacement, for persons displaced across international borders due to climate change, are significant and disturbing. People displaced by climate change face multiple violations of their human rights. The climate change event may deprive people of their right to food, water, sanitation, housing, health, education, and, for some, the right to life. Studies suggest that women and children are the most affected by disasters and the effects of climate change, as they are up to fourteen times more likely to be killed than men by a climate disaster, such as a hurricane, typhoon, cyclone, or flood. Displaced children may be exposed to a variety of risks, such as abuse, violence, trafficking, exploitation, slavery, and other forms of maltreatment and human rights violations. The international community has the responsibility to protect people displaced across international borders due to climate change.

The report, following the visit to **Bangladesh**, showed that the country is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change with significant implications for the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, health, food, housing, water and sanitation, cultural life, education, and work. Although the international response to loss and damage and its inherent human rights implications is inadequate; the Government of Bangladesh is making efforts to protect its population from the ravages of climate change through the establishment of special funding for disaster recovery and adaptation, including a number of climate change policies.

Bangladesh (Country concerned) informed the Council that it will sponsor all the resolutions on human rights and climate change, including the one creating the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and thoroughly supported the mandate. It affirmed that the report did not duly reflect on the severity of climate change displacement and adaptation, instead, it focused on mitigation and issues, which Bangladesh did not find relevant to the purpose of the visit, or relevant to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. The SR could have elaborated the link between loss and damage and the right to work and reparation for loss and damage in greater detail: this was a key element. The country affirmed that the report delved into climate change issues that were relevant to another mandate. It appeared the Special Rapporteur may have been influenced by some politically motivated persons.

Interactive dialogue

68 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. The majority of the countries affirmed that climate change has an increasing impact on human rights across the world, contributing factors to forced displacement, both internally and across international borders. The international community should be aware that fight against the climate change and its consequences might also be an opportunity to enhance human rights, especially the rights of women, children, the elderly, and other marginalized groups. **Among others, the EU** played a leading role in reducing global warming,

mitigating its effects, improving knowledge about consequences for those living in vulnerable areas, and working with partners to build resilience. **Samoa and the SIDS countries** shared concern about the disproportionate impact that climate change continues to have on women and children, especially for those displaced, as well as the existence of national legislation, norms, and frameworks on disaster management. The **United Arab Emirates** affirmed that one of the main pillars of the national action agenda is limiting the escalation of negative effects of climate change and providing aid to alleviate the suffering of the needy and the displaced. **COP 28** is an appropriate platform to consider the repercussions of this issue in its various humanitarian, economic, social, and developmental dimensions all relevant stakeholders and work to find appropriate solutions for it.

UNDP shared three key ways to strengthen legal protections and to enable all people to benefit from the Global Goal of establishing peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. **UNICEF** reported that climate disasters have displaced nearly 20,000 children every day in the last 6 years, and a further one billion children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of climate change. Even if major progress is made to mitigate climate impacts, **mobility** remains a critical coping mechanism.

NGOs echoed the SR's concerns. The Special Rapporteur should propose solutions to address the severe human rights implications of displacement in the context of climate change, improving existing norms and frameworks. Climate mobility is a human face of the climate crisis, increasingly by natural disasters and conflicts. NGOs condemned violations of basic human rights, coercive violence, food insecurity, lack of access to land, water, and other natural resources, and discrimination or exclusion from vital public services. This has a further impact on global peace and security.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (68 country delegations):

European Union, Slovenia, Bahamas, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Marshall Island, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Samoa, Egypt, Peru, Luxembourg, Armenia, Ecuador, Sovereign Order of Malta, Mauritius, Iraq, Mexico, United States of America, Maldives, Malaysia, Morocco, Togo, Malta, Venezuela, Pakistan, Namibia, Kazakhstan, India, Malawi, Tanzania, China, The Gambia, South Africa, Chile, Senegal, Mauritania, Jordan, Sudan, Georgia, Holy See, Mali, Benin, Cuba, Russian Federation, Romania, Algeria, Kenya, Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Cote d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka, Panama, Bangladesh, Vanuatu, Ghana, Uruguay, Micronesia, Ukraine, Iran, Greece, France, Afghanistan, Cote d'Ivoire.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (12):

Global Alliance for Human Rights Institutions, Commission Nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (Burundi), Art Justice, Anti Slavery International, International Environmental Law, Centre Europe Ties Monde, Arabian European Forums for Human Rights, IDLN, Caritas International, Franciscans International, Minority Rights Group International, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women.

International organizations (4): UNDP, IDLO, UNICEF, IOM.

To watch the full meeting refer to UN Web TV, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).