



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Annual Panel Discussion on the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on Human Rights

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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to UNHRC resolution 56/8 on human rights and climate change, the UNHRC decided to incorporate into its programme of work for the 59th regular session a panel discussion on **facilitating just transitions** in the context of addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on the full realization of human rights for all people, and ways forward to address the challenges thereto, as well as on best practices and lessons learned. The panel discussion is also available in accessible format including international sign language interpretation and captioning.

Just transition towards **environmentally sustainable economies** and societies for all should be fair, equitable and inclusive, creating decent work opportunities, reducing inequalities and poverty, and measurably enhancing and upholding all human rights, for all, including the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Just transition requires broad, holistic systems thinking, addressing interrelated multiple crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation. **Working toward a just transition is an imperative.** According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, limiting long-term warming to around 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels requires unprecedented “system transitions” across energy, ecosystems, infrastructure, industry and society. Realization of human rights is integral to ensuring such transitions are just.



The **prevailing extractive economic model** has historically driven environmental degradation through unsustainable exploitation of nature, concentrating benefits while externalizing social and environmental costs to marginalized communities. Working conditions already characterized by informality, precarity and absence of protections are being further undermined by climate-related impacts and measures. People living in poverty and dependent on natural resources are disproportionately at-risk, while existing inequalities and discrimination also hinder just transitions. Research indicates that 54 per cent of energy transition minerals and metals projects are located on or nearby Indigenous Peoples' lands, while 33 per cent are located on or nearby peasant lands. **Resource distribution and mobilization** for just transition remains insufficient to enable just transitions globally. Meanwhile, more than 2 billion workers are employed in the informal economy, lacking legal protections and economic and social security, rendering them especially susceptible to risks of transition measures and environmental crises.

Just transition offers an opportunity to **advance climate action alongside human rights**. Meaningful, inclusive and safe participation is foundational to comprehensive and effective just transition policies, planning and implementation. Both **formal social dialogue** with workers and trade unions alongside broader participatory mechanisms that include Indigenous Peoples, affected communities, women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, migrants and people of African descent, among others, are necessary.

International human rights law provides an essential framework for just transition. States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights in all transition-related efforts, establishing guardrails against harm while taking affirmative action to fulfill rights. The principles of **equity, formal and substantive equality, and non-discrimination** must be centred to avoid replicating injustices in transitions, within and among countries. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, among various other instruments, provide critical legal standards to ensure transitions uphold human dignity and realize the rights of present and future generations.

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The climate crisis is a human rights crisis. Rising temperatures, rising seas, floods, droughts and wildfires threaten our rights to life, to health, to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and much more. The **heat wave** that we are currently experiencing indeed leads us to the adaptability measures that are absolutely necessary because otherwise again rights would be impacted as a result. It is equally clear that our **current production and consumption patterns are unsustainable** and that renewables are the energy source of the future. Production capacity for renewables increased fivefold between 2011 and 2023.

What we need now is a roadmap that shows us how to rethink our societies, our economies and our politics in ways that are equitable and sustainable. That is a just transition and this shift requires an end to the production and use of fossil fuels and other environmentally destructive



activities across all sectors, from energy to farming to finance to construction and beyond. This will be one of the greatest transformations our world has ever seen, with serious implications for human rights. If we do not safeguard people's lives, their health, their jobs and their future opportunities, the transition will replicate and exacerbate the injustices and inequalities in our world. The rich and powerful will benefit, the poor and vulnerable will lose out. Are we taking the steps needed to **protect people from climate chaos**, safeguard their futures and manage natural resources in ways that respect human rights and the environment? Sadly, the evidence so far is that we are not, particularly in the energy sector.

At this early stage of a **full transition to renewables**, states and companies need to take measures to ensure that no one is left behind. Take jobs, for example. The climate crisis and the transition to renewables are reshaping job markets. While the transition is projected to generate tens of millions of jobs, other jobs face potential disruption. For example, around six million jobs in the fossil fuel sector could be lost, and many workers are completely unprotected. And if you put this in the wider context of social protection, today some 3.8 billion people around the world lack any form of social safety nets. The more vulnerable a country is to climate impacts, the less likely its people are to benefit from social protection. The world can and must do better, starting with **universal social protection** that supports people through the transition to jobs in green industries. These schemes are not costly, and they will also be part of the discussion at the World Social Summit later this year.

Human rights norms and standards offer essential foundations, but also a **compass for a just transition**. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) affirms every person's rights to freely chosen work and to social security. Indigenous peoples have a special place in just transitions, because more than half the energy transition minerals and metals projects are located on or near their lands and territories. Indigenous peoples have the right to free, prior and informed consent. Governments committed last year in the landmark Declaration on Future Generations to creating and maintaining a clean, healthy and sustainable environment where humanity lives in harmony with nature. Human rights law is also a strong lever for progress. Recent decisions by the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and other regional and national justice institutions have **clarified the human rights obligations of states to combat climate change** and protect the environment.

A just transition spans many areas, financing, gender equality, peace and security, corporate responsibility and accountability, and so much more. Respect for human rights must be a cross-cutting theme that unites all these areas. The High Commissioner seizes this opportunity to give some insightful examples.

First, on **development finance**, most international support for a just transition comes in the form of loans that can increase debt burdens for developing countries. Some 3.3 billion people now live in countries that spend more on debt interest payments than on either education or health, with a clear impact on the enjoyment of human rights by their people. In emerging and developing countries, **debt interest payments outweigh climate investments**. Human rights require scaled-up, grant-based finance that does not add to an overwhelming debt burden.



Second, the **gender gap in green and technological skills** is growing. Women are less than one-third of the workforce in renewable energy sectors. Targeted measures towards gender equality are a precondition for a successful and just transition.

Third, **geopolitical competition** among countries and companies is undermining rights and equity in the extraction of critical transition minerals. In some cases, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, competition over these minerals has fuelled conflict. Resource governance based on human rights, led by communities, can ensure that critical minerals serve renewable energy rather than warfare.

Fourth, **corporate accountability for fossil fuel** companies is utterly inadequate. Fossil fuel corporations perpetuate misinformation and disinformation and peddle false solutions and greenwashing that distract from continued damage. Polluters must pay. We must build on proposals, including the **Billionaire Tax Initiative** and the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, to make sure people and corporations that have caused and benefit from planetary harm pay for it.

At the national level, the High Commissioner urges states to support a just transition by building human rights economies that prioritise sustainable, inclusive development. All states need to conduct impact assessments of their budgetary, investment, and energy policies on the enjoyment of human rights and the environment. **Fossil fuel subsidies** need to be redirected towards renewable energy, sustainable food systems, and social safety nets. And policies need to be based on metrics that go beyond gross domestic product by measuring human development, equality, and environmental sustainability, which, again, was part of the equation of the Pact for the Future. Regulations must protect people and nature from **unprincipled corporate behaviour**. They need to aim to reduce and eliminate discrimination and inequalities and build systems and services that are inclusive and sustainable.

OHCHR is working around the world to support governments in developing rights-based policies and laws, advocating for rights-based approaches to a just transition, and working to protect human rights defenders who are fighting for our environment. Finally, a just transition, which is fundamental to humanity's present and future well-being, requires solidarity, cooperation, and financial support for many developing economies. The High Commissioner hopes all governments present at the UNHRC will join forces to meet these urgent needs.

STATEMENTS BY PANELLISTS

H.E. Mr. Tovar DA SILVA NUNES, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Brazil has reiterated its firm and traditional commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable development, and to advancing the environmental agenda, which is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is worth recalling that within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 17 underscores the obligation of international cooperation, particularly with regard to the **commitments of developed countries** to provide financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building support to developing countries.



Poverty diminishes the resilience of poor populations to extreme climatic events and further hinders their effective participation in decisions related to adaptation measures. In Brazil, where poverty is marked by a clear racial bias, the debate on environmental racism and climate justice gains momentum. Brazil recognises and values the vital role of **environmental rights defenders**, acknowledges them as human rights defenders. Their work is essential for the protection of natural resources and the preservation of the way of life of traditional and indigenous peoples, representing an important contribution to sustainable development. In Brazil, the main initiative dedicated to protecting these individuals is the National Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists. Recently, a Working Group composed of government and civil society representatives concluded its work with the objective of rethinking existing protection strategies, strengthening the overall protection framework, and proposing national policy for the protection of human rights defenders to the Brazilian Congress.

It is worth highlighting that **Indigenous people** make up the majority of individuals under protection, given their prominent role as environmental defenders. To strengthen the normative framework for the protection of human rights defenders, the Brazilian government is currently examining the ratification of the so-called **Escazú Agreement**, which is a regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the case of Indigenous peoples, Brazil recognises their fundamental role in environmental conservation and the maintenance of social biodiversity, especially in all of the biomes, but specifically Amazon, Cerrado, and the Atlantic Forest. The Brazilian government aims to guarantee and promote the protection, recovery, conservation, and sustainable use of national resources in **Indigenous lands and territories**. This includes the transfer of technologies and knowledge, as well as financing in the context of a just transition. These plans and the policy itself seek to strengthen Indigenous autonomy and ensure that protection and sustainable development actions in their territories are aligned with their cultures and ways of life.

Brazil considers of great importance enabling just transitions from a carbon-intensive economic model to a low-carbon model that leaves no one behind. **Just transition processes** are directly related to promoting sustainable development and eradicating poverty, as well as to strengthening climate adaptation and resilience. Brazil advocates that just transitions must respect and take into account international human rights obligations, the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to health, and the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, children, people of African descent, Indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, persons with disabilities, peasants, LGBTQI+ persons, and other vulnerable groups.

Brazil believes that just transitions are largely dependent on an **adequate level of financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building** to be provided by developed countries to developing countries in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities. A just transition of the workforce must create decent work and quality jobs, include both the formal and informal sectors. It must also address the situation of the unemployed, unpaid workers, and vulnerable groups, and must aim at reducing gender inequalities in the labour market. It shall be based on social dialogue, social protection, and the broad recognition of labour rights.



Brazil reaffirms the importance of a **just energy transition** which takes into account the principles adopted by the G20 in 2024, in particular the fight against poverty, energy poverty, energy planning in accordance with national development priorities, and the balanced distribution of energy costs in order to reduce impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society. By hosting COP30 in Belém next November, Brazil aims to foster inclusive dialogue with Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, people of African descent, youth, and the civil society, ensuring that climate solutions are equitable, participatory, and grounded in environmental justice and human rights.

Ms. Andrea CARMEN, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council

In June 2023, at the 59th session of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies in Bonn, states organised their first interactive dialogue on just transition, where the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group delivered the following statement: *'We welcome this discussion and the transition from fossil fuel-based economies that can't happen too soon for the sake of life on this planet and our future generations. Our concern is that mechanisms and criteria must be put in place to ensure that this transition is truly just. We have heard the mention of social and environmental safeguards here, but we would like to ensure that human rights safeguards are firmly in place as a criteria for all new projects in this regard. In this process, which is so vital, we call for respect for indigenous peoples' rights, including to free, prior, and informed consent for our traditional lifeways and land management systems, which are almost always low carbon, as well as for our indigenous knowledge systems that, with respectful engagement, can contribute so significantly to national and international just transition plans. We want to contribute and we want to survive.'*

This statement remains just as relevant today as it was two years ago. Indigenous peoples are actively engaged in global discussions under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme and are calling for adoption of a globally agreed human rights framework that includes protection for the **distinct collective rights of Indigenous peoples**. However, some states continue to call for removal of all references to human rights, as well as transition away from fossil fuel-based energy sources, the primary driver of climate change. They are advocating for language that leaves the essential elements of just transition in the hands of each state to determine based on their national priorities. This is a formula for continued violations of Indigenous peoples' rights by activities that drive climate change, as well as the market based projects, including mining of so-called transition minerals carried out in the name of climate change mitigation and green energy.

The International Indian Treaty Council is deeply disappointed that **references to human rights were removed from the text on just transition** at COP29 in Baku. The Council thanks the states, including Colombia, Panama, and Mexico, who along with Indigenous peoples from all regions, advocated strongly at the just concluded UNFCCC SB62 in Bonn for reinstating that language in the text that will go to COP30. We must ensure that a human rights framework, including the rights of Indigenous peoples, will be the basis for how just transition is defined, evaluated, and implemented globally. The Council asks for your advocacy in this regard at COP30.

Ms. Andrea CARMEN comes from the Indigenous nation of the **Yaqui peoples**, whose traditional Sonora Desert homelands are divided by the international border between Mexico and the United States. In December 2023 at COP28 in Dubai, Mexico and the USA held a joint press conference to announce Plan Sonora, which includes massive amounts of lithium mining and processing



using scarce desert groundwater, the basis for subsistence and survival of Indigenous peoples of the Sonora Desert. The exploratory **Bacanora lithium mine** currently operating in Sonora, Mexico, has already caused massive destruction. Concessions for additional lithium mining are being issued in Sonora and elsewhere in Mexico. Despite a longstanding treaty relationship and the 2022 Yaqui justice plan, in which Mexico recommitted to respect Yaqui water rights, their traditional authorities have not been informed by Mexico about Plan Sonora, nor have good faith consultations taken place for the purpose of obtaining their free prior and informed consent.

Turning to the USA, a **lithium mine** operating in Nevada, opposed by the impacted Indigenous peoples, has used four billion gallons of groundwater a year since 2022. Open pit lithium mining produces 37 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of lithium and contaminates groundwater up to 150 miles away. Mapuche leaders from the so-called lithium triangle in Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia report a similar lack of free, prior and informed consent, as well as contamination and depletion of their traditionally used water sources. Is this really just transition?

In closing, she highlights some positive ways that **Indigenous peoples are contributing to a key aspect of just transition** away from industrial food production based on large-scale agriculture and livestock enterprises, which produce an estimated 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gases and cause deforestation, soil degradation by agrochemicals, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable water use. There are methods and strategies Indigenous peoples are implementing today for low carbon food production using traditional seeds, animals, and water restoration methods. This includes growing crops without pesticides to protect the health of living soil, the third largest absorber of greenhouse gases after the oceans and the atmosphere. It also shows drought-resistant seed trading between Indigenous farmers, restoration of traditional water systems, and original food sources such as buffalo that withstand a range of climate conditions and restore rather than deplete native grasslands. In closing, Ms. Andrea CARMEN emphasizes that human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples must be at the core of just transition policies, programmes, and activities globally.

**Mr. Moustapha Kamal GUEYE, Director, Priority Action Programme on Just Transitions
Towards Environmentally Sustainable Societies, International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Decent work is a human right. It is the right to opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for all, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives, and the right to equality and opportunity and treatment for all women and men. Because of climate change, the very human right of **decent work is fundamentally challenged** today.

This is how a changing climate will impact the world of work. The ILO estimates that more than 2.4 billion workers, this is 70 percent of the total workforce, is likely to be exposed to excessive heat at some point in time. And by 2030, on a global average, two percent of the total working time and labour productivity would be lost. This comes to 80 million full-time jobs. For this reason, **social protection** is fundamental to enhance the resilience against climate shocks, those that result from the slow onset events we know like drought and the warming of temperatures, but also the sudden onset events like hurricanes and flooding. The **good news** is that in 2024, for the first time, more than half of the world population got access to a form of social security. The **sad reality** is that in the 20 countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis, less than nine percent of



their population is covered by any form of social protection. This means that from a climate resilience perspective, nations are far from achieving that human right to social protection. Investments in social protection need to be scaled up, and this must move from shock responses to institutionalised and right-based approaches.

Productive economies have the potential to deliver more and better jobs. Here comes the positive narrative. Shifting to low-carbon and circular economies has the potential to generate some **100 million new jobs by 2030**. In 2023, together with the International Renewable Energy Agency, the ILO estimated that 16 million people worked in clean energies. With regard to **adaptation-related employment**, the ILO, together with the UN Environment Programme and the IUCN, have estimated that today 60 million people are currently engaged in **nature-based solutions** (NBSs) activities. With more investments, NBSs can generate up to 32 million jobs by 2030. This means that the efforts that countries and communities are putting on adaptation can be an important driver for new job creation.

However, despite these prospects of important social and economic benefits, one should not underestimate the complexity and the **difficulty of the transition to sustainability**. Some will unavoidably lose jobs, income, and business assets, which means that policymakers and decision-makers that you are in the public and private sectors must manage geographical and temporal disconnections as the economic and the job gains are not emerging in the same location and at the same time as job and income loss occurs. This is why a just transition for all is imperative. Just transition involves maximising the economic and social benefits of the ecological transition while minimising and managing carefully any risk of social and economic disruption. It requires integrated policies. However, policy process is as important as policy content. A strong social consensus is indispensable to enable collective action.

However, today we face a **deficit in social dialogue**. Less than 20 percent of the nationally determined contributions to climate change include references to social dialogue. If we turn it to firm level action, we find that only 23 percent of the collective bargaining agreements between workers and their employers address environmental issues. Much more has to be done on social dialogue. There must be opportunities for **reskilling and upskilling of the 78 million people** that we find will be impacted in the ecological transition.

The **global climate agenda is a human story** and it is about human rights and it is about decent work. The ambition that nations and the global community seek cannot be confined to numerical targets and indicators. The ambition must fundamentally be about people, workers with the right skills to transform our energy, transport and food systems, enterprises that innovate, develop new business models and provide society with better goods and services, and communities able to transform and diversify their economies to thrive and sustain livelihoods. All these are about political, economic and social rights.

The ILO, through its tripartite constituency and normative mandate, and through the Global Coalition for Social Justice, is engaged in promoting the right to decent work and advancing social justice so that no one is left behind in a war battling to sustain economies, generate prosperity and enhance human well-being for all.



**Ms. Elisa MORGERA, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
on the Context of Climate Change**

Human rights provide critical norms, processes and evidence for all just transition efforts, domestically and in the context of international cooperation. Human rights also clarify the responsibility of business, including multinational companies, to implement mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence throughout transnational value chains. While all human rights are relevant to the just transition as they are independent, interdependent and indivisible, the SR draws the Council's attention to the synergies between the **human right to a healthy environment and the right to development** in the context of just transition.

The evidence of the **economic inequalities** associated with the activities causing climate change must be central to just transition efforts. Wealth concentration, global and local socioeconomic impacts of climate change on different economic sectors and different sectors of society - including declining living standards and higher living costs - cause negative impacts on the rights to life, health, adequate standard of living and cultural rights. Based on this evidence, the right to development can and must be understood as a state obligation. It is an obligation to develop new economic models that address economic inequalities by deprioritizing the demands of the richest groups in society who worsen social exclusion and extreme poverty.

As part and parcel of these efforts, the right to development calls on states to develop economic models that provides goods and services that enhance human and planetary well-being and reduce the production of unnecessary and toxic products. In other words, the right to development should be interpreted and applied in ways that fully align with all the substantive elements of the human right to a healthy environment. This chimes with the most recent global scientific assessments on the **nexus among climate change, biodiversity, food, water and health**. Furthermore, the just transition should be pursued in accordance with state's obligations to prevent discrimination, including by discontinuing patterns of racial discriminations and prioritising reparations for historical climate harm, domestically and in international relations.

Domestically, the creation of **sacrifice zones**, land grabbing, forced displacement and conflicts are all elements that should be clearly prevented as part of the just transition. Internationally, global patterns of structural racial discrimination that are based on an equal distribution of power among states and between states and transnational corporations result in disproportionate benefits accruing to nations, companies and consumers in the global north. Economic models to prevent discrimination are needed, including from an intergenerational equity perspective.

The **human rights of future generations** entail that states should not shift the burden of mitigating and remedying climate change to future generations. The human rights of children today entail the states prioritise just transition approaches in the best interest of the child, in accordance with children's right to development and respecting children's agency and their right to be heard and not to be bound by the choices made by others that can severely detriment their rights in the present and in the future. Crucially, the right to development must be interpreted so as to support the right to self-determination, considering that the survival of states that contribute minimally to climate change is impaired by loss of territory to sea level rise and by protracted unsafe climate conditions.



People are also substantially **deprived of their means of subsistence** because of severe deterioration of entire ecosystems due to climate change. The cultural survival of populations of small island developing states, Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, peasants and small scale fishers is impaired by loss of territories, protracted unsafe climatic conditions and severe ecosystem degradation. Sustainable economic models for the just transition must therefore be construed on the basis of the insights and lived experience of the human rights holders that have been most affected by climate change and by those who are already or will be most likely negatively affected by just transition efforts, notably workers that will be affected by the fossil fuel phase-out. **Meaningful participation** and inclusion in the just transition supports transformative change. Indigenous peoples, peasants, women, persons with disabilities, marginalised groups should not be seen as a matter of social acceptability of climate solutions but rather as co-developers of the broader economic models that can serve planetary and human well-being. So we need to understand the just transition as transformation across sectors.

In this year's UNHRC **thematic report on de-fossilization**, the SR focuses on the need to phase out fossil fuels not only in the energy sector but also in terms of plastic production and production of petrochemical products that we find in our food systems and in our health systems and across our innovation efforts. Addressing the root causes of climate change and the planetary crisis serves to realise a multitude of international objectives. Climate change mitigation, prevention of toxic pollution, protection of nature, the most impactful health intervention and finding sources of much needed climate finance.

We cannot just replace for instance one source of energy with another because these narrow approaches to transition are not only ineffective, but also reiterate the same causes of climate change and planetary crisis. States need to critically **assess their energy needs** and their energy need projections - including critical mineral mining projections - with a view to tackling overconsumption and overproduction patterns that perpetuate climate change and climate injustice. All states should conduct comprehensive environmental and human rights assessments of their energy needs and energy demand projections focussing on energy poverty and other inequities in the energy sector that have affected the cost of living and standards of living. Focussing on **energy overconsumption** by the richest, focussing on the dependency on exported or imported fossil fuels in developing countries, notably least developed countries and small island developing states, and options for de-fossilizing different economic sectors in the light of environmental and health benefits particularly for children.

From a global perspective, the SR touches upon the need for **reforms of international investment law** which is currently hindering just transition legislation and policies. Multinational fossil fuel companies are benefiting from undue protection against climate action under bilateral investment agreements and investor-state dispute settlement. Companies are awarded exorbitant compensation when states take climate measures they may impact their expected profits, including in circumstances where damages would not be available under national law. **Roughly the equivalent of the gross domestic product of 45 of the world's poorest or smallest countries put together has been awarded in damages to fossil fuel companies.** This means that states and taxpayers are paying fossil fuel companies compensation for blocking attempts to advance the transition. This also means that public funding are being diverted from investments in renewables adaptation and workers social protection.



REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Tovar DA SILVA NUNES, Ambassador of Brazil, notes the importance attached by the audience to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the need for an inclusive approach in order to promote direct transition. Brazil believes that the **COP30 in Belem** will be an important platform to promote the Just Transition Agenda and actually move from a negotiating process to the implementation of the commitments on climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and international human rights obligations.

Reflecting on the seriousness of the challenge and the insufficient action, the Ambassador recalls that this question was posed by late Pope Francis in 2015 and once again 2023. In fact, there is a **lack of a moral and ethical reflection** on what we need to do. For this reason, Brazil is proposing in Belem to take stock of this inability to move forward with the commitments that states have agreed and make sure states implement them. Brazil calls this a **global ethical stocktake**, thereby inviting everyone in the global community to join Brazil in a *mutirão* - a word borrowed from Indigenous communities meaning that everybody should work together towards a common purpose. This action agenda serves as a blueprint for a **collective global effort** and an initiative guided by ethical, moral, and scientific imperative of just transition and equity.

Ms. Andrea CARMEN emphasizes the strong resolve of Indigenous peoples to be full partners with states in building real, just, and effective solutions to the climate crisis. Just transition is a central consideration as we seek such solutions, but it cannot be a continuation of business as usual under a different name. It must prioritise a comprehensive transition away from the production and use of fossil fuels as an absolute requirement to uphold the global commitment to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It must also include support for sustainable projects and activities that actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do not cause further environmental destruction, including those being carried out by indigenous peoples around the world. A **just transition must be centred on human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples**, as well as Indigenous time-tested knowledge and their full and effective participation. States also need to collectively recognise that this is more than a political debate about whether respecting human rights might hinder economic profits from untested new technologies, carbon market projects, and destructive mineral mining carried out in the name of green energy. The climate crisis requires that we choose a different path altogether, one that **upholds our sacred responsibilities to each other, to our future generations, and to the natural world** that Indigenous peoples call Mother Earth. *‘Survival is really what is at stake, yours and ours.’*

Mr. Moustapha Kamal GUEYE welcomes the useful insights from delegates and other stakeholders, from which it emerges a clear recognition of the imperatives of a just transition. He recalls that in 2023 in the very same Human Rights Chamber, the International Labour Conference held a general discussion on just transition, which resulted in a resolution alongside important conclusions that provide us with a very useful framework to pursue action globally but also nationally. The framework on just transition that delegates adopted at the Labour Conference in 2023 make it clear that there is no single pathway to a just transition. Just transition depends on national context. It is not just about energy. It is about agriculture, food transport systems. It is also important to note that these are all **interconnected agendas - human rights, the climate agenda, decent work**. For this reason, the ILO highly values the collaboration with



OHCHR and all the work carried out collectively at the technical level but also through political engagement. The ILO also highly appreciates OHCHR's engagement in the Global Coalition for Social Justice. There is certainly a **greater need for policy coherence**. The agenda on human rights, climate change, decent work means that member states and their ministries in charge of labour, ministries foreign affairs, environment and development would need to guide the UN system more in working together. This is also what in the UN system is doing, making its work more effective, more efficient, and being at the service of states in ways that also make value for money and deliver more effectively. The ILO is also very privileged to collaborate with the **Climate Vulnerable Forum**, currently chaired by the **Barbados**, working closely with SIDS, LDCs, and all countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change and where immense deficits for social work have to be addressed and which are being exacerbated by climate change. The ILO very much looks forward to engaging in COP30 under the Brazilian presidency, especially under the leadership of the Ambassador of Brazil. The ILO is already working very closely with its Brazilian Office in the COP process on various fronts and very much looks forward to advancing this agenda in Belém.

Looking at **pathways towards a just transition**, **Ms. Elisa MORGERA** refers first of all to the need to prioritise the actions that have the highest scientifically proven capacity to protect human rights of present and future generations now against the impacts of climate change. This meaning prioritising the phase out of fossil fuels. The second step is reviewing our assumptions and our models, which means asking whose needs are not being attended, whose needs are being prioritised, and who is benefiting from current models and who are we leaving behind. On this issue, national human rights institutions and diverse knowledge holders have a critical role to play. The third step is about creating **spaces for co-development of knowledge and solutions** to the planetary crisis. This means creating - locally, domestically, and in international fora such as the climate COP - spaces to think about fair partnerships and fair and equitable sharing of benefits and burdens from the just transition. This entails mutual learning and maybe also moving away from a one-way transfer of technology or of capacity, but rather moving **towards processes of co-development of technology** and mutual capacity-building, where we think around what to learn from the lived experiences of the persons and human rights holders most affected by climate change; and where to learn from Indigenous science, from peasants and small-scale fisheries knowledge systems, from children's innovation and inventiveness.

The SR had the privilege of participating in the **first global ethical stocktake** in London, where she felt hope and inspiration, as such a forum proves how opening up those spaces for learning, for reflecting, for engaging with the science and the understanding of the impacts, speaking very clearly about where we are going wrong and where we do not have sufficient certainty that our efforts will bring us to a safer, to a clear pathway towards a safer climate is essential. The SR stresses it is essential at every level, from the local level to national levels to international levels. It is necessary at the climate COP, but also in all multilateral environmental agreement spaces, where there are opportunities and need for **climate finance aligned with biodiversity**, taking more nexus approaches, including in all international and bilateral free trade and investment agreements. To remove some of the barriers to advancing on just transition, we need an overhaul of those areas of international law and to look at how those objectives of those areas of international law need to be explicitly and systematically geared towards effectively tackling the planetary crisis and putting all of us on a path towards a safer climate.



INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Albania recalls that climate change is already damaging people's lives and rights, and those who have contributed the least are paying the highest price. Albania, like many other developing countries, emits little, yet it is already dealing with the consequences, disrupted agriculture and increased migration pressures. This is not just an environmental issue. It is a justice issue. The impacts of climate change are threatening the rights to water, health, housing and livelihoods. These impacts fall mostly on those already vulnerable, women, children and rural communities. Albania is acting, not because it is major polluters, but because it believes in responsibility and opportunity. But action without support will not get us far. Words of solidarity must translate into finance, technology and real collaboration, especially for countries on the front line. States must stop talking about just transition as theory. They should make it reality for everyone.

Bahrain on behalf of the Arab group underscores that a just transition is vital to fight climate change whilst also respecting human rights and the dignity of women young people and people with disabilities. The Arab group highlights that climate change already challenges the right to life, health, drinking water and food in the most vulnerable countries and coastal countries. We must adopt a holistic approach based on mitigation and adaptation also including participation by all parts of society whilst ensuring social protections for the most vulnerable to build more resilient societies. The Arab group calls for funds to be brought together for loss and damage and international partnerships involving LDCs and SIDS. In conclusion, the Arab group expresses its will to support all efforts in this area.

Bangladesh on behalf of the core group on the human rights and climate change resolution notes with alarm that, as a result of adverse impacts of climate change, 132 million additional people might be pushed into poverty by 2030 an estimation of the world bank. If the world fails to take immediate climate action hunger will spiral out of control as cautioned by the WFP. Moreover, climate induced disasters will increase the likelihood of conflicts in the most fragile regions and 260 million people would be internally displaced worldwide by 2050 which is not too far. It is high time to galvanise international cooperation and assistance for undertaking urgent global climate action. Developing countries including LDCs and SIDS are the hardest hit by climate change despite being the least contributors to the incremental global warming. The core group reiterates the urgency of scaling up action and support, in particular in financing technology transfer and capacity-building for facilitating just transitions through mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as of assisting developing countries in averting minimising and addressing loss and damage. The core group looks forward to hearing from the esteemed panellists regarding fair equitable inclusive and sustainable just transition pathways which will create decent work opportunities reduce inequalities and enhance human rights for all.

The **Barbados on behalf of CARICOM** notes that the facts are undeniable. Small island states are the front lines of this existential crisis and it is the most vulnerable in our and in any society that will suffer the most from climate disasters. Women and girls, the disabled community, the elderly, indigenous persons, migrant communities and those who are economically and socially marginalised are most at risk. There is a need to better understand and respond to their priorities before, during and after a crisis. Facilitating just transitions is not just about recovery. It is about



building resilience and this entails access to climate financing, especially grant financing, dialogue with social partners, access to technology, focussing on the role of insurance sectors in mobilising disaster finance and climate investment, global investment in migration, adaptation and a recommitment to the 1.5 degree promise. The Caribbean is on the front lines of the crisis but it will also remain on the front lines of supporting a greater spotlight on just transitions and resilience building.

Cameroon welcomes this annual discussion on the negative effects of climate change on the effective exercise of human rights. Climate change is really happening and the consequences we can see, particularly in developing countries. Cameroon is the green lung of Central Africa because of its wealth of forest ecosystems. This is why Cameroon is firmly attached to the comprehensive implementation of the Paris Agreement and other relevant multilateral instruments. We have to abide by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In 2025, Cameroon has for the first time brought in climate-sensitive budgeting. The country wants to step up its fight on waste and put in place a national roadmap for a circular economy, moving towards green and resilient growth. Cameroon's ambition is clear. It wants to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 35%. With a firm belief that sustainable development, which respects human rights, is both possible and necessary, Cameroon encourages the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to ensure that the link between human rights and climate change is a pillar of his mandate.

Colombia hopes to be carbon zero by 2050, reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by 51% and to scale down its use of fossil fuel which are mainly driving climate change. The just transition is not just about an energy source change. It is about making human changes which requires fairness, balance across the territory and social justice. It's an opportunity to overcome historic social inequalities. The imperative is not move towards a decarbonised economy, including at the local level and thereby involving groups that are in vulnerable situations such as Indigenous peoples, women, local communities, migrants, displaced persons, children, young people and persons with disability amongst others. Nobody must be left behind. Colombia's national development plan sees this as a way forward towards a productive economy with social justice based on sustainable infrastructure and technology amongst other things. The country also has an intersectoral strategy. These are not separate goals, many things are two faces of the same coin. This is why its environmental decisions must be an opportunity to build a fairer and more resilient society.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of La Francophonie (OIF)** stresses that climate change is a major challenge. The harmful impacts of it can be seen every day. They deepen inequalities notably with respect to women but also people in vulnerable situations the elderly people living with disabilities indigenous peoples and in particular children but above all girls. As we face this urgent situation, the group of Francophone Ambassadors reaffirms its historic commitment to fight climate change ensuring that there is a just inclusive transition and the SDGs are put in place to ensure to guarantee basic rights. The Francophone Ambassadors reaffirm their strong active commitment including supporting the participation of women facilitating innovation and introducing new innovative solutions. For example, the OIF is supporting environmental initiatives to preserve the Congo basin. This Organisation calls for



efforts to be redoubled to guarantee the rights of future generations. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities for peace and prosperity.

The **Dominican Republic** emphasizes that climate change is a direct threat to the right to a decent life. The phenomenon is speeding up as shown by the increase in natural disasters which affect basic rights, such as the right to food, housing and safety, especially in the most vulnerable countries. This causes displacement, hunger, illness and deprivations, which do away with the social and economic achievements. The Dominican Republic believes that we have to move to a sustainable economy. This is not an option, it is essential. The country has put in place a law on climate change which is rights-based as well as a national strategy for sustainable development. It also have nationally determined contributions (NDCs) which focusses on adaptation and resilience, but no country can do this alone. There is a need for global solidarity, promoting financing, access to clean technology and effective cooperation for the transfer of knowledge and technology. The UNHRC shall continue to focus on climate change on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities. We must protect lives and guarantee rights, leaving no one behind.

Ecuador recalls that ten years ago, the Paris Agreement recognised the concepts of climate justice and the fact that everyone must bear in mind their respective human rights obligations, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous peoples and that of other people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equality and fairness. Since then, Ecuador has moved towards the promotion of just transition measures to sustainable economies that are resilient and low in emissions in order to protect the human rights of all. Despite having a marginal responsibility when it comes to global emissions, for all of these reasons, Ecuador has adopted climate policies that have a comprehensive approach and that allow us to move towards an ecological transition. It wants to create employment, reduce inequality, strengthen the full respect and protection of human rights, especially for the most vulnerable, and look at the multidimensional effects of climate change. Ecuador hopes this panel that will lead to an exchange of good practises, stimulating opportunities and particularly increasing cooperation and national investment and sustainable foreign investment in the respect of human rights for all.

Ghana on behalf of the African group recognises that just transitions are essential to achieving climate justice in a way that respects protects and promotes human rights. Africa remains one of the regions most severely affected by climate change despite being one of the lowest contributors to global emissions. In this context, the African group advocates that transitions should be inclusive equitable and centred on human dignity creating an environment that favours the participation of all communities in decision-making. Finally, the African group emphasises that the success of just transitions depends not only on reducing emissions but also on promoting justice equity and development for all especially in developing countries.

Iceland on behalf of a group of countries emphasizes that climate change has widespread impacts on the realisation of human rights affecting fundamental aspects of life such as the right to food water health and housing with severe implications for those in vulnerable situations. In vulnerable situations such as migrants affected by climate change existing gender inequalities can be exacerbated impacting women and girls disproportionately including through increased risk of sexual and gender based violence. Addressing the adverse impacts of climate change requires a multifaceted approach encompassing mitigation adaptation and addressing loss and



damage amongst others. A human rights based approach to climate action emphasises public participation accountability and the needs of those most affected by climate change. Just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all should be fair equitable and inclusive. Meaningful inclusive and safe participation is foundational to comprehensive and effective just transition policies planning and implementation.

India recalls that climate change is a defining threat to the full realisation of human rights, especially in developing countries. India believes that the concept of just transition must be far broader than currently perceived. For transition pathways to be truly just and rights-based, equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and global climate justice must be at the core of all discussions. Just transition cannot be reduced to a platform for prescriptive, top-down approaches that disregard nationally determined priorities. Too often discussions at the UNHRC sidestep these core principles, ignoring the overriding priority of development for Global South countries, which face pervasive and persistent challenges of inequalities in energy, infrastructure and financing. Just transition must foreground the vastly different national circumstances and starting points. We must discuss the key enablers and disablers of just transitions, including unilateral trade measures, restrictive intellectual property regimes and the inequitable distribution of transition costs. Taking into account adequate and just means of implementation is also essential. Transitions in developing countries must not be treated as merely investment opportunities with a high human cost. Preserving carbon space is vital for poverty eradication and inclusive growth. India remains committed to climate action that is human-centric, development-orientated and adheres to the principle of global climate justice.

Iraq reiterates its firm commitment to the protection of the environment and combating climate change as a national priority. Stressing the need to protect biodiversity and the environment, Iraq has adopted many measures since 2009 and a new strategy for the period 2024 to 2028. This includes measures to ensure safeguarding the environment, moving to clean energy and protecting green spaces. This is pursuant to the nationally determined contributions. One of Iraq's major challenges is the scarcity of water resources, along with rising temperatures and desertification. Iraq has redoubled efforts to launch its national strategy for environmental protection 2024-2030, which was adopted in September 2024, in a bid to overcome its challenges, especially the loss of biodiversity and desertification, there has been a greater participation of women in this area.

Jamaica refers to its oral submission to the ICJ hearings on climate change, which highlighted the clear and present danger presented by the climate crisis for many small island developing states. The government of Jamaica has pursued targeted initiatives to align national development priorities with climate action. However, developing countries urgently need greater international support through adequate and predictable climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building. Jamaica calls for greater recognition of the human rights implications of climate action and inaction, the participation of affected communities including youth and women in decision-making processes, and most critically, the honouring of financial commitments made under the Paris Agreement, including through the Loss and Damage Fund. A just transition is a necessity and the responsibility of states in fulfilling their human rights obligations. Finally, Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to cooperate with partners to ensure a transition grounded in equity and human rights.



Luxembourg appreciates the statements by the panellists which emphasise appropriately the need to have a comprehensive approach bearing in mind environmental, social and economic dimensions. Today, the opening of the 4th Conference on Financing for Development in Seville is a crucial opportunity to strengthen the links between climate commitments, financing for development which is sustainable and human rights. There is no sustainable development without sustainable financing. It is essential that financial flows support the most vulnerable, guarantee equality and fully respect the principles of inclusion and transparency. Restating its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the principle of not leaving anyone behind, Luxembourg insists on the importance of technical assistance which allows least developed countries to chart a safe course connecting climate protection to bringing about everyone's rights all the time. This also includes making the most of Indigenous knowledge which is essential for sustainable local and fair solutions. Luxembourg also supports through the Forest and Climate Change Funds employment generating projects in areas of high poverty in Guatemala to make sure that local communities can benefit by offering them local forest value chains while combating deforestation.

Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN and Timor-Leste states that ASEAN recognises that climate change has profound impacts on the enjoyment of human rights disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups including women, children, older people, people with disabilities, people living in this rural and remote areas. ASEAN underscores the importance of facilitating a just transition to a low carbon regional economy ensuring that the transition pathways are fair, equitable, inclusive and sustainable leaving no one behind with special attention given to supporting those most affected by climate change. ASEAN has adopted regional tools to support these efforts including the ASEAN taxonomy for sustainable finance, ASEAN transition finance guidance and cross-border renewable energy cooperation. These initiatives aim to ensure that transitions are fair equitable. ASEAN is finalising the ASEAN climate change strategic action plan 2025-2030 which will serve as a roadmap for member states to collectively address climate change. The ongoing establishment of the ASEAN centre for climate change will further advance ASEAN's inclusive and coordinated efforts in addressing climate change. ASEAN emphasises the need for enhanced international cooperation and support to develop zero and low emission technologies and solutions and accelerate technology transfer innovation and the development of human and institutional capacities. No one must be left behind in the transition process.

The **Marshall Islands on behalf of a group of Pacific Island States** points out that climate change is the greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the people in the Pacific. Those who have contributed the least to the climate crisis and are the most vulnerable to its impacts. The international community must respond to the human rights threats posed by climate change and sea level rise, reaffirming the preservation of maritime boundaries and continuity of statehood. Global climate action must be rapid, sustained and transformative and it must be gender responsive and empower youth and children. The group calls on states who deliver nationally determined contributions with ambitious economy-wide emission reduction targets covering all sectors, greenhouse gases and categories and aligned with the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature limit. NDCs should respond to the first global stock ticked outcomes including the transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems. The group calls for sustained quality and accessible climate finance particularly for adaptation and loss and damage and to

address debt challenges. All efforts should take into account the human rights of those vulnerable to climate change.

Nepal states that climate change continues to undermine the human rights of millions around the world, particularly in vulnerable and mountain economies. Nepal is disproportionately bearing the brunt of climate change, despite its negligible carbon emissions. To strengthen its ongoing call for climate action, the Government of Nepal hosted the first ever Sagarmatha Sambaad, meaning Mount Everest Dialogue, a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum last May in Kathmandu, under the theme Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity. We need a shared resolve and collective commitment to climate action and just transitions through multi-stakeholder partnerships, enhanced access to climate finance, and appropriate technologies. In this regard, Nepal would like to hear from the panel about the measures best suited for developing and climate-vulnerable countries in their efforts towards human rights-based climate action and just transitions.

The **Philippines** points out that the climate crisis is raging with devastating consequences to the enjoyment of human rights by all. The window for meaningful climate action is fast closing. A just transition towards sustainability in the global economy has never been more urgent. The Philippines welcomes the agreement reached at the IMO in April 2025 on the 2025 net zero framework, which sets fuel standards and greenhouse gas emissions pricing for the shipping industry's decarbonisation to net zero by 2050. International shipping transports around 90% of world trade that are essential to the smooth functioning of our societies. But this comes at a cost to the environment and the climate system. Shipping accounts for 2% of global GHG emissions. This milestone deal is therefore a necessary recalibration towards the path of sustainability and resilience. As this green transition unfolds, we must keep the very people that work in this strategic industry at the centre of policy discussions and interventions. These include the seafarers who operate the ships that ply our oceans to deliver life sustaining goods in good and bad times. New technologies and the shift to alternative fuels will inevitably redefine the seafaring profession, particularly in terms of new competencies needed in the health and safety of seafarers.

Saudi Arabia on behalf of a group of 62 countries stresses that lacking climate finance is severely undermining the ability of developing countries to safeguard human rights and build climate resilience. The group remains gravely concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change continue to threaten the full and effective enjoyment of human rights worldwide, particularly in developing countries. The group emphasises the importance of the commitment to the full effective and sustained implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. This commitment is integral to advancing sustainable development, eradicating poverty, ending hunger and malnutrition and strengthening the resilience of livelihoods contributing to the achievement of the convention's ultimate objective. The group stresses that under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities remains a cornerstone of international climate cooperation. Developed countries have a clear obligation to take the lead in reducing emissions and providing support in finance technology and capacity-building. The group is deeply concerned by increasing efforts by some states to directly disregard the principle



of collective but shared responsibilities, a move that undermines decades of multilateral consensus and shifts our burdens.

Sierra Leone welcomes the commitment to a just transition that safeguards human rights and promotes a healthy environment for all. A just transition is crucial for Sierra Leone, given its extreme climate vulnerability, climate impact, such as rising sea levels, mudslides and drought, severely affect rural farmers, coastal communities and informal workers who are already marginalised and lack adequate social protections. Sierra Leone's climate strategy prioritises fairness, inclusion and human rights. These principles are integrated into its National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan, which focusses on providing access to clean energy and launch solar initiatives, among other things. Community Climate Councils in one of their chief zones promotes inclusive participation and ensures equitable distribution of benefits. However, significant challenges remain. Sierra Leone's extractive mineral projects have strained ecosystems and marginalised communities. Sierra Leone calls on development partners to appropriately target finance for small-scale green enterprises and support the extension of social safety nets so vulnerable community workers are shielded from the shocks of change. A just transition requires an integrated, systemic approach to energy, ecosystems, infrastructure, industry and society. To achieve a healthy society environment, it calls for a sustained investment, robust legal protection and transparent value-sharing models.

Trinidad and Tobago, as a small island developing state, continues to navigate the complex interplay between national development imperatives, economic diversification, and the protection of human rights, particularly in the face of increased vulnerability to climate change. In pursuing efforts to transition from an oil- and gas-based economy to an environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient one, the government is prioritising social dialogue, decent work, and social protection, all key pillars of a just transition. Technical cooperation has also been essential. Initiatives such as the 2023 Just Transition Workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago, in partnership with the British High Commission, the ILO, and the national Energy Chamber, highlight the value of collaboration in pursuing a just transition, one that takes into account environmental considerations, structural changes to labour markets, and emerging technologies. The ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice, of which the country is a member, also provides a useful framework for meaningful cooperation and partnerships. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago reiterates the continued importance of financing, technical assistance, and cooperation with key regional and international partners.

Tunisia restates its commitment to the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change and to the Paris Agreement. When it comes to respecting commitments and the efforts in adapting to climate change, Tunisia has adopted the National Transition Strategy, with a set of 50 goals, and has included climate change in its priorities as part of its development strategy 2023-2025. Tunisia has seen a greater impact of climate change on societies and this has had a knock-on effect on measures that countries have taken. There have certainly been human rights consequences with very severe effects in Tunisia, while not being responsible. The situation requires a global response on the basis of common but shared, but differentiated responsibilities. There is a need to bring countries a position to better face climate change and ensure there is sustainable financing for adaptation and mitigation.



The **United Arab Emirates** stresses that combating climate change is closely connected to human dignity and to human rights and this is why the UAE has an integrated approach which marries economic growth, social justice and environmental protection. Looking at 2050, the UAE has defined its national contributions in order to boost investment, invest in energy and employment policies and shoring up capacities. In order to support global efforts, the UAE has held the first meeting of the Fund for Loss and Damages in order to ensure a just transition. Committed to cooperating with Brazil looking forward to COP30, the UAE wants to identify the best possible ways to ensure climate financing, bearing in mind the needs of the most vulnerable countries facing this scourge ensuring that they can appropriately adapt to climate change.

Views Expressed by intergovernmental Organizations

The **Council of Europe** stresses that pollution and climate change represent existential threat to our planet and societies. This crisis demand urgent and coordinated action. The Council of Europe has long been a pioneer in environmental protection, particularly on natural heritage, landscape and biodiversity. Today, the world faces a climate emergency that not only endangers our ecosystems but also poses fundamental challenges to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. A clean, healthy and sustainable environment is indispensable to the full enjoyment of human rights. This essential postulate has been consistently affirmed by the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights. It is also at the heart of the recommendation on human rights and the protection of the environment which provides a comprehensive framework for member states to ensure that human rights are respected in the context of environmental governance. Last month, the Committee of Ministers adopted a five-year strategy for the environment which integrates human rights, democratic governance and the rule of law into environmental policy and action across all sectors. It places a strong focus on just transition, ensuring that climate and environmental action is socially fair and leaves no one behind. The Council of Europe remains a committed actor.

The **European Union** fully support the call for a just transition as a key pathway to address climate change while ensuring the full realisation of human rights for all. Climate change and environmental degradation continue to have a massive adverse impact on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights across the globe. A just transition must be inclusive and rights based ensuring that no one is left behind. At the EU level, this is the central principle for the European Green Deal through instruments such as just transition mechanism mobilising up to 55 billion euros between years 2021 and 27. It includes a just transition fund addressing social and economic impacts of the transition supporting the most affected. Just transition pathways towards a net zero on climate resilient society should contribute to respecting promoting and fulfilling human rights. The EU encourages the inclusion of these considerations in climate action. The EU supports partner countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate impacts through its external engagement whether via mobilisation of climate finance international cooperation or multilateral engagement. Just transition is a not merely a policy choice it is a moral imperative. The EU looks forward to working with global partners to seize its opportunities and meet its challenges.

The **FAO** welcomes the Council's focus on facilitating just transitions as we confront the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. This emphasis on equity and inclusion will enable more ambitious and effective climate action and climate resilient development. Climate action



and human rights, especially the right to food, must advance together. Climate change is a threat multiplier for hunger and inequality and those least responsible suffer the most. A just transition means empowering vulnerable farmers and rural communities, including women and youth, with the tools, technologies and support to adapt and thrive in a green economy. It also means aligning climate policies with social protection and equity, ensuring no one is left behind. The FAO's approach is to integrate climate resilience with poverty reduction and sustainable development, a holistic approach to maximise co-benefits and address trade-offs. stand ready to support states in turning these principles into concrete and rights-based action.

The **Sovereign Order of Malta** continues to be deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change and its effect on human rights. The many extremes in climate-related impact witnessed and how these disproportionately affected certain communities highlight the need for promoting practical responses that are fair, balanced and responsive to local needs. In its work with Malteser International, its international relief agency, the Order of Malta has taken into account the climate-related challenges affecting communities while continuing to respond to their most urgent needs. In northern Uganda, in cooperation with Impact Building Solutions Foundation, Malteser International is working to promote carbon-neutral construction while creating new jobs and perspectives for refugees and members of the local host communities. In Colombia, the Order of Malta supports around 4,000 people displaced by conflict, many of whom have lost their livelihoods. Climate change further strains natural resources, threatening income and food security. The Sovereign Order's response includes training in sustainable farming, disaster preparedness and eco-friendly livelihoods like beekeeping, recognising the vital link between communities and their environment. Ensuring such access across all regions helps enable practical, local-driven responses to climate change.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Qatar** is closely monitoring the unfolding negative impact of climate change on human rights and commends the efforts made by the SR. The Commission urges the SR to focus on the Doha Declaration following the outcome of the international conference organised by the Qatari NHRC in February 2023 on climate change and human rights in cooperation with UNDP and the League of Arab States. The Commission calls for support for states, ensuring that they have appropriate technical assistance to enable them to take necessary measures. There must also be involvement of national human rights institutions as are a privileged partner to ensure the achievement of results in protecting the most vulnerable. Policies in favour of Indigenous peoples must also be reviewed, ensuring that rights holders have access to necessary mechanisms to obtain justice.

The **National Council of Human Rights of Morocco** reaffirms its commitment to protect the right to a healthy environment ensuring there is a just transition based on human rights principles. Climate justice cannot be divorced from social justice. Investment policies must be subject to a human rights-based impact analysis and this must involve all stakeholders including civil society and NHRIs. The Moroccan NHRI supports efforts made by the country in order to broaden social protection. This is essential to lessen employment-related effects and in order to ensure a just transition, the NHRI of Morocco addresses the following recommendations: a unified code for environmental protection; strengthened coordination between the different stakeholders working on environmental issues ensuring better protection for the most vulnerable; continuous



development of economic alternatives or income-generating activities for those who are most impacted, helping people to transition jobs and continue to support small and medium sized enterprises to make sure they can adapt to the new regulatory framework.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

Anti-slavery international, given the ongoing devastating impacts of climate change, considers the full transition away from the fossil fuel economy as an imperative. Solar, wind and electric vehicle industries in particular are critical to this transition. However, many industries currently carry significant human rights risks from a forced labour perspective. For example, migrant workers are facing severe exploitation in the growing renewable energy sector in the Gulf region where companies and investors are relying on an exploitative labour model to deliver their green energy projects. The solar and electric vehicle industries and broader critical mineral sourcing are heavily implicated in forced labour in the Uyghur region where the Chinese government is systematically persecuting Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim majority peoples. A central element of this persecution occurs through state-imposed forced labour. We must ensure the transition to green energy is not reliant on human suffering. To help achieve this, governments should introduce mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation accompanied by import controls on products made in whole or in part or transported with forced labour that effectively tackle state-imposed forced labour and incentivise remediation. Co-operate internationally to support investment in alternative technologies and sources of supply and meaningfully consult relevant independent trade unions and affected communities.

The **Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health** is deeply concerned about the rule of the UAE which has presented itself as a climate leader while simultaneously undermining core human rights including the right to privacy and freedom of expression. The UAE has repeatedly spied on human rights defenders, environmental activists and journalists both domestically and internationally using intrusive surveillance technologies. This creates a chilling effect that prevents genuine public participation in climate policy and silenced voices calling for justice and accountability. Meaningfully, climate action cannot exist without civic space. It cannot exist in an environment of repression, censorship and fear. The Institute calls on the UNHCR and the panel to recognise that climate-related surveillance and repressions are human rights violations; ensure that countries engaging in such practises are not shielded from scrutiny because of their financial influence in climate diplomacy; and urge all states, including the UAE, to end digital repression and represent the rights of environment defenders.

The **Centre for International Environmental Law** (CIEL) stresses the imperative for an ambitious science-based and rights-based system-wide transition is clearer than ever, amidst an intensification of climate impacts worldwide. An effective just transition must begin with a full, fast phase-out of fossil fuels across all sectors. It must be grounded in human rights, free and prior informed consent, equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It must centre affected communities, workers, marginalised groups and Indigenous peoples. The rights of participation, access to information and justice should be the cornerstone of such processes. This also includes protecting environmental and human rights defenders who risk their lives to advance climate justice. A truly just transition must avoid replicating the harms of the extractive fossil fuel economy, particularly the social and environmental impacts associated with the mining of transition minerals. It must also guarantee access to effective remedy for



communities and workers harmed by both the fossil fuel economy and the transition process. States must also reject speculative and unproven technologies, such as carbon capture, geoengineering and offsets, that delay real action and entrench inequalities. Real science-based climate solutions secure energy sovereignty, foster democratic systems of production and consumption and empower communities. Only by addressing systemic injustice and upholding the rights of people and the planet can the transition be truly just.

The **Chinese Association for International Understanding** appreciates the SR's thematic report and agrees with the SR that de-fossilisation is necessary to truly open up a just, human-based transition to renewable energy. It is certain that the realisation of all this depends on transparency. The Association seizes this opportunity to present China's practises in the realm of corporate information disclosure. First, from the top-level design perspective, fundamental guidelines of corporate sustainability disclosure standards have put forward requirements for corporate sustainable information disclosure and prevent greenwashing risks. Second, regulation on carbon emission trading requires key greenhouse gas emitters to disclose carbon emission information. Third, listed companies are required to publish their ESG reports by the end of 2026. At the same time, diverse and different practises of ESG information disclosure have been carried out in various regions. As of the end of September 2024, the ESG report disclosure rate for listed central state-owned companies reached 99.6%.

Earthjustice points out that in the present context of the climate crisis, all states must take action to ensure a just transition away from the current fossil fuel-based economy. Considering the scale of impact of energy policies, states must guarantee opportunities for meaningful public participation and access to information during the policymaking process. For a future de-fossilized economy, states must adapt the traditionally fossil fuel power sector by removing barriers still preventing clean energy from entering the power grid. A just transition requires also to reduce the harms associated with the increase of critical mineral mining. States can adopt three policies. One, more efficient standards to reduce mineral intensity. Two, leverage state spending to promote and deploy clean technologies that require fewer minerals. And three, invest in public electric transport infrastructure. States can make more people move with fewer vehicles, making a more efficient use of critical minerals. Building more resilience and reducing the scale required to power the energy transition will lower environmental harm and human rights risk, particularly those associated with extractive industries.

Geneve pour les Droits de l'Homme on behalf of the Coalition Against Illegal Mining warns that the Amazon is collapsing and what is being destroyed is not a faraway ecosystem, but rather the possibility of actually living on Earth. The Amazon covers 7.6 million square kilometres. It brings 20% of the world's fresh water. It circulates water cycles and is a major carbon sink. Illegal mining for gold affects many Amazon countries and alters the global climate. In Peru, in Madre de Dios, for example, mining – deforestation due to mining has destroyed thousands of hectares and freed carbon, which has been stored for centuries. There is slush and burn. In Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador, mercury is polluting water and the air. In Brazil, the Yanomami territory is being polluted by mercury, affecting many thousands of Indigenous peoples. Climate degradation is a visible wound. The rights of Indigenous peoples must be respected, otherwise, there will be no future, no climate or no future to protect.



Terre des Hommes makes a statement to convey the demands of girls and young women from Chile. Transitions in the context of climate change should address the needs of girls and young women, especially with regards to inclusive education. Climate change is affecting their income, their dreams, their health and their future. Sudden climate disasters often lead to increased inequalities, especially when it comes to access to education. Take the example of 14-year-old Fatima from Ghana. She had to abandon school when floods destroyed her family's home. Her family could no longer afford school supplies. She now spends her days selling water on the roadside, risking harassment and exploitation, which creates mental health issues and gender disparity. Terre des Hommes's call to action addressed to states is to ensure that not a single girl is stripped of her right to education by implementing policies that prioritise education for all, to provide more awareness about climate change and include climate education in school curricula, to ensure that communities impacted by climate change are compensated and can migrate safely and get equal opportunities to continue their education. We need bold and immediate actions truly leading to a transition for girls and young women.

Make Mothers Matter recalls that climate change exacerbates existing inequalities, including gender inequalities. In particular, climate change increases the already disproportionate share of unpaid care work sheltered by women and girls. A just transition, therefore, cannot ignore care. It must explicitly recognise and address the disproportionate impact that climate change and environmental degradation have on the unpaid family care work undertaken by women, in particular mothers. Ignoring this dimension risks reproducing and deepening the very inequalities a just transition seeks to eliminate. Make Mothers Matter endorses the call from UNRISD and the Just Transition and Care Network to place care at the heart of climate and economic policies. A truly just transition must not only include care, it must be care centred. This requires nothing less than a profound transformation of our economic and social systems. This must be redesigned to first serve the well-being of both people and the planet, uphold human rights, and embed equity, inclusion, and sustainability. Central to this transformation is the recognition and valuing of care work as fundamental to our economies and society. In other words, there can be no just transition without a shift from a careless to a careful economy.

RSKS India emphasizes that climate change is not only an environmental crisis, it is a human rights emergency. A just transition must go beyond policy rhetoric. It must be rooted in justice, equity, and local realities. RSKS sees the faces behind climate data. Women farmers losing livelihoods due to rain, children missing school due to heat waves, and communities displaced by floods. Their voices must shape climate solutions. The imperative for a just transition is therefore paramount. This is not merely an environmental shift, but a fundamental restructuring of economies and societies grounded in human rights. RSKS India urges all states to centre human rights in climate action, ensure inclusive green job creation, guarantee social protection for workers, and invest in education and climate resilience skills, especially for women and youth. Global commitments must translate into grassroots impact. Just transition must be gender-responsive, community-led, and transparent. RSKS India calls on the UNHRC to promote frameworks that bridge climate justice and human rights, enabling every person, not just the privileged, to thrive in a changing world.

The **India Water Foundation** states that the Government of India recognises the need for inclusive climate resilience and has been taking several steps under the National Action Plan on



Climate Change by promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and water conservation. India integrates climate resilience with the employment for the rural areas. If small and marginal farmers face crop failures and income loss, programmes like National Adaptation Funds for Climate Change aim to build resilience among them. To address urban vulnerabilities, the Government has launched Climate Smart Cities Programme, increase the use of green infrastructure, and strengthen disaster risk reduction mechanisms. It demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring that development gains are not preserved and that resilience is built from the ground up, where it means most.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

24 State Delegations

4 Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Entities

2 National Human Rights Institutions

10 Non-Governmental Organizations