



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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

#HRC59 • 30 June 2025



PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

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

The SR presents her new thematic report on **the imperative of de-fossilising our economies**. Addressing the UNHRC with a sense of urgency, the SR affirms it is still possible to change course towards a safer climate, even despite having experienced the 10 hottest years in recorded history and having crossed the 1.5 degree global temperature in 2024. But states do need to prioritise actions that have the highest scientifically proven capacity to protect the human rights of present and future generations now, in this decade.

The thematic report clarifies that as a matter of existing international human rights obligations, states must urgently phase out fossil fuels, which are the main cause of climate change. There has already been significant progress in decarbonising the energy sector. But despite the recognition of the need for a fossil fuel phase out in the international climate change regime and in the path for the future, **fossil fuel extraction and use are still increasing**.



The thematic report also draws on biodiversity science and health science to reflect on how fossil fuels are at the core of all other planetary crises of **biodiversity loss, toxic pollution and economic inequalities**. Through their full life cycle, fossil fuels have severe and widespread human rights impacts across generations and sectors. Fossil fuels are everywhere in our food systems, in our ocean, in our bodies, including in our brains, and in many cases without us knowing or choosing for them to be in our lives.

They **negatively impact on a range of human rights** from the point of exploration to that of waste management and decommissioning, further exacerbating climate change impacts. Human rights holders in the most vulnerable situations and facing multiple grounds of discrimination, including as a result of climate change, are bearing the brunt. This is the case of children, women, Indigenous peoples, peasants and small scale fishers, among others.

In her report, the SR recommends the **de-fossilization** of our economies as a matter of international human rights obligations. This interpretation rests on the right to self-determination, the right to life and to living dignity, and the obligation to prevent discrimination. It also rests on the obligation to ensure maximum available resources for the full realisation of human rights. In fact, de-fossilization should be understood as an essential **precondition for the right to development**, which supports the right to self-determination and intergenerational equity. The right to development must be fully aligned with all substantive dimensions of the human right to a healthy environment, with a view to effectively tackling the planetary crisis we are facing and reducing poverty, including energy poverty and economic inequalities.

In other words, de-fossilization is a **precondition for the emergence of healthier development models** for people and the planet at the nexus of climate, nature, water, food and health. So what does de-fossilization mean? It entails prioritising the phase-out of fossil fuels, including various forms of financing them within and beyond the energy sector. It means recognising and prioritising the phase-out of fossil fuels as the single most impactful health contribution. De-fossilization underscores the need to focus on fossil fuels, also in connection with the growing production of plastics and petrochemicals, which cause an additional layer of human rights harms and further diminish nature's contribution to climate regulation and human resilience.

De-fossilizing our economies then means tackling all the financial benefits that fossil fuel companies are still gaining, effectively taxing exorbitant profits, phasing out subsidies, particularly those captured by high-income consumers and producers, preventing tax avoidance and tackling the undue protection of fossil fuel companies under international investment law. This is also about requiring fossil fuel companies to finance climate adaptation, mitigation and responses to loss and damage. All these measures illuminate where the much-needed international climate finance can and must be coming from. De-fossilizing our economies also rests on complementary **human rights obligations to de-fossilize knowledge**, to protect human rights in the formation of public opinion and democratic debate from undue commercial influence.

Extensive independent research is relied upon in the SR's report on the fossil fuel industry playbook. This research documents the **evolving strategies to keep away from the public** the



industry's long-standing knowledge of the expected devastated impacts of climate change, including through corporate capture of public policy spaces and attacks against climate scientists and defenders. These strategies are yet another layer of human rights violations **affecting our rights to information, science and public participation** in decision-making. These strategies have and are still preventing our efforts to ensure effective human rights protection from climate change impacts. So we need to prevent further climate obstruction and undo the effects of decades of practises that distort our current public debates on the fossil fuel phase-out.

Another crucial obligation is that of **critically assessing and reprioritizing energy demands** by fairly and equitably distributing the benefits and burdens of de-fossilization. It is essential that the energy needs of those in most vulnerable situations are prioritised. This in turn rests on assessing the extent to which the dependency on fossil fuels has perpetuated energy poverty and other inequities. **Public participation processes** must address energy overconsumption and exponential growth of energy-intensive data centres and AI applications, as well as assumptions about large-scale and concentrated models of energy production. The SR will continue to reflect on these issues in her next report to the UNGA on a **human rights-based approach to renewable energy**, including just transition minerals.

The SR further encourages all states to be ready to implement the **human right to remedy in the context of de-fossilization**. Effective remedies can support transformative change by reclaiming spaces for self-determination, for transforming our economies, and protecting the climate, nature, water, and food upon which our life depends. The most affected human rights holders are best placed, as discussed in the SR's reports last year, to holistically assess impacts, including loss and damage they experienced, taking into account intersectionality and historical and structural discrimination. This is where the most effective and inclusive climate solutions can come from, from their lived experiences.

The **clarifications on human rights obligations** in the SR's thematic report also shed light on the international duty to cooperate and to address de-fossilization in ongoing negotiations on climate change, tax justice, plastic pollution, and business responsibility to respect human rights.

Furthermore, states should **cooperate immediately** in the implementation and monitoring of de-fossilization action. This should and could be done under the Paris Agreement, subject to significant reforms to tackle conflicts of interest of the fossil fuel industry. But if we do not see clear progress in these areas and the upcoming COP held in late 2025 in Brazil, an alternative international process is needed. Such a process should integrate **truth-telling and truth-listening** methodologies of transitional justice approaches, as suggested in last year's UNSG report on loss and damage.

International cooperation is of utmost urgency. In countries where extreme climate events have already been experienced for at least 10 years, as this is the case of Vanuatu, which I had the privilege of visiting at the end of last year, the compounded human rights impacts go well beyond the threshold of significant harm necessary to trigger extraterritorial obligations. In fact, those harms amount to serious and substantial harm to entire states and culture.



PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY VISIT REPORT

The SR presents the report on her visit to **Vanuatu** from 7 November to 5 December 2024, thanking the national authorities for their excellent collaboration and cooperation with her mandate, and for their unwavering international leadership on climate action, which benefits everyone's human rights to a healthy environment. The SR's visit to Vanuatu focusses on **intersectionality**, recommending action that ensures that children, women and girls, LGBTQI+ persons are not left behind in the context of climate change.

The SR developed a series of recommendations to the international community, the UN system, and other international partners and bilateral donors in that context, given that Vanuatu makes a negligible contribution to climate change, and is one of the countries most vulnerable to it. Those recommendations focus on the urgent need to make progress on **climate mitigation**, and notably the phasing out of fossil fuels, and to ensure that international cooperation is proportionate to the harm caused and responsive to locally and culturally grounded needs and approaches.

The SR is aware of the current geopolitical context and the difficulties that the implementation of her recommendations may face. The SR stresses that **de-fossilisation action** can and should take place immediately, at any level, recognising and supporting bottom-up, community-led, city-led and sub-national initiatives can help explore pilot approaches and facilitate mutual learning across levels and knowledge systems. We can nourish hope and share concrete learnings that can inspire a change of course, within the current decade, towards a safer climate for all.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

On the **implementation of the SR's recommendations** and how they can support either building consensus internationally or advancing work on the ground, the SR explains that there are many recommendations that point to several areas and levels in which progress on de-fossilisation can be made.

Supporting local authorities is a key aspect. In practice, this could take the form of opportunities for initiatives within domestic legal frameworks and equally providing financial support, technical support to local authorities and, crucially, to the benefit of everyone's human right to a healthy environment, sharing the learning from any initiatives that are making progress on de-fossilisation. This can be a very powerful, evolving evidence to support inclusive processes for co-developing approaches to de-fossilisation with the participation of all human rights holders, both those affected by climate change and those potentially affected by the phasing-out of fossil fuels and particularly, but not only, workers.

Supportive learning is a key element identified in transformation science to advance and tackle intractable objectives and also to understand how we can make system-wide changes. It is crucial to **ask human rights holders** what works and what does not, hence listening to those lessons because even with the best intention and technical support, we might not understand well what does not respond to their needs in the context of historic and systemic areas of discrimination and intersectionality.



Only thanks to the **lived experiences of those most affected** can we learn deeper about transformation. On the same vein, for all the countries that have already put in place significant measures and advanced in their de-fossilisation trajectories, sharing lessons about their phase-out laws, their phase-out processes, the support they provided to workers and to societies, how they moved forward from dependence on fossil fuels is really crucial. So sharing that learning at all levels will be important.

As outlined in the thematic report, there are **multiple international fora and agreements** under which that learning can and should be shared and where we can all understand how those actions supporting the protection of all human rights. Multilateral initiatives are also very important to understand how states can be leaders and advance, support countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS, in leapfrogging into a renewable-based economy. This also requires prioritising international finance, technology and capacity cooperation accordingly. The report further includes an important recommendation on how international cooperation needs to avoid any form of **fossil fuel locking**, which may be related to finance or technology.

The report also pays consideration to the **principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities**, looking at timelines and historical contributions. But at the same time, the report goes beyond understanding fossil fuel as a cause of climate change and the impacts of climate change on human rights. It also draws on other areas of evidence that show how fossil fuels in their full life cycle, beyond the human rights impacts caused by climate change, also cause other layers of human rights violations. The SR found in particular that **health evidence is so compelling** on the need to protect human rights holders domestically, including children and women who are particularly affected by the health impacts of fossil fuel production, burning, but also waste management.

With regard to **extraterritorial obligations** and the strict due diligence, as confirmed by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, states have to make sure they are not undertaking any action that worsens climate change and through that undermines other international environmental obligations beyond the Paris Agreement. In this context, those **participatory approaches** to understand how to undertake in different ways and according to national circumstances the just transition and that de-fossilisation are crucial to **challenge some of the assumptions** around the role of fossil fuels in tackling poverty, including energy poverty. There is significant evidence showing that after decades of fossil fuel-based economies, there is still a huge amount of people without access to energy, and this even in terms of economic inequalities, even in countries that may have advanced in their general economic development.

To conclude, the SR stresses it is essential through this process to reflect on how our economies have evolved to understand who is been left behind and how big the gap between those left behind is and how it is linked to fossil fuels.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY VANUATU AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of **Vanuatu** expresses its appreciation to the SR for her engagement with the people and the institutions of the country during her visit to Vanuatu from 27 November to 5 December 2024, and for the attention given to the very real and urgent challenges Vanuatu faces as one of the utmost challenges of the climate crisis. Vanuatu is proud to contribute to the **global**



discourse on state responsibility and the protection of human rights of present and future generations in the face of climate change. In line with its commitment to climate justice and human rights, Vanuatu is proud to continue to lead the global efforts for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. Vanuatu was **the first nation to call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** at the United Nations in 2022, and it will remain steadfast in encouraging states to endorse this initiative. Vanuatu strongly believes such a treaty is essential to safeguarding the right of the peoples, now and in the future, and the most severe consequences of climate change.

While welcoming many of the report's findings and recommendations, the Government of Vanuatu respectfully registers a point of divergence. The report characterised the LGBTQI+ community as a vulnerable group in the context of climate change in Vanuatu. The Government affirms that equal dignity and rights of all individuals, its constitution guarantees respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and it opposes discrimination of any kind. Nonetheless, when assessing **climate change vulnerability**, the Government believes it is important to ground classification in empirical evidence and local realities.

In Vanuatu, those **most severely affected by climate change** are women, children, patients with disabilities, the elderly, and the remote rural communities. These groups experienced the greatest barriers to resilience, recovery, participation in climate-related decision-making. The **identification of vulnerable group** must take into account national cultural values, social norms, and Indigenous system of knowledge. As a nation rooted in custom, Vanuatu has high value for social cohesion, respect, and collective well-being of its communities. Therefore, Vanuatu requests that external assessment of the human landscape, including climate change impacts, reflect those contextual factors, rather than impose frameworks that may not align with its own societal dynamics. The position does not diminish the rights of an individual or group, rather it underscores the importance of **culturally-informed, evidence-based approaches to define vulnerability** within national context.

Vanuatu welcomes the report's call for **increased international support for SIDS**, including improved access to finance, recognition of loss and damage, and strengthened technical cooperation. They are not merely policy priorities, they are matters of survival and justice of its people. Vanuatu vocally affirms its **leadership in global climate advocacy**, including its role in initiating the recent request for an advisory opinion of the ICJ, the obligation of states regarding climate change and human rights. Standing in solidarity with all people affected by climate crisis, Vanuatu believes that climate action must be rooted in principles of justice, inclusivity, and the respect for sovereignty, culture, and values of each nation.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Algeria notes that the report promotes a one-sided approach on climate change, targeting fossil fuels in an attempt to put developing countries under undue pressure to adopt medication measures that are not aligned with their national circumstances and priorities. Such attempts are inconsistent with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and undermine the economic and social rights of people in developing countries. Attempted effort to push for perspective language on



fossil fuels into human rights discussions does not align with the agreed bottom-up nature of the Paris Agreement and promotes distorted approaches undermining the developmental needs and energy realities of many countries, including Algeria. The latter expresses concerns over the use of language in this report that seeks to prescribe or single out specific sectors or energy sources such as fossil fuels as a targeted measure to combat climate change and undermining the fundamental principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Finally, Algeria recalls that human rights obligations must be implemented in a manner that respects the diversity of national contexts and supports the right to development. In this regard, climate action must respect the sovereign right of states to determine their national pathways in line with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Armenia concurs that fossil fuels remain the primary driver of climate change, an escalating crisis that internally opposes one of the most pressing issues to biodiversity worldwide. Armenia echoes the call to shift from fossil fuels toward equitable, sustainable and rights-based transitions. For Armenia, green transition is not merely an environmental commitment, but a strategic investment in a more resilient and sustainable future. Armenia is taking steps to accelerate renewable energy deployment, expand green infrastructure and ensure that its transition policies leave no one behind. Yet support from the international community is crucial to succeed in this transition. Looking ahead at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Yerevan in 2026, Armenia is committed to advancing global dialogue on the interconnectedness of biodiversity, climate action and human rights, placing green transition at the heart of our shared environmental vision.

Azerbaijan, as the host of COP29, was proud to bring global attention to the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion in the global response to climate change. One of the key messages from Baku was that the energy transition must be both ambitious and fair, anchored in international solidarity and responsive to countries' diverse national circumstances. At the same time, we must acknowledge the development and energy realities of different countries. For many developing economies, including the Azerbaijani one, fossil fuels remain an integral part of energy security, economic stability, and social development. The de-fossilisation process must therefore be just, inclusive, and supportive of countries' unique contexts. In this regard, Azerbaijan is advancing its national strategy to transition to a low-carbon economy. Azerbaijan is increasing investment in renewable energy, particularly in solar and wind power, and have committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2050. The outcomes of COP29 reaffirm the need for a just transition framework that leaves no one behind. Azerbaijan calls on all partners to help translate these commitments into concrete, inclusive action. Holding the COP29 Presidency, Azerbaijan is determined to play its part in raising awareness and mobilising support for driving the actions for effective implementation. In closing, Azerbaijan remains committed to contributing actively to global climate governance in the pursuit of a sustainable and just future.

The **Bahamas** aligns with the SR's call for rapid de-fossilization. As Prime Minister Davis recently noted, SIDS such as the Bahamas are on the front lines of a crisis not of their making. Despite contributing minimally to global emissions, SIDS suffer disproportionately from sea-level rise, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss. This is a grave injustice that threatens, among others, the right to life and the right to development for present and future generations. The Bahamas echoes



the call for a just, human-rights-based transition and welcomes the SR's recognition of fossil fuels as the root cause of the climate crisis. In this regard, the Bahamas has endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, advocating for an end to fossil fuel expansion and a fair transition to renewable energy. The Bahamas has recently become a state party to the Escazu Agreement on access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. The country calls upon states and private actors to commit to rapid emissions reductions, equitably scale up finance for adaptation and loss and damage, and uphold the principle that polluters must pay their fair share. The Bahamas urges all states to act with resolve and in solidarity to protect the most vulnerable.

Bahrain on behalf of the Arab group recalls that fossil fuel is not only a source of energy, rather it is in most cases the economic backbone of the state institutions of developing countries. Breaking this backbone abruptly can have negative impacts on the ability of states to realise human rights, and it also has a negative impact on the economic and social rights. A one-size-fits-all model runs counter to the concept of just transition. The Arab group reaffirms that advanced countries must rise up to its responsibilities to finance global action in the LDCs and developing countries. Any discussion on climate action must be based on the historical responsibility of states and the common but differentiated responsibilities. The Arab group also recalls the importance of reaching collective solutions to address climate change, thereby providing financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries, as well as operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund.

Bangladesh thanks the SR for presenting a detailed report on de-fossilisation of global economies and roles of states and business entities in this regard, and takes note of the recommendations and conclusions contained therein. Being one of the most climate vulnerable countries, Bangladesh attaches enormous importance to combating the adverse impacts of climate change. The country has developed its national adaptation plan, and its second nationally determined contribution (NDC) with ambitious CO₂ emission reduction target is underway. Besides, integration of mitigation and adaptation into a resilient to prosperity trajectory with emphasis on locally led solutions and nature-based approaches has been prioritised in the Bangladesh Climate Prosperity Plan. Bangladesh subscribes that the pervasive use of plastics in agri-food systems and food value chains has caused water and soil pollution, exacerbating impacts of climate change. Deeming it necessary to have a deeper look into this, Bangladesh requests the SR's reflection on two issues, namely prioritising reparations, compensations, and remedies for historical climate harm and investor-state dispute settlement in this regard.

Burkina Faso commends the SR for the quality of the report, underscoring the urgency of abandoning fossil fuel and ensuring a transition that is based on human rights. Burkina Faso is fully committed to this process in signing on to international instruments for transition to reduce its dependency on fossil fuels and to move towards renewables. To do so, the measures adopted by Burkina Faso, such as the creation of the National Agency for Renewable Energy and the adoption of a national plan for adaptation 2030, aim at reducing by 29 percent its greenhouse gas emissions. Burkina Faso calls for international cooperation, increased cooperation, and equitable international support and shared responsibility, including by the corporations and states that are historically responsible for climate change. Burkina notes that it is of a collective



duty to guarantee present and future generations the right to a healthy environment, a sustainable environment, and a dignified life.

Colombia stresses that energy transition requires equity, inclusion, and social justice. This is an opportunity to overcome structural inequalities that date back. Colombia is home to 10 percent of the planet's biodiversity, and it has worked consistently in order to position the country at the vanguard of climate action globally and biodiversity preservation. For this reason, Colombia supports a treaty on the non-proliferation of fossil fuels. Colombia has promoted a ruling from the International Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on this matter. In hearings held at the end of 2024 regarding the advisory opinion on the obligations of states regarding climate change, Colombia called upon the International Court to establish legal principles that are clear on this matter. It strengthened the obligations for unified global action, coordinated action, with the priority of peace with nature, the protection of life, and the safeguarding of future generations. Colombia hopes for an advisory opinion from the Inter-American Court as in January 2023 the country, jointly with Chile, made a request calling for guidance for states to respond to the climate emergency with a human rights-based approach.

Cote d'Ivoire notes with concern that the risks associated with climate change have an alarming effect on the country. They could drop GDP by 3 percent between now and 2050, pushing millions of its citizens into poverty. The government is fully committed to fighting against climate change, internationally and nationally. Internationally, Cote d'Ivoire is party, among other things, to UNFCCC, the Convention on the Fight Against Drought and Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Paris Agreement. Nationally, these commitments take the form of an implementation of a National Commission on Climate Change, an office for the carbon market, and the adoption of numerous texts aimed at fighting against the negative impact of climate change. Seeing the unequal cross-border and intergenerational effects of climate crisis, Cote d'Ivoire subscribes to the SR's recommendations calling for a fair, differentiated transition that is compatible with human rights.

Czechia, on behalf of the youth of the Czech Republic, states that climate change poses an unprecedented challenge to the fulfilment of human rights across the globe. Its impacts, ranging from extreme weather events, technological disasters to environmental deterioration, affect vulnerable communities and undermine access to fundamental rights, including health, housing and environmental security. Youth stand in solidarity with many others who are concerned not only about the future, but about the realities we are already facing. A just transition to climate neutrality must be inclusive. States must be supported in implementing long-term policies that are based on scientific evidence, guided by principles of equity and informed by the lived experiences of their citizens. Youth have been increasingly vocal about the human rights implications on fossil fuels, particularly in the context of climate change and the need for a just transition. Youth emphasise the necessity of their phasing out to achieve climate neutrality.

The **Dominican Republic** notes with concern that climate change is a direct threat to a decent life and natural disasters such as droughts and floods are negatively affecting housing, security, food, especially for the most vulnerable countries. These impacts are not abstract. They lead to displacement, hunger, diseases, and privations that really erode the economic and social achievements brought about with considerable difficulty. As a SIDS, the Dominican Republic is



experiencing this on a daily basis. This is why proposing and moving towards a just transition is not an option. It is an absolute need. The country has a rights-based climate strategy and a national development strategy, including NDC based on adaptation and resilience. But no country can do this alone. A global environment guided by solidarity is needed. Financing, access to clean technology, and effective cooperation are needed. The Dominican Republic supports the UNHRC and the SR to continue to focus on climate issues in all debates.

France appreciates the SR's report as a panorama of examples of the move from fossil fuels to renewables. France has repeated on numerous occasions the need to leave behind fossil fuels, including at the COP28, which had the goal of net zero by 2050, or more recently at the third UN Conference on Oceans in Nice. France recalled there the need to decarbonise the maritime system on the national front and in step with international agreement signed upon with European partners. In 2023, France developed a climate strategy that translates this ambition in order to reach its climate objectives. This strategy also hinges on its international partnerships through projects that include energy transition, including in third-party countries. France recalls that the effects of climate change are upon us. Extreme climate events – the melting glaciers, the rising sea levels – have devastating effects on populations. France believes that no country should have to choose between the fight against poverty and the preservation of the planet. Beyond the impact for prosperity, the people and the planet, with 73 countries signed on, France calls for an ambitious support of this infrastructure, bearing in mind these objectives.

Georgia is pleased to note it has a vast untapped renewable energy potential, including hydro, wind, solar and others. In this way, promoting local renewable energy sources to decrease dependency on the imported fossil fuels and increase in energy security is a national priority. Moreover, Georgia adopted critical laws on renewable energy and energy efficiency aligned with the relevant EU directives in 2019 and 2020. In June 2024, the Parliament of Georgia adopted national energy policy and its annexed national energy and climate plan, which has three specific targets for 2030. 27.4 percent share of renewables in total energy consumption, reduction of GHG by 47 percent compared to 1990, and improvement of energy efficiency, both primary and final energy consumption. Additionally, long-term low emission development strategy outlines a pathway towards achieving climate neutrality by 2050 under one of its scenarios. In conclusion, Georgia reiterates its strong commitment to contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.

Germany appreciates the SR's compelling report on the imperative to de-fossilize economies and fully agrees that phasing out fossil fuel dependence is an essential component of holistic climate action and the transition towards a carbon-neutral economy. This transition needs to be just and take into account human rights. Therefore, Germany has committed to phasing out coal domestically by 2038, supported by substantial public investment in revitalising coal-dependent regions and minimising negative impacts on workers and communities. Germany is investing in renewable energy, hydrogen infrastructure, and re-skilling programmes to ensure communities are empowered, not abandoned by the transition. Internationally, Germany places human rights at the core of climate cooperation. Through its international climate initiative, Germany has supported more than 1,000 climate and biodiversity projects across more than 150 countries, providing almost 7.5 billion euros of funding. Additionally, Germany is a committed partner of the

Climate Club and the Just Energy Transition Partnerships, supporting clean energy development while safeguarding livelihoods and supporting democratic participation.

Ghana on behalf of the African group stresses that more than ever, the effects of climate change are threatening enjoyment of human rights, in particular the rights to life, to health, to an adequate standard of living and to a healthy environment, as well as cultural rights. Climate change is negatively impacting the whole continent, in particular LDCs and SIDS, and affecting the most vulnerable ones, especially women and children. The African group shares the SR's concerns over the widespread, severe and compounded impact of climate change, their disproportionate impact on individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, and their multiplier effect on violence against women and girls, human trafficking and slavery. These impacts are highly concerning, especially in light of the universally acknowledged fact that the African continent contributes the least to climate change and yet is the most affected by its dramatic and devastating effect. The African group calls on relevant stakeholders to uphold the obligations and commitment in combating climate change. Understanding that climate change is a state-agent and concerted action, the African Union is implementing the 2022-2032 Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan. This initiative aims to define a framework for collective action on climate change.

Ghana welcomes the report's emphasis on a just and equitable transition, ensuring no one is left behind. Under its Renewable Energy Act 2011 and nationally determined contributions, Ghana is advancing renewable energy projects, reducing deforestation, and promoting sustainable waste management. Recent efforts include the expansion of solar energy initiatives, such as the 20 megawatts Kaliu solar plant, and the enforcement of the plastic waste management policy to curb fossil fuel-derived pollution. However, Ghana faces particular challenges in implementing the report's recommendation to redirect fossil fuel subsidies towards renewable energy and social protection. While reviewing subsidy reforms, there is a need to balance this with protecting vulnerable households from energy poverty. Ghana urges developed nations to enhance climate finance and technology transfer to support this transition.

Honduras agrees with the SR on the urgent need to decarbonise economies as an essential measure to guarantee the protection of all human rights. Honduras reached an energy matrix that has some 64% non-fossil sources, looking at solar, hydro, biomass, geothermal, and others. In 2022, Honduras enacted a special law for energy service as a human right in the economic and social front, and have a plan to expand this in the upcoming years to support sustainable development in the energy sector. Honduras recognises the unequal impact of the climate crisis, and sees with concern the disproportionate economic benefits that continue to be focused on fossil fuel companies, particularly as regards tax evasion and the use of dispute settlement mechanisms as obstructionist techniques for certain countries.

India recognises that climate change presents grave risks to the enjoyment of human rights, especially for vulnerable populations. Addressing these challenges requires urgent, ambitious, and equitable climate action, firmly grounded in the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities enshrined in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and rightly emphasised in the SR's report. As a developing country with a modest historical contribution to global emissions, India remains deeply committed to pursuing low-



carbon development pathways that balance climate action with the imperatives of poverty eradication, energy security, and sustainable development. Its long-term low-emissions development strategy aims for net zero emissions by 2070 through transitions in energy, industry, transport, and urbanisation. India is on track to achieve 50% cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. Any transition must be just, orderly, and mindful of national circumstances. This transition will require significant climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building from developed countries as agreed under international frameworks. India remains committed to contributing to global solutions through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and Mission Life. The country looks forward to working with all partners to advance climate action that is inclusive, equitable, and respectful of human rights.

Iraq, a country affected by the severe climatic and environmental challenges, including scarcity of water and sandstorms, has taken ambitious steps to address the national responses through the national climate plans, as well as expanding the use of renewable energy and rolling out renewable energy projects in all sectors. However, a balanced approach must be taken, adopting the different levels of development among countries. Phasing out of fossil fuels must not be realised without balanced and just alternatives. Iraq believes that the just transition is the most important solutions.

Ireland highlights that fossil fuels have a significant impact on the human rights at each stage of their life cycle. De-fossilisation is a key part of a just human rights-based transition to renewable energy. Ireland is committed to taking decisive action, both domestically and internationally, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. At the domestic level, the Ireland's Strategic Investment Fund has divested from fossil fuel companies. Ireland has stopped issuing new exploration licences for fossil fuels. At the international level, in addition to its commitment and multilateral engagement to achieve the objectives of the UNFCCC and the goals of the Paris Agreement, Ireland is part of key initiatives working to phase out fossil fuels, including the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and the Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Initiatives, including subsidies. Ireland's climate change and diplomacy is informed by climate justice. LDCs and SIDS, as states most disproportionately affected by climate change, are the top priority for Ireland's climate finance. The majority of this finance is for adaptation to climate change, an urgent necessity in these contexts.

Kuwait on behalf of the GCC countries express their concern relating to excessive use of fossil fuels without bearing in mind development needs, especially in countries of the south. The GCC restates that progress towards de-fossilisation must be realistic and progressive. It is essential to remember the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and national capacities, which means taking into account each specific situation and the capacity of each country. The GCC countries believes the UNHRC does not have the capacity to issue climate-related recommendations. In closing, the GCC countries stress the importance of real and sincere cooperation such as the transfer of technology – a cooperation focussing on goals, not on differences.

Libya is concerned about the continued negative impact of climate change on enjoyment of human rights, especially in developing countries which contribute least to climate change. Libya reiterates the need to address the negative impact of climate change on the full enjoyment of

human rights and the need to explore equity-based solutions. Fossil fuel is not a source of energy only, but it is the main source of income for many developing countries, and calling for eliminating this source would impact the capacity of the state for the enjoyment of human rights and economic rights. Developed countries should also shoulder their responsibilities towards financing climate change action in least developed countries. Any discussion on climate change should be based on the historical responsibility of developed countries as well as the common but differentiated responsibility. Libya reiterates the need for international cooperation to reach collective solutions to climate change impacts through a comprehensive approach that provides technical assistance to developing countries, especially through financing the loss and damage fund and also the capacity and technology transfer.

The **Maldives on behalf of an informal group of SIDS** is deeply alarmed by the continued expansion of fossil fuel production, despite overwhelming scientific evidence and decades of lived experience with climate change. This group of SIDS, contributing less than 1% of global emissions, bear the gravest consequences from the loss of livelihoods and public health crises to escalate in cost of climate-induced disasters. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS reaffirms that climate change remains the single greatest threat to sustainable development. The recently adopted WHO Climate Change and Health Action Plan further highlights the urgent health risks posed by climate change, particularly for vulnerable states. This group of SIDS strongly supports the SR's call for a just rights-based transition. This requires the full operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund and scaled-up accessible finance, in line with COP29 outcomes. The group urges all states, particularly major emitters, to commit to a fair, equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, in line with the 1.5 degree Celsius goal and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The **Maldives** thanks the SR for clarifying in her report states' international human rights obligations and businesses' responsibilities to phase out fossil fuels within this decade. As a SIDS confronting the daily lived realities of climate-induced threats, the Maldives resonates deeply with the SR's observations that the world's dependence on fossil fuels must be reduced for the severity of its impacts on a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Maldives' third nationally determined contribution charts a clear path to reduce emissions, targeting 33 percent renewable energy generation and promoting energy-efficient renewable technologies across all sectors. Further, it emphasises that a just transition must be inclusive, adopting gender-responsive strategies to empower women and also encourage vulnerable groups to actively participate in the shift to renewable energy. The Maldives urges the international community to reinforce its commitment to accelerate the transition to renewable energy by phasing out fossil fuels. This is essential to redress multiple inequitable burdens borne by SIDS, as well as communities, individuals disproportionately affected by climate change. This is also a critical step towards a just transition that ensures a safe and sustainable environment for future generations.

Mali remains concerned by the failure to reinforce human rights. Despite the adoption of UNFCCC and other treaties, the climate continues to be degraded by greenhouse gas emissions, pollution of petrochemicals, and pollution. In Mali, climate change has a direct impact which heavily affects the pillar of the local and national economy, agriculture. The country is experiencing droughts, exhaustion of soils and floods, as well as an increased number of



vulnerable people. Over the past 50 years, Mali has become a state party to international treaties and has received subsidies. However, it needs greater funding and technical support to protect its population from a climate change shock.

Malta agrees with the SR that the use of fossil fuels remains a major issue in the fight against climate change, in particular increasing temperatures, sea level rises and increasingly extreme temperatures. Malta echoes the call for urgent science-based action to phase out fossil fuels within this decade, and underlines that this transition must be equitable and grounded in international human rights law. As a small island state, Malta understands the existential threat posed by rising temperatures and sea levels and has set a target to increase its renewable energy to renewable share to 25% by 2030, aiming to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in its current energy mix. Malta also remains committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Furthermore, Malta is exploring offshore wind and solar power, particularly through floating technologies suitable for its geographic condition, also because of the very limited land territory, which presents its own specific challenges.

The **Marshall Islands** thanks the SR for her visit to Vanuatu and her insightful consideration of the unique vulnerabilities of the Pacific region. The Marshall Islands takes this opportunity to commend her thematic report on the need to urgently de-fossilise our economies. The report is alarming, especially for a country like mine which has contributed so little to climate change but now relies on the actions of others. Making commitments can be easy. Following through with them can be more difficult. Indeed, even after the agreement reached at UNFCCC to transition away from fossil fuels, the same countries continue to extract and use more than ever before. Even though existing fossil fuel infrastructure alone would deliver more emissions than a 1.5 degree pathway can tolerate, countries continue to build new infrastructure, new wells, mines, power plants, export facilities. Even while struggling to raise the finance needed to respond to climate change, the world is subsidising the fossil fuel industry in 400 billion per year. The Marshall Islands fully supports the report's findings on the need for all states to start de-fossilisation plans and measures.

Mauritius remains committed to a resilient and carbon-neutral economy. In 2020, Mauritius has enacted the Climate Change Act to harmonise efforts for climate action and now is implementing a just transition framework. However, challenges persist. Mauritius calls for aligning just transition pathways with processes like the SDG Sendai framework and the Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The adoption of a clear and comprehensive framework to achieve just transition targets in a just and human rights-based manner. A human rights and environmental due diligence in the design, financing, implementation of just transition programmes, including a gender-responsive approach. Finally, the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies and tax exemptions in a responsible manner that leaves no one behind.

Nepal welcome the report's focus on the imperative of de-fossilising the economies, seeing fossil fuels as the main cause of climate change and a driver of multiple planetary crises, biodiversity loss, toxic pollution, inequalities, and human rights violations. The continued use of fossil fuels undermines the ability of both present and future generations to fully and freely enjoy their human rights. The Constitution of Nepal guarantees every person the right to live in a healthy and clean environment as a fundamental right. The 16th Plan 2025-2029 prioritises a smooth and just



transition from fossil fuels to clean and green energy sources. The Government of Nepal hosted the first episode of Sagarmatha Sambaad, meaning Mount Everest Dialogue, a multi-stakeholder forum held in Kathmandu in May this year under the theme Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity. The dialogue highlighted the need to increase the use of clean energy for a just transition. Phasing out fossil fuels is essential for effective climate action today.

North Macedonia emphasizes that the world stands at a critical juncture. The fossil fuel life cycle causes far-reaching interlinked and intergenerational harm to human rights, harms that can no longer be denied. The SR's report rightly frames de-fossilisation not merely as an environmental imperative, but as a cornerstone of climate action, integral to the nature-water-food nexus. North Macedonia has taken important strides in this direction. As a member of a power-based coal alliance, North Macedonia is committed to phasing out coal-fired power. At COP28, the country launched the North Macedonia Just Energy Transition Investment Platform, setting the foundation to phase out coal by 2030. This is aligned with the nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement and its broader EU commitments. The government of North Macedonia is advancing its legal framework on renewables and preparing an investment plan focused on supporting the transition of the two-coal region and expand renewable capacities. Coal currently accounts for 40% of North Macedonia's energy mix. A Just Energy Transition therefore represents not only a shift in power generation, but a deep socio-economic transformation. Moreover, it is a key opportunity to support coal-dependent communities, stimulate green jobs, and enable new economic activities.

Oman agrees with the SR on the imperative to establish a link between the effective tackling of climate change and the respect for human rights. The Sultanate is aware of the impact of climate change, including the developing countries and vulnerable communities. Based on this, Oman calls for a strengthening of climate justice. This should be at the centre of international efforts. This hinges on equitable participation of responsibility and national plans to reduce carbon emissions. Nationally, Oman has taken measures to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 such as the expansion of renewable energy projects, solar energy and wind energy, and green hydrogen. A right to technology for carbon sequestration is important, as well as the rehabilitation of ecosystems along the coast. Oman believes in a realistic approach allowing to set aside fossil fuels while preserving economic stability. There must be constructive dialogue and multilateral cooperation in order to preserve the planet and allow for future generations to prosper.

Panama considers it as undeniable the fact that an economy driven by fossil fuels is the main cause of the climate crisis, which has also been confirmed by the IPCC. It drives biodiversity loss, plastics pollution and harmful petrochemical production. OHCHR, Special Procedures and treaty bodies for years have been documenting the repercussions of fossil fuel life cycle on human rights and on the environment, while also focussing on the international obligations of states. The Paris Agreement and the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea very clearly established the legal obligation to gradually abandon fossil fuels and their subsidies. It is essential for those economies based on this sector to be accountable for the damage they have caused on others and their contribution to global warming. No more excuses are acceptable. There must be effective changing climate action based on human rights in order to de-fossilise economies so we can bring about a just transition, protect humanity and nature

given the global crises we face. To conclude by echoing the High Commissioner, Panama notes with interest the increased support for a new non-proliferation of fossil fuels treaty.

Portugal on behalf of the European Union notes with concern that the Mediterranean is warming at a rate 20% faster than the global average, which contributes to the increase of extreme weather events. This is being felt across the region, putting pressure on ecosystems, biodiversity, and freshwater availability. Sea levels are rising, affecting coastal populations. Extreme climate events threaten the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to a clean, safe, and sustainable environment for current and future generations, and the rights to water and food, which may increase forced displacements and deepen existing vulnerabilities. The Ocean Conference in Athens emphasised the role of women and youth and climate change adaptation. At the UN conference in Nice, environment ministers of the Mediterranean countries adopted a declaration that includes a commitment to work together towards the adoption of an international legal dividing instrument on plastic pollution and to support the Mediterranean circular economy network. The mandate recognises the interconnection between climate change and human rights. We must commit to ensuring a human rights-based approach to climate resilience and adaptation. The EU commends the UNHRC's effort to contribute to global processes, such as the UN Water Conference or COP30.

Samoa remains deeply concerned at the worsening state of the climate crisis in which the 1.5°C goal is off track as states regress from their climate commitments. Samoa welcomes the SR's thematic report highlighting the linkages between international human rights obligations and fossil fuels, in addition to biodiversity loss and plastic pollution, all of which produces harmful intergenerational impacts. The climate crisis continues to wreak havoc on livelihoods, food security, health, and culture. Hence, the phasing out of fossil fuels is critical to all our survival. Samoa commends Vanuatu on its community-based climate resilience projects and international leadership in shaping global climate action, and encourages continued dialogue with the SR on divergent views on the characterisation of vulnerable groups, all of which should be based on love and respect. Emphasizing that decisive climate action is needed, Samoa has joined the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, calling for a new multilateral instrument to complement the Paris Agreement that would govern the supply of fossil fuel. Moreover, as we approach the final stages of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, we must ensure ambitious actions across the full cycle of plastics in the agreement.

Saudi Arabia regrets that the SR has not adhered to her mandate. The recommendations in the report, which call indiscriminately upon all countries to abandon fossil fuels, fail entirely to consider the importance of ensuring that just transition policies take into account development priorities and the differing national circumstances of states. It also disregarded the right of developing countries to pursue the maximum potential for development similar to the developed countries. Saudi Arabia expresses its dismay at the superficial treatment of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. This principle clearly establishes that while all countries share collective responsibilities to address climate change, developed countries bear a greater historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions. They possess financial and technological capacities far superior to those available to developing countries. Therefore, developing countries must be granted flexibility in the nature of their just transitions, along with the necessary support through financing and technology transfer. In conclusion, the report treats



the abandonment of natural resources as a secondary matter, whereas for many developing countries it is an existential issue. The extraction and utilisation of these resources is not a luxury. It is the principal means by which countries lift themselves out of poverty, guarantee the fundamental rights of their citizens, and build resilient societies capable of withstanding crises.

Senegal has given constitutional recognition to the right to a healthy environment. In order to meet its commitments to protect the environment, Senegal has made considerable efforts in the area of renewable energy, which today is more than 30 percent of its energy mix. The objective is to reach 40-some percent by 2030. It is thus that important projects have been launched for transition towards renewables. Senegal has fully integrated the human rights component. For example, regional express trains and rapid transit buses with foreign improvement of urban mobility, but also the Taiba N'Diaye wind park, the first in West Africa, with 158-megawatt capacity. Bearing in mind the specific needs of the country of the south, Senegal is aware of the need to create cheap energy, to reduce inequalities, to fight against poverty and to make economies competitive.

Slovenia jointly with Austria and Croatia commend the SR's report which clarifies states' obligations to phase out fossil fuels within this decade. The three countries endorse its imperative. Given intergenerational human rights impacts across the fossil fuel life cycle, urgent de-fossilization of economies is needed for a human rights-based and transformative transition protecting climate, nature, water and food systems. Slovenia advances this via its national energy and climate plan, prioritising vulnerable groups in the Alps and Adriatic. Austria emphasises its Renewable Energy Expansion Act and developed a just transition action plan focussing on training and further education. Croatia integrated Adriatic coastal resilience and cultural rights into its low-carbon development strategy until 2030. The three countries collectively prioritise human rights-compliant transition measures, phase out of harmful subsidies and inclusive governments.

South Sudan notes with concern that climate change has an increasing impact on the full enjoyment of human rights across the world and concurs with the SR on the need for its protection for the sake of present and future generations. South Sudan highlights in its statement the particular impact of climate change on South Sudan as a vulnerable country to climate change. South Sudan is experiencing climate change effects, particularly affecting lives and livelihoods negatively, thus displacing populations and communities, destroying homes, loss of crops and livestock, food insecurity, as well as outbreak of waterborne diseases, among others. Early this year, schools had to close due to daily student collapses related to extreme heat waves. As part of national commitment to working with the international community to secure a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for all, South Sudan has established a national adaptation plan in line with the UNFCCC to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and integrate climate change adaptation into national policies and planning. Other initiatives, such as early warning and disaster preparedness, are also underway with partners and regional support. Our climate is at a crossroads today, chiefly due to human-induced existential threats.

Sri Lanka states that climate change is becoming more and more visible while the climate crisis is affecting millions, including the unborn children. Sri Lanka is highly vulnerable to climate change and is constantly at risk of extreme weather events and disasters. Sri Lanka is committed



to reducing greenhouse gas emissions despite having a relatively low carbon footprint. Sri Lanka envisages developing indigenous renewable energy resources to generate 70% of the power by 2030 and becoming a carbon net zero by 2050. The government's national policy framework is committed to adapting policies to save the environment for future generations and has identified several key activities, including polluters pay principle, decrease reliance on oil for electricity production by prioritising renewable and clean energy sources, systematically shift the transport sector using clean energy and more. It is our collective responsibility to shift from traditional fossil fuel-based energy resources to green and renewable sources to save our children and the planet.

Tunisia supports the need to phase out towards a sustainable economy while relying on renewable energies. In this respect, Tunisia, since 2023, adopted a national strategy for ecological transition that has 50 goals. Tunisia draws the attention to the fact that developing countries bear the brunt of loss and damage as a result of climate change, despite the fact that they are the least contributors to greenhouse gases emissions. This requires concerted efforts by the international community to address the impact of climate change in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibility principle. Tunisia reiterates in this respect the importance of providing climate finance for developing countries and the need to provide them with the financial and technical assistance in order to achieve just energy transition, especially through capacity building, grants and relevant funds.

The **United Kingdom jointly with Austria, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, and Panama** underline that climate change and environmental degradation pose a risk to the lives and well-being of individuals and communities across the world, especially the most marginalised. This is compounded by the impacts of the fossil fuel cycle. 3.5 billion people now live in highly vulnerable to climate change. Rapid and enduring action must be taken to safeguard the full enjoyment of human rights for individuals now and in the future. As per the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement adopted at COP28, advancing the transition away from fossil fuels is crucial. It deserves mention in this session's human rights and climate change resolution. These countries will continue to demonstrate leadership, including through the Global Clean Power Alliance initiative and their ambitious and credible 2035 NDC targets. Environmental defenders and indigenous peoples are vital stewards of nature. The UK supports their meaningful participation and leadership in climate action.

Uruguay shares concerns over the deep intergenerational, environmental, and social repercussions of the life cycle of fossil fuels. It agrees that climate change cannot wait. Uruguay has promoted a structural transformation in its energy matrix, with about 94% of the country's electricity coming from renewable sources. This transition along with the country's long-term vision and an inclusive, sustainable model seeks to reduce substantially emissions, strengthen the economy, and strengthen energy resilience. The country has also electrified its public transportation system. Thanks to a public-private partnership, Uruguay is moving toward the elimination of fossil fuels through public policies that promote sustainable energy models. There is a focus on equity, thereby putting communities most affected by climate change at the centre with a focus on their energy exclusion. Uruguay encourages the SR and the High Commissioner to continue to incorporate human rights perspective into all of the actions aimed at fighting climate change. This includes national plans of action and national contributions.



Viet Nam, as a country heavily exposed to the effects of climate change, is firmly committed to a just, inclusive energy transition. Viet Nam is aiming at carbon neutrality by 2050 and is putting in place initiatives such as on methane and forest. Viet Nam believes that economic growth should not compromise the environment adaptation for the climate, the protection of the environment at the very heart of our actions. In parallel, the country is shoring up social commitments, notably in fossil fuels, modernising infrastructure and improving energy efficiency. However, this transition also requires greater international assistance, the transfer of technologies, financing and capacity-building.

Zambia agrees with the report that climate change negatively impacts the enjoyment of human rights. However, Zambia notes that fossil fuels are critical in the economic progress of many developing countries and, therefore, a drastic de-fossilization would negatively affect their economies and impact the realisation of human rights. While recognizing the need to move away from fossil fuel dependency, Zambia stresses that this should be done in a progressive manner. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be applied while taking into account national capacities. In conclusion, Zambia calls on relevant stakeholders to uphold their obligations and commitments in combating climate change.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations and UN Entities

The **European Union** thanks the SR for her report on the imperative of transitioning away from fossil fuels and appreciates the detailed recommendations contained therein addressing various categories of stakeholders. The report rightly highlights the impacts of the fossil fuels through their lifecycle on human rights. It is important to remain vocal about the human implications of fossil fuel use, particularly in the context of climate change. In this regard, the EU is actively engaged in discussions on advancing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It remains committed to ensuring a just transition that is effective, human rights-based and transformative. Moreover, the EU is actively working towards phasing out, as soon as possible, fossil fuel subsidies which do not address energy poverty or just transition. This includes identifying which subsidies to phase out, determining how to redirect resulting savings to decarbonisation efforts and ensure adequate support for those in vulnerable situations.

The **FAO** points out that climate change driven by fossil fuels is already causing more frequent disasters, displacing communities, disrupting agri-food systems, and worsening hunger. The FAO joins the call to phase out coal, oil, and gas and fossil fuel subsidies within this decade through a just transition that protects both people and the planet. Equitably transforming agri-food systems is essential to this effort. It is possible to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agri-food systems by replacing fossil-based inputs with bio-based alternatives, and by transitioning to renewable energy. Carbon sequestration in agri-food systems can also be improved by using ecosystem and natural-based approaches, such as steps to reduce global warming, lower pollution, and strengthen resilience in food systems. Finally, the very survival of SIDS, Indigenous people, peasants, and small-scale fishers is jeopardised by climate-driven loss of land and livelihoods. The de-fossilisation of our economies must be people-centred and guided by principles of justice and equity, and the FAO will continue to support policies and actions that uphold rights, knowledge, and food security as part of a rights-based climate response.



The **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** thanks the SR for her reflection on climate change not only as an environmental crisis, but also a pressing human rights concern with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations. The adverse effects of climate change undermine the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, especially the rights to life, health, food, water, and adequate housing. This burden falls mostly heavily on developing countries, particularly in the OIC region. Despite contributing the least to global emissions, the communities in the OIC region face desertification, rising sea levels, water scarcity, and loss of livelihoods. The OIC underscores the principle of climate justice, urging all stakeholders to uphold their human rights obligations in climate action. This includes providing adequate support for adaptation, resilience, and just transition in developing countries through fair financing and technology transfer. The OIC also calls for stronger inclusion of Indigenous peoples, women, youth, and climate-displaced persons in decision-making to ensure that no one is left behind. In closing, the OIC reaffirms its commitment to work with the SR and other partners to promote human rights-based climate action that is equitable.

UNDP welcomes the SR's report on de-fossilization and is committed to finding human rights-based solutions to phasing out fossil fuels. First of all, UNDP highlights its energy moonshot aims to provide 500 million people access to sustainable energy. UNDP's solar for health initiative under its smart health systems programme has supported the solar electrification of over a thousand health centres in 28 countries including South Sudan, Yemen and Nepal. Guiding these efforts, UNDP published a report to guide countries on implementing fossil fuel subsidy reforms. Secondly, UNDP is working in 47 countries on business and human rights and in 2024 published a tool for business to respect human rights in the context of climate change. In Thailand, Kazakhstan and Malawi, UNDP has supported the integration of the environment into human rights due diligence processes. Thirdly, UNDP welcomes the SR's recommendation addressed to UNDP to support de-fossilisation in NDCs. As the largest provider of assistance to NDCs, working with 118 countries, UNDP supporting governments to meet their commitment under the Paris Agreement through NDCs 3.0. UNDP is committed to delivering concrete actions and support to countries on their de-fossilisation journey and looks forward to increased cooperation with all.

UNESCO commends the SR for placing human rights at the core of climate action. The right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment underpins all other rights. Through its mandate in science, education, and culture, UNESCO supports member states in protecting people and planets. World heritage sites, biosphere reserves, and Indigenous knowledge networks foster resilience and innovation. UNESCO advances education for sustainable development and open science, empowering communities to anticipate, adapt, and act. But ambition must meet urgency. UNESCO calls for greater investment in climate-informed education, ethical AI, and inclusive early warning systems. UNESCO stands ready to collaborate on solutions rooted in equity and dignity.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **National Human Rights Commission of Burundi** explains that the government alongside development partners, has adopted the following measures:

- the National Adaptation Plan to combat the effects of climate change in February 2025;



- the Programme to Support the Water Sector and Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change, supporting the water sector and strengthens resilience;
- the Climate Promise Initiative supporting the Government in developing a low-carbon strategy;
- the Land Productivity and Climate Resilience Project to strengthen the management of basins; and
- the first Youth Conference on Climate in Burundi based on renewable energies and technical innovation in 2025.

The NHRI of Burundi encourages the Government to strengthen national initiatives for resilience and to establish conditions for transparent management and access to the Green Climate Fund. The NHRI of Burundi calls on its bilateral and multilateral partners to continue supporting the country, technically and financially, in its struggle to combat climate change.

The **Ombudsman's Office of Colombia** joins the SR's call on the urgent need to de-fossilize our economies. The energy transition is a collective responsibility that must, above all, respect the human rights of the most vulnerable. Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, peasant communities and all individuals living in territories affected by climate change and fossil fuel exploitation. Colombia has made significant progress in renewable energy through the implementation of key strategies in the National Development Plan, the consolidation of a regulatory framework, the review of the biodiversity policy aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the execution of climate change adaptation plans. However, the country still faces major challenges. Dependence on fossil fuels, lack of prior consultation on renewable projects, regional disparities and climate risks affecting vulnerable communities. It is crucial, timely and indeed feasible to overcome the current global dependence on fossil fuels. This shift is not merely a technological or economic transition, but rather a structural transformation of the development model centred on sustainability and climate justice. The Ombudsman urges the effective implementation of due diligence, the strengthening of independent monitoring mechanisms, the inclusion of human rights standards in renewable energy projects and the guarantee of comprehensive reparations in cases of social or environmental harm. This will ensure the justice and sustainability required for a fair energy transition.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

The **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** appreciates the SR for the inclusive process undertaken and stresses that the shift away from fossil fuels is not only urgent. It is a human rights imperative. The extraction and use of fossil fuels have long contributed to environmental harm, deepened inequalities, and disproportionately affected those in situations of vulnerability. Meeting this obligation within this decade is essential to avoid further widespread and intergenerational harm. NHRIs are responding across all regions. In line with the Paris Principles, they monitor the impacts of extractive industries, support just transition laws and processes, and promote inclusive public participation and remedy. Ensuring that NHRIs can contribute meaningfully requires states to uphold their commitments, including by guaranteeing independence, access to information and sufficient resources. GANHRI encourages all states to regularly engage with NHRIs and follow up on their climate-related recommendations.



Lawyers for Lawyers welcomes the SR's emphasis on criminalisation of environmental human rights defenders. This includes environmental lawyers who play a vital role in advancing climate justice. They ensure accountability for environmental harms, provide access to justice and equip marginalised groups with the tools necessary to defend their rights and livelihoods. Yet these lawyers face escalating reprisals simply for performing their legitimate duties. Soka Gakkai has recently documented widespread interference with their work ranging from physical attacks and arbitrary prosecutions to surveillance and stigmatisation. They are often labelled as anti-development or enemies of the state, undermining both their safety and credibility. Lawyers for Lawyers condemns these attacks and combats with persistent resolve constraints or the chilling effect that deters other lawyers from taking up environmental cases. This ultimately leaves vulnerable communities without legal representation. Without independent legal counsel, meaningful reprisals for environmental harm is severely jeopardised, threatening human rights and global sustainability, including the legalisation of SDGs. Lawyers for Lawyers urges states to fulfil their obligations to ensure independence and protection for environmental lawyers so they can work safely. It also calls on UN bodies and professional associations of lawyers to recognise and support the indispensable role of advancing climate justice.

Earthjustice thanks the SR for her timely report on the imperative of de-fossilising our economies, when just two days ago the isotherm of zero degrees centigrade was at 5,136 metres of altitude, which means higher than the summit of the Mont Blanc we can see from the windows outside of the Human Rights Chamber. First time this ever happened in a month of June. Today, our emissions from burning fossil fuels are higher than at any time over the last past two million years. We have reached a point where any global temperature rise above the 1.5 centigrade goal of the Paris Agreement will unavoidably result in increasing severe and compounded impacts on all human rights. The rights for all to a healthy and sustainable environment calls indeed for a fossil fuel phase-out. It has become urgent to stop exploration and start closing down existing operations in consultation with the public and the workers concerned and to ensure that the full cost of closure and clean-up of industrial complexes is covered to avoid toxic legacies in terrestrial and freshwater and marine ecosystems. All remedies should be co-developed with affected human rights holders. Earthjustice also agrees that de-fossilising our economies will also serve as a guarantee of non-repetition and require us to protect our information system from undue commercial influence and distortion.

Soka Gakkai International jointly with the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights particularly commends the SR for acknowledging the systemic violations of Indigenous peoples' rights showing how fossil fuel projects violate free prior and informed consent, destroy sacred sites and catalyse violence and militarisation. The report's call for de-fossilisation resonates deeply with their interfaith perspective that recognises the interconnectedness of climate, human rights and spiritual values. Soka Gakkai strongly supports the SR's key message that the right to development should not be used as an excuse to avoid de-fossilisation, while recognising that some states are locked into fossil fuel dependent systems. Her call to reassess energy needs and transform economic models away from over-exploitation is essential for a truly just transition that protects human rights. The transition must address green and blue colonisation, ensuring that renewable energy projects do not repeat the same patterns of rights violations that have characterised fossil fuel extraction. Guided by values of

climate justice and human dignity, Soka Gakkai calls on all states to urgently implement the Special Rapporteur's recommendations for immediate and participatory de-fossilisation plans that protect the most vulnerable while transforming our economic systems.

The **Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)** welcomes the groundbreaking report on the fossil fuel-based economy, which powerfully affirms that fossil fuels are not only the primary driver of the climate crisis, but also harm human rights, including the right to a healthy environment, across generations and throughout their life cycle. States must act now to phase out fossil fuels in a manner that is rapid, equitable and just. That means no new fossil fuel development, revoking existing licences and halting expansion. It also means ending subsidies and foreign investment protections that reward corporate obstruction and delay. As the report confirms, a just transition must include effective remedies developed with and for affected communities. It must also protect defenders, de-fossilise information systems and end fossil fuel industry interference in public discourse and global governance. The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, supported by a growing bloc of 17 countries across regions, offers a path forward for a binding commitment to effectively de-fossilise the economy. The Global Plastic Treaty negotiations also represent a critical opportunity to prevent fossil fuel lock-in and the human rights harms associated with plastics and petrochemicals. The path forward is clear. Keep fossil fuels in the ground, detoxify our economies and prioritise the rights of people over polluter profits.

Dominicans for Justice and Peace stresses that the human rights impacts of fossil fuel activities on today's youth and future generations present an urgent challenge worldwide. In the Philippines, the increasing intensity of typhoons and heat waves severely affect the rights to life, health, food and education of the youth. In the Amazon, Indigenous youth are growing up while ancestral territories and traditions are rapidly disappearing. Due to deforestation, fossil fuel extraction, intensified droughts and more widespread fires, these concrete impacts will worsen for future generations if the world continues to rely on fossil fuels. Dominicans for Justice and Peace echoes the SR's call for states to act on phasing out fossil fuels within this decade, and emphasises the importance of ensuring access to comprehensive national education on the effects of climate change on human rights. Educating and empowering the youth is a key step toward building generations capable of claiming their rights in the context of the climate crisis and of becoming active agents of change.

VIVAT International recalls that current pledges for emissions reductions indicate we are now heading for a 3°C temperature increase. Extreme weather displaced 45 million people last year, twice as many from conflicts. A concern for the future of our children. Sadly, 90% of countries are yet to submit their new NDCs and none of the big emitters have strengthened their 2030 targets. First of all, Vivat calls on states to honour the Paris Agreement by ensuring human rights are respected while preparing new NDCs and cutting emissions to 43% by 2030 instead of previous 2% is imperative. All states must plan for just transition based on ethical and human rights grounds, as well as political viability as only 17% of the last NDCs did so. Second, states shall promote decarbonised agroecology agenda of the FAO as only 4% of the last NDCs did so. Third, states shall promote ambitious sufficiency policies in affluent countries as opposed to relying exclusively on technological solutions. 87% of the last NDCs promoted renewable energy production yet only 6% included measures to phase down or out fossil fuels. Finally, states shall



the NDCs account for voices of those most vulnerable to climate change by addressing losses and damages and supporting displaced people. Time to act is now.

The **Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights** draws the Council's attention to a recent report entitled Chinese hydropower damming Tibet's culture, community and environment. This report documents that since 2000, at least 193 hydropower dams have been operating or are planned in Tibet. Hydropower construction has already forcibly displaced thousands of Tibetans, destroyed century-old monasteries and severely damaged federal ecosystems across the Tibetan plateau. If China's plan is completed, 1.2 million people could be expelled from their homes and lands. Despite being promoted as clean energy, large-scale hydropower undermines the just, effective and human rights-based climate transition outlined in the SR's report. Science demonstrates that dams emit substantial methane emissions and can cause environmental and cultural harm for generations. The Chinese government must immediately hold the planning and construction of large-scale hydropower dams in Tibet and respect Tibetans' right to free, prior and informed consent. The Foundation calls on states, international bodies and financial institutions to refrain from supporting hydropower projects in Tibet to promote a rights-based energy transition and the rights of the Tibetan people.

Conectas Direitos Humanos draws urgent attention to the ongoing dismantling of environmental and human rights protections in Brazil. The National Congress disclosed the passing Bill No. 2159 of 2021, which poses irreversible threats to people, traditional communities and the environment, with global climate consequences. The Bill ignores the rights of Indigenous, global and traditional peoples. It deepens inequalities, increases deforestation, pollution and displacement and disrupts livelihoods and cultural practises. It also weakens Brazil's environmental legal framework and governance, undermining legal certainty and institutional responsibilities. Alarming, the Bill does not mention the climate crisis even as Brazil prepares to host COP30. It risks accelerating the Amazon's tipping point, threatening one of the planet's key carbon sinks. Conectas is especially concerned about self-licencing, the erosion of public participation, reduced oversight in protected territories and the suppression of science in decision-making. Conectas Direitos Humanos calls for the immediate suspension of Bill No. 2159 of 2021 and urges the Brazilian government to reject any legal reforms that weaken environmental protections or silence affected communities and civil society.

Franciscans International welcomes the SR's thematic report and her visit to Vanuatu. As a climate-vulnerable country, Vanuatu has been disproportionately impacted by climate change. Franciscans International commends the positive and continuous engagement of Vanuatu in addressing loss and damage, including the non-economic aspect. It shares the view that fossil fuel economies are a major driver of climate crisis. Fossil fuels are a catalyst of social tensions and armed conflicts. Franciscans International concurs with the observation that the militarisation of fossil fuel-based economies contributes significantly to the loss of life and biodiversity, resulting in widespread human rights violations. For this reason, it voices concern over the situation in Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. Indigenous peoples are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel operations. They are unfairly affected and displaced without adequate compensation. Franciscans International recalls the need to uphold the principle of free, prior, informed consent where a project may impact Indigenous peoples and their territories. Communities should have the right to say no to extractives and other projects. Multinational fossil



fuel companies have benefited from untrue protection under bilateral investment agreements, contracts, and investor-state agreements. This situation of impunity must change. Effective national, regional, and international mechanisms must be established and enforced to hold corporations accountable for human rights violations. Accordingly, Franciscans International states to actively participate in negotiations for a binding instrument on business and human rights.

FIAN International explains that Zambia experienced a severe drought in 2023-2024 and declared a state of emergency. Out of 2.2 million hectares of the staple crop maize planted nationwide, approximately 1 million hectares was destroyed. According to the Zambia Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, close to 10 million people were affected, including over 6.5 million significantly. It is estimated that more than 100,000 children urgently needed treatment for severe acute malnutrition, more than 110,000 pregnant lactating women needed national nutritional support. The impact of the drought was worsened by the prevailing industrial food systems based on monoculture maize production. An encouraging step forward is a recent formulation of the draft national agroecology strategy by the Ministry of Agriculture. Agroecology is a solution addressing both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Just transition to agroecology must ensure that the knowledge and practises of small-scale food producers and other rural communities are recognised and fostered and their right to meaningful participation guaranteed. To effectively protect them as stewards of land, forests and water bodies, it is key to enable agrarian reforms, including recognition, restitution, redistribution and restoration of land along with clear regulations, adequate financing, with clear budget allocations.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

44 State Delegations

4 Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Entities

2 National Human Rights Institutions

11 Non-Governmental Organizations