



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on the United Nations Secretary-General's (UNSG) Synthesis Report on Climate Change

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PRESENTATION OF THE UNSG SYNTHESIS REPORT

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Ms. Peggy HICKS recalls that in its resolution 56/8, the UNHRC requested the UN Secretary-General to prepare a synthesis report on **opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to just transition** and the full realization of human rights for all people. This report arrives at a pivotal moment.

Just two months ago, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered its landmark advisory opinion affirming that states have **binding obligations** under international law including international human rights law to protect the climate system and environment. The ICJ explicitly recognized that failure to protect the climate system from significant harm including that caused by fossil fuel production and consumption may constitute internationally wrongful acts. The advisory opinion reinforced the need for an **equitable, just and rapid transition** grounded in human rights.



The UNSG report describes **just transition** as transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies that are fair, equitable and inclusive. It means creating decent work, opportunities, reducing inequalities and poverty as well as enhancing and upholding all human rights including the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The report identifies **key barriers** in the way of a just transition including conflicts over national natural resources, especially critical energy transition minerals and inadequate labour rights and social protection. Action is needed on multiple fronts. We must transition away from fossil fuels that are reproducing historical injustices. We need to put an end to corporate impunity and regulatory gaps in human rights due diligence. We need to reverse the shrinking civic space.

To effectively address such challenges, transition must be **centred on human rights**. The ICJ advisory opinion reaffirms the central place of human rights law and climate action. Transitions need to be anchored in all human rights including the rights to work, social security, participation and access to information and the rights of all those most at risk of being left behind.

The **right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** which the ICJ recognizes is a precondition for the enjoyment of other human rights and inherent in their realization establishes both a foundation for rights-based transition pathways and a binding standard. The principles of **common but differentiated responsibilities**, equity and polluter pays must guide international cooperation to ensure just transitions for all everywhere. As the ICJ clarified, it is scientifically possible to determine each **state's contribution to global emissions**, including historical emissions. This opens pathways for accountability and for ensuring that those most responsible take the lead in transitioning and supporting others.

By 2030, implementing the Paris Agreement alone could create **18 million new jobs**. Broader just transition policies could create around 100 million new jobs. We should ensure these are decent jobs with full labour rights. The report calls for transforming economic models towards measures of progress beyond GDP that value human development, equality and sustainability. **Universal social security systems** are critical, guaranteeing income security throughout transitions while helping people respond to climate impacts. When designing equitably, clean energy transitions can reduce energy insecurity, deadly local air pollution and environmental injustice while creating community-led sustainable development pathways.

As the UNSG report emphasizes, **debt restructuring and cancellation** can free fiscal space for human rights budgeting that supports just transition. **Technology transfer** and co-development can enable fairly shared innovation.

As we approach **COP 30 in Brazil**, this report's findings are particularly salient. The just transition work program established at COP 27 already requires parties to respect, promote and consider their human rights obligations. The report provides concrete guidance on how to operationalize these commitments, including as part of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans, long-term strategies and just transition planning. The UNSG report calls for:

- Transitioning towards sustainable human rights economies that prioritize planetary and human well-being and establishing robust business accountability frameworks.



- Ensuring decent work in universal social security for all people and workers, including those in informal economies while investing in public services and green skills development.
- Strengthening participatory governance by integrating human rights throughout transition policies, ensuring meaningful participation and protecting civic space in environmental human rights defenders.
- Enabling globally just transitions through scaled-up grant-based financing, debt relief and cancellation, progressive taxation and prevention of conflicts over transition resources.

The world stands at a crossroads. The **best available science** continues to demand urgent action to end the ongoing devastating impacts of the climate crisis on people's lives. The UNSG report provides a roadmap for transitions that remedy past harms, future injustices and uphold the rights of present and future generations. Within the challenge posed by the climate crisis lies also opportunity to build economies that value dignity and rights belonging to each person; to create millions of decent jobs; to advance equality; and to secure a liveable planet for all now and in the future. In closing, Ms. Peggy HICKS urges states and stakeholders to study the report's findings carefully, integrate its recommendations across policies and to use this interactive dialogue to share commitments, best practices and solutions towards transitions that advance human rights.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Thanking all stakeholders for their insights on just transition and the full realization of human rights for all, Ms. Peggy HICKS particularly recognizes several groups of states most affected by the climate crisis and their calls to address deepening inequalities and the need for scaled up support. The UNSG report in this discussion has made clear that **human rights obligations apply across all aspects of just transition**.

The ICJ advisory opinion has **crystallized what has long been said at the UNHRC** and known on the front lines of climate change. Protecting the climate system and other parts of the environment is a binding obligation under international law including international human rights law. The ICJ affirmed that states must take measures to protect the climate system, regulate private actors and provide reparation for climate harm. This includes **cessation of harmful activities** that perpetuate the climate crisis. Just transition requires concrete action in this regard including the rapid and equitable phase out of fossil fuels. Today's discussion on the SG's report have highlighted **four interconnected pathways** for achieving a human rights-based transition.

First, we must advance sustainable **human rights economies**. This includes implementing the recommendations of the SG's panel on critical energy transition minerals to centre human rights throughout value chains and implementing measures of progress beyond GDP that consider planetary boundaries and human rights.

Second, we must implement **social and labour rights** throughout transitions. This includes advancing rights at work for workers in the informal and formal sectors prioritizing universal social security, public services and education and taking transition measures that realize the potential to create millions of new decent jobs from care and support to adaptation.



Third, we must strengthen **rights-based democratic governance** integrating human rights through transition-related laws, policies and activities. This includes ensuring meaningful participation and access to information, protecting environmental human rights defenders and guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples including their sovereignty over natural resources.

Fourth and finally, the international community must **work together in solidarity** to ensure the financing, capacity building, technology transfer and co-development necessary to achieve just transitions for all people. **COP 30 in Brazil** offers the first opportunity to act upon the findings of the world's highest court in the context of international climate regime.

In closing, Ms. Peggy Hicks urges states to transpose these findings into action and implement the recommendations of the SG's report as discussed today, including integrating rights-based pathways into the just transition work programme.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

Algeria on behalf of the Arab group believes that confronting climate change represents a global challenge that requires comprehensive solutions that take into account justice and equality and guarantee fundamental rights, including the right to development, health, food, water, and a healthy environment. The principle of shared responsibilities but differentiated burdens remains an essential foundation for any just and equitable approach to this issue. The unique circumstances of developing countries, including Arab countries, present them with significant challenges resulting from climate change, including desertification and water scarcity, which threaten their food and national security. This calls for a gradual and balanced transition that takes into account their climate commitments and legitimate development needs, while affirming their inalienable right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. The League of Arab States launched the Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy 2030 and initiatives for cooperation in the areas of water and food security. Adapting to climate change is an expression of clear political will to promote sustainable development, diversify energy sources, and expand investment in renewable energy. The Arab group also emphasizes that a successful just transition requires the provision of concessional financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building to enable our countries to effectively implement their commitments, taking into account the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the UNSG report.

The **Bahamas on behalf of the CARICOM group** emphasizes that small island developing states are already on the front lines of climate change facing hurricanes of increased increasing intensity, sea level rise, biodiversity loss and severe economic shocks. For SIDS, just transition is about safeguarding lives, livelihoods and enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development. CARICOM, therefore, welcomes the report's recognition of historical responsibilities and its emphasis that transitions must be anchored in human rights, international law and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. At the global level, fossil fuel dependency, widening inequalities and inadequate social protections threaten to leave the most vulnerable behind. For SIDS, this underscores the urgency of accessible grant-based finance, debt relief and technology transfer so the transitions do not deepen structural vulnerabilities. The CARICOM group recalls the recent



advisory opinion of ICJ affirming states' legal obligations to prevent climate-related harm and to cooperate in support of vulnerable states reinforcing the legal foundation of a just transition. In closing, the CARICOM group echoes the report's call that a sustainable future depends on a just transition and a just transition depends on the full realization of human rights.

The **European Union** fully shares the UNSG report's conclusion that a just transition must address interconnected planetary crises while respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human rights of all. A just transition must be firmly rooted in a human rights-based approach, ensuring equality, participation and accountability. The realization of all human rights, including the rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, safe drinking water and sanitation, health, work, social security and an adequate standard of living, must be safeguarded in the design and implementation of just transition policies. Particular attention should be given to gender equality and persons in vulnerable situations, ensuring that no one is left behind. The EU reiterates the call to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, in line with 1.5°C pathways. The European Green Deal is our roadmap to a climate-neutral economy by 2050, built on the principle of a just transition. To this end, the Just Transition Mechanism, mobilizing up to €55 billion between 2021 and 2027, provides targeted support for regions, industries and workers most affected by decarbonization. The Social Climate Fund further protects households, micro-enterprises, and transport users from disproportionate impacts of carbon pricing, ensuring that climate action strengthens social rights.

Ghana on behalf of the African group affirms that just transition must be inclusive, equitable and firmly grounded in human rights and the right to development. For many countries and African countries for that matter, the transition to low carbon economies is taking place against the backdrop of persistent development challenges such as poverty, inequality, energy insecurity, limited fiscal space and heightened vulnerability to the impact of climate change. In this context, the pursuit of climate goals must not undermine social economic rights but rather serve to strengthen and advance them. The African group welcomes the report's recognition and the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly the rights to development, education, decent work and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment must be central to transition strategies. However, the African group remains concerned by insufficient climate finance and technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries. But barriers to assessing green technology and markets which risk deepening inequalities and continued on the representation of African voices in global just transition frameworks. In this regard, the African group calls for scaled up, predictable and needs-based international support, equitable access to finance, technology and capacity building and inclusive approaches that leave no one behind, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities and persons in situation of armed conflicts including under foreign occupation.

Iceland on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries¹ emphasizes that the realization of human rights of present and future generations should be at the heart of climate action. The climate crisis is one of the most urgent challenges the world is facing. It threatens to reverse hard-won gains in human rights and sustainable development while exacerbating existing inequalities including gender inequality. In this regard, international human rights law provides a vital

¹ Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden.



framework for ensuring that transitions not only protect the planet but also uphold human dignity, redress injustices and safeguard those most at risk. Innovative resources for climate financing are integral to enable vulnerable countries and communities to confront the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate change is not only an environmental crisis but also a human rights challenge. It threatens the enjoyment of human rights such as the rights to health, food, water, housing and decent work. A just transition is essential. It must be fair, inclusive, equitable and firmly rooted in a human rights-based approach. The Nordic-Baltic countries assess how to foster meaningful participation of those most severely affected by climate change including Indigenous peoples, women, youth and persons in vulnerable situations at every stage of the transition process.

Kuwait on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) affirms that the principles of ‘fairness’ and ‘shared responsibilities’ remain central to the climate change issue. As the report points out, historical responsibility lies at the heart of a ‘just transition,’ whereby those who have historically contributed the largest share of emissions must lead the global effort in this area, while simultaneously enabling other countries to achieve their nationally owned development priorities. In this context, the GCC states affirm that just transition paths must respect national sovereignty and take into account the specificities and priorities of each country, as one model cannot be adopted that fits all. The GCC states have invested extensively in renewable energy and sustainable development projects, providing opportunities for their people while making a tangible contribution to achieving global climate goals. Finally, the GCC states emphasize the importance of maintaining constructive discussions within the UNHRC, based on consensus, and avoiding the imposition of preconceived models. Efforts to achieve a just transition must contribute to uniting the international community in confronting this crisis.

The **Maldives on behalf of an informal group of SIDS²** emphasizes that climate change is a profound threat to the full enjoyment of human rights. For SIDS, its overlapping impacts come together to form a reality; one that defines the security, dignity and livelihoods of their people. As the UNSG rightly highlights in his report, transitions that are devoid of equity, risk deepening inequalities rather than resolving them. This is the lived experience of SIDS, who contribute the least to the climate crisis, yet they spend more servicing debt than they receive in climate finance. This undermines our fiscal space to invest in national developmental needs. For SIDS, climate justice is an essential component of just transition. It requires scaled up and predictable grant-based finance, and equitable access to technology. It requires major emitters to lead in phasing out fossil fuels, while supporting those most affected to pursue low carbon, sustainable and rights-based pathways. In this regard, they stress the urgent operationalization and capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring that it delivers accessible, grant-based resources to those on the frontlines of the climate crisis. In this context, they recall the landmark opinion issued by the ICJ. The process, initiated by SIDS, is not merely symbolic - it seeks to clarify the legal obligations of States, strengthen accountability for climate inaction, and affirm that human rights and intergenerational equity must remain at the core of climate responses. Viewing this as an essential step in reinforcing the global rule of law in the face of climate crisis, this informal group calls on the international community to deliver scaled-up, accessible, and predictable

² Bahamas, Barbados, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Suriname and Vanuatu.



climate finance to support SIDS in advancing a transition that is just and strengthens resilience; and urges all partners to act with ambition and solidarity, keeping the 1.5 °C target as the benchmark of credible climate action.

Saint Kitts and Nevis on behalf of LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Delegates³ underlines that climate change is a global challenge that affects all of us but undoubtedly has far more devastating impacts on LDCs and SIDS, even though they are the least responsible for its worsening effects. As individual states, they have developed national strategies to combat climate change, but they are still very susceptible to this crisis. They continue to be plagued with issues of water scarcity, access to fresh water and shortage of food. The continuous increase in global temperatures poses serious threats as LDCs and SIDS are prone to natural disasters and king tides made worse by rising sea levels. Therefore, they call on the international community to develop impactful and effective strategies and policies to assist us in continuing to develop adaptation and resilience-building measures. There is an urgent need for greater access to financing for LDCs and SIDS, as the current traditional measures of development only consider high per capita income which masks acute exposure to climate-related shocks. The Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) captures the structural and environmental fragilities that traditional income-based classifications overlook, particularly in LDCs and SIDS. They are grateful for UNGA's adoption of resolution 78/322 on the MVI. They continue to advocate for its integration into international financing mechanisms to better reflect our unique vulnerabilities and assist us in accessing concessional financing that is necessary to successfully navigate this climate crisis. The international community must act with urgency, equity, and solidarity to safeguard the future of the most climate-vulnerable nations. Their resilience is not only a moral imperative, but also a bedrock of global stability and shared prosperity.

Samoa on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States. Samoa was pleased to host the Secretary General last year where he saw how climate change is affecting our Pacific communities and the Pacific way of life. For Pacific SIDS, climate change is a severe and reversible threat that undermines the enjoyment of fundamental human rights to life, health, food, water, housing, culture and self-determination. A just transition must be people-centered. This means full, meaningful and inclusive decision making by integrating the voice of groups in vulnerable settings including Indigenous peoples, women, youth and front line communities and recognizing traditional knowledge as best practice in mitigation and adaptation. Yet barriers remain, the inadequate pace of global mitigation, persistent inequalities and access to finance at the absence of accountability for climate harm. Without accessible and grant-based supports for adaptation and loss and damage, small island states will face challenges in protecting the rights of their people. The recent ICJ advisory has made it clear states have legal obligations to prevent harm from climate change and to protect human rights from its impacts. This reinforces that climate action is not optional. It is a duty under international law. A just transition must, therefore, mean facing out of fossil fuels, scaling up renewable energy equitably and ensuring all climate measures respect and advance human

³ Participating in #HRC60, namely Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

rights. The dignity and survival of present and future generations depend on urgent solidarity and action.

State Delegations

Armenia supports the UNSG's call for a just and equitable transition and affirms that climate resilience must be grounded in justice with policy design and implementation guided by principles of fairness, inclusion and accountability. As the host of COP 17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Armenia is committed to fostering a space where biodiversity and human rights are central pillars of climate action. Currently, Armenia is conducting key policy reviews, including of its national biodiversity strategy to further strengthen the integration of biodiversity and human rights. This includes ensuring that the rights of all stakeholders including traditional knowledge holders, rural workers and environmental defenders are comprehensively addressed. Armenia's draft climate law approved by government in August of this year establishes the country's first comprehensive framework for climate governance embedding principles of human rights and just transition to ensure that climate policies promote equity, protect vulnerable groups and support inclusive socioeconomic transformation. Armenia remains fully committed to advancing human rights based climate action and promoting a just transition that leaves no one behind.

Bangladesh welcomes the UNSG report on just transition and human rights. Climate change has become an unavoidable reality for Bangladesh, one of the most climate vulnerable countries. The country faces some of the consequences of climate change, sea level rise, alteration in weather patterns and displacement. The report rightly pointed out barriers and challenges that necessitate decisive action, particularly phasing out fossil fuels, ensuring access to affordable and clean energy, robust business accountability and equitable resource distribution. Bangladesh also echoes the call that just transition must be guided by the principle of justice, equality, non-discrimination, intergenerational equity and the universality of human rights. This transition must be particularly attentive to the specific needs and challenges of the least developed countries and others who are affected most by the climate change. Bangladesh underscores that a just transition requires international solidarity and cooperation in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities. It is scaled up ground-based climate finance, technology transfer, assistance for capacity building and data restructuring central to addressing the barriers to just transition and ensuring the attainment of a sustainable, dignified and inclusive future for all.

Belgium welcomes the insightful and timely UNSG synthesis report and could not agree more on the fact that human rights are fundamental to a just transition. Without a rights-based approach, transitions risk reinforcing existing inequalities and failing the communities they are meant to support. States must uphold their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. This includes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as affirmed in UN General Assembly resolution 76/300. But human rights are not only safeguards, they can also drive solutions and help societies navigate transition challenges. As the report highlights, transitioning to more sustainable economies can create millions of jobs. These opportunities must be realized in ways that fully uphold labour rights and broader human rights. Finally, a just transition must be

an inclusive transition. Belgium stresses the importance of meaningful and safe participation of all in shaping and implementing just transition policies.

Burkina Faso commends the UNSG for the relevance of his report, which describes how international human rights law can guide a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies that take human rights into account. In Burkina Faso, with a view to ensuring better state monitoring of extractive companies' compliance with their human rights due diligence obligations and contributing to the fight against climate change, a diagnostic study on the consideration of human rights by extractive industries was conducted in 2023. This study, developed using an inclusive and participatory approach, includes recommendations that take human rights into account in the mining sector and will be the subject of a national action plan for implementation. Finally, Burkina Faso encourages the international community to continue promoting climate justice that is sustainable and conducive to development.

Cabo Verde appreciates the UNSG's very high quality summary report which emphasizes the relevance of the themes addressed and the depth and conclusions included in it. Cabo Verde underscores the importance of international cooperation in creating enabling conditions for just transition for all, particularly paying attention to equal access to finance, technology and capacity building. For a country like Cabo Verde, a country facing structural vulnerabilities exposed to the effects of climate change, a fair transition can only be done if there is strong inclusive international solidarity. Cabo Verde's goal is clear, to reach more than 50% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% by 2040. The country sees in a fair transition a strategic opportunity to address economic, social, environmental and development challenges while promoting human rights. Cabo Verde calls for strong commitments of the entire UN system, its member states and the international community in order to focus common actions towards fair, inclusive and people-centred transition.

Cameroon stresses that climate action is one of the major focuses of our policies related to the establishment of an internal legal framework and also ratification of numerous agreements linked to climate challenges, most notably the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Cameroon's budgetary policies take into account the problems related to the climate emergencies that focus on renewable energies and strengthen early warning systems that affect the national observatory on climate change, coordinates its efforts in cooperation with the relevant ministries and local actors. Cameroon would like to know what measures of effective support can be provided in order to support resilience of countries in the face of climate change.

Colombia states that the UNSG report on climate change highlights how important it is to move towards a just transition with a human rights focus and a focus on equality and inclusion as well. Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world, highly vulnerable to climate change which threatens the enjoyment of human rights and particularly for vulnerable communities. Colombia supports the recommendation to reduce global emissions by 1.5 degrees centigrade and to progressively abandon fossil fuels. Fundamental rights cannot be guaranteed if there is still carbon dependence throughout the world, dependence on oil and gas. A just transition must be multidimensional, must be systemic including energy, social and territorial transitions and addressing structural inequality in communities. This transformation must guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples in local communities, fully respecting their rights and



traditional knowledge. The transition will not be possible without proper financial resources that are foreseeable and accessible. New financing mechanisms for developing countries are needed. Colombia notes the importance of articulating climate action with the protection of biodiversity, promoting synergies between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This would allow us to safeguard life and the rights of future generations.

Costa Rica reiterates its firm commitment to a just transition based on a human rights-based approach and advocates for the building of inclusive and democratic societies, the effective participation and protection of environmental human rights defenders as the basic foundation for any transition that is to be successful. Costa Rica believes transition models should not be guided solely by economic utility. The Country rather supports a proactive and rights-based approach that focuses on social, environmental and climate justice, the transfer and co-development of clean technologies and mechanisms that correct intellectual property imbalances to share benefits in an equal manner. Costa Rica applauds the International Court of Justice's strong conclusions that the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is crucial to the enjoyment of other rights. This recognition must be translated into effective obligations and accessible financing for vulnerable countries in their climate actions with a human rights-based approach.

Cote d'Ivoire thanks the UNSG for his synthesis report that highlights the crucial link between human rights, just transition and climate action. Climate change represents one of the most serious challenges of our times with a serious impact on all human rights, especially the right to life, to food and to development. Cote d'Ivoire has seen climate change impact leading to land degradation, coastal erosion, the reduction of water resources and the drop in agricultural production, fragilizing and marginalizing vulnerable groups. Confronted with these challenges, Cote d'Ivoire adopted a national plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptations through structured projects, for example, the national program for the sustainable management of forest management and the establishment of a mechanism for community participation with a view of guaranteeing that climate policies are inclusive and leave no one behind. Just transition in terms of climate change should be based on inclusion and on participation of all stakeholders, social justice as well as combating poverty and international solidarity. In conclusion, Cote d'Ivoire affirms its commitment to equitable and just transition in order to build sustainable development for future generations.

The **Dominican Republic** appreciates the fact that the UNSG report places at the core the relationship between fair just transition, climate justice and human rights. As a small island developing states, the Dominican Republic is among the most vulnerable to climate change. Hurricanes, coast erosion and droughts beset our communities and they generate losses approximately 2% of GDP per annum which is why the Dominican Republic has traced a roadmap towards a resilient low emission economy. The national transition policy 2022-2036 determines that by 2030, 30% of the energy matrix will come from renewable resources but a just transition for countries like ours means more than simply decarbonization. It means guaranteeing energy security, protecting the most vulnerable and creating new opportunities. Underscoring that this transition cannot be done alone, the Dominican Republic reiterates its call to developing



countries to increase financing, technology transfer and technical support in order to guarantee a fair just transition that leaves no one behind.

Egypt takes note of the significant shortfall in the UN General Assembly's commitment to a just and comprehensive transition to human rights. The negative impacts of climate change continue to cast a shadow over the effective enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, food, and health, as well as the right to development. The frequency of extreme weather events is also increasing, undermining development and threatening livelihoods. Egypt calls for ensuring justice and inclusiveness in the transition to a low-carbon economy, with special priority given to protecting the right to work and the economic rights of affected populations, ensuring that no one is left behind. Egypt emphasizes the importance of all efforts to address climate change taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To ensure climate justice, reduce the development gap between peoples, and avoid losses and damages that directly and indirectly affect the full realization of human rights. In conclusion, Egypt underlines the need to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to address climate change, especially through financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building to ensure fair implementation mechanisms that protect the rights of current and future generations to a safe and sustainable environment.

Ghana concurs with the UNSG's recommendation that to advance just transitions that uphold the human rights of all, states should transition to sustainable human rights economies by equitably facing our fossil fuels while ensuring affordable and sustainable energy for all. Ghana is advancing renewable energy projects reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable waste management. Its recent efforts include the expansion of solar energy initiatives such as the 20 megawatt solar plant and the enforcement of the plastic waste management policy. Ghana is also undertaking reforms to balance with protecting vulnerable households from energy poverty. In this regard, Ghana calls on developed states to facilitate climate finance and technology transfer to support a just transition in all countries, and asks in in what specific ways could developing countries ensure that the implementation of investment treaties contribute to accelerating just transitions.

Greece states that a just transition towards sustainable economies and societies firmly anchored in human rights is essential for the future of both people and planet. Safeguarding the rights of present and future generations should be at the heart of these transitions. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact for the Future provide the collective framework and roadmap for building peaceful, inclusive and prosperous societies. Indeed, just transition should be understood in a comprehensive manner as a shift to low carbon sustainable economies and societies that creates decent work opportunities, reduces poverty and inequality and strengthens the protection and enjoyment of all human rights. It also requires addressing the multiple and interlinked crisis of climate change, biodiversity laws, pollution and land degradation. Greece recognizes that war and conflicts over natural resources as well as the trends in inequalities and discrimination remain major obstacles. Moreover, gender equality is a precondition for successful just transitions as women are at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, ecosystem conservation and restoration. Greece shares the report's views that states should respect, protect and fulfil human rights in all transition related efforts and is committed to working with all its partners towards this direction.



Honduras welcomes the UNSG report that invites us to think about how to move towards just transitions that respond to the climate crisis, guarantee human rights, promote social equality and attention to vulnerable populations. Even though Honduras contributes at a minimal level to global emissions, the country is one of the most vulnerable in the world facing climate impacts that leads to human and economic costs that affect in a disproportionate manner our population between 2021 and 2024. Honduras managed to reduce national poverty from 74.6% to 64% and extreme poverty from 66.1% to 52.5%. The country has also moved forward in reducing fossil fuels in its energetic metrics reaching 64.5% of generation from renewables with subsidies that protect the most vulnerable sectors. A clear commitment is reflected in the approval of special law on forced carbon transactions for climate justice and the law on protection of women, the context of humanitarian crisis, natural disaster and emergency. Honduras agrees that in order to overcome this crisis, the protection of human rights and the environment must be put at the heart, and that requires to take corrective measures in the international financial architecture.

India notes the recommendations outlined in the UNSG report and agrees that equity and climate justice must form the foundation of all transition efforts. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities remains central to ensuring that transitions are truly just and equitable. India welcomes the report's recognition that developing countries require substantial support through international cooperation including financing, capacity-building and technology transfer. India has demonstrated leadership in climate action while prioritizing the development and well-being of its people, and it is proud to share that India has achieved 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources five years ahead of its 2030 target under the Paris Agreement. This milestone is a demonstration of India's commitment to clean energy and of how the right policies, investment and innovation can accelerate transition while respecting the right to development ensuring that no one is left behind. India reaffirms its commitment to working collectively towards a greener, cleaner and healthier planet guided by the principles of equity and justice.

Iraq appreciates the UNSG's efforts in presenting the analytical study on climate change. The unique situation in Iraq presents it with significant challenges resulting from climate change, including desertification and water scarcity, which threaten its food and national security. This calls for a transition that takes into account climate commitments and legitimate development needs, while affirming the sovereign right of states to dispose of their natural resources. Iraq attaches great importance to addressing environmental and climate-related problems, through the issuance of Environmental Protection and Improvement Law No. (27) of 2009, in addition to launching the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement 2024-2030, which aims to address pressing environmental challenges in Iraq, such as desertification, loss of biodiversity, and the depletion of water resources. In conclusion, Iraq expresses its strong desire to protect the environment and combat desertification, and calls on everyone to work together to provide a healthy, safe, sustainable, and pollutant-free climate, enabling future generations to live a pure life free from the dangers of pollution.

Jamaica, as a small island developing state on the front line of the climate crisis, Jamaica commends the UNSG report, which emphasizes that a just transition towards sustainable economies and societies centered on human rights is essential to the future of the people and the planet. This is particularly relevant as the climate crisis undermines the ability of Jamaica and



other states to pursue development in a sustainable and equitable manner, thus impeding the realization of broader human rights goals. The government of Jamaica attaches great importance and commitment to climate justice and social equity. However, based on national vulnerability to extreme climate-related events, Jamaica's just transition pathways require robust and consistent support through international cooperation including financing, capacity building and technology transfer. Jamaica is thankful to UNDP and ILO through its just transition project which is bolstering Jamaica's efforts to ensure our workers are protected. In closing, Jamaica welcomes the convening of COP 30 in Brazil later this year where it will continue to advocate for the finalization of the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

Kenya shares with the UNSG report that the world stands at a crossroads in the fight against climate change, a fight that is not abstract but real and urgent, defining the future of people and planet. The UNSG report rightly underscores the undeniable truth that the climate crisis exacerbates existing inequalities and threatens the rights and lives of millions, especially those in Africa and other vulnerable regions who have contributed least to this catastrophe. As a climate vulnerable state, Kenya affirms that the era of empty promises must end. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is not a slogan. It is the foundation of international climate justice. Developed countries must redouble their efforts to cut emissions aggressively and meet their climate finance commitments. The polluters must pay not only for the damage inflicted but in support of the transformative path to sustainable development for those still left behind. Kenya calls for a just transition in line with the historic ICJ advisory opinion that is bold, inclusive and rights-centred. This means creating quality jobs, extending social protections, empowering women, youth, Indigenous peoples and informal workers who are the very backbone of society. It means tackling debt burdens and ensuring that climate finance is accessible, adequate and aimed at building resilient green economies rooted in local realities. In closing, Kenya calls on the international community to translate words into action and advance solidarity, accountability and equity.

Kuwait emphasizes that this issue represents a global challenge requiring international cooperation based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Any effective response must be based on respect for the economic specificities and national circumstances of developing countries, which face double burdens resulting from desertification, water scarcity, and the threat to food security. Kuwait has launched a national roadmap to reduce emissions by 2050 and has set a target of producing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, in addition to renewable energy projects. Kuwait continues to work to enhance energy efficiency to ensure alignment between its climate commitments and its development needs. The State of Kuwait believes that a successful just transition requires the provision of concessional financing, technology transfer, and capacity building, enabling developing countries to fulfil their commitments without compromising their inalienable right to development and sovereignty over their natural resources.

The **Marshall Islands** appreciates the UNSG's report which reminds member states of their shared responsibility to meet the needs of our people without preventing future generations from meeting their own needs. For the Marshall Islands already experiencing rising sea levels, those future generations are constantly in Marshallese minds. The report gives hope that a just transition is within the world's reach. Collectively it is within the world's reach to ensure polluters

pay their fair share, that businesses are held accountable and that those who have benefited most from high emissions take the lead in this transition. It is within the power of the international community. The latter can do this starting today to ensure a better tomorrow. This summer the International Court of Justice reminded us that this just transition is not only possible but also required of us. Commitments to transition our economies are not voluntary. They are demanded by international law. Once again, the Marshall Islands urges all states to commit to stronger and faster action on climate change with the rapid transition away from fossil fuels at the centre. It further calls on all parties to the Paris Agreement to come forward with ambitious economy-wide emissions commitments and the scaled-up accessible funding finance to make this transition truly just and most equitable for all.

Nepal is actively affected by the climate change, melting and outburst of glaciers and frequent floods and landslides threaten lives and livelihoods of millions every year. As one of the world's mountain countries, Nepal continues to call for global action to fight climate change, to conserve mountains and to contribute to the first transition to low carbon economy. In May of this year, Nepal hosted an international multistakeholder dialogue, meaning the mount Everest dialogue under the theme of climate change, mountains and the future of humanity. Climate change is a global problem. It is not just an environmental crisis. It is profound human rights challenge. It requires an urgent and ambitious global action. Nepal calls for adequate and accessible climate finance; technology transfer and capacity-building; and full implementation of the Paris Agreement including the meaningful operationalization of loss and damage fund is vital. Nepal remains committed to achieving net zero by 2045.

Oman states that the UNSG report clearly reflects the close interconnectedness between human rights and the environmental and economic challenges facing our world today. The report highlighted the complex and intertwined challenges that prevent a just transition towards sustainable economic and environmental systems that respect human rights. Among the most important challenges, Oman mentions the widening gap between countries in terms of their ability to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change; limited funding and technological support for developing countries; and the absence of legal frameworks and institutional safeguards capable of establishing the desired environmental justice. In this context, Oman affirms its support for the recommendations contained therein, particularly those related to adopting a comprehensive, human rights-based approach to environmental transition processes, strengthening community participation mechanisms, and ensuring legal protection and justice for the most affected groups. It also welcomes the UNSG's call for increased international commitment, particularly from developed countries, in the areas of climate finance, technology transfer, and the activation of multilateral cooperation frameworks. Achieving a just transition will not be possible without clear political will and structural reforms in economic and environmental systems, achieving the desired balance between sustainable development and preserving human dignity.

The **Philippines** believes that the energy transition presents significant opportunities but it also poses substantial risks if not managed with due diligence and consideration of the rights and needs of the most vulnerable in our societies. At its core, just transition is about the equitable distribution of costs and benefits arising from the process. The Philippines agrees with the UNSG that the shift to greener economy should necessarily involve all sectors including the maritime



transport and that the focus of our thrust should be safeguarding workers' human rights and advancing inclusion and equality. Earlier this month, the Philippines launched the declaration on human rights, safety and well-being. This is the country's contribution to ongoing efforts towards a more just, sustainable and resilient shipping industry where no seafarer is left adrift, abused or abandoned.

Saudi Arabia regrets that the UNSG report does not reflect in a balanced manner the fundamental principles of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, foremost among them the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities according to capabilities (CBDR-RC). Furthermore, the report's focus on specific pathways, such as phasing out fossil fuels, ignores the diverse national circumstances of countries and does not take into account considerations of energy security, energy costs, and sustainable development requirements, which are critical issues for developing countries. In this context, Saudi Arabia emphasizes that climate action requires a comprehensive approach that guarantees peoples' right to development. Therefore, just transition pathways must remain nationally defined and prioritize poverty eradication and sustainable development, away from solutions based on standardized models. The Kingdom continues its ambitious steps under Vision 2030 by investing in major renewable energy projects and leading a number of pioneering international and regional initiatives, including the Circular Carbon Economy Initiative, the Middle East Green Initiative, and the Riyadh Global Partnership for Drought Resilience. These efforts embody our commitment to constructive engagement and cooperation with the international community on various climate-related tracks. Saudi Arabia also reaffirms its commitment to a just and equitable transition that takes into account international agreements and supports global climate goals while preserving national development priorities and ensuring prosperity for its people.

Senegal takes note of the measures endorsed in the UNSG report. In relation to climate justice, Senegal reiterates its call for a just, fair energy transition based on human rights respect, while noting that the lack of resources for climate adaptation and resilience as well as the general context characterized by many crises slows down the pace of the implementation of SDGs which puts vulnerable countries in vulnerable risk. Most and foremost, vulnerable countries need to have greater social protection and participation of vulnerable groups. At the same time, there is a need for increased international solidarity to facilitate access to enough financing, technology transfer and lightening the debt burden. Senegal has included the right to a safe environment in the constitution. Through national policies, Senegal now has more than 30% renewable energy in its energy matrix, and it aims to achieve 40% by 2030. Key projects such as the air wind project has been developed in order to promote clean energy and inclusive growth. Lastly, to go beyond mere intentions and have specific actions, Senegal calls for renewed partnership respecting human rights and taking into account inclusivity and equality.

South Sudan is grateful for the UNSG report which enhances this Council's mandate to consider the human rights impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. As one of the countries that experience this climate change effects, South Sudan is concerned that climate change has an increasing impact on the full enjoyment of human rights across the world, particularly on the developing countries and the small island states which bear the brunt of climate change related challenges and endangering actually millions of lives. South Sudan shares the UNSG call for equity-based approaches and solutions to address the loss and damage from climate change,



particularly in vulnerable settings which to us actually requires action oriented objective global cooperation and solidarity with due consideration to the core principles of equity, climate justice and common but differentiated responsibilities. In closing, South Sudan believes that besides the need for support for capacity-building and technology transfer as well as adequate climate financing in line with the promise of the Paris Agreement, it is necessary that decisions on climate change require taking on board views of the most vulnerable.

Timor-Leste supports a transition that addresses the environmental crisis while placing human dignity, equality and justice at its core. As a small island developing state, Timor-Leste is on the front lines of climate change despite contributing least to its causes. Its people face rising seas, natural disasters and ecosystem degradation. Yet Timor-Leste remains committed to sustainable development grounded in human rights and the well-being of its people. The transition must be guided by international human rights law and must not deepen inequality or marginalize vulnerable groups. Timor-Leste emphasizes some priorities. Decent work and social protection must be central, especially for informal workers, women and youth at higher risk during transitions. Indigenous rights must be upheld, particularly regarding land resources and free, prior and informed consent. Climate finance and international cooperation must increase, including grant-based support and relief for vulnerable countries. Inclusive governance is essential. Timor's democratic experience shows that meaningful participation builds public trust and resilience. In conclusion, Timor-Leste remains committed to adjust rights-based transitions that leaves no one behind.

Trinidad and Tobago states that the UNSG report outlines critical recommendations for the advancement of a just transition, many of which are in consonance with policies being pursued by Trinidad and Tobago. In pursuing its efforts to diversify what has traditionally been an oil and gas-based economy to an environmentally sustainable climate resilient and people-centred one, the government has been prioritizing social dialogue, decent work and social protection, all key pillars of a just transition. Such priorities include establishing a living wage for all workers, modernizing labour legislation and strengthening tripartism. As a small island developing state, technical cooperation and international collaboration have also been essential. In this regard, work being undertaken through the ILO Caribbean Office and the UN Multicounty Office, both based in Trinidad and Tobago, remain paramount to advancing a just transition. Most recently during an interministerial meeting held with UN agencies in Trinidad and Tobago, climate action, sustainable food production and the transition to renewable energy were identified among the continuing priorities for the next phase of cooperation between the government of Trinidad and Tobago and the UN. In closing, the country reaffirms its continued commitment to the realization of a just transition.

The **United Arab Emirates** emphasizes the urgent need for joint and effective action and the need to adopt an approach based on states' obligations under international human rights law and the objectives of the Paris Agreement to address the impacts of climate change. In its commitment to achieving sustainable development, the UAE is committed to implementing the objectives of the UAE Climate Neutrality Strategy, which represents an integrated plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The UAE will continue to play its role within the COP30 Troika, alongside Azerbaijan and Brazil, to ensure that COP30 achieves ambitious, fair, and tangible outcomes, particularly with regard to adaptation indicators and just transition frameworks, in line with the



UAE's Belém Roadmap and the UAE's Just Transition Action Plan. In this context, the UAE emphasizes the importance of strengthening the current climate change regime to support developing countries and local communities in building their capacities for effective transition to renewable energy, adaptation, and mitigation of loss and damage. In conclusion, the UAE affirms its commitment to being an effective partner in this process, ensuring that the transition to a low-carbon economy is one that achieves development and sustainability for all.

Viet Nam welcomes the emphasis on protecting workers safeguarding vulnerable groups and ensuring that transitions expand to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. In particular, Viet Nam notes the findings on the risk faced by marginalized groups, the importance of universal social security and the central role of the international cooperation, technology transfer and finance in enabling just transitions. Remaining committed to a just energy transition and to protecting the rights of workers and communities, Viet Nam is implementing national energy planning and green growth measures, engaging with international partners to rule the just energy transition partnership and pursuing reforms to broaden social insurance and social protection coverage so that no one is left behind. Viet Nam looks forward to constructive dialogue on how international financial institutions and partners can scale up climate finance, ensure technology transfer and capacity sharing and strengthen universal social protection in developing countries.

UN Entities

UNDP welcomes the UNSG report and is grateful for the inclusion of UNDP program examples of rights-based action to advance the just transition. UNDP reaffirms its commitment to support countries in meeting the climate goals of the Paris Agreement. Through its climate promise initiative, UNDP is supporting governments in over 50 countries to integrate just transition in their climate chain policies, including nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term emissions development strategies (LTEDs). The support includes conducting transition impact assessments to identify trade-offs of climate policies and sectoral measures facilitating social dialogue, strengthening institutions and policies and financing a just transition. UNDP's role in just transition also extends to global advocacy, knowledge management and capacity building. UNDP has produced several knowledge products on just transition including an issue brief and online capacity-building and practical guide on incorporating just transition into NDCs and LTEDs. Announcing that these tools and resources are available online, UNDP welcomes partners to explore and use them to strengthen just transition and climate actions. Looking forward to continuing working with governments and communities on just transition, UNDP stresses its work on just transition is delivered jointly with partners and other UN agencies such as ILO and UNFCCC.

National Human Rights Institutions

The **National Human Rights Commission of Burundi** explains that, as part of the fight against the effects of climate change, Burundi has a regulatory and institutional framework to prevent and repair damage to the environment. From 2023 to 2025, Burundi recorded 203,000 victims of climate change linked to the El Niño phenomenon on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, in the west of the country. Together with its partners, Burundi has undertaken proactive response actions to



support victims. However, challenges remain and require appropriate intervention to better prevent and limit the effects of climate change and protect victims. The NHRI recommends that the state implement sufficient means to ensure climate justice and effectively join the international initiative to combat climate change. Burundi has taken measures and initiatives to address climate change, including the reforestation program known as ‘Ewe Burundi Urambaye,’ the promotion of the use of organic fertilizer, the implementation of Decree No. 100/099 of 8 August 2018, prohibiting the importation, manufacture, marketing, and use of plastic bags and other packaging, and raising awareness about the avoidance of toxic products. The Green Climate Fund is an asset and an opportunity to be exploited. Nevertheless, the NHRI of Burundi notes that demographic pressure on land has an impact on climate change through deforestation, bushfires, the uncontrolled and illegal exploitation of certain quarry and mining deposits, among others. Therefore, it recommends that the government take appropriate measures to effectively manage the negative impacts of climate change. In additions, it recommends that the government and development partners support Burundi’s efforts to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other applicable international conventions.

The **Ethiopian Human Rights Commission** commends the work underscoring the nexus between climate change and human rights. It serves as a critical reminder that climate change is a human rights issue that demands urgent, coordinated, and rights-based action. Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climate change with recurrent droughts, flooding, and erratic rainfall. Millions of Ethiopians are affected by food insecurity, displacement, and health challenges. The Ethiopian NHRI acknowledges government efforts such as the adoption of a comprehensive legal and policy framework for adaptation and mitigation. However, there are significant gaps in implementation. Therefore, the Ethiopian NHRI urges the government to integrate a human rights-based approach into its climate policies and actions, prioritizing the protection of vulnerable groups and the meaningful participation of affected communities. It further urges the international community to strengthen its support for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The **National Human Rights Council of Morocco** has made the right to the environment and sustainable development one of the key pillars of its strategy. Through its monitoring, reporting, and complaint handling activities at the national and regional levels, as well as through capacity building and advisory services, the Moroccan NHRI works to promote a human rights-based approach to environmental protection and the fight against climate change. Climate change is a global issue that requires collective responses at the international level. For the Moroccan NHRI, States have a responsibility to strengthen their cooperation and act in solidarity, especially since many countries in the Global South are suffering the effects of global warming, even though they are the least responsible in terms of emissions. On this occasion, the Moroccan NHRI welcomes the good practices implemented by Morocco in protecting the right to a healthy environment and promoting a just transition. This recognition is reflected in particular in the Climate Change Performance Index, where Morocco ranked 8th in 2025. The Moroccan NHRI reiterates the need to establish a comprehensive and coherent legal framework for all laws relating to environmental protection, through a consultative and participatory approach involving all stakeholders, including institutions and civil society organizations active in the field of human rights. The NHRI also calls for better coordination of efforts to develop and implement effective environmental

policies and programs aimed at protecting national natural resources, particularly those threatened by drought, climate change, and overexploitation. Finally, it emphasizes the urgent need to accelerate the adoption of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and to support the rapid adoption of the binding international legal instrument aimed at regulating the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises in order to ensure effective respect for human rights.

The **National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria** affirms the human rights implications of climate change, particularly for vulnerable communities in Nigeria. In the Niger Delta, oil pollution and rising sea levels have devastated livelihoods, while desertification and drought in the North have intensified farmer-herder conflicts and internal displacement. The NHRI's investigations confirm that climate-induced resource scarcity is undermining food security and exacerbating insecurity. Despite Nigeria's commitments under the Paris Agreement and adoption of the Climate Change Act, implementation remains slow due to weak institutional coordination and insufficient financing. The NHRI of Nigeria welcomes the outcomes of COP29, particularly the strengthened commitments toward loss and damage financing and the emphasis on human rights-based approaches to climate adaptation. Urging the UNHRC to support a rights-based approach to climate action, the NHRI of Nigeria recommends integrating climate justice into national development planning, ensuring the participation of affected communities, and holding corporate actors accountable for environmental harm. The Nigerian NHRI also calls on developed countries to honor climate finance pledges and support adaptation measures for developing countries like Nigeria.

Non-Governmental Organizations

The **Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)** welcomes the UNSG report which once again makes it clear that for an effective, just transition, it is essential to equitably transition away from fossil fuels and fundamentally change the current prevailing economic model, which is based on extractivism. It applies an intergenerational approach to just transition, highlighting that realizing the rights of both present and future generations should be integral to these transitions. In this regard, CIEL calls upon States to build on the Maastricht Principles on the human rights of future generations. The report rightly points out that the current regulatory gaps on corporate accountability are a serious barrier to a rights-based just transition, as are existing Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanisms, which allow private investors to hinder necessary policy changes. In line with the report, CIEL reiterates the centrality of the polluter pays and precautionary principles in informing states' human rights obligations in addressing the triple planetary crisis. Procedural rights are also essential to ensure meaningful, inclusive and safe public participation and access to just and remedy. Finally, in ensuring a just transition, states must also reject speculative and unproven technologies such as - carbon capture, geoengineering, or offsets - that delay real action and entrench inequalities. Instead, they must build sustainable, community-centred energy systems and adopt circular, zero-waste, and reuse-based economic models that minimize extraction and pollution. The recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on climate change has clarified states' obligations with regard to climate change and the legal consequences of breaches of such obligations, including with regard to a just transition. CIEL calls upon the UNHRC to build on this ruling and clearly call for a rights-based equitable phase out of fossil fuels.



FIAN International strongly supports the report's reference to the polluter pays principle, the realization of the rights to remedy and healthy environment and the rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. Industrial food systems, including large-scale monocropping, are major drivers of the planetary crises. As highlighted by the UNSG, a just transition to equitable economic models and sustainable food systems is strongly linked to the transition towards agroecology, which stands out for its low carbon emissions, conservation of ecosystems, and positive impact on livelihoods. Just transition needs to prominently consider the positive contributions small-scale food providers, Indigenous peoples and other rural communities can make as stewards of territories and ecosystems. They can only fulfill this role if their right to land and tenure systems is effectively protected. States must ensure broad, equitable and sustainable distribution of land and other natural resources, including measures to regain public-interest control over critical ecosystems such as forests, savannahs, mangroves, river shores and coastal lands, among others, for instance through agrarian reforms and tenure policies including recognition, restitution, redistribution, and restoration of land, along with clear regulations and adequate financing, with clear budget allocations. The support of the upcoming second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) is key in this context.

Earthjustice commends the UNSG report, as it takes stock of the ongoing discussion and underlines how human rights are crucial for this issue. Indeed, just transition must be understood comprehensively as a transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies. Since the concept of development by labour unions, its understanding includes now an integrated justice framework encompassing all people, countries and sectors, local, as well as national and international levels, formal and informal economies. It includes various needed transformational measures, including decent work opportunities and the reduction inequalities and poverty. As it has emerged from several discussions within the UNHRC and its bodies, to remain meaningful, the right to development must be the right to a sustainable development, aiming at the realization of the right for all to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The challenge all countries are facing is how to ensure that a just transition becomes central in all policies and does not become just one more greenwashing or a cover to add to the current human rights violations by the dark fossil-fuelled economies, those of a so-called green economy, with its rush for critical minerals at any cost. Human rights must remain our compass.

Lawyers for Lawyers, together with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, and the Law Society of England and Wales, echo the UNSG's call for just transitions to be guided by a rights-based approach. Among those at the forefront of advancing just transitions are environmental lawyers, who play a vital but increasingly perilous role in promoting 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 for their legitimate work. These specialised NGOs recently prepared a report that documents widespread interference with their work - ranging from physical attacks and arbitrary prosecutions to surveillance and stigmatisation. They are often vilified as 'anti-development' or 'enemies of the state,' undermining both their safety and their credibility. The NGOs jointly condemn these attacks which, combined



with persistent resource constraints, pose a chilling effect that deters other lawyers from taking up environmental cases. This ultimately leaves vulnerable communities without legal representation. Without independent legal counsel, meaningful redress for environmental harms is severely jeopardised - threatening global sustainability and human rights objectives, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. They further urge states to fulfil their obligations by ensuring the independence, safety, and effective functioning of environmental lawyers. Lastly, they call on UN bodies and professional associations of lawyers to recognise and support their indispensable role in advancing access to climate justice.

ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together gives the floor to Ms. Admire Mutizwa, Programme Director for the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, as a member of the ACT Alliance. For Zimbabwe, climate change is a reality, as the country has suffered from cyclones, floods, and extreme temperatures. These climatic events have affected socio-economic and other rights in multiple ways, as Zimbabwe has for instance seen increase in droughts resulting in food scarcity; displacements of people, increase in poverty, growing inequalities, among other challenges. As climate change events deepen vulnerabilities, the communities also suffer multiple and intersecting threats, including to civic and political rights. For the full realization of human rights for all people, efforts shall be focused on strengthening the voices of local communities in responding to climate and human rights vulnerabilities; and investing in and learning from local adaptation, which is vital for a climate-resilient development. Lastly, she urges the UNHRC to pay attention to global structural and systemic inequalities compounding and multiplying the climate induced human rights violations. As faith-based actors, they call for a redressing these global inequalities towards a fair, and just global order is critical for a just transition towards climate resilient development.

Franciscans International and the Lutheran World Federation welcome the UNSG report and its recommendations. This report coincides timely with the recent ICJ advisory opinion on climate change which reinforces the principle of a just transition as a cornerstone of international environmental law. States must urgently cut greenhouse gas emissions but also ensure that climate action is fair, inclusive, and rooted in human rights. The report warns of serious barriers: dependence on fossil fuels, exploitation tied to critical minerals, precarious labour, widening gender and income gaps, and unequal access to resources between North and South. To overcome these, transitions must go beyond decarbonization, transforming energy, labour, and governance systems. They must be democratic, participatory, and rooted in solidarity - where polluters pay, developed countries assume greater responsibility, and international cooperation in terms of financing, technology transfer, and debt relief, enables developing countries to pursue fair and equitable transitions. The report makes a valuable contribution by placing human rights at the centre of the just transition debate. However, it could benefit from a deeper systemic critique on the socio-ecological and systemic transformation. By situating the transition within the same economic context that fuelled the climate crisis, the report does not challenge it. While it emphasizes human rights, the report could be further strengthened by recognising the intrinsic rights of nature, forests, rivers, ecosystems, and biodiversity as subjects of rights, not merely resources. The two organizations recall UNSG report [A/74/236](#) on Harmony with Nature. Integrating this perspective, alongside shift beyond the growth-driven economy, would help ensure a profound transformation that our time demands.



Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos (IDDH) gives the floor to Ms. Ananda Ridart, from Aruanã- Pan-Amazonian Institute, who speaks on behalf of ECOAR, a group of Brazilian human rights defenders (HRDs) from the International Advocacy Network coordinated by IDDH. The HRDs explain that in Brazil, the Rio Doce disaster remains the largest socio-environmental tragedy. Almost ten years later, there is still no full reparation. International litigation shows the limits of current corporate accountability. In the Amazon, the toxic spill by the Hydro Energy in Barcarena, Pará, in 2018 still harms Quilombola and riverside communities. The HRDs hence call on the UNHRC to support binding international rules for transnational companies and to create strong reparation mechanisms that ensure justice and non-recurrence. At the same time, Indigenous peoples, peasants, and traditional communities are leaders of community-led transitions in Brazil. The Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR) develops climate adaptation plans that combine traditional and scientific knowledge, showing how Indigenous lands act as barriers against deforestation. These community-led practices bring concrete solutions to the climate crisis through agroecology and sustainable management. Supporting such initiatives, while also demanding corporate accountability, is essential for a fair and effective transition.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) urge all countries to send the UNSG report to their capitals, ministries and policy-makers, as it offers a concise blueprint on how to implement climate policy that is transformative, effective, ethical and fair. Climate policy that is experienced as fair is more likely to be successful and sustainable. The UNSG report demonstrates how just transition is central to rights-based, community-led approaches to reduce conflict and promote fair and equitable benefit-sharing. This report includes a human rights economy, and shows how just transition enables rapid, time-bound and equitable phasing out of fossil fuel production, essential for a liveable planet. In sum, a just transition helps build peace and creates millions of new jobs. However today, most wealthy fossil fuel economies are *increasing* fossil fuel production, not decreasing it. Additionally, governments are dramatically increasing military spending. Instead of sufficient finance for climate and humanitarian aid, approximately 2.8 trillion dollars were spent last year on weapons to kill people. We must stop subsidizing the destruction of this planet and our future.

International Network People Who use Drugs (INPUD) states that one of the greatest threats to human health, well-being and prosperity is climate change. In the past two years alone, climate-related crises have risen exponentially with immense and detrimental consequences for the health of societies and the capacities of their health and community systems. In an era where health crises and social injustices intersect with systemic challenges like pandemics and climate catastrophes, the necessity of fostering resilient communities is and will be instrumental. The changes brought by climate change have an immediate and direct effect on the health, well-being, safety and security of people who use drugs. This includes experiencing intensified barriers to accessing quality health and social services; surges in human mobility and migration; upticks in human rights abuses, violence, harassment, policing and punitive legal environments; increased loss of housing, income and livelihoods matched with rising food insecurity. Climate change has also been associated with increasing rates of HIV transmission and a decline in health outcomes among people who use drugs. The climate-health nexus poses a substantial risk to the success of the SDG Agenda.



United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation commends the UNSG synthesis report for underlining a truth we can no longer ignore - climate change is not only an environmental crisis. It is a human rights emergency. Around the world, we are witnessing entire communities displaced by rising seas, livelihoods destroyed by drought, children forced out of education by floods, and vulnerable groups - especially women and Indigenous peoples - pushed further into poverty and exclusion. These are not abstract statistics. They are lives, rights, and futures at stake. We must recognize that the right to development, the right to health, to food, to water, and even to life itself are being undermined by the accelerating impacts of climate change. Inaction is no longer an option. The Agency urges the UNHRC and the international community to integrate human rights at the heart of climate policies, ensuring that mitigation and adaptation measures protect the most vulnerable; strengthen technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries, enabling them to respond without sacrificing their right to development; and ensure accountability, so that those most responsible for emissions contribute fairly to solutions, including through climate finance and technology transfer. Climate justice is human justice. Protecting our planet is inseparable from protecting the dignity and rights of all people. The Agency calls upon the UNHRC to transform urgent words into urgent action.

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