

Human rights protections for all in the 2015 climate agreement

We, the undersigned organisations, call for language in the 2015 climate agreement stating that the Parties to the UNFCCC shall, in all climate change-related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfill human rights for all.

Climate change is a global injustice and one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. We are highly concerned about the grave harm that climate change is already causing, and will continue to cause, to people and communities as well as to the environment on which we all depend. It has a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable, and we are increasingly exceeding adaptation limits, resulting in significant loss and damage, as documented by the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report also highlights that current emission reduction actions are insufficient to limit global warming to the 1.5 degrees needed to avoid the most catastrophic of predicted impacts.

A safe climate is critical to the full enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, adequate housing, and self-determination. However, it is well recognized—by the UN Human Rights Council and others—that climate change and certain actions being taken to address climate change interfere with the enjoyment of human rights protected under international law. For this reason, in 2010, the Parties to the UNFCCC agreed that “Parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights.” We regard this recognition of existing obligations as critical for a range of aspects, including with regard to safeguards and accountability for all climate actions, full and effective participation, and support for poorer countries whose capacities to protect their citizens’ human rights are strained by climate change impacts. However, we are concerned that this language has not been further operationalised in the UNFCCC process.

With negotiations for the Paris agreement underway, NOW is the time to fully integrate rights protections in the climate regime.

We welcome the reference to human rights, indigenous peoples rights and gender in the most recent version of the non-paper released by the ADP co-chairs on 11 November, “*Stressing* that all actions to address climate change and processes established under this agreement should ensure a gender-responsive approach, take into account the protection of the integrity of Mother Earth, and respect human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples”.

Yet we urge **all Parties to include human rights in the operational provisions of the 2015 agreement.** In doing so, we endorse the recommendations of 28 independent experts of the Human Rights Council, set forth in their “Open Letter from Special Procedures mandate-holders of the

Human Rights Council to the State Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”, dated 17 October:

We urge the State Parties to the UNFCCC to recognise the adverse effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, and to adopt urgent and ambitious mitigation and adaptation measures to prevent further harm. We call on the State Parties to include language in the 2015 climate agreement that provides that the Parties shall, in all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all. And we urge the State Parties at COP 20 in Lima to launch a work program to ensure that human rights are integrated into all aspects of climate actions.

The experts highlight the fact that climate change threatens to undermine the protection of human rights, and that the UNFCCC has a crucial role in effectively protecting human rights for all. We wholeheartedly agree.

Signatories

International

350.org
ACT Alliance
Asociación Catalana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ASCA)
Asociación Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ARCA)
CARE International
Climate Action Network - Latin America
Freshwater Action Network (FAN)
Friends of the Earth International
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Global Gender and Climate Alliance
Greenpeace International
Institute for Planetary Synthesis
International-Lawyers.Org (INTLawyers)
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua (FANCA)
WWF International
World Council of Churches
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
Women's Environment and Development Organization

Africa / Asia

350.org Africa & Arab World

Argentina

Aclimatando
Asociacion Ambientalista MAYU SUMAJ
Centro para la Sustentabilidad y los Riesgos Climaticos
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
FUNDEPS - Foundation for the Development of Sustainable Policies
Noa Sustentable
Rio+NOA
Asociación para la Justicia Ambiental

Australia

Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch
Climate Justice Programme
Edmund Rice Centre Sydney
Edmund Rice Centre/Pacific Calling Partnership

Bangladesh

NRDS, Bangladesh
Society of Development and Education for Small Households-SoDESH

Belgium

Carbon Market Watch
European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO)

Bolivia

Plataforma Boliviana frente al Cambio Climático

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Center for Environment
SEE Change Net

Cameroon

Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)

Canada

Climate Emergency Institute
Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)
Social Justice Connection
MAISON DE L'ENFANT ET DE LA FEMME PYGMEES ()
Caribbean Policy Development Centre
WWF Canada

Chile

Acción Ecológica
Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente-FIMA Chile
Paola Vasconi Reca

Colombia

Asociacio Ambiente y Sociedad
Maloca Internationale
Red Colombiana Para la Defensa de Los DH, el Medio Ambiente y La Paz

Croatia

Society for Sustainable Development Design

Denmark

DanChurchAid
Forests of the World
Beyond Copenhagen Collective

DR Congo

Reseau GATT-RN
SOS Africa
ligue pour la solidarité congolaise
Bureau d'Etudes Scientifiques et Techniques (B.E.S.T)
Maison des Mines du Kivu (MMKi)
Perspectives Monde Juste (PMJ)
Collectif des Associations Féminines pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral
Fond des Femmes Congolaises

Aide et Action pour la Paix
Centre des ressource et de formation pour les femmes
Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement
Rainbow sunrise mapambazuko
Union des Juristes Engages pour les Opprimés, la Paix et le Développement

Ecuador

Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental

Egypt

Egyptian Centre for Economic & Social Rights
Habi Center for Environmental Rights

EU

APRODEV
CIDSE

Fiji

Diverse Voices and Action for Equality
Fiji Women's Rights Movement

France

ARUANA
Climates
HELIO International

Germany

Bread for the World - Protestant Development Service
Climate & Development Advice
Germanwatch
LIFE e.V.
Women in Europe for a Common Future

Guatemala

Asociacion Raxcho'ch' Oxlaju Aj (Tierra Verde 13 Aj)
Centro Mesoamericano de Estudios sobre Tecnología Apropiaada
Consejo de Pueblos de Tezulutlán
Mesa Nacional de Cambio Climático

Guinea

Carbone Guinée

India

Naga Women's Union (NWU)
Centre For Research Documentation and Publication Manipur
Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)
Centre for Research and Advocacy Manipur
Gujarat Forum on CDM
Savera Swayamsevi Sangathan
Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change
Water Initiatives Odisha & Combat Climate Change Network, India
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Ireland

Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA)

Iraq

Al-Hakim Foundation

Italy

SONIA for a Just New World

Kenya

Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Kazakhstan

Ecological Forum of Kazakhstan (network of environmental organizations and experts)

Marshall Islands

Women United Together Marshall Islands
The University of the South Pacific – Marshall Islands

Malaysia

Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Mexico

Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
ITDP
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
(FECOFUN)
Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research

Netherlands, the

Both ENDS
Hivos
BankTrack
Stand Up For Your Rights

New Zealand

Human Rights Foundation Aotearoa New Zealand
Aotearoa New Zealand Human Rights Lawyers Association

Nepal

Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal

Nicaragua

Centro Alexander von Humboldt
Fundación Alianza para un Mundo Verde
Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD)

Nigeria

Centre for Health Rights Advocacy (CfHRAD)
Climate & Sustainable Development Network
HEDA Resource Centre
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre
NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE)
Women Environmental Programme

Norway

Caritas Norway
Rainforest Foundation Norway

Panama

Asociación Ambientalista de Chiriquí
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental
Movimiento 10 de Abril para Defensa del Río Tabasará

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum

Philippines

Ecological Society of the Philippines

Ateneo School of Government

IBON International

Panay Rural Development Center, Inc.

PhilNet

Poland

Polish Climate Coalition

Peru

CEDDRE PERU

Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Iniciativa Construyendo Puentes

Spain

UNESCO Etxea-UNESCO Centre Basque Country

Sri Lanka

Earthlanka Youth Network

Sweden

Nature and Youth Sweden

Switzerland

WaterLex International Secretariat

Taiwan

Taiwan Environmental Protection Union

Taiwan Youth Climate Coalition

Thailand

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

Uganda

Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)

Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (UEEF)

Uganda

Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment

United Kingdom

Active Remedy Ltd

The Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation

Foundation for GAIA (GAIA)

Indigenous Peoples Links (PIPLinks)

UK Youth Climate Coalition

United States

Academics Stand Against Poverty

Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)

Center for International Environmental Law

Heinrich Boell Foundation North America

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Rutgers University

Friends of the Earth U.S.

Pivot Point
Sierra Club
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Climate Wise Women
Alaska Native Science Commission
American Jewish World Service
Drowning Islands
Earthjustice
Food & Water Watch
Franciscan Action Network
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Human Rights Advocates
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Moravian College
Oil Change International
Quaker Earthcare Witness
The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice
The Shalom Center
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Global Education Motivator (GEM)
Indigenous Educational Network of Turtle Island/IEN
Loyola Human Rights Advocacy Project

Uruguay

Sociedad Amigos del Viento

Venezuela

Fundación +Verde+Humano