

29th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 4: Joint Oral statement, 24 June 2015
Speaker: Budi Tjahjono – Franciscans International

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

This is a joint statement of 15 NGOs. We would like to draw the attention of the Council to the urgent need to address Climate Change from a human rights perspective. The HRC is the only international mechanism that has the competency to fully and comprehensively address the human suffering we are witnessing today, and that will increase in severity from now until at least 2030 or 2040 due to the effects of climate change.

In December of this year the UNFCCC will meet in Paris. It is from there that the international community, especially those who are most immediately and adversely impacted by climate change, hopes that leadership and widespread support for global cooperation will emerge. The future of humanity and our earth, as we know it, is at stake.

We welcome the Council's Panel Discussion on Climate Change and Human Rights in the March 2015 Session. Most panellists agreed that it is important to put a human face on the impact of climate and to address climate-related migration. Delegations called for mitigation and adaptation efforts to combat climate change that place people at the centre, are gender sensitive and ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable, including women, children, elderly, indigenous peoples and the poor are being upheld.¹

We also welcome the report prepared by four Council rapporteurs to inform the UNFCCC of the effect of Climate Change on the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights. It reaffirms that climate change can and does adversely affect the enjoyment of a broad range of human rights, especially the right to a safe life, to the highest standard of physical and mental health, to right to food and nutrition, to water and sanitation, to adequate housing to self-determination and in relation to the rights of those who are particularly vulnerable.²

In this session, the Council will consider the adoption of a resolution on human rights and climate change. The on-going call from civil society members that was first expressed in the Council Social Forum in 2010 is still relevant today; the adverse impact of Climate Change on the full enjoyment of Human Rights must be addressed without delay. **More than ever the Council should have the issue permanently on its agenda and should establish a mandate for a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change to assess its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights.** The mandate would allow for country visits, the reception of communications from victims and affected communities, the collection of information regarding good practices including international cooperation, and solidarity in the field of combatting climate change. Thank you.

This statement is supported by:

1. Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF)
2. Franciscans International
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5. Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council
6. Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center
7. Edmund Rice International
8. FIAN International
9. ATD Fourth World
10. Center for International Environment Law (CIEL)
11. The Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)
12. German Forum for Human Rights
13. Sovereign military order of the temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)
14. The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
15. Foundation for GAIA

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¹ See A/HRC/29/19, para 39.

² See <http://www.thecvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/humanrightsSRHRE.pdf>