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submission to call for questionnaire on human rights and climate change

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) welcomes the call for questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 47/24 on human rights and climate change as communicated by e-mail on 24 August 2021 by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Pursuant to the call, DIHR would like to draw attention to the following points:

**1. Please describe the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Where possible, please share specific examples and stories.**

As a cause of climate change Denmark experiences days of heavy rain increasingly more frequent.[[1]](#footnote-1) However, the current level of intensity has not led to infringements of the full and effective enjoyment of human rights in Denmark as such.

**2. Please describe any specific policy, legislation, practice or strategy that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.**

The policy of the Danish approach to mitigate climate change is regulated in the Act on Climate.[[2]](#footnote-2) However, neither the law nor its preparatory works explicitly refer to the compliance or promotion of human rights.

**4. Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations.**

The Danish Counsel on Climate Change is an independent body of experts established with legal basis in the Act on Climate, article 3. The Counsel advises the Government in its efforts to achieve the carbon reduction targets set out in the Act on Climate.

However, The Danish Counsel on Climate Change’s role is limited to advising and analysing on how the aims and objectives of the Act on Climate most effectively can be met. The act does not refer to the compliance or promotion of human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Annecathrine Carl

Adviser

1. The Danish Meteorological Institute, Climate Atlas Denmark (*Klimaatlas-rapport Danmark),* December 2020, page 4. Available in Danish at: <https://www.dmi.dk/fileadmin/klimaatlas/rapporter/DMI_Klimaatlas_Danmark_rapport_v2020b.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Act no. 965 of 26 June 2020 on Climate Available in Danish at: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2020/965> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)