Input from OSGEY (Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth)

1 December 2021

Purpose: OHCHR Questionnaire on Climate Change & Human Rights

**6. Please include examples and good practices on climate change that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that are implemented through close consultation with and active involvement of people in vulnerable situations:**

* UN Agencies came together to shape a joint commitment in response to the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, specifically the rights of future generations. UN Agencies, led by UNDP with the support of OSGEY conducted a youth consultation with youth climate activists and changemakers to ensure meaningful youth engagement and inclusion in the process of creating the interagency joint commitment.
* In March 2021, 15 UN agencies led by UNEP delivered a joint statement on the right to a healthy environment at the 46th Human Rights Council. The statement calls for recognition and protection for the right to a healthy environment, as means to also address the concerns that youth climate activists have shared regarding reprisals they are exposed to when they advocate for climate justice.
* <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/statements/joint-statement-united-nations-entities-right-healthy-environment>
* <https://twitter.com/andersen_inger/status/1369257418362851331?s=21>"
* In 2019, during the 25th Conference of Parties (COP25), UNICEF worked closely with YOUNGO - the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC, and a group of governments to develop the Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action. First of its kind, the declaration reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Council Resolutions 37/8, 35/20 and 40/11 which address the rights of children and young people with respect to environmental harm and climate change, and that a safe climate is a vital element of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and is essential to human life and well-being.

Input from YOUNGO (Youth Constituency of UNFCCC)

1 December 2021

Response to Q7 OF survey:

“In general, YOUNGO members focusing on climate policy and human rights were very disappointed by the exclusion of human rights in the cover text of the Action for Climate Empowerment of the negotiation. This sets a dangerous and exclusionary precedent. As youth advocates, we supported reopening the negotiation text only to renegotiate the guiding principles, which is where human rights language should have been already added.

Countries like Mexico and among others shared their disappointment in the exclusion of human rights as a fundamental pillar to the articles of the Paris Agreement. As young advocates, negotiations tend to be very challenging for us though it is a very familiar space. For parties to the convention, everything must be a give and take. Had we been included in more than just the opening and closing sessions of the Action for Climate Empowerment negotiations, we believe we would have been better able to stand up for human rights and explain our suggested additions better as to not have been as concerned with reopening the text to include a very important and necessary guiding principle. Something interesting to note, during the informal May-June climate negotiations in 2021, human rights language made it into the draft text with ease. So, the development at COP26 - where it was removed - was very shocking to us.”