

## Human Rights & Climate Change Dialogues

### Roundtable on Land

5 November 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
Room I, 08:45 - 12:15

 #ClimateRightsDialogues

#### Rationale

International human rights law does not yet recognize an explicit right to land. However, land is a cross-cutting issue which is essential to the realization of many human rights, such as the right to food, water and adequate housing. Land is a source for people's livelihoods and as such intrinsic to their economic rights. Land is also strongly linked to people's identity and therefore their social and cultural rights. Climate change is putting stress on land, but land also holds the key for effectively combating climate change. This was echoed in the recent Special Report on Land of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC). This report emphasises that climate change has significant impacts on land and that "land provides the principal basis for human livelihoods and well-being, including the supply of food". The IPCC notes that changing our approach to land use and protecting land rights can result in more effective adaptation and mitigation measures.

A rights-based approach to land and climate change could drive more ambitious climate policies needed to keep global temperature rise under 1.5C. Essential elements to this approach include the recognition of women's and indigenous peoples' rights and their potential in preserving natural carbon sinks and restoring ecosystems. In this regard, full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and of the UN Declaration on the Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas would contribute to effective climate responses.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is preparing their General Comment on Land and the Covenant and State Parties of the UNFCCC are expected to develop new and enhanced nationally determined contributions by 2020, which will be the yardstick by which States' collective climate ambition can be measured. This expert roundtable will therefore look at recent developments, the current role of key institutions and processes, as well as their role moving forward.



## Objectives

The two main objectives of this roundtable on human rights, climate change and land are to:

- Foster a conversation about the role of key governance processes and address the interplay between climate and human rights in the context of the land sector.
- Discuss the remaining protection gaps in the context of the land sector and the role of key intergovernmental processes and actors to address such gaps.

## Format

The roundtables will take place in the Chatham House rules format. A background note will provide a synthesis of relevant human rights obligations and an overview of the role played by relevant institutions.

## Methodology

The opening plenary will provide initial inputs which will be discussed more in-depth in the thematic break out groups, to be held in a “World Café” format. The World Café will dedicate a thematic break-out group for each of the issues listed in the programme below. The conversation will be introduced by a resource person and lead by a facilitator who will facilitate the discussions through guiding questions indicated below. After a first conversation, participants will be invited to join a second thematic breakout group and continue in a second round the discussion started by the group prior to them on one of the other themes. At the end of the World Café, the facilitator will report back to the plenary on the discussions held at the table. This plenary will provide everyone with the opportunity to engage in a wider conversation covering all the themes discussed during the World Café.

## Outputs

A report will be circulated after the event without attributing statements to their authors.

## Programme Overview

08:45	Registration
09:00	<u>Opening of the Roundtable</u>
-	Welcoming and Objectives
10:00	Opening Remarks Initial Inputs
10:00	<u>World Café, break-out groups on the following themes:</u>
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food systems and agro-ecology</li><li>• Reinforcing the rights of rural women</li><li>• Indigenous peoples' rights, land and climate</li><li>• Land as a carbon sink</li></ul>
11:00	





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### Guiding Questions

1. What are the key elements of progress made in recent years to mainstreaming the importance of rights and inclusive governance of the land sector in climate policies, particularly in relation to the specific theme? What are the key lessons learned from these developments?
2. What are the protection gaps remaining to protect and fulfil human rights effectively in the context of the linkages between the land sector and climate change, in particular in relation to the specific theme?
3. How can the upcoming General Comment by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights contribute to addressing these gaps? How could individual institutions contribute to address these gaps?
4. How can the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants contribute to addressing human rights issues related to land and climate, the specific theme in particular?

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11:00

### Plenary session

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Report back from break-out groups, followed by a discussion

12:15

Moderated plenary discussion on inter-institutional links



## Human Rights & Climate Change Dialogues

### Roundtable on Human Mobility

5 November 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
Room I, 13:00 - 16:15

 #ClimateRightsDialogues

#### Rationale

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reiterates that climate change is an important driver of cross-border and internal movement of people, as it increases the frequency and intensity of both sudden and slow onset events. Events and processes such as droughts, floods, rising sea levels, land degradation and storms cause millions to leave their homes every year, moving either within their own country, or abroad. The World Bank estimates that without ambitious climate change and development action, more than 143 million people are at risk of internal displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin-America by 2050. Next to displacement, climate change also causes others to migrate or even to plan the relocation of entire communities. Climate change and climate related movement of people have adverse implications on the realization of all human rights, disproportionately affecting those already in vulnerable situations. The link between climate change, human rights and human mobility has been increasingly recognized by human rights institutions, such as the Human Rights Council and its special procedures.

Recent years have seen increased international cooperation seeking to strengthen responses to the human rights threat associated with human mobility in the context of climate change. While the implementation of the Sendai Framework seeks to further reduce risks associated with disasters, including climate related human mobility, the Global Compact for Migration endeavours to promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to migration and find solutions for all people compelled to move by the adverse impacts of climate change and other environmental factors, while ensuring effective protection of their human rights. The Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of taking into account States' human rights obligations and the rights of migrants in addressing climate change, and the UNFCCC Warsaw Mechanism on Loss & Damage's Task Force on Displacement is another mechanism to further strengthen cooperation to address human mobility in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. In addition, the State-led Platform on Disaster Displacement seeks to strengthen protection of disaster displaced persons and coordinated action and support.

Acknowledging the increasing risks and enhanced cooperation across key institutional actors, this expert roundtable seeks to provide an opportunity to review recent developments in the area of climate change, human rights and human mobility, the current role of key institutions and processes, as well as their role moving forward.

### **Objectives**

The two main objectives of this roundtable on human rights, climate change and human mobility are to:

- Foster a conversation about the role of key policy processes and address the interplay between human rights in the context of climate change and human mobility.
- Discuss the remaining protection gaps in these areas and the role of key intergovernmental processes and actors to address such gaps.

### **Format**

The roundtables will take place under the Chatham House rules. A background note will provide a synthesis of relevant human rights obligations and an overview of the role played by relevant institutions.

### **Methodology**

The opening plenary will provide initial inputs which will be discussed more in-depth in the thematic break out groups, to be held in a “World Café” format. The World Café will dedicate a thematic break-out group for each of the issues listed in the programme below. The conversation will be introduced by a resource person and lead by a facilitator who will facilitate the discussions through guiding questions indicated below. After a first conversation, participants will be invited to join a second thematic breakout group and continue in a second round the discussion started by the group prior to them on one of the other themes. At the end of the World Café, the facilitator will report back to the plenary on the discussions held at the table. This plenary will provide everyone with the opportunity to engage in a wider conversation covering all the themes discussed during the World Café.

### **Outputs**

A report will be circulated after the event without attributing statements to their authors.



## Programme

13:00	Registration & Coffee
13:15 - 14:15	Opening of the Roundtable Welcoming and Objectives Opening Remarks Initial Input
14:15 - 15:15	World Café- with focused conversations addressing the themes identified below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Slow onset events/human mobility</li><li>● Planned relocation</li><li>● Displacement and cultural rights</li><li>● Displacement in the urban context</li><li>● Displacement and extreme weather events</li></ul> <p>Guiding Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the key elements of progress made in recent years to protect and fulfil human rights in the context of climate-related human mobility, particularly related to the specific theme? What are the key lessons learned from these developments?</li><li>2. What are the protection gaps remaining to protect and fulfil human rights effectively in the context of climate-related human mobility, in particular in relation to the specific theme?</li><li>3. How can inter-institutional linkages be strengthened to better address these gaps?</li></ol>
15:15 - 16:15	Report back from break-out groups, followed by a discussion  Moderated plenary discussion (incl. inter-institutional linkages), perspectives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Academic expert</li><li>● Intergovernmental organization</li><li>● Civil society speaker</li><li>● Governmental representative</li></ul>



## Geneva Dialogues: Human Rights, Climate Change, Land and Human Mobility under the Paris Agreement

5 November 2019, Meeting Room XXI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

16:30 - 18:00



#ClimateRightsDialogues

### Rationale

This event will reflect on the importance of addressing human rights in climate action, including through the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It will illustrate the importance of a rights-based approach to climate change and climate action, with a focus on two specific themes: land and human mobility.

The issue of land, human rights and climate change is currently being reviewed by the Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights as the committee is finalizing the drafting of its upcoming General Comment on Land and the Covenant. In the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) recent Special Report on Land it is stressed that participatory and rights-based policies in the land sector could contribute effectively to mitigating climate change and to strengthening resilience. Therefore, a rights-based approach to land is key to ambitious climate action limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas provide critical legal frameworks for a rights-based approach.

The recent IPCC special reports have confirmed the importance of anticipating climate-induced human mobility that is triggered both by extreme weather events and by slow and sudden onset events. These changes have been addressed through various institutions, including the Global Compact on Migration, the Sendai Framework, the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, the Platform on Disasters Displacement and the Task Force on Displacement established under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss & Damage.

The upcoming Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC is expected to deliver relevant decisions related to both of these issues during their next convening. This includes the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism, the guidelines related to carbon trading mechanisms and the continuation of several work programmes relevant to the land sector.

## Objectives

- To consider protection gaps and opportunities to strengthen the protection of human rights in the context of climate change in the context of land and human mobility.
- To reflect on the importance of rights-based approaches to climate change, particularly in relation to land-related issues and human mobility under the Paris Agreement.

## Format

The event will take the form of a panel followed by a discussion with the audience. Some of the panellists will be invited to share key messages from the two expert roundtables convened earlier during the day through interventions to the panel. The panel will be followed by a reception.

## Programme

16:30 - 18:00	<p><u>Public Dialogue</u>: <b>Land, Human Mobility, Climate and Human Rights</b>, Room XXI, Palais des Nations</p> <p>Facilitation: <b>Sébastien Duyck</b>, CIEL</p> <p>Speakers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integrating the rights of indigenous peoples in climate action , <b>Binota Moy Dhamai</b>, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact</li><li>• Promoting synergies between land and climate governance, <b>Marcos Montoiro</b>, UNCCD</li><li>• Climate impacts and relocation: lessons from Alaska, <b>Robin Bronen</b>, Alaska Institute for Justice</li><li>• Protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons displaced by climate change: gaps and opportunities, <b>Tetet Lauron</b>, Rosa Luxembourg Foundation</li><li>• Addressing Loss and Damage effectively to protect communities at the frontlines of climate change, <b>Isaiah Toroifich</b>, ActAlliance</li><li>• Integrating human rights in the national implementation of the Paris Agreement, <b>Amanda Kron</b>, OHCHR</li></ul> <p>Closing remarks: H.E. <b>Ambassador Frank Tressler</b>, Permanent Mission of Chili in Geneva.</p> <p>Discussion</p>
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## Registration and access

In order to be granted access to the venue at Palais des Nations, please ensure to register for the event as soon as possible through the following link:

<https://reg.unog.ch/event/32275> .

A user guide and information related to the picture standards for the registration are available here: <https://reg.unog.ch/help-unog> .

