

34th Session of the Human Rights Council
Side Event on

Education of Children on Climate Change

Building a Climate Change Literate Generation

2nd March 2017 from 12h00-14h00, Room XXIV Building E, Palais des Nations

Co-sponsored by Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Fiji, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ha Kim Ngoc, Deputy Foreign Minister of Viet Nam

Moderated by H.E. Mr. DUONG Chi Dung, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam

Background:

Studies by the United Nations community have shown that children are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with their enjoyment of physical and mental health, access to education, food, adequate housing, safe drinking water and sanitation being put at risk.

At its 33rd Session, the Human Rights Council for the first time adopted a resolution on the impact of climate change on the rights of the child (Resolution A/HRC/RES/32/33), which encouraged States to integrate policies on health and human rights in their climate actions at all levels, including their national plans of action for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Children are much more than passive victims of climate change. They are, indeed, powerful agents of change capable of making contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The education of children on climate change, however, has not yet received due attention it deserves, and the diverse needs of children in a changing climate have not been sufficiently taken into account. The panel held on the sidelines of 34th Session and the High-Level Panel on Human Rights and Climate Change provides a good opportunity to discuss measures to facilitate the education of children on climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as encourage their greater participation in making climate change related decisions.

Objectives:

To discuss measures and means to raise children's awareness of adaptation to and mitigation of the adverse impacts of climate change:

- Sharing experience and best practices on raising awareness among children vulnerable to climate change;
- Increasing the voice and participation of children in climate change adaptation decision-making processes;
- Sharing best practices on promoting education on climate change for children at schools and in the community;

- Exchanging views among policy makers, UN agencies and other stakeholders on the education of climate change for children;
- Promoting communications, particularly on climate change, for children and by children.

To discuss potential areas of international and regional cooperation:

- Address current challenges and obstacles in educating children on climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Capacity-building with regard to the education of climate change for children.

Speakers:

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ha Kim Ngoc, Deputy Foreign Minister of Viet Nam.

Panelists (10 minutes each)

1. Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR;
2. H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem KHAN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to the UNOG and other international organisations in Geneva;
3. Dr. Priyadarshani Joshi, Research Officer, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO;
4. Ms. Joni Pegram, Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Climate Change, United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF.

Format: The event is intended for diplomats, experts, civil society, and academics. An interactive dialogue will follow the panel discussion.

Date and time: 2 March 2017 from 12h00-14h00

Venue: Room XXIV Building E, Palais des Nations

Light lunch and drinks will be served at the door of the room from 11:45am.