**Call for Inputs:**

**The Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment**

Human Rights Council Resolution 37/8 tasks the Special Rapporteur with hosting an experts’ seminar “on experience and best practices of States at the national and regional levels with regard to human rights obligations relating to the environment.” The Special Rapporteur, Mr. David Boyd, will prepare a summary report on the seminar as well as a thematic report focusing on good practices specifically related to the implementation of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (a right now legally recognized by more than 150 States). For these purposes, he is seeking inputs from States and other stakeholders on this important topic through responses to the brief questionnaire below.

Your replies will inform the Special Rapporteur’s analysis and feed into his thematic report, which will be presented to the **Human Rights Council** in March 2020.

**Questionnaire**

The Special Rapporteur invites and welcomes your answers to the following questions:

1. Please provide, in detail, examples of laws, regulations, policies and programmes that specifically incorporate the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (acknowledging that different terms may be used to describe this human right).
2. Please provide specific examples of good practices in the implementation of the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Examples may include practices related to: guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g., access to information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice and remedies); protecting the substantive elements of the right (including: clean air; access to clean water and sanitation; healthy and sustainably produced food; a non-toxic environment in which to live, work, study, and play; a safe climate; and healthy biodiversity and ecosystems); monitoring adverse impacts on the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; promoting the enjoyment of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; regulating business activities in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to protect the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and remedies that have been provided for victims of violations of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. These examples may occur at the international, national, sub-national, or local level.
3. Please provide evidence related to the effectiveness of the measures identified in your responses to Questions #2. For example, evidence could involve measured decreases in air and water pollution, a growing proportion of the population with access to clean water and adequate sanitation, increased production of renewable energy, declining greenhouse gas emissions, a growing percentage of land in terrestrial and marine protected areas, declining use of pesticides and/or other toxic substances, lower body burdens of toxic substances such as PCBs and lead, and declining rates of deforestation.
4. Please specify any challenges your Government, business, or organization has experienced in fulfilling its obligations relating to the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
5. How are the rights of those who may be particularly vulnerable to violation of their right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (e.g. women, children, persons living in poverty, members of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities), through either environmental degradation (e.g. air and water pollution, exposure to toxic substances, climate change impacts) or lack of access to environmental amenities (e.g. safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, waste management services, access to natural spaces), provided with heightened protection?
6. How do you ensure that the rights of environmental human rights defenders are protected? What efforts has your Government, business or organization made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of intimidation, violence or reprisal?
7. What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment?
8. For businesses, what policies or practices are in place to ensure that your activities, products, and services (extraction/sourcing, manufacturing, distribution, sale, and end-of life management) respect and protect the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment?

Submission of responses

We encourage you to please send your responses to the questionnaire in Word format by email to srenvironment@ohchr.org

We kindly request that your submission be concise and limited to a maximum of 5 pages (or 2,500 words), not including appendices or attachments.

Due to a limited capacity for translation, we also request that your inputs be submitted in English, French, or Spanish.

To avoid unnecessary duplication: if you have recently replied to other questionnaires from UN human rights mechanisms (or other international bodies) with information that would be relevant to this request as well, we welcome your directing us to those replies.

**The deadline for submission is 8 June 2019.**

Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be made publicly available and posted on the Special Rapporteur’s homepage at the OHCHR website.