**Call for Inputs:**

**Climate Change and Human Rights: a Safe Climate**

There is now global agreement that human rights norms apply to the full spectrum of environmental issues, including climate change. The previous Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Mr. John Knox, developed [Framework Principles](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/FrameworkPrinciplesReport.aspx) on Human Rights and the Environment that set forth three sets of duties that engage both States and businesses: procedural obligations; substantive obligations; and obligations relating to those in vulnerable situations.

The current Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Mr. David Boyd, is working to provide additional clarity regarding the substantive obligations relating to a range of elements that are essential to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. His first report to the Human Rights Council addressed air pollution and associated obligations. He is now preparing a thematic report focusing on human rights obligations related to global climate change. For that purpose, he is seeking inputs on the topic from States and stakeholders through responses to the brief questionnaire below.

Your replies will inform the Special Rapporteur’s analysis and contribute to his report, which will be presented to the **General Assembly** in October 2019.

**Questionnaire**

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

1. Please provide examples of ways in which climate change is already having adverse impacts on the human rights of people within your State. Adversely affected rights could include, among others, the rights to life, health, water, adequate sanitation, food, culture, housing, property, self-determination, non-discrimination, a healthy and sustainable environment, and Indigenous rights.

**In May 2014 we had historical floods. Most of the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was flooded, with the Bosna river valley hit hardest. Municipalities such as Doboj, Maglaj, Šamac and Zenica were the ones suffered the most. Followed by consequences such as landslides and severe property destruction people were devastated and more aware of climate change.**

**Afterwards, we had two extreme floods more in 2017 and 2019.**

**Year 2017 was the one with the most extreme temperature amplitudes. Extremely low temperatures in January followed by hottest temperature in February, heavy floods in May and extreme droughts in July marked this year as one of the most representative example of climate change in BiH.**

**The consequences included destruction and loss of lives and homes, significant losses in agriculture and socio-economic and health damage.**

**BiH is still recovering from these consequences mentioned above.**

2. Given that “[urgent, effective and ambitious action](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/BurningDowntheHouse.aspx)” to ensure a safe climate is essential to protecting a wide range of human rights, what are the specific obligations of States and businesses in terms of addressing the main drivers of climate change (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, industrial agriculture)?

**BiH, as all of the other States that signed the Energy community treaty, is currently in process of creating strategic National Energy and Climate Plans, which B&H is obliged to finalize by the end of year 2019. This plan is valid for the next 10 year period (2020-2030) and is focused on reducing and minimizing industrial and GHG emissions in accordance to EU standards.**

3. Please provide examples of good practices in preventing, reducing, or eliminating the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. Specific examples could include legislation, regulations, standards, policies, investments, and programmes in relation to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. These examples may occur at the international, national, sub-national, or local level. Examples could involve:

-research and monitoring;

-guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g. access to climate change information, public participation in decision-making about climate change, access to justice and remedies);

-eliminating subsidies for fossil fuel production and use; climate change legislation, regulations, standards, and policies;

-initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from specific sectors (e.g. electricity generation, industry, government, transportation, agriculture, waste management);

-laws, policies and programs to protect vulnerable populations from climate change;

-laws, policies, or programs to concurrently address climate change and air pollution (e.g. programs promoting clean fuels and stoves for cooking and heating); and

-effective enforcement of rules governing greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and industrial agriculture.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a separate law on climate change at national level. The legal basis for action in the field of climate in Republika Srpska is included in the Law on Air Protection. Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have any specific legislation on climate, however, its Law on Air Protection lays down technical conditions to prevent or to reduce the emissions into the ambient air from anthropogenic activities.**

**A Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy has been adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2013.  This constitutes an initial step in setting the general policy course for low-emission and climate resilient development, integrating more specific policies, measures and projects into sectoral strategies; and identifying existing opportunities for adaptation and mitigation actions to attract international support. The country is currently preparing its NDC Implementation Plan, which should guide the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years. The initiated activities, such as the introduction of the EU Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (GHG MMR) and the establishment of a Climate Action Group (CAG) in 2017, indicate that in the near future the contracting parties of the Energy Community will be asked for an integrated approach to planning in the sectors of energy and climate change.**

4. If your State has set a deadline for eliminating coal-fired electricity generation and/or ending the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines, please provide details. If your State imposes a price on carbon emissions, please provide details.

**The State has not yet set a deadline for eliminating coal-fired electricity generation. A new legislation was introduced by State on 1st of June 2019 banning the import of vehicles under EURO 6 standard.**

**The State has set carbon tax for motor vehicles which is 15 BAM. In entity of Republic of Srpska, there is a new carbon tax which is more precise in terms of consumption and fuel types.**

5. Please provide evidence related to the implementation, enforcement, and effectiveness of the measures identified in your responses to Questions #3 and 4. This could include information related to budgets (e.g. investments in renewable energy or revenues generated by carbon taxes), human resources (size of agencies responsible for environmental monitoring and enforcement), and measurable outcomes such as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, declining rates of deforestation, or increases in the area reforested/numbers of trees planted.

**Since we are not dealing with these topics, we do not have specific information at this moment.**

6. What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in responding to climate change, while simultaneously contributing to sustainable development in those low-income States?

**In the next two decades signifcant international funding is being made available to  
developing countries that have adopted LEDS and to prepare NAMAs and mitigation projects in their context. The frst step of the transition to a low emission development path is the establishment of a LEDS. The strategy will allow access to the fast start financing as well as long-term financing committed by developed countries in to support developing countries in implementing LEDS and NAMAs.**

7. What are the main challenges or barriers that your government, business, or organization has faced in attempting to address the impacts of climate change on human rights?

**As civil society organization, we are having a difficulties in presenting to the governments the real interlinkages of climate change impacts on the wellbeing of the people, their access to water, working rights, right to clean and safe environment etc.**

**Many civic initiatives and grass-roots movements that we are strongly supporting, as those who are opposing the dam projects, could be linked to climate change causes and consequences.**

**Our great barrier is that Bosnia and Herzegovina is rather poor country with high unemployment rate. That fact is making the activities which aim to stop certain negative “development projects” complex and often controversial.**

8. What are ways in which additional protection is provided (or should be provided) for populations who may find themselves in circumstances in which they are particularly vulnerable to climate change (e.g. women, children, persons living in poverty, Indigenous peoples and members of traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic, racial or other minorities and displaced persons)? What are ways in which these populations can be empowered to act as agents of change in addressing climate change?

**The State should create a Trust for these specific cases as well as to conduct and finance aid programs in a way to ensure their socio-economic and health safety.**

**These populations are ones that should be recognized by the State agencies, NGOs and media to promote their experiences and stories which make them agents of change in their local communities.**

9. How do you ensure that the rights of individuals working on climate change (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government or business made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, harassment or reprisal?

**Rights of the environmental defenders should be regulated through the special legislation in a way to ensure their safety and protection.**

**Since there is no proper legislation, Government is not having an obligation to do any effort in a way to provide safety to environmental defenders specifically.**

10. 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) minimize climate change impacts and meet human rights standards, especially those articulated in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?

**We are an NGO, so we are not able to provide answers to this one.**

**Submission of responses**

We strongly encourage you to please send your responses to the questionnaire in Word format **by email** to [srenvironment@ohchr.org](mailto:srenvironment@ohchr.org).

Submissions will also be accepted via regular mail at the following address:

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment

Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development DivisionUNOG-OHCHRCH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

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 availableand posted on the Special Rapporteur’s homepage at the OHCHR website.