Human Rights Council Speech

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**"The air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, indeed, our health, wellbeing and survival all depend on a clean, healthy and sustainable environment."**

We celebrated last October with the Human rights council 2 resolutions, recognizing that environmental rights and climate change are considered human rights, and any violation towards them is a human rights violation.

These resolutions might be a step long-overdue, yet, they mean we finally have something to legitimize the connections we were always fighting for between climate change and human rights. It is an institutional legitimization of many years efforts, supported by a body, and holds great value and authority with real potential for progress.

disappointly, despite these resolutions being released just before COP26, several governments spoke against inclusion of explicit references to human rights in the negotiation texts, which was a big step back. Many Agenda items like Action for climate empowerment, gender and global stocktake, could all have human right approaches.

continuing in this manner, taking progressive steps in the Human rights council but taking contrasting steps in the UNFCCC, this will cause a huge issue, because ultimately there will be no conclusion, nor will any progress be made. There should be a synergy between the outcomes of different UN agencies so that a real collaborative effort could be made between all the UN missions.

It is concerning that a report made by Global Witness gathered and analyzed 2020 data from around the world, and discovered that an average of more than four people a week died while defending the environment. This is a dangerous number, and a huge violation of all the rights, most importantly the right to live.

The right for life, a decent life, a peaceful life, and a healthy life will be destroyed by climate change if it is not addressed, since Climate change affects all kinds of human rights, without any exception.. Its effects vary from region to region depending on the vulnerability of the people.

It will be difficult, almost impossible for us to talk about climate action without talking about the other human rights. Like the freedom of speech and the freedom of gathering, because these are the factors which allow us to see the vulnerability and needs of communities, since every community goes through different situations and has different needs.

We cannot reach climate governance without good governance, because good governance secures that the execution of the policies and strategies becomes included in the country's plan to face the damage of climate change. If there are strong institutions in the countries and there's a political will, and there are strategies, and stakeholder engagement, this will most definitely have a positive effect on both categories, the climate change sector and human rights sector, simultaneously.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the council to speed the third generation of rights, environmental rights and climate change before the problem of climate change worsens beyond repair.