UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change

**Call for input “Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of mitigation, adaptation, and financial actions to address climate change, with particular emphasis on loss and damage”**

*23 June 2022*

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) has well received the invitation to participate in the [call for input](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/calls-input/call-input-promotion-and-protection-human-rights-context-mitigation) and provides the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change with the following answers to Questions 1, 2 and 4.

**1. What experiences and examples are you aware of that are being faced by particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations (as identified above) that have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change?**

The Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) recently launched a report on the loss and damage endured by its 55 climate vulnerable members, which provides the first ever estimate of the economic losses attributable to anthropogenic climate change only: [“Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report: Economic losses attributable to climate change in V20 economies over the last two decades (2000-2019)”](https://www.v-20.org/resources/publications/climate-vulnerable-economies-loss-report). The key findings of the report are as follows:

* Climate change has eliminated one fifth of the wealth of the V20 over the last two decades: initial evidence shows that the V20 would have been 20% wealthier today had it not been for climate change and the losses it incurred for poor and vulnerable economies.
* In aggregate dollar terms, V20 economies have lost approximately US$ 525 billion because of climate change’s temperature and precipitation patterns (2000-2019).
* For the most at-risk countries (10% of worst affected V20 economies), economic losses due to climate change are estimated to exceed half (51%) of all growth since the year 2000 (2000-2019): the most at-risk of the world’s most climate vulnerable nations would be twice as wealthy today were it not for climate change.
* Economic losses cut GDP growth in the V20 by one full percent each year on average (minus 0.9% to the percentage of growth which averaged 3.7% in 2019 across the V20).
* The year-to-year reduction in GDP per capita growth attributable to climate change represents one quarter (25%) of the actual average annual economic growth of the V20 economies today (2019); for the 10% most at-risk V20 members the climate change attributable losses to annual growth already significantly exceed the total actual average GDP growth rate (of 0.38% per year, 2015-2019).
* Nearly all V20 economies have already warmed to mean temperatures that are far beyond what would be optimal for generating economic growth, and thereby instead incur economic losses – additional warming will only carry V20 economies further from the optimum, greatly increasing the risks of losses in the future.
* Given warming is set to progress to within 1.5°C in the next decade regardless of further mitigation action, even as adaptation accelerates economic losses would continue to increase. Adaptation needs to accelerate at a phenomenal rate both to prevent loss and damage at current levels, as well as to offset the growth in economic losses and damage that will be generated as temperatures continue to rise with hydro-meteorological extremes becoming more pronounced in parallel.
* Because the estimated economic losses due to hydro-meteorological extreme events are higher in the last two decades than the previous two decades, the world’s most vulnerable economies are also not adapting fast enough to cope with weather extremes of the changing climate as it currently stands.

**2. What legislation, policies and practices do you think are necessary to provide redress for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations that have suffered and will continue to suffer loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change?**

The analysis presented in the above V20 report provides initial evidence that international support supplied to V20 economies affected by hydro-meteorological extremes can diminish the negative macroeconomic effect that would otherwise have prevailed, underscoring the importance of funding for loss and damage.

The international climate cooperation has a duty to respond to the L&D injustice. The Glasgow Dialogue must support coming together to ensure L&D is properly mandated to flow from wealthy and responsible nations in adequate volumes as rapidly as possible. Once funds are flowing, the Dialogue can serve to share experiences, learning and to track results. COP27 must deliver on funding to address L&D.

**4. Please provide examples of ways in which States, the business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organisations have provided redress and remedies for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse effects of climate change.**

The aforementioned V20 report highlighted Tuvalu as a case where international finance has made a difference. While the drought and its consequences were unfolding on the islands, the Government of Tuvalu received a significant increase in ODA (from US$ 13.9 million or 27% of GNI in 2010 to US$ 37.3 million or 64% of GNI in 2011), this increase in ODA contributed to totally offset the negative consequences of the drought at the macroeconomic level, as modelled within the V20 commissioned report. The example of Tuvalu is an illustration of the benefits associated with a mechanism, at the national, regional or international level that would ensure rapid support to countries in the aftermath of climate-related disasters – in line with the on-going negotiations on loss and damage at the UNFCCC – although such mechanisms can never compensate for lives lost.