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# Subject: Resolution 50/9 – Human Rights and Climate Change

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to invite your organization’s contribution to the research and report that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is preparing in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 50/9 entitled “Human Rights and Climate Change”. In the above-mentioned resolution (para. 17), the Council has requested the Secretary-General to consult Member States and other relevant stakeholders in order to prepare and submit to its fifty-third session a report on the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food. Consequently, the Office would be grateful to receive inputs for this report by e-mail to ohchr-registry@un.org with copy to therese.arnesen@un.org **no later than 9 December 2022.**

In formulating your inputs, OHCHR invites you to respond, as appropriate, to the attached questionnaire. For environmental considerations, electronic submissions not exceeding five pages are encouraged. Please submit your input in MS Word or compatible format in either of the official working languages of the United Nations (French or English). The inputs received will be posted on our website.

I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ayuush Bat-Erdene

Chief, Right to Development Section

To: All United Nations departments, bodies, funds and programs, specialized agencies,

International financial and multilateral trading institutions; National Human Rights Institutions;

Civil Society Organizations and other relevant stakeholders



# Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 50/9 on human rights and climate change

1. Please describe through concrete examples and stories how climate change is affecting the full realization of the right to adequate food in your country.

Food insecurity caused by drought, floods, and landslides because of climate changes has affected the lives of people when all the crops are washed away by the flowing rains or waters and the crops dries cause of persist sunshine which leads the crops lack enough water leading to the crops drying up thus causing food insecurity because the production of the crops will be less than the growing population.For example, this happened in Kasese District in Kasika Village which washed way crops by the waters of river Nyamwamba leaving people with nothing to eat. It also happened in Mbale District which took crops, like matooke, beans and sweet potatoes leading to hunger.

High attitude of the area, the soils at this place does not favour the growth of crops leading to insufficient crop growth which is the affected by the topography of the area, this is because the temperature at this level does not support the growth of a variety of crops compared to those with low or flat areas that have fertile soils and warmer temperatures that support a variety of food or crops. This results in inadequate food supply especially in highland or mountainous areas like Kasese, Kigezi, Bundibugyo, and Bududa. The mountainous areas have infertile soils that do not support the variety of crops which leads to hunger because the population is big.

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Rising temperatures affect especially the livestock leading to victor borne diseases. This effects on the rate of production like the cattle, there is a reduction in the milk production which reduces because for the hot temperatures, temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius kills many animals in areas of Butuku in western Uganda thus reducing on the livestock that would support in providing food as in milk, meat that would improve the lives of the community members.

Forests contribute to the resilience of agricultural system that provides food. It provides a habitat to animals like pollinators that fertilize the crop flowers, boost food formation, and helps information of rainfall that supports the growth of different crops in the country. For example, Mt Elgon and Queen Elizabeth national park contains trees that have birds that pollinate the flowers of our crops and help information of rainfall.

In addition, the land eviction problem, this is through creation of commercial farms residential houses or new infrastructures like industries schools and roads that provides employment opportunities that will help the people be able meet their basic needs like buying food. It brings related problem like hunger and malnutrition due to the land being small for a variety of crops and different practices to be practiced since the population is increasing where there is need for land for settlement and agriculture which reduces on the production of the yields.

1. Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how climate change adversely affects the full realization of the right to food, taking into account discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Increased in domestic violence. This is especially when the different couples fight or get misunderstanding between each other on issues related to land and other natural resources so that they will only be in quarrels without uniting to practice agriculture which will reduce food accessibility in the home.

Over exploitation by the managers. This is concerned by the rural women who are illiterate on what is going on especially if they work in an industry leads them to enjoy unfavorable environment through access to clean water, and healthy needs, since the rural women experience poverty

The traditional duties of rural women are often tied to land and natural resources, they are more vulnerable to the food insecurity, water pollution and health risks stemming by the environmental degradation caused by oil production

Limited access to and control land by women, territories, and natural resources such as water, fuel, and medical plants. Such displacement can result into gender-based violence and harms

Not involving in decision making. This is through obtaining their free prior and informed consent before approving any acquisition of projects affecting rural lands or resources. The land acquisition and resettlement process surrounding the construction of the EACOP (East African Crude Oil Pipeline) and associated upstream oil development leads to risks to the rural women that are affected.

This leads to land disputes, and gender inequalities among industries. For example, in western Uganda in Buliisa District, companies initially only register men as landowners leading to domestic disputes overcompensation.

1. Please describe any specific measure, including public policies, legislation, practices or strategies that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage, that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the right to food. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.

Policies like cutting one tree and plant three, this enables climate to be modified through formation of rains thus enabling the crops grow well.

Encouraging the use of electrical vehicles to reduce carbon emissions that might destroy agriculture.

Pollution prevention. The environmental protection agency establishes a source of program that collects the fumes from industries to be treated before release to avoid spread with the community.

Environmental and educating the community on the different climatic changes with food varieties that can resist the weather changes to enable the crops yield.

To emphasize the community to grow crops that have a short season that can yield early so that weather changes cannot be affected.

1. Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food.

Food yields are key in determinant in the to measurement and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food i.e. food yields are directly depending on climate change since for example in Uganda, 80% of Uganda’s agriculture sector is dependent on the weather and this has a great impact on

1. Please identify and share examples of promising practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full realization of the right to food in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.

By preventing the destruction and contamination of food sources. To protect and improve existing food sources and to ensure access to adequate food for all citizens. To provide adequate compensation to victims, to conduct environment and social impact assessment for any future oil development and to ensure oil operations access to information and decision-making process.

Forego fossil fuels. The first challenge is eliminating the burning of coal, oil eventually natural gas. When fossil fuels are burned, they release substantial amounts of Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas into the air, greenhouse gases trap heat in our atmosphere causing global warming which cause climate change by changing the rain pattern like extending drought period thus hindering promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full realization of the right to food in the context of adverse effects of climate change.

Stop deforestations in Uganda. Every year we lose over 5 acres of forests for timber harvest, charcoal burning, furniture use among other wood related uses which contribute over 10,000 million metric tons of carbon to atmosphere which represent man made greenhouse gas emissions and a source that could be avoided easily and these greenhouse gas emission leads to drought thus resulting into hunger hence hampering the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full realization of the right to food.

Improving Agricultural practices, recycling of renewable resources and forest management like balancing the amount of wood taken out of number of new trees, growing will quickly eliminate this substantial chunk of emissions thus ensuring promotion, protection, and fulfilment of full realization of right to food since climate will be maintained.

Invest in renewable energy. Changing our main energy sources, usage of clean and renewable energy is the best way to stop the use of fossil fuels for example the use of technologies like geothermal, solar, wind and wave power. This will help to reduce the amount of emissions in the air which will ensure suitable and favorable climate that support the growth of crops which will pave way for hunger thus leading to promotion, protection, and fulfilment of full realization of right to food.

Protect forests like Mabira forest. Forests are crucial in the fight against climate change and protecting them is an important climate solution. Cutting down on an industrial scale destroys giant trees which could be sucking up huge amount of carbon, yet companies destroy forests to make way for animals farming and sugarcane plantation. Government should be pressurelised to stop them by making better laws if forests and wetlands are protected the climate will be stable thus promising suitable seasons that ensures food harvest hence promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full realization of the right to food.

**Challenges**

Fossil fuels. The fossil fuels industries are blocking climate change action because major oil and gas companies like shell have spent too much amount of money to delay or stop government policies that would have helped in tackling the climate crisis.

Poverty, since most community members are poor and are hustling to see that they get something to eat it will be hectic to them to shift from deforestation whereby some cut down trees for a living though burning charcoal and after sale for them to get a living.

Resistances from Government to terminate the oil extraction project, its known that extraction of oil will contribute to the economy of the country and the same time will affect the climate but forcefully government will not terminate the deal because they want finance from oil without looking at the negative impacts that will cause.

Ignorance. Many community members are ignorant about renewable energy usage still thinking that using fossil fuels is the only way to go little knowing that solar, geothermal, wind and wave energy can also work to their expectation through cooking, lighting and in industrial work thus conserving the environment.

Illiteracy. Since most community members are illiterate meaning that they do not have access to information about smart agriculture that is safe for conserving nature and environment which ensures stable climate change this mean that they will continue practicing unimproved methods of agriculture.

1. Please include examples and promising practices and challenges that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that promote the full realization of the right to food.

Irrigation, the use of irrigation schemes. In Uganda we have inadequate irrigation schemes that at times hinders the full realization of the right to food by some Citizens simply because they stay in drought areas like those in Northern Uganda in Karamoja Region which cannot support the growth of crops. International and Multilateral cooperation and approach have enabled Ugandan to adopt irrigation services to ensure the full realization of the right to food but due to limping economy, the Government and citizens have failed to adopt the system.

Women’s access to and management of land. In Uganda, women’s right to land ownership and management is still a problem yet they are the one who contribute much to food production in the country. International and Multilateral cooperation and approach helped Ugandan to understand the role of women towards the full realization of the right to food but due to some cultural ties that refers women inferior to men prevents them from owning land.

Forego fossil fuels. Ugandans are depending on fossil fuels which hazardous to climate. International and Multilateral cooperation has helped in advocating and educating and even providing healthier mode which is just transition of fossil fuels to other safe energy sources like solar, wind and geothermal energy though its adoptability rate is still low in Uganda due to ignorance of some citizens about the negative impacts of continuous usage of fossil fuels to climate.

1. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full realization of the right to food.

To make key commitment in regard, including, reducing national greenhouse emission by supporting local Civil Society Organizations through funding them with finance to carryout different activities like creating awareness, advocating for human right, and educating the mass about the negative consequences of climate change and its causes. United Nation –National Human Right Institutions should make further research about the relationship between gender inequality and climate change, inform the Government about the dangers of Oil drilling to the environment and applying Environment conservation Act to all Government that is violating that Act.