

The 8th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the mandate and programme of work - Focused thematic discussion
Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva

Responsibilities and Climate Justice
A dialogue from a Right-to-Development Approach
Monday 30 October 2023, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Concept Note

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Introduction

The [sixth Assessment Report](#) of 2023, from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows an increase in risks (heat waves, extreme precipitation, droughts, melting of the cryosphere, changes in the behavior of many species, etc.) for the same level of warming compared to the [fifth Assessment Report](#) of 2014. All regions are affected: the richest are warming faster and the most vulnerable are the ones who pay the most for the consequences.

The 2023 report estimates that climate and non-climate risks will worsen and multiply, making them more complex to manage and more complex to finance and the connections between development and climate more complicated.

Since 2014, climate policy issues have been discussed at multiple levels, from local to national. There is an increased commitment of non-State actors, including local communities, civil society, businesses, and investors, as well as indigenous peoples, in favour of mitigation. Their actions – knowledge dissemination, legal action, or local experimentation – are having an increasingly significant impact and helping to change national climate goals.

Just transition scenarios, from the local to the international level, must consider the individualities of each country. Increasing the participation of women, minorities and groups in marginalized situation magnifies the momentum of climate action and can help protect children who constitute the future generations and are both invisible victims and heirs of today's decisions.

Climate cooperation is at the heart of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, at a time when there is a profound injustice for communities in vulnerable situations, which have historically contributed the least to current climate change but are disproportionately affected from it.

From the point of view of the right to development, this article implies the right of countries and peoples, especially those who are most exposed, to be both guardians of their territories and actors in the climate and energy transition. This implies the need to protect and finance to cost to adapt to the impacts of climate change and raises the question of fair remuneration for the regions that contribute to the planet's carbon balance. Basins such as the Congo, the Amazon, and South Asia represent 80% of the world's tropical forests and play a central role in terms of biodiversity, and consequently, in terms of carbon balance. Accelerated and equitable mitigation and adaptation measures are essential for sustainable development. Many of these measures have synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an integral part of all countries' roadmap.

Purpose

To identify the contributions of the right to development framework that contribute to close the gap between climate and development cooperation and to the realization of the right to development in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

Guiding questions

1. How can we rethink the relationship between climate cooperation and development cooperation without completely substituting one for the other?
2. Since global warming and its consequences are the results of the activity of the “Global North”, how could the “Global South” develop its resources? From this perspective, how can we think about the “remuneration” to peoples, regions, and ecosystems that contribute to the carbon balance?
3. How can people and regions in the most vulnerable situations be integrated into climate policies and financing? What are the most relevant tools to meet, at least partially or in stages, their right to development in a sustainable and inclusive manner?
4. How can regions and states most responsible for the climate crisis be held accountable through policies and actions to address the crisis and achieve climate justice?

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