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|  |  | Annex 2 to [A/77/284](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a77284-human-rights-obligations-relating-enjoyment-safe-clean-healthy) | |
| A picture containing food  Description automatically generated | **Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment** | | Distr.: General  17/10/2022  Original: English |

The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: A catalyst for accelerated action to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Annex II: Good Practices

Supplementary information to the report of the Special Rapporteur, David R. Boyd, on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

The following information is supplementary to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/77/284). It is available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/Annualreports.aspx>

I. Introduction

1. Due to a restrictive word limit, the following good practices could not be included in the main body of the Special Rapporteur’s report “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: A catalyst for accelerated action to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” (A/77/284). However, these good practices are vitally important because they demonstrate the availability of effective and equitable actions to address the triple environmental crisis and advance sustainable development. Of particular concern from the human rights perspective are the disproportionate impacts of the climate emergency, biodiversity loss and pervasive pollution upon vulnerable and marginalized populations. These communities and individuals are being left behind, or are in danger of being left behind, by the deadly combination of extreme poverty, grotesque inequality and environmental catastrophe.
2. Drawn from every region, the following examples are intended to inspire others to take ambitious action to fulfil human rights by preventing pollution and eliminating exposure to toxic substances. The Special Rapporteur is grateful for the submissions received from Algeria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Colombia, El Salvador, Estonia, the European Union, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Togo, United Arab Emirates and Vanuatu, and from civil society organizations.1 The Special Rapporteur notes that the brevity of this good practices Annex reflects the disappointing response to his call for inputs, issued in March 2022. Therefore, these examples should be considered as illustrative rather than exhaustive, meaning many more good practices are being implemented across the world by a wide range of actors. Many additional good practices related to both the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the SDGs are contained in previous reports (e.g. A/HRC/43/53).

II. Submissions from Member States

Algeria

1. Algeria has focused its SDG efforts on the transformation of the water sector because of the urgency of this challenge for this arid nation.[[1]](#footnote-1) Article 64 of the Constitution states that “The right to obtain safe drinking water shall be guaranteed. The State shall ensure the rational usage and preservation of water for future generations.” A new policy on the water security sector aiming to guarantee access to drinking water and sanitation for all, as well as national discussions on water have resulted in:
2. -An inventory and diagnosis of the drinking water and sanitation distribution systems which identified the reasons for the difficulties in ensuring full access to water and sanitation for the population;
3. -The development of a new policy based on consultation, economy, universality (water for all users) and ecology, while providing new instruments such as the water code, the master plan for water resources development and the national water plan, the river basin agency, etc. This comprehensive water policy aims at sustainable integrated management on a national and regional scale.
4. The improvement in access to public water services obtained through these actions is reflected in the following indicators: a connection rate of 98%; and an improvement in the supply which has increased from 123 liters per day per inhabitant in 1999 to 180 liters per day per inhabitant.

Azerbaijan

1. Azerbaijan joined the Bonn Challenge (a global goal to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes) with the ambitious commitment of bringing 667,000 acres of forest land into restoration by 2030. Mass tree planting campaigns are being held across the country as part of the "Green Marathon" campaign organized by the IDEA Public Union and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. In total, more than 1 million trees were planted already during this campaign.

Colombia

1. In 2018, Colombia established its "Strategy for the implementation of the SDGs in Colombia" (CONPES Document 3918), defining the roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.[[2]](#footnote-2) This public policy established the goals and strategies for the fulfillment of the SDGs, and 161 progress indicators for the period 2018 to 2030. Another positive step taken in 2021, intending to increase the participation of young people in Colombian democracy, was the democratic election of almost eleven thousand young people between 14 and 28 years of age to Youth Councils.

El Salvador

1. The National Council for Sustainable Development, coordinated by the Vice Presidency of the Republic, was created in order to comply with the SDGs (Executive Decree of the Presidency of the Republic, October 2020).[[3]](#footnote-3) This Council has, among its functions, the preparation of the second voluntary national report and the formulation of the Salvadoran Strategy for Sustainable Development, thus reaffirming the government’s commitment to align public policies with the SDGs.

Estonia

1. Estonia is striving to accelerate the shift to renewable energy.[[4]](#footnote-4) In 2019, the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption reached 31.9%, exceeding the target set for 2020 (25%). In 2020, the share of oil shale electricity (a major source of greenhouse gas emissions) in consumption fell to 31.5% from a 2018 level of approximately 80%). Since 2010, greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP have decreased by 50% and emissions per capita have fallen by 38%.

European Union

1. The European Union is a global leader in the implementation of measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.[[5]](#footnote-5) With respect to healthy and sustainably produced food (related to SDG 2), the EU Farm to Fork Strategy includes many ambitious objectives and innovative approaches.[[6]](#footnote-6) There is also a new EU soil strategy, which sets up an overarching framework and concrete actions to achieve healthy soils across the EU by 2050.[[7]](#footnote-7)
2. The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which will start being applied as from 2023, enhances the contribution of the farmers to climate mitigation and adaptation, protection of natural resources (air, water, soil) and biodiversity. Such objectives closely relate to SDGs 6 (water), 7 (energy), 13 (climate) and 15 (terrestrial biodiversity). Farmers will have to comply with certain “good agriculture and environmental conditions” in order to receive full CAP support related to land or animals. The European Commission will approve the CAP Strategic Plans for each Member State, which will have to ensure performance regarding environment and climate objectives. Member States must assess the existing challenges and how the CAP Plans can contribute to the Green Deal agenda, provide sufficient funding, plan appropriate interventions for the period 2023-2027, and ensure ambitious targets that will be monitored annually.
3. Regarding SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation for All), in 2021, Member States reached an agreement on a first watch list of substances to be monitored throughout the whole drinking water supply chain.[[8]](#footnote-8) The revised Drinking Water Directive and the new Water Reuse Regulation will enter into force in 2023.[[9]](#footnote-9)
4. Extensive efforts are being made to tackle SDG 12, Sustainable Production and Consumption. Among the leading EU initiatives are:

* Implementation of the new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe;[[10]](#footnote-10)
* The Sustainable Products framework extending the scope of the Ecodesign Directive beyond energy-related products and applying wider criteria such as durability, reparability and recyclability to products sold in Europe;[[11]](#footnote-11)
* Adoption of guidance on reducing and recycling single-use plastics;[[12]](#footnote-12)
* Preparation of a comprehensive EU strategy for sustainable textiles.[[13]](#footnote-13)

1. A recent study estimates that applying circular economy principles across the EU economy has the potential to create approximately 700,000 new jobs by 2030.
2. With respect to SDG 13, Climate Action, The EU has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution and increased its ambition since the Paris Agreement in 2015. The EU is taking bold legislative actions to reduce net emissions 55% by 2030 compared to 2005 and become climate neutral by 2050. The European Green Deal is a new strategy to transform the EU into a fair, inclusive and prosperous society, with a modern, knowledge-driven, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050. The Green Deal also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and safeguard the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks.[[14]](#footnote-14) The EU is currently updating existing climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies on the basis of the "Fit for 55" package of legislative proposals adopted by the European Commission in 2021.[[15]](#footnote-15) In order to ease the energy transition energy away from fossil fuels, the EU has adopted several funds including the Just Transition Fund to ease the transition away from coal and the Social Climate Fund to assist the most vulnerable households, micro-enterprises and transport users.
3. The EU and its Member States are the largest provider of international climate finance. In 2020, our collective commitments came to almost $US 27 billion (€23.39 billion). This contribution has increased steeply in recent years, more than doubling since 2013.
4. With respect to SDGs 14 and 15 (Biodiversity on Land and in Water), the EU is working on transformative actions in multiple areas:

* To achieve Good Environmental Status of the marine environment as set forth in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive[[16]](#footnote-16) and to achieve Good Ecological Status of coastal waters as set forth in the Water Framework Directive[[17]](#footnote-17);
* To achieve the 30% marine protected areas target, with at least 1/3 of that strictly protected, by 2030, a target set in the EU Biodiversity Strategy[[18]](#footnote-18);
* To undertake fishing activities that respect the principles of long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems, including reaching Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for all commercial fish stocks regulated under the Common Fisheries Policy.[[19]](#footnote-19) The EU will pursue a zero tolerance to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

1. The EU recently launched the Mission ‘Restore Ocean and Waters by 2030’[[20]](#footnote-20) with €340 million in funding allocated for 2021-2023. In addition, research and innovation related to sustainable ocean management is being funded through Horizon Europe (2021-2027)[[21]](#footnote-21) worth nearly €350 million per year.
2. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030[[22]](#footnote-22) is supported by the new Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity[[23]](#footnote-23) and a new governance framework. Guidance documents were published to facilitate the achievement of the biodiversity targets, notably regarding the designation of additional protected areas (marine and terrestrial), the improvement of conservation of endangered species and their habitats and for the ecological restoration of degraded rivers.
3. A new EU Forest Strategy is intended to enhance forest protection, restoration and sustainable management.[[24]](#footnote-24) The EU also adopted a legislative proposal to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market.[[25]](#footnote-25)

Greece

1. Greece has a new National Circular Economy Action Plan for the period 2021-2025.[[26]](#footnote-26)

Guatemala

1. Guatemala created the Great National Crusade for Nutrition, which seeks to unite all sectors of the country--governmental (national and municipal), private enterprise, non-governmental organizations, international cooperation, academia, the religious sector and civil society--with the aim of improving the health and nutrition of the Guatemalan population.[[27]](#footnote-27) Particular emphasis is to be placed on children under five years, school children, women of childbearing age, rural and Indigenous populations, and people living in poverty and extreme poverty. Guatemala also deserves credit for being one of the few States to answer the question in the Special Rapporteur’s Call for Inputs regarding budget allocations for the SDGs.

Hungary

1. In 2008, well before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Hungary created the Office of the Ombudsman for Future Generations, tasked with advocating for the interests of future generations at the national level. The Ombudsman’s mandate includes defending the right to a healthy environment, preserving physical and mental health in connection with sustainable development, and protecting the environmental and cultural heritage of the nation.
2. During the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, the Ombudsman supported non-state actor participation, advocated for inclusion of stakeholder inputs, and provided recommendations on specific SDGs included in the VNR report. In doing so, the Office of the Ombudsman for Future Generations organized a civil society roundtable for the SDGs to enhance the national ambition respecting the Goals and channeled the conclusions into the VNR report.[[28]](#footnote-28)

Italy

1. Three key initiatives include the National Strategy on Sustainable Development, the National Action Plan on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development and the new National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which gives the ecological transition a driving role in the relaunch of the country's system and assigns an important share of resources for investments in sustainable mobility, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.[[29]](#footnote-29) These programs have a special focus on the most vulnerable categories of right-holders eventually affected by negative environmental impacts due to anthropogenic causes.

Mauritius

1. As a small island developing State, Mauritius has focused on SDG 14 (Life below Water).[[30]](#footnote-30) Measures undertaken by Mauritius include, inter alia:

* creating a comprehensive legislative and institutional framework to promote ocean and fisheries governance;
* establishing a Monitoring Control and Surveillance Unit to ensure control over local and foreign fishing vessels, with a view to promoting sustainable fisheries;
* planting nearly 400,000 mangroves covering almost 20 hectares of coastal area;
* marine ecosystem-based management through the establishment of Marine Protected Areas and the development of Marine Spatial Planning;
* development of an offshore fishery to preserve lagoon resources;
* limited entry system and quota system for capture fisheries;
* introduction of closed season of six months for net fishing in the lagoon and banning of fishing with cast nets and drift nets;
* prohibition of fishing by use of poisonous substances, spear guns or explosives;
* introduction of a coral farming project to restore degraded areas of coral reefs and their essential ecosystem services;
* implementation of the National Plan to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
* Marine Protected Areas designated by Mauritius to protect the marine ecosystem. Mauritius and Rodrigues combined have eleven fishing reserve areas and six marine reserves where fishing is prohibited. There are six Fishing Reserves and two Marine Parks in mainland Mauritius. In Rodrigues, we have five Fisheries Reserve Areas, four Marine Reserves and a multiple use Marine Protected Area called the South East Marine Protected Area;
* implementation of the seagrass project entitled “Assessment of Blue Carbon Ecosystem (Seagrass) around the island of Mauritius”;
* implementation of the UNDP project “Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius”;
* promotion of coral restoration through:
* Establishment of 7 coral nurseries established around Mauritius. Approximately 300 coral fragments were taken from coral nurseries and transplanted to degraded areas in the Marine Parks for rehabilitation; and
* Implementation of projects such as a) coral farming under the National Environment and Climate Change Fund; and b) coral reef restoration with thermal tolerant corals as adaptation to climate change through the project “Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future” (Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles).

1. Mauritius is also implementing a circular economy project called “Enhancement of resource productivity and environmental performance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise in six African countries through the concept of Industrial Symbiosis” under the SWITCH Africa Green Programme. Under this project, waste is considered as a resource that has potential value. Waste from one business can be an input/raw material for another business. Through this project, a considerable amount of “wastes” from hotels, textile industries, sugar factories and food manufacturing industries have been diverted away from the landfill and used as raw/secondary materials in other industries. For example, 86 tonnes of broken wafers from a biscuit-manufacturing business were used as animal feed; 42 tonnes of textile wastes from a hotel were sent to a sugar manufacturing facility for use as boiler fuel; and 141 tonnes of used toners from a printing house have been diverted to a cartridge manufacturer.

Mexico

1. Mexico is implementing a comprehensive strategy to achieve a sustainable financial system.[[31]](#footnote-31) This system incorporates several actions, including: linking the Federal Budget to the SDGs, structuring an SDG Sovereign Bond Framework, promoting new regulations in the banking sector and for pension and insurance funds to enhance more sustainable investment and financial management policies with the objective of improving ESG projects. Last year the Government of Mexico issued one of the first SDG Sovereign Bonds in the world (as did Benin), demonstrating an explicit commitment to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda. According to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, 78% of budget programs are currently linked to at least one SDG.

Portugal

1. Portugal was one of the first States to include the right to a healthy environment in its Constitution (in 1976) and was also among the first countries in the world to commit to achieving the goal of being carbon neutral in 2050.[[32]](#footnote-32) The [Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality for 2050](https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=%3D%3DBAAAAB%2BLCAAAAAAABACzMDexBAC4h9DRBAAAAA%3D%3D) aims at reducing emissions between 85% and 90% by 2050, compared with 2005. Aligned with this vision, Portugal was one of the first European countries to adopt a [National Hydrogen Strategy](https://kig.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/EN_H2_ENG.pdf), having developed a [national roadmap](https://www.ap2h2.pt/download.php?id=178) and some specific funding programs on hydrogen production. Portugal has also made rapid strides in the field of renewable electricity generation through major investments in solar and wind. From 40% renewables in 2017, Portugal reached 60% in 2021 and expects to reach 80% by 2026. As part of this energy transition, Portugal closed down its last two coal-fired power plants in 2021.

Saudi Arabia

1. The Saudi Green Initiative works on increasing Saudi Arabia’s reliance on clean energy, offsetting emissions, and protecting the environment.[[33]](#footnote-33) The Saudi Green initiative aims to plant 10 billion trees — the same as rehabilitating 200 million hectares of degraded land. As part of the plan, 30 per cent of the kingdom — or 600,000 square kilometers — will be protected areas.

Togo

1. In 2021 Togo prohibited the export of raw and semi-raw wood in order to curb the loss of forest resources and promote wood processing at the national level (Decree 2021-083/PR of August 11, 2021).[[34]](#footnote-34) The national reforestation strategy has also been developed to support the various reforestation campaigns to be carried out in the next 10 years to increase the forested area of the country. In terms of reforestation, for the 2021 campaign, all actors in all categories, planted about 3 million seedlings, distributed across the 117 municipalities of the country.

United Arab Emirates

1. In January 2021, the UAE launched its Circular Economy Policy – an ambitious policy which strives to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns are mainstreamed in the UAE through the elimination or minimisation of waste and pollution, the efficient and effective use of resources and the regeneration of the environment.[[35]](#footnote-35) In November 2019, the UAE became the first signatory to the Scale 360° Initiative – a World Economic Forum project, affiliated with the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, that aims to harness the potential of technology innovations to fast-track a more circular economy.

Uruguay

1. In 2008, Uruguay adopted a national long-term strategy to shift from an electricity system dominated by fossil fuels to a system based on renewable energy, sparking a remarkably rapid transformation of its electricity supply through the investment of more than $US 7 billion in renewable energy.[[36]](#footnote-36) By 2016, over 97 per cent of electricity in Uruguay came from renewable resources, including 56 percent from hydroelectricity, 22 percent from wind, 18 percent from biomass, and 1 percent from solar.

Vanuatu

1. The Government of Vanuatu recently revised and updated its Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, which will be submitted before COP27 in 2022.[[37]](#footnote-37) The new NDC includes 116 new adaptation commitments and 12 loss and damage targets, including a strong focus on ecosystem-based adaptation as well as addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and environmental goods and services. Climate justice and environmental sustainability-related commitments are featured within Vanuatu’s Enhanced NDC. It is estimated that the total cost for Vanuatu to achieve its Enhanced NDC will be $US 1,214,350,000. This is approximately six times the total annual budget of Vanuatu, providing a clear illustration of the urgent need for vast increases in climate finance to support small island developing states and other climate vulnerable nations.

III. Miscellaneous good practices

1. Germany applies a human rights-based, SDG-aligned approach to its international development cooperation programme.[[38]](#footnote-38) In 2022, Sweden became the first country to commit to setting a national target to curb its imported consumption-based CO₂ emissions, a key action for wealthy States. Finland framed its Voluntary National Review around the human rights principles of leaving no one behind, universality and multi-stakeholder participation. It emphasized intergenerational solidarity, followed a human rights-based approach, and referred to the importance of living within planetary boundaries. The report also focused on implementation and integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic). Finland’s 2020 Voluntary National Review included a section on measuring and addressing international spill overs, the social and environmental harms inflicted upon LICs by high levels of consumption in wealthy States.[[39]](#footnote-39)
2. It has been understood for decades that GDP is a terrible metric for measuring societal progress and that superior alternatives are urgently needed (SDG target 17.19). As Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted, “GDP fails to account for human well-being, planetary sustainability and non-market services and care, or to consider the distributional dimensions of economic activity”, while “GDP rises when there is overfishing, cutting of forests or burning of fossil fuels.”[[40]](#footnote-40) Bhutan strives to increase gross national happiness rather than GDP. Ecuador’s vision for sustainable development, derived from the worldview of Indigenous peoples and embedded in the national constitution, is the concept of good living in harmony with nature. Chile’s proposed new Constitution articulates a similar vision, envisioning a society rooted in social justice, ecological sustainability, human rights and the rights of nature.
3. In a critically important development for SDGs 7 and 13, the IPCC recently reported that over the past ten years there have been dramatic decreases in the costs of solar electricity generation (down 85 percent), wind energy (down 55 percent) and energy/battery storage (down 85 percent).[[41]](#footnote-41) By the end of 2022 there will be approximately 1,000 times as much installed solar electricity generating capacity as there was in 2000. Some States (Albania, Costa Rica, Iceland, Namibia, Norway, Paraguay, Tajikistan, and Uruguay) already generate more than 97 percent of their electricity from renewables, including hydroelectric, solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass.
4. More than 40 States have committed to eliminate coal-fired power production by 2030.[[42]](#footnote-42) The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, a coalition of States led by Costa Rica and Denmark, is committed to leading the phase-out of oil and gas.[[43]](#footnote-43) Indonesia successfully reformed gasoline and diesel subsidies in 2015, saving $US 15.6 billion annually, which was more than 10 percent of total state expenditures. These savings were reallocated to fund a wide range of economic development and infrastructure investments linked to the SDGs.
5. The European Union and the Republic of Korea dedicated more than 30 percent of their COVID-19 fiscal stimulus to emissions-reducing measures (compared to a global average of only 6 percent).[[44]](#footnote-44) Almost all G20 economies provided financial support to domestic airlines during the pandemic, but only France wisely made its support conditional on meeting climate goals by requiring Air France to cease domestic flights on routes that compete with high-speed rail.
6. To fulfil SDG12, responsible production and consumption, the world needs to shift away from today’s linear economy, based on extracting resources from nature, manufacturing products, and generating immense waste and pollution. The sustainable alternative is a circular economy, where everything we make or use is either reusable, recyclable or safely compostable. Inspired by the genius of natural ecosystems, a circular economy uses smart design to eliminate waste and pollution. Thousands of products, from office chairs to solar panels, have been redesigned to meet circular economy criteria. Businesses have an important role to play, but government policy is the key to accelerating the shift. Circular economy laws have been enacted by the European Union, China, Japan, and Ontario (Canada). An important example is a new EU policy banning many single-use plastics, creating recyclability and recycled content requirements for other plastic products, and making producers responsible for funding and operating recycling and clean-up programs. To be effective, the proposed global treaty on plastic pollution should ensure similar steps are taken by all States.
7. The UN offers extensive tools and resources related to financing and implementing the SDGs. Examples include compilations of good practices, UNDP’s Sustainable Finance Hub, the High-Level Political Forum Tools Inventory, the SDG Learning Hub, a database of acceleration actions, and comprehensive data related to the 2030 Agenda.[[45]](#footnote-45)
8. Civil society organizations offer insightful SDG-related guidance. Examples include the Stockholm Environment Institute’s SDG Synergies tool and the report series published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (including the SDG Index and dashboards).[[46]](#footnote-46) The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer,developed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the OHCHR, connects the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms (including the UN Treaty Bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and the UN Special Procedures) to the SDGs. The database allows users to explore recommendations from the international human rights system as they relate to the implementation of the SDGs and their targets in specific countries. This enables access to high-quality, country-specific recommendations that are directly relevant for realising the SDGs.

IV. Conclusion

1. **This annex to the report “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: A catalyst for accelerated action to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” summarizes good practices related to the implementation of measures intended to achieve the SDGs and key actions required to fulfil the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The most important beneficiaries of the good practices highlighted in this annex are the vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities who currently are being left behind, or are in danger of being left behind.**
2. **The Special Rapporteur hopes that these concrete examples of good practices will inspire States to accelerate their efforts to recognize, respect, protect and fulfil all of the inter-connected elements of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including clean air, safe and sufficient water, healthy and sustainable food, a safe climate, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, and non-toxic environments where people can live, work, study and play.**
3. **The adoption on 8 October 2021 and 26 July 2022 of UN resolutions recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/HRC/RES/48/13 and A/RES/76/300) should be positive catalysts for accelerated efforts to ensure the enjoyment of this right and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, this was precisely the effect witnessed in many States following the adoption in 2010 of resolutions on the rights to water and sanitation by the General Assembly (64/292) and the Human Rights Council (15/9). A rights-based approach is not only helpful but essential to achieving a just and sustainable future.**
4. **Ultimately, however, it must be emphasized that humanity faces a daunting and unprecedented global environmental crisis involving the climate emergency, the collapse of biodiversity, pervasive toxic pollution, and a rising number of emerging infectious diseases of zoonotic origin. Despite the good practices featured in this report, they are not nearly enough. There is much, much more work to be done to transform today’s unjust and unsustainable society into an ecological civilization where everyone breathes clean air, drinks safe water, eats healthy and sustainably produced food, enjoys a non-toxic environment and a safe climate, appreciates the diversity and abundance of wild species, and lives in harmony with nature.**

1. Submission received from Algeria. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Submission received from Colombia. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Submission received from El Salvador. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Submission received from Estonia. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Submission received from the European Union. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1590404602495&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0381 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/soil-strategy\_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20soil%20strategy%20aims%20to%20ensure%20that%2C,no%20longer%20harmful%20to%20people%E2%80%99s%20health%20or%20ecosystems [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/legislation\_en.html#:~:text=On%2019%20January%202022%2C%20the%20first%20watch%20list,relevant%20points%20throughout%20the%20whole%20water%20supply%20chain. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/reuse.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933814386&uri=COM:2020:98:FIN [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
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17. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\_en.html [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
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21. https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\_en [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030\_en [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
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25. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-regulation-deforestation-free-products\_en [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
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