

## **Annex**

[Commission Épisopale Nationale Justice et Paix](#) (National Episcopal Commission, Justice and Peace, **CE-JILAP**) submission

[Equal Health, Social Medicine Alumni \(SMAH\), Haiti](#) submission

[Kolektif Jistis Min](#) (Justice Mining Collective, **KJM**) submission

**Konbit Ekolojis Sid** (Working Together for Ecology, South, **KES**) submission

Interview Notes, **Mouvman Fanm** [Mouvman Peyizan Papay](#) (Women's Movement of the Peasants' Movement of Papay, **MPP**)

**Sosyete Kiltirèl Jen Ayisyen** (Haitian Youth Cultural Society, **SOKIJA**) submission

**Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix  
Komisyon Episkopal Nasyonal Jistis ak Lapè**



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**CE-JILAP's RESPONSE**

**TO THE GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC OF NEW-YORK UNIVERSITY, REGARDING THE REPORT  
TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, MS. ACHIUME,  
ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN HAITI**

MINE SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022



MINE SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION,  
 SECRETARY NASIONAL EPISCOPAL PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMISSION  
 PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI.

M. Maill Robert GOURDET.  
 In-charge  
 Port-au-Prince, 01/ 06/2022.

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 TO THE GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC OF NEW-YORK UNIVERSITY, REGARDING THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE  
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**CLIMATE CHANGE:**

NUMBER ↓	THE GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC’S QUESTIONS FOR CE-JILAP ↓	CE-JILAP’S ANSWERS TO THE GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓
1 →	HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE TERM “CLIMATE CHANGE”?	Yes. <b>CE-JILAP</b> , which is a member of the Catholic Church’s pastoral social ministry, which is concerned with Human Rights issues in Haiti, has heard of this term, is mindful of it, and approaches it through the <b>Mine project</b> , as part of the <b>Commission's strategic plan for environmental work</b> .

1.1 →	WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THIS TERM?	<p>When <b>CE-JILAP</b> hears this term: <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE,”</b> the commission sees <b>risks and threats to life, the earth, and humanity which risk destroying and degrading the environment, and disrupting the climate and natural ecosystem of the earth.</b></p> <p>Therefore, when <b>CE-JILAP</b> hears this term, immediately what comes into mind are the catastrophic predictions made by scientific experts around the world for some time, which have warned us of the negative consequences of the <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE”</b> phenomenon, caused by humanity, which can result in:</p> <p><b>global warming/the melting of the world's glaciers/ rising sea levels/the world's islands and coastal areas that can potentially completely disappearing under the sea/additional atmospheric disturbances, increases in natural phenomena (more hurricanes, rainstorms, floods, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, pollution of the air we breathe, drought, erosion), diseases, famine, war and worldwide crisis in all fields of activity (social-political-economic, etc) if each and every one of us, particularly world leaders, especially the great world powers, do not act as quickly as possible and make decisions to stabilize the earth's temperature, and avoid the rise of the earth temperature by 2°C, to save the planet and the environment.</b></p>
1.2 →	HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND IT?	<p><b>CE-JILAP</b> believes and considers that life is a gift of nature, and we all have a duty to protect and preserve it. Therefore we believe that everyone, men and women, every society, every people, every government, every country has the responsibility to act to maintain the equilibrium of the world's natural</p>

		<p>ecosystem by protecting the environment. <b>When the Commission hears the term “CLIMATE CHANGE” we understand right away there is a lack of respect for Life, Nature, and the Environment, especially the natural ecosystem of our planet, on the part of both those who govern and those who are governed. This can be seen in the way we consume our natural resources with no respect for the environment and the climate, which increases climate change and threatens to destroy life on earth. This is a huge global problem that deserves for everyone, women and men, every people, every world leader to work together to save the climate.</b></p>
<p><b>IMPACTS:</b></p>		
<p>2 →</p>	<p><b>WHAT ARE SOME CONSEQUENCES YOU OBSERVED IN HAITI?</b></p>	<p>Regarding Haiti, <b>CE-JILAP</b>, has, through its environmental work, observed that, like other countries in the Global South, <b>LDCs [Less-Developed Countries]</b>, Haiti is a victim of the “<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>” phenomenon. The consequences of this phenomenon are most visible in the country’s <u>environment</u> and the <u>agriculture sectors</u>. Since the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to today, the first half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are multiple disturbances in the natural climate of the country. As a tropical country, Haiti has 2 seasons: a hot season and a wet season; the commission has observed that the hot season has become hotter, while the wet season has become hotter than usual. Climate change has catastrophic impacts on the environment and the agriculture sectors. In addition, in several parts of the country, the farmers have more vulnerable since they lack financial and technical support for agricultural production.</p>

They do not know what to do when the soil can no longer produce the quality and the quantity of food they used to produce.

As there is an increased level of drought, more soils become least suitable for agriculture, it's more difficult for farmers to find water to irrigate the soil, and often when they manage to plant some seeds, they lose their crops because of drought, too much rain, too much wind, or diseases that destroy the harvest. This is what has happened, for example to all kinds of Haitian millet. In addition, when compared to how it was long ago, farming and fishing activities have decreased for multiple reasons: lack of political leadership and investments from the government in the agricultural sector, lack of technical skills and financial support for breeders and fishermen, but also due to environmental degradation, for example climate change reduces the availability of food to feed livestock, warming sea temperatures affect the marine ecosystem which results in a decrease in the marine fish population available to fishermen.

Per the commission's observations, Haiti has been a victim of the EL NIÑO and LA NIÑA phenomena in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to atmospheric disturbances like hurricanes (**Gilbert, Gordon**), and other hurricanes of the first half of the 21st century like **Jane which caused flooding, killed many people, and caused material destruction in the cities of Gonaives and Fonvèrèt in the western part of the country, and Ana/Ike/Georges/Matthew which affected the Grandans department, particularly the city of Jérémie.**

		<p>Although this has not been proved scientifically, empirically the commission believes that seismic activities have increased in the country for some time. For instance, <b>the earthquake on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, destroyed Port-au-Prince and killed over 300.000 people, injured and disabled thousands of people, and caused hundreds of billions of gourdes of material loss. In addition, the earthquake of Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> which affected the south of the country</b> is one of the negative consequences of the <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE”</b> phenomenon which tremendously affects Haiti.</p>
2.1 →	<p><b>WHICH OF THE CONSEQUENCES CAUSES THE MOST DAMAGE?</b></p>	<p>According to <b>CE-JILAP</b> the consequences of <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE”</b> in Haiti are <b>a disturbance of the weather pattern of each season, atmospheric disturbance, repeated earthquakes, and disturbance of the primary sectors of the economy such as raising livestock, farming, and fishing.</b></p>
2.2 →	<p><b>HOW DOES YOUR COMMUNITY OR THE COMMUNITY CLOSE TO YOURS PERCEIVE CLIMATE CHANGE?</b></p>	<p><b>CE-JILAP</b> is a <b>nationwide human rights organization with a network of more than 300 parishes in Haiti</b>, therefore we prefer to answer this question from a national perspective. In Haiti <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE”</b> is a relatively new concept that that several civil society organizations have only recently taken up, in order to raise awareness among, inform, and train communities. However, this work requires lots of time, energy, will, and determination. As a result, not many people understand or are aware of <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE”</b> and its catastrophic consequences. But the whole Haitian population, the whole of society, every person are already, in one way or another, victims of this phenomenon and will continue to be victims. But there is hope still because throughout the country, more civil society organizations have been created to bring awareness of this issue to more people.</p>

		<p>As a result, many communities have been fighting to uphold environmental rights such as:</p> <p><b>Combating mining projects that violate Human Rights in the communities that are directly affected, and the previous government’s plan to cede a large portion of the northern part of the country to large multinational metal mining companies. Both actions are part of the ecological battle against “CLIMATE CHANGE” to save the climate, life, the planet’s natural ecosystem, humanity, and the environment.</b></p>
<p>2.3 →</p>	<p><b>DO PEOPLE USE THIS TERM?</b></p>	<p><b>CE-JILAP’s</b> observations and experiences in communities throughout the country allow us to say:</p> <p>Yes, more people in the country, in society, in communities, individuals and corporate entities alike, more people are using the term “<b>CLIMATE CHANGE.</b>” Even though often they do not consider all the causes, consequences, stakes, and the challenges this phenomenon entails, and the bad actions of the majority of humanity as far as the use and exploitation of natural resources, especially non-renewable ones.</p>
<p>2.4 →</p>	<p><b>IF NOT, HOW DO PEOPLE TALK OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS CHANGE?</b></p>	
<p>*****</p>		
<p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACIAL AND OTHER TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION:</b></p> <p>The special rapporteur focused on the impact of climate change on Black communities. She clearly documented that Black people around the world suffer more of the impact of climate change when compared to other communities.</p>		
<p><b>NUMBER</b></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><b>GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC’S QUESTIONS FOR CE-JILAP</b> ↓</p>	<p><b>CE-JILAP’S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC</b> ↓</p>



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**HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION  
IN THIS CONTEXT?**

In this context, CE-JILAP understands that **“CLIMATE CHANGE”** is one of the major consequences of racial discrimination which stems from the logic of domination of the powerless by the powerful, the system of imperialism-capitalism-extractivism by the world’s major powers. Furthermore, racial discrimination and other kinds of discrimination, in ways that are more hidden today, continue to reinforce harmful political decisions, actions, and behavior that deplete, exploit, plunder, use, and waste life in general, nature, natural ecosystems, Planet Earth and its environment, using non-renewable resources such as: gas, oil, and metal mines without no regard for human dignity or rights. This creates ecological, social, economic, political, and cultural problems around the world, changes the earth’s climate, degrades the environment more every day, and risks exterminating life on earth and destroying the beautiful planet, God’s gift of nature to all of us, that we should all love, protect, and preserve.

**In this situation, less-developed countries (LDAs), countries in the Global South, like Haiti, suffer the most, in all ways, from the negative consequences from the consequences of racial discrimination and domination by the great world powers’ system of imperialism, capitalism, and extractivism.**

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

**IT IS TIME TO FACE REALITY TO ASSESS, SHOW OUR WILL, AND BE AWARE OF THE HARM WE HAVE DONE TO “MOTHER EARTH,” TO DETERMINE:**

**WHO IS GUILTY, AND WHO IS MOST GUILTY?**

**WHO ARE THE VICTIMS, AND WHO ARE MOST VICTIMIZED?**

		<p><b>WHO SHOULD PAY, AND WHO SHOULD PAY THE MOST FOR THE HARM THEY’VE DONE? AND WHAT ARE THE BEST, MOST SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE WAYS, IN THE INTEREST OF ALL HUMANITY, TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS WHICH CONCERN ALL OF US, SAVE LIVES, THE CLIMATE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND “MOTHER EARTH”?</b></p>
<p>3.1 →</p>	<p>We would like you to reflect on the country on the national level, as Haiti is a Black country, and the first Black country in the world, as well as to reflect on the community level.</p> <p><b>HAVE YOU SEEN OR EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHICH MAKE THEM VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ?</b></p> <p>Give us more details. For example, women, disabled people, peasants, and low-income communities.</p>	<p><b>CE-JILAP</b>, which has promoted and defended the respect of Human rights and dignity in Haiti for 50 years, has experienced and observed multiple forms of discrimination that have impacted people who are the most victimized by the effects of climate change. For instance, the <b>peasants (farmers, fishermen, agricultural traders, and members of the informal economy like “Madan Sara” and more)</b>. <b>Because most of them live in rural areas far from big city centers, are illiterate, and belong to what are considered the lowest social and economic classes, the masses, they are often victims of social discrimination. The majority of Haitian society calls and considers them “outsiders,” “big toes” (because most go barefoot), “country people, peasants without knowledge and culture” etc.</b></p> <p>The national government and local leaders underestimate this category of people, although they play an important role. Instead of investing in the agricultural sector and the peasants to which are essential to the development of the country, they continue to treat the agricultural sector, the peasants, the farmers as unimportant. As a result, the agricultural sector has declined, and farmers who lack of information, training, and financial as well as technical support, are not aware of the <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE”</b> phenomenon and its consequences on</p>

		<p>their sector, so they continue to be victims of the negative consequences of this phenomenon, unable to act collectively and force the leaders to act to stop <b>“CLIMATE CHANGE&gt;&gt;”</b> in the world and its consequences in the country.</p> <p><b>The commission notes that, among the categories given in the example, female farmers are the most vulnerable, because in addition to this specific kind of social discrimination, they also experience gender-based discrimination as women.</b></p> <p><b>In the other hand, the phenomenon “CLIMATE CHANGE” reinforces other phenomena such as:</b></p> <p><b>Rural flight, the proliferation of shantytowns in big cities in the country, internal migration, prison overcrowding, widespread insecurity, and a climate of terror, banditry, and criminality, particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince, which reinforces several types of discrimination in Haiti. The commission cites for example:</b></p> <p><b>Discrimination against people living in vulnerable neighborhoods, the working-class neighborhoods, which the general population calls “poor neighborhoods.” Many people consider the residents of these neighborhoods “criminals,” people “have never done good, only bad things,” etc.</b></p>
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**EFFORTS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE :**

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NUMBER S ↓	GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS TO CE-JILAP ↓	CE-JILAP'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓
4 →	HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE SUPPORTING THE EFFORT TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE IN HAITI?	<p>CE-JILAP has heard of the United Nation conference on climate change (COP-1 to COP-26), where world leaders discuss the challenges of climate change and the solutions that can slow it down or reverse it. One of the many decisions of such previous conferences was the creation of a fund available to least-developed countries (LDCs) to help them fight global warming and address the consequences that it has in these countries. However, the reality, when it comes to Haiti, is that the authorities don't inform the people if there are global programs aimed at supporting efforts to diminish the effects of "CLIMATE CHANGE."</p> <p><b>As a result, the commission doesn't really know.</b></p>
4.1 →	IF YES, WHAT ARE THESE PROGRAMS, AND WHO ARE THE LEADERS?	
4.2 →	ARE YOU AWARE OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS OR EFFORTS THAT ARE WORKING TOWARD ADDRESSING OR LESSENING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?	<p>CE-JILAP is aware of the many worldwide programs that are working toward reducing the impacts climate change around the world. These programs come from various places: world leaders, civil society, several populations, many countries, especially where environmental activists are fighting with the great will, determination, and strategy needed to force the great world powers, the ones who are most responsible for the degradation of the environment and climate change, to take responsibility. There are many funds available, whether from the United Nations, the European Union, etc. for these initiatives. <b>But as far as specific details go, the Commission is not aware if there is a special worldwide program for this.</b></p>

4.3 →	DO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHERE YOU LIVE WORK ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE, FOR EXAMPLE PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE PHENOMENON?	<p>As with question 2.1, since CE-JILAP is a nationwide human rights organization with a network of more than 300 parishes in Haiti, we can answer this question from a national perspective.</p> <p>Certainly, the Commission believes that the national government has done some work on climate change via the environmental field. We can cite some examples such as the Ministry of the Environment (ME), the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communication (MTPTC) through the Haitian Meteorology Unit (UHM), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religion (MAEC). However, we are not aware if local authorities throughout the country are working on <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>, but the commission knows there are many kinds of local leaders, like CASEC, COMMUNAL MAYORS to cite just a few who are sensitized and informed about <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>. <b>But the Commission doesn't know if they do any work on it in their official capacity.</b></p>
4.4 →	- DO THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ANY PLAN TO DO SO?	<p><b>CE-JILAP</b> is sure there is some work done by the Haitian authorities in that regard, but they are minimal and the populace is not aware of them. In conclusion, we practically do not know.</p>
4.5 →	- ARE THERE NGOS THAT ARE WORKING ON THE ISSUE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?	<p>As with questions 2.1 and 4.3 since <b>CE-JILAP</b> is a nationwide human rights organization with a <b>network of more than 300 parishes in Haiti</b>, we can answer this question from a national perspective.</p> <p>Directly or indirectly, many national and local civil society organizations in the country are working on <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>,</p>

		<p>especially the ones that are environmental organizations and/or that work on environmental issues among others.</p>
<p>4.6 →</p>	<p><b>HOW DO YOU PERCEIVE THE EFFORTS OF THESE KINDS OF PROGRAMS?</b></p>	<p><b>CE-JILAP</b> would rather answer in terms of ongoing efforts rather than the programs themselves.</p> <p>Yes, there are many attempts nationally, regionally and and in many countries to address and slow the adverse consequences of <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>. However, we are far from reaching the results we need.</p> <p>Reality shows the Commission that even with all these efforts, contrary to the so-called will of several world powers to solve the problem, many of the commitments and decisions made in several <b>COP</b> are false solutions that are simply not working. Because these solutions are made with <b>system of capitalist-extractivist domination</b> in mind. These solutions always go against the majority of the world population.</p> <p><b>However, even though it appears to be difficult, there is hope that this problem can be reduced or solved. The hope that we are talking about is based on the willpower, determination, and capacity of the population to fight to live, and live well, in a healthful environment, a balanced natural ecosystem, and a healthy planet where the system of domination and exploitation has ended and life has a chance to flourish everywhere on earth.</b></p>

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**CAUSE AND RESPONSABILITY:**  
 We recognize climate change results from human activities on earth; it is not a natural process.

NUMBER ↓	GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS TO CE-JILAP ↓	CE-JILAP'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓
5 →	<p><b>WHO DO YOU THINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS?</b></p>	<p><b>CE-JILAP</b> believes that <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> is not a natural phenomenon but the result of bad political, economic, and social decisions by leaders around the world, of bad actions and behaviors of the human race who exploit and waste nonrenewable resources without respect for human rights and dignity, life, the natural ecosystems of planet earth, and the environment, and for itself. <b>All of humanity is responsible.</b></p> <p>But in fairness, the commission believes that there are different levels of responsibility. Some entities are more responsible, some others more victims. It is not a secret that the wealthiest powers are more responsible for climate change. In order to become wealthy, what they call “development,” they create a system of domination and exploitation to encourage and force people to exploit and overuse the few remaining resources available on earth.</p> <p><b>As a result, the equation is out of balance, a small portion of the world population and countries possesses three-fourths (¾) of the wealth while the majority of the world population possesses only one-fourth (¼) of the wealth, which makes the poor get poorer. This is the case for Haitians and Haiti.</b></p> <p><b>THINGS NEED TO CHANGE! CLIMATE JUSTICE CAN'T WAIT!</b></p>
5.1 →		<p>CE-JILAP has answered this in Question 5. For more clarity, each one of us, individuals and corporations alike, is partly</p>

	<p>WHICH ACTORS, OR COUNTRIES, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE THAT WE EXPERIENCE TODAY?</p>	<p>responsible for this problem. However, our levels of responsibility are not the same. World leaders and the world's great powers, the big polluters of the environment, are responsible. Humanity suffers from bad policies, economic choices, decisions, and behaviors that many people in this world have, which go against the interests of <b>PACHA MAMA</b> as well as the <b>ENVIRONMENT</b>, particularly the <b>CLIMATE</b>. And thus, <b>CLIMATE JUSTICE</b> is necessary and important to save and preserve <b>HUMAN LIFE, THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM OF THIS PLANET, PACHA MAMA and THE ENVIRONMENT.</b></p>
<p>5.2 →</p>	<p>HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?</p>	<p>CE-JILAP knows this through knowledge, observation, reports, and the its own experiences of the pain of the reality of abuses and violations of human dignity and universal human rights throughout the world, particularly in Haiti.</p>
<p>NUMBER ↓</p>	<p>GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS FOR CE-JILAP ↓</p>	<p>CE-JILAP'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓</p>
<p>5.3 →</p>	<p>DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY ARE AWARE OF THE CAUSE?</p> <p>It is important that the Haitian population understand that while they did not create the problem, they suffer from its effects.</p>	<p>As was the case for questions <b>2.1</b> and <b>4.3</b>, <b>CE-JILAP, which is a Human Rights nationwide network present in more than 300 parishes in Haiti</b>, we prefer to answer this question from a national perspective.</p> <p>Currently, even though more people in this country and in many rural communities are aware of the causes, the Commission doesn't believe that the majority of the Haitian population is aware of the real causes of <b>CLIMATE CHANGE.</b></p> <p><b>Therefore, it is important that the work continue in that direction in this country.</b></p>



5.4 →	DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE POPULATION TO KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?	YES.
5.5 →	WHY DO YOU SAY YES OR NO?	CE-JILAP believes it is very important that the whole Haitian population especially, as victims of climate change, know who is responsible for the CLIMATE CHANGE problem so they can become more aware and fight to reduce the effects of climate change and demand CLIMATE JUSTICE.
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<b>CLIMATE JUSTICE :</b>		
NUMBER ↓	GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS TO CE-JILAP ↓	CE-JILAP'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓
6 →	WHAT DOES "CLIMATE JUSTICE" MEAN?	CE-JILAP believes that a simple definition of climate justice is: <u>"All political, ecological, economic, social, technological, and scientific commitments, stances, and policy measures and decisions by world leaders, especially in the most powerful countries, and by multinational companies which are the biggest polluters of the environment, should slow climate change, maintain the balance of the earth's natural environment so that climate change doesn't increase, to save Planet Earth and the environment, while repairing all the damage CLIMATE CHANGE has done throughout the world, especially in LDCs, for example in Haiti."</u>
6.1 →		The course of action that CE-JILAP believes <<CLIMATE JUSTICE>> required from us are:

**WHAT ACTION DOES “CLIMATE JUSTICE>> REQUIRE US TO TAKE?**


- 1) Learn more about the problem in order to bring awareness to it, to educate more people as possible so they can understand the necessity to fight for climate justice, and with everything they got to slow down the consequences of climate change and save the planet.
  
- 2) Actively engage more people from the diverse background at the national level, as well as regional and international levels to work toward <<CLIMATE JUSTICE>>.
  
- 3) Continue to fight with better plans, strategies and better methods against mining and mining projects that are violating human rights around the world, for example in Haiti.
  
- 4) Build networks and create national, regional, and international alliances, and create better plans, programs, and strategies to take meaningful action and force those responsible for “CLIMATE CHANGE” to recognize their wrongdoing and take responsibility for “CLIMATE JUSTICE”...

**This fight is not easy, but it’s not impossible, either.**

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<b>FEARS:</b>		
NIMEWO ↓	GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS TO CE-JILAP ↓	CE-JILAP'S ANSWERS TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓
7 →	WHAT ARE YOU MOST AFRAID THE MOST ABOUT "CLIMATE CHANGE"?	CE-JILAP is most afraid of the scientists' forecast of a <b>2 degree Celsius</b> rise in global temperature.
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<b>RIGHT ANSWERS:</b>		
NUMBER ↓	GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS TO CE-JILAP ↓	CE-JILAP'S ANSWERS TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC ↓
8 →	WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE TO LEAD A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM TO SLOW DOWN AND FIGHT "CLIMATE CHANGE" IN HAITI?	<p>If <b>CE-JILAP</b> were to lead a nationwide program to slow down and fight "<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>" in Haiti it would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Sensitize and educate more people, in all sectors (public and private), on the problem in order to create national awareness on the necessity and urgency for the country to fight to slow down climate change, recalibrate the planet's temperature and the national ecosystem, protect the environment and save "<b>MOTHER EARTH,</b>" which Latin-Americans call "<b>PACHA MAMA.</b>"</li> <li>2) Along with other national, local, regional, and international institutions and organizations, build a strong alliance network to create better plans,</li> </ol>

		<p>effective strategies, and all necessary action to require and force the Haitian government, local authorities, and those most responsible for CLIMATE CHANGE to take responsibility in the form of CLIMATE JUSTICE.</p> <p>3) Encourage and support in every possible way all local and national initiatives to slowing down climate change or solving our environmental degradation problems such as the struggle already underway to stopping mining activities that violate human rights such as the project to mine metals in the north of Haiti.</p>
<p>8.1 →</p>	<p><b>WHAT WOULD YOUR PRIORITIES BE?</b></p>	<p>CE-JILAP’s priorities would be:</p> <p>1) To Sensitize, inform, and train communities that are most vulnerable to “CLIMATE CHANGE.”</p> <p>2) To sensitize and advocate nationally and internationally alongside other institutions, organizations, and communities to national and local authorities make decisions and actions necessary to halt “CLIMATE CHANGE” by prohibiting mining activities that violate human rights, and all actions and behaviors that degrade the environment of the country.</p>

<b>OTHER COMMENTS :</b>		
<b>NUMBER</b> ↓	<b>GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC'S QUESTIONS TO CE-JILAP</b> ↓	<b>CE-JILAP'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL JUSTICE CLINIC</b> ↓
		
9 →	<b>DO YOU HAVE OTHER COMMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR?</b>	NO.

FOR AUTHENTICATION

**Mme. Jocelyne COLAS,  
National Director**

## Equal Health

### Social Medicine Alumni Haiti (SMAH)

- Contact: Youri Louis, Co-Founder, SMAH; Leadership Committee Coordinator, Equal Health [yourilouis@equalhealth.org](mailto:yourilouis@equalhealth.org)

1. **Climate change:** Have you heard of climate change? What comes to mind when you hear that term? How do you understand it?

Yes, I have heard of climate change. What comes to mind are: capitalism, adaptation, poverty, social inequality, natural disasters, global warming.

2. **Impacts:** What impact or consequences do you see?
  - What are the most damaging impacts?
  - How do your community or nearby communities understand climate change? Do people use that term? If not, how do they talk about the situation?

Climate change has a profound effect on Haiti. It affects:

#### **1- The country's agriculture**

For many years, it has been more difficult for the soil in the Haitian countryside to produce food because there is almost no rain. Many peasants can no longer cultivate or lose their harvest. And when it rains, it rains heavily, causing floods to devastate fields and plantations. There are many products we used to produce such as coffee, sugarcane that have almost disappeared from Haitian soil.

#### **2- Health**

It barely rains, and rivers and springs have dried up, affecting agriculture. And all these factors put together have a huge impact on the health of these people who live off agriculture. There are more diseases such as malnutrition, dehydration, anemia, depression.

#### **3- Social and economic life**

Climate change has affected the economic situation of farmers, as agriculture has been the source of their income, forcing them to seek other work to do, which has raised the unemployment rate. Many of them have to leave the countryside to go to the capital in search of life, which causes the slums in the capital to grow. Others decide to leave the country and seek life abroad.

Many things that we used to produce are now imported from elsewhere, which raises the cost of living, inflation has reached an all-time peak, the population finds it very difficult to eat every day.

#### **4- Natural disasters**

For many years, there have been more natural disasters in the country. There are more hurricanes, storms, floods, landslides.

Many people do not know what climate change is, they only notice these things and start to think that it is a degrading country, a damned country.

**3. Climate change and race-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination:**

The Special Rapporteur is interested on the impact of climate change on black communities. It is well documented that black people living all over the world are the ones suffering the most from the impact of climate change compared to other communities.

- How do you understand racial discrimination in this context? We are interested in your reflections at the country level - as Haiti is a black country, and it was the first black country in the world - and at the community level.
- Do you see or experience other forms of discrimination against certain categories of people that affect how they are impacted by climate change? Please give details. For example: women, people with disabilities, peasants, working-class communities.

I can say that Haiti has been a target country since it achieved its independence, and many powerful countries refused to recognize it. They made us pay money, borrow money at high interest rates, and put an embargo on the country. Today, Haiti is a fragile country, where political instability along with poverty, and insecurity are threatening to finish people off. Haiti is one of the countries that produces less environmentally toxic gas, but is one of the countries most affected by climate change.

These consequences will increase the poverty and problems of the people, whereas large countries that produce more gas that contribute to climate change are not affected as much as Haiti, because they have the means to adapt to change, as long as they can adapt, it doesn't bother them if Haiti itself does not have the means and resources to counteract the effects of climate change. Because they can adapt, they will continue to produce devastating gas and create more poverty in small countries like Haiti.

The peasants suffer greatly, lack of resources and lack of support have forced them to abandon agriculture for other activities.

Communities in remote areas have been forgotten, which often do not receive support from governments or other organizations.

**4. Efforts to fight against Climate Change:** Have you heard of global programs that are supporting efforts to reduce the effects of climate change in Haiti? If so, what kind of programs are they? Who leads them?

- Are you aware of global programs or efforts to address or mitigate the impact of climate change?
- Are local authorities in your area working on climate change, such as providing information on the phenomenon? Are there any efforts by the authorities in this regard?
- Are NGOs working in the area working on climate change?
- How do you view these efforts and programs?



No.

- 5. Causes and Responsibilities:** We recognize that climate change is created by human beings; it is not a process of nature. Who do you think is responsible for the climate change crisis? That is to say, which economic actor, which country, who do you believe is responsible for the harm we are experiencing today?
- How do you know that?
  - Do you believe others in your community are aware of the cause? It is important for the Haitian people to understand that we are not the ones who created this problem; even though we are suffering from it.
  - Do you think it is important for the population to understand who is responsible? If yes, why? If no, why?

There are several levels of responsibility.

There is a first level of responsibility, where everyone who exists in this world is responsible for climate change.

But if we look at the data, we see that the countries that produce the most gas with devastating effects are the developed and industrialized countries. They invest in big companies that produce a lot of waste but give them a lot of money, a capitalist system that doesn't take into account how other low-income countries are affected.

It is not something that the population is aware of, it is something that they only suffer from and that they do not understand.

- 6. Climate Justice:** What does “climate justice” mean? What action do you think climate justice requires us to take?

Climate justice for me means: A balance where the population stops being affected by the actions of other countries or they have enough resources to cope with adapting to climate change just like other countries.

Countries that contribute most to climate change should to contribute to supporting low-income countries such as Haiti. Set up a climate justice commission that works directly with people in remote areas who rely on agriculture. More direct assistance in case of natural disasters.

- 7. Fear:** What do you fear most about climate change?

The complete destruction of Haitian agriculture. Local authorities ignorance of how to make this a priority.

- 8. Appropriate Responses:** If you were the director of a national program to mitigate and combat climate change in Haiti, what would you do? What would be your priorities?

The priorities should be:

- Directly work with the peasants.
- Set up a national reforestation program
- Advocate for the government to invest more into the environment and fight climate change
- Advocate for the international community to understand how their actions have a major impact on countries such as Haiti, and demand more support from the international community.
- If the international community wants to help, coordinate their actions on the ground and involve the peasants in the response.

**9. Anything else:** Do you have any other comments you would like to send to the Special Report?

These are some references which could be of use:

- <https://www.lapresse.ca/international/caraibes/2021-02-21/la-presse-en-haiti/aux-premier-loges-du-dereglement-climatique.ph>
- [https://www.secours-catholique.org/actualites/haiti-a-lheure-des-changements-climatiques?gclid=CjwKCAjws8yUBhA1EiwAitpEbbT1grUzbszanZuL0DA6je0o9ccMLYL4mmPpRApP254yAyPFsdjVRoCykkQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.secours-catholique.org/actualites/haiti-a-lheure-des-changements-climatiques?gclid=CjwKCAjws8yUBhA1EiwAitpEbbT1grUzbszanZuL0DA6je0o9ccMLYL4mmPpRApP254yAyPFsdjVRoCykkQAvD_BwE)
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/ha-ti-l-heure-des-changements-climatiques>
- <https://www.alterpresse.org/spip.php?article27721>

## **Konbit Ekolojis Sid (KES)**

- Contact: Max Imbert-Marcelin [ksid261@yahoo.com](mailto:ksid261@yahoo.com)

1. **Climate change:** Have you heard of climate change? What comes to mind when you hear that term? How do you understand it?

Yes, we, the Konbit Ekolojis Sid, know a lot about climate change. This issue has been heard on some radio stations and by some groups of citizens who are campaigning for environmental causes. Hot weather is getting hotter, the springs are getting drier, and glaciers are melting. This is what we understand when they speak of climate change.

2. **Impacts:** What impact or consequences do you see?
  - What are the most damaging impacts?
  - How do your community or nearby communities understand climate change? Do people use that term? If not, how do they talk about the situation?

When the glaciers melt, it increases the volume of water that is invading other areas and there are problems with the springs drying out. The impact is devastating. It is possible that one causes more harm than the other. In the case of Haiti, the heat is unbearable, reaching 31 degrees. Even though they have a clear understanding of these things, they use the word in their own way. They understand it as a divine problem or as the world coming to its end because many people say a lot of words that are not in line with geographic-environmental knowledge. Even though they have a clear understanding of this issue, they still use the word in their own way.

3. **Climate change and race-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination:**

The Special Rapporteur is interested on the impact of climate change on black communities. It is well documented that black people living all over the world are the ones suffering the most from the impact of climate change compared to other communities.

  - How do you understand racial discrimination in this context? We are interested in your reflections at the country level - as Haiti is a black country, and it was the first black country in the world - and at the community level.
  - Do you see or experience other forms of discrimination against certain categories of people that affect how they are impacted by climate change? Please give details. For example: women, people with disabilities, peasants, working-class communities.

KES thinks that the matter of discrimination poses a problem of identity. That's why we address the subject of race. Everything we are facing is based on race. There is a category of rulers, oppressors, abusers, who are the colonists, the exploiters, another category is the people who are subjected to those forces, the slaves. Colonial question: Spanish, French and U.S. occupation deplete the country's environment by cutting down trees and installing manufacturing plants. In reality everyone is human but not everyone is the same. In the case of Haiti, there is discrimination because it is more about color and wealth. In terms of economic resources and education, there are differences. As the first black country, the matter of climate change must be our main motivation because we are already in a

tropical area in the path of sandstorms, hurricanes, earthquakes, bad weather ... Haiti must do a great deal of work, even as science is advancing, popular knowledge will help in environmental protection by planting trees, draining canals, making way for springs. Compared to what Haiti still has to do, this is small potatoes. But bit by bit, we will help people become aware of what we need to do to take on climate change. Peasants and poor communities are being severely discriminated against. Sociologically, the names are built on the logic of discriminating against these categories because they differentiate between those who work the land as “big-toed peasants” who are not city dwellers. They call them “leaf people” because they’re always around trees, and work the land with their pickaxes, and weed the ground; as for low-income urban [popular] communities, they are said to be poor and their life is a misery. As it is on a discriminatory basis it is designed to think in terms of their understanding. But what is important is that the peasants and the people of the poor [popular] communities are 2 categories with great social shortcomings. They have practical ways of inventing other ways of living in society (they call it subsistence, there is another word that describes it resilience). For people with disabilities, it is even more complicated because they see this person as someone who is not whole, when the weather is bad and the earth quakes, people without disabilities can help them. For women, it is on the basis of sexism, machismo because our society is a patriarchal society.

For climate change, discrimination affects social classes and a certain group of people. Let's take as an example the kinds of projects that are being implemented in the communities: airports in the island of “Île-à-Vache”, vetiver factories, gas stations, industrial free-trade zones, the construction of hotels, etc. on land that can grow food. For them, it doesn't matter if they build on the land because the land was for peasants, they are poor, they are outsiders, their lives mean nothing to investors, local / national companies, multinationals or to the State.

- 4. Efforts to fight against Climate Change:** Have you heard of global programs that are supporting efforts to reduce the effects of climate change in Haiti? If so, what kind of programs are they? Who leads them?
- Are you aware of global programs or efforts to address or mitigate the impact of climate change?
  - Are local authorities in your area working on climate change, such as providing information about the phenomenon? Are there any efforts by the authorities in this regard?
  - Are NGOs working in the area working on climate change?
  - How do you view these efforts and programs?

We hear from some international institutions talking about climate change. Our country is participating in all major events on Climate Change. Last December in the COP 26 the country responded to this invitation. The Ministry of the Environment participated and signed a resolution. Because what is said to be happening is being ignored at the state level and the ministry is not working with other ministries to work with national and regional environmental organizations to promote them. Talking about the problems is one but the action to prevent them is something else. In the Southern Department despite the fact that the word climate change is repeated, those responsible are not afraid to toss around permits for vetiver factories to be built in residential areas

and in areas that can produce rice. The Department of the Environment and municipal governments have not joined forces to curb these kinds of projects even as ordinary people cry out in distress. In the community we live in, we don't see local officials working on climate change. They haven't put in place any program that raises public awareness of this danger, like making decisions to curb other people's effects on the environment. Yes we hear NGOs working on this issue of climate change in the Southern region. Some trainings and publications are done, but their scope is limited and they are not involved in putting pressure on other organizations to push the authorities to take action.

- 5. Causes and Responsibilities:** We recognize that climate change is created by human beings; it is not a process of nature. Who do you think is responsible for the climate change crisis? That is to say, which economic actor, which countries, who do you believe is responsible for the harm we are experiencing today?
- How do you know this?
  - Do you believe others in your community are aware of the causes of climate change? It is important for the Haitian people to understand that they are not the ones who created this problem; even though you are suffering greatly from it.
  - Do you think it is important for the population to understand who is responsible? If yes, why? If no, why?

The crisis of climate change is the work of humankind. When we say people, we don't mean everyone on earth. It is the work of a category of people, a category of countries, a category of national and international institutions. These actors have only one goal: making money. Climate change comes from within the capitalist system. It's not for no reason that the United States, China, France, Japan, Canada, England, Germany, etc., are the main perpetrators of this crisis. They have all kinds of big factories that produce goods and services to make a lot of money (capital). Research reports from the United Nations and many major universities around the world show that these are the causes of the climate crisis.

The cause of the climate change crisis is not a secret for the people of many countries where people have a high level of education, information and ability to think. But in Haiti, there are two categories: the first category is people with a high level of education, information and reflection who know the causes of climate change, and a second category that does not know the cause of this crisis. In addition, some people are unaware of climate change. It is very important for the entire Haitian population to know which actors in the world are responsible for climate change. In the fight against global warming, they will know who to put pressure on and force other actors to behave in a way that respects the environment.

- 6. Climate Justice:** What does "climate justice" mean? What action do you think climate justice requires us to take?

At Konbit Ekolojis Sid we believe that everyone has the same right to live in a healthy environment. Everyone has a duty to protect it. But by increasing their economic capacity, many individuals and multinational companies are using all means to increase their production capacity, which has created many climate changes in the face of all the inequalities of the population victims of climate change,

knowing that they aren't the causes of these issues. Authorities should take all legal measures to force the people, countries and large multinational companies responsible for Climate Change to take responsibility in relation to those affected by the consequences. Constraining them to respect and protect the environment and repair all damage to the affected population requires compliance with the limits on the amount of "greenhouse effect" gases they produce.

**7. Fear:** What do you fear most about the reality of climate change?

For us at KES, our country is so vulnerable, the authorities are so irresponsible, there is no plan to deal with or resist before, during and after the consequences of different forms of climate change (hurricanes, floods, droughts, heat waves, ...) There are so many worries, we can't help but be afraid.

**8. Appropriate Responses:** If you were the director of a national program to mitigate and combat climate change in Haiti, what would you do? What would be your priorities?

If we were the director of a national program to mitigate and combat climate change, we would have a 50-year action plan. Here are some of the highlights of this plan:

- 1) A decentralized body in all communal sections and farms to take all actions for environmental protection and redevelopment.
- 2) A decentralized scientific and technological research program in all communes and communal sections. In that case, there should be several universities that specialize in this program. We would place these universities in a number of strategic areas of the country.
- 3) An environmental observation and monitoring agency.
- 4) Reclaim all the natural forests and create other forests, reforest all the mountaintops.
- 5) Protection of all river, springs, ponds, lakes, and marine resources.

**9. Anything else:** Do you have any other comments you would like to send to the Special Rapporteur?

In order to achieve effective action in the fight against climate change, all government entities and civil society must be involved. The family has a big role to play in this. Denouncing climate change must be accompanied by action

## Kolektif Jistis Min (Justice Mining Collective, KJM)

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1. **Climate change:** Have you heard of climate change? What comes to mind when you hear that term? How do you understand it?

Yes I have often heard the term climate change. There are many things that come to mind such as: changing seasons, seasons that used to be rainy are now periods of drought, it's much hotter than we are used to, there are many major hurricanes and floods too, the land can't produce as much as it used to, crops are lose because there's so much sun.

This situation we're describing, we don't use the concept climate change because the climate has always changed. We speak more of the climate crisis. The lives of people and animals are tied to their environment. We've reached a crossroads where so many bad things have been done to the environment that human life and the life of the environment are degrading. The environment, which allowed life to flourish, cannot fill the same role any longer. Many people need a framework for their lives to unfurl, but that framework doesn't exist. In that sense, we have fallen into a crisis.

2. **Impacts:** What impact or consequences do you see?
  - What are the most damaging impacts?
  - How do your community or nearby communities understand climate change? Do people use that term? If not, how do they talk about the situation?

The climate crisis or disorder has a lot of effects on peasants in Haiti who mostly do agriculture. The majority of people who do agriculture in Haiti depend on traditions, which means they speak mostly of the planting seasons. Long ago, when the planting season came around, people knew there would be rain, so they could plant their crops without anxiety. But with the problem of climate change, now you're more likely to get only sun or else too much rain, or else a hurricane that destroys everything in its path, which makes peasants who were already in difficult economic straits lose their money and the energy it took to plant their crops. The situation has caused the loss of many agricultural fields, the soil can't produce the same amount which means people have less to eat, more people suffering from hunger, more people in need of water to drink. Many animals go thirsty, and many animals die of hunger or they die from the heat.

The climate crisis or disorder has effects on water, as more people need water to drink due to the rising heat while the springs diminish. That leads to water crises among communities which results in many "conflicts." Climate crisis or disorder affects biodiversity, as many kinds of animals and trees have disappeared. Many people and animals, especially birds, migrate. So people understand too that climate change is the result of big multinational companies whose only goal is to make money while the planet dies.

Many people explain the situation in their own words. They don't like using the term "climate change" or "climate disorder." Protestants make many peasants believe that the country is damned, that this is God's punishment. But thanks to some civil society organizations that collaborate with many peasant associations, many of them are beginning to understand the reality of climate change and have begun to

find ways to adapt. They have begun to see what alternatives they can adopt in response to this new reality, following what modifications climate change brings, seeing what they can plant that will be most resistant, etc.

- 3. Climate change and race-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination:** The Special Rapporteur is interested on the impact of climate change on black communities. It is well documented that black people living all over the world are the ones suffering the most from the impact of climate change compared to other communities.
- How do you understand racial discrimination in this context? We are interested in your reflections at the country level - as Haiti is a black country, and it was the first black country in the world - and at the community level.
  - Do you see or experience other forms of discrimination against certain categories of people that affect how they are impacted by climate change? Please give details. For example: women, people with disabilities, peasants, working-class communities.

We must be clear that it is the acts of big multinational companies that are the major cause of the climate change people are experiencing these days. Many of these companies have installed themselves in the Global South. Therefore, they are doing this on the basis of race. Likewise, the multinational corporations place themselves in rural settings where peasants live. Who pays the consequences most severely? The countries they call “little countries” or “poor countries.” One thing is clear: the “little countries” don’t have major industries that pollute. The biggest problem for the countries that are subject to these forces is that they don’t have the strength to confront climate change. These little countries don’t have the resources needed to resist. That makes them dependent, they don’t have the autonomy to feed themselves, provide health care, they don’t have water or other basic resources for the population. Most of these countries are in the Caribbean, Central America, and Africa.

In Haiti, the discrimination created by the world system follows the same pattern, people in the cities and people from the countryside don’t have the same reality. Their own state has forgotten them, often they don’t know how to read, they don’t find any support when they are victims of disasters caused by climate change. They don’t receive information or education because they are “outside people,” they have no voice in the conversations and decisions that are made in their names. Their origins betray them.

- 4. Efforts to fight against Climate Change:** Have you heard of global programs that are supporting efforts to reduce the effects of climate change in Haiti? If so, what kind of programs are they? Who leads them?
- Are you aware of global programs or efforts to address or mitigate the impact of climate change?
  - Are local authorities in your area working on climate change, such as providing information about the phenomenon? Are there any efforts by the authorities in this regard?
  - Are NGOs working in the area working on climate change?
  - How do you view these efforts and programs?

Globally, people are saying a lot of nice words, especially through COP which has made a lot of commitments especially in 2015 in Paris, but in reality there are a lot of words and very little action. One of the decisions was to lower greenhouse gas emissions before 2030. The countries pumping out CO<sub>2</sub> have never respected those commitments, there is little will to improve the condition of the suffocating planet.



The Haitian government ratified the Paris Accords in Haitian parliament and then they signed the official accords in the UN General Assembly in 2017 in New York but in reality they signed for signing's sake, rather than taking action to improve the situation which is only growing worst. Every COP they hold, the Haitian state via the Ministry of the Environment always sends a big delegation that talks a lot, but in terms of real action, the results are catastrophic. Most initiatives on this subject come from group of civil society organizations that are conscious of the consequences of climate change on small scale agriculture, agroecology, and the country's environment in general, and they hold trainings and raise awareness, they give guidelines on how to plant ecologically amid climate change which is an alternative to industrial agriculture which is a cancer for our planet's health

- 5. Causes and Responsibilities:** We recognize that climate change is created by human beings; it is not a process of nature. Who do you think is responsible for the climate change crisis? That is to say, which economic actor, which countries, who do you believe is responsible for the harm we are experiencing today?
- How do you know this?
  - Do you believe others in your community are aware of the causes of climate change? It is important for the Haitian people to understand that they are not the ones who created this problem; even though you are suffering greatly from it.
  - Do you think it is important for the population to understand who is responsible? If yes, why? If no, why?

It's not a secret to anyone that it's the actions of multinational corporations that are only out to make money that are destroying the planet. Industrialized countries have neither ethics nor morals when it comes to climate degradation despite their promises to reduce the amount of pollution they produce. One of the things that makes us say that is that they are never satisfied so they produce what they don't need. Industrial agriculture produces food that is no good for people's health at a scale that exceeds people's ability to consume it, and yet there are people who can't eat. Rather than distributing that surplus to people who don't have food they would rather let it spoil and then throw it away. It's clear that the population, not everyone but many people who are organized in Haitian social movements know clearly that the world capitalist system is responsible for everything that has happened, it's the big industrial powers that are destroying our common space which is mother earth. It is very necessary to know that so we can denounce them, to demand that they take responsibility.

- 6. Climate Justice:** What does "climate justice" mean? What action do you think climate justice requires us to take?

To speak of climate justice I would have to know which person or which country that has violated the measures that have been adopted in the accords so that they can be subject to sanctions. But in reality there are no sanctions for countries that behave belligerently and don't respect the very measures they've signed. I am not totally comfortable speaking of climate justice, but I know that the principles they define, which re: The principle of prevention, the principle of polluters paying is a preventive measure which is the basis of climate justice. Many people believe that without sanctions it will be difficult to achieve true climate justice because with money polluters can work around everything, they can increase their profit margins just so they can pay for the damages they cause while they continue with the same activities that disrupt the planet.

- 7. Fear:** What do you fear most about the reality of climate change?

Kolektif Jistis Min, KJM; Submission from Global Justice Clinic

Concretely all effects of climate change are brutal. But the increase in violent hurricanes and the rising temperatures are some of the most harmful.

**8. Appropriate Responses:** If you were the director of a national program to mitigate and combat climate change in Haiti, what would you do? What would be your priorities?

I would strengthen the agroecological model of agriculture in the country, I would prohibit mega projects like: metal mining, agroindustry, I would increase the level of forestation, etc.

**9. Anything else:** Do you have any other comments you would like to send to the Special Rapporteur?

Take a particular look at Haiti because even though it is one of the most vulnerable countries on the continent in terms of the environment the government never does anything to improve the situation, they would rather open up the country to projects that will only make the problems worse.

Franndy Lesperance  
Peterson Derolusnan

Notes from Interviews with Kettly Alexandre and Gislaine St Fleur, Women's Movement, Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP)

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Interviews conducted June 1 and June 5, 2022

1. **Climate change:** Have you heard of climate change? What comes to mind when you hear that term? How do you understand it?

We are the victims of the disorder in the climate. When the rain comes it's too much, when it's dry it's too dry. It's an injustice. People don't understand the reality in the climate. They don't understand that human actions are the cause. So if there can be work that can be done it should be done -- to make people understand it's not their sin that is causing this -- it's not God's will.

I understand climate change to refer to all the changes from how the climate used to be. The way the rains used to be and the way the seasons have changed. Peasants used to know when it would rain, now everything is mixed up -- there isn't a clear wet and dry season. I see it from the perspective of peasants. They don't understand why things are changing, why they can't plant any more. People are having a hard time adapting to the changes in the climate. And I understand that it's people who have caused this, with CO2 emissions.

2. **Impacts:** What impact or consequences do you see?

- What are the most damaging impacts?
- How do your community or nearby communities understand climate change? Do people use that term? If not, how do they talk about the situation?

The people who are directly affected don't really refer to "climate change", though we (MPP) are starting to tell them about climate change. They think it's the result of sin, it's the will of God. We are trying to help them understand that's not the case. We are trying to help them understand that it's deforestation, it's industry that is the cause.

Among the impacts of climate change is drought. Peasants don't know what to plant in this dry weather. Their harvests are lower and going down, and that means their income is going down. Peasants can't live from what they are making from the land. Sources of water are also decreasing, there is less water, and peasants can't function without water. There are zones in Haiti that have almost become deserts.

A consequence is young people don't want to work the land. They become discouraged. They are selling land or leaving the land, buying motorbikes and becoming moto drivers. There is an exodus from the rural areas coming to Port-au-Prince. This is swelling the population of Port-au-Prince. Most people involved in violence and kidnapping in Port-au-Prince are the children of peasants (or former peasants). These are linked situations of social injustice.

Peasants are also going to the Dominican Republic. Haitians keep the D.R. economy going: in the construction industry and in the agricultural industry. And they live in semi-slavery in the D.R. Then the D.R. dumps agricultural products back into Haiti, which has a negative impact on the national production. This situation shows that it's not about not wanting to work the land, because peasants go to DR work in agriculture there.

Women who are single parents and are supporting 4-5 children are simply no longer able to survive. They have a tiny piece of land, and now there is a lot of drought and they can't make enough to survive. More women are needing to borrow money, informal loans with high rates of interest to buy food from the D.R. to resell. They don't have access to good credit for agriculture – they give up, they try to do a little commerce.

It is undermining the entire peasant way of life. They are losing traditions, there are shifts in social life. There are sources of water and trees that don't exist anymore that had spiritual significance. The drought has caused a lot of loss. A lot of land has been deforested due to peasants cutting down trees, but drought has also led to deforestation, and we have lost sacred sites for voodoo.

Meanwhile the state won't prioritize agriculture. There are so many challenges in the country and the government has no interest in solving them. Most of the national budget goes to the presidency and the functioning of state administration. Climate impacts are linked to the bad political situation. If there weren't grassroots organizations in Haiti the peasantry wouldn't exist anymore.

There are also more illnesses that we hadn't known in the past. People used to eat well and to live in a clean environment. Today there is more high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer. There hasn't been a study but we have seen anecdotal evidence of this.

Priests and pastors are exploiting the situation, saying these changes are the result of too much "sin" and God is angry. But reality is the sin is too much damaging activity. The land is alive, Mother Earth is alive, and when you attack her, she reacts.

### 3. **Fear:** What do you fear most about the reality of climate change?

My fear is that because climate change hits the most vulnerable, and that is peasants, I fear the peasant class will disappear. With floods, with land grabbing and everything else, that whole class may disappear. The young go to D.R., or they go into the *bidonville* slums in towns and contribute to insecurity. I'm scared our economy – our food – will entirely depend on other countries. We already depend so much. I'm scared that peasants will disappear and there will be an explosion of urbanization.

I am very scared. First, with the reality of climate change, you'll see peasants losing the way they used to eat. Different food means different sickness. Then we will see lots of floods occur, and we know that will lead to lots of loss of lives. Flooding will happen, without people knowing how to respond, with a completely irresponsible government who doesn't know how people live, doesn't respond. And my fear is that more and more young people will leave the country. They can't work the land anymore, people can't manage, get discouraged and they will leave country

And I worry for peasant women who are suffering so much. They are adapting themselves; they are resilience. But "resilience" after a certain moment isn't good. You can't adapt to all situations, it's not good.

And if there isn't something done at the global level, my fear is that the planet just says "enough". I fear we will hit a point of no return. I need polluters to understand. I need the world to actually take real measures to limit emissions.

The rich need to know too there's no other place to go, no other planet. But it's the poorest who suffer the most, who are the most exposed. My fear is Brazil, China, India, the US: that they don't act with consciousness that the planet is in danger. The earth is crying. That is my biggest fear.

4. **Climate change and race-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination:** The Special Rapporteur is interested on the impact of climate change on black communities. It is well documented that black people living all over the world are the ones suffering the most from the impact of climate change compared to other communities.
- How do you understand racial discrimination in this context? We are interested in your reflections at the country level - as Haiti is a black country, and it was the first black country in the world - and at the community level.
  - Do you see or experience other forms of discrimination against certain categories of people that affect how they are impacted by climate change? Please give details. For example: women, people with disabilities, peasants, working-class communities.

The industrialized countries who are polluting the planet, who have created the climate crisis, it's the ancient colonizing countries. France, the U.S. Many of the countries who are responsible have a colonizing past. And the countries who are suffering the most, are the former colonies. In Africa, in Indonesia. In Indonesia I believe they have to move the capital because of climate change. It's a form of colonization that is continuing from a climate perspective -- a climate colonization. Now a result will be climate migrants. There are many areas where people can't live anymore, they are forced to go to Europe because of climate injustice. And this creates more injustice, more inequality. The poorest, the colonies, suffer the most, and the ancient colonizers are the one that pollute.

Racial injustice and climate are linked. We [Haiti] are an afro-descendant country and a former colony. It's the same in Africa, its mostly people who are black who are the biggest victims. Climate change is related to racial injustice, to injustice to black people, to injustice to people who are the descendants of those who suffered from enslavement. If you look around those who are the descendants of slaves are the ones who are suffering the most from climate change. Haiti was the first black people who freed themselves from enslavement. And it's also the first peoples who had to pay for our independence. And we paid very heavily. The debt was as much as four times our annual gross domestic product and we had to borrow that money from France. That injustice, all that injustice, along with now climate change means that it's us, black people, who suffer the most. We who are the descendants of the enslaved suffer the most from climate change. And if I look in other countries too, for instance in Brazil or Ecuador: there too they took people from Africa to work in plantations and if you look today those are the people who are most affected by climate change – along with indigenous people for example in Brazil – because they are living in areas that are much more vulnerable. More vulnerable to flooding, to drought.

Even within Haiti, look at who is suffering – it's the people who are most marginalized, mostly people who are descendants of slaves. If we look at the bourgeois in Haiti its mostly *metisant*, and other cultures from the Middle East. It's mostly people who are whiter, who suffer the least. Because they are the ones who live in the best zones in Port-au-Prince, who have the economy in their hands. You look at the impact of flooding and hurricanes and it's on the poorest. You don't see a bourgeois affected by floods, its people in Cite Soleil. The poorest. It's a social injustice, and it's linked to other forms of social injustice. All the violence that has broken out, gang violence, is a consequence of that social injustice too. I'm not saying there isn't a black bourgeoisie – there is – but for a long time the bourgeoisie in Haiti was light skinned. And they have been very racist towards the rest of us who are descendants of enslaved people.

In Haiti, yes it's true that the government is made up of black people, of the descendants of enslaved people. But the government is essentially in service of a Haitian oligarchy more or less made up of people who are of Arab or Syrian origin. There is a discrimination in Haiti that's based on color of your skin – it's

not black and white people but those who are lighter skinned have the more advantages structurally in society and those who are darker suffer the most.

It's the same in Guatemala you see the difference between the way people who are indigenous and the people who are mixed are treated. Indigenous people are marginalized, I didn't see any indigenous people on TV in Guatemala. The impact of climate is hitting people who are Afro-Descendant within countries, I see it in Honduras too. They are the people who are the poorest and climate disorder is hitting the poorest.

5. **Efforts to fight against Climate Change:** Have you heard of global programs that are supporting efforts to reduce the effects of climate change in Haiti? If so, what kind of programs are they? Who leads them?

- Are you aware of global programs or efforts to address or mitigate the impact of climate change?
- Are local authorities in your area working on climate change, such as providing information about the phenomenon? Are there any efforts by the authorities in this regard?
- Are NGOs working in the area working on climate change?
- How do you view these efforts and programs?

I don't see local authorities either speaking or doing anything about climate change. It's only local organizations like MPP that are working to share what is happening, what consequences it will have, how do we adapt. Not NGOs, not local authorities. We are trying to see about seeds that can adapt to the dryer weather. Peasants need to know how to adapt themselves. But it should be a national program.

I think there is a national plan, but it's a plan on paper, I don't think it's a priority for the government. There aren't resources behind in, there isn't a broader policy framework. We need greater advocacy at the national level – the network working on agro-ecology nationally could be harnessed for this. Via Campesina is also engaging in advocacy internationally, the Special Rapporteur should speak with them.

The last COP was a failure. There wasn't a clear decision that really constrained the biggest polluters and said what they would have to do to reduce emissions. They see the danger in front of them, but big industrial countries don't have the will to change. They set a 1.5 degree target like that, but there is nothing formal that really constrains their actions. China has taken certain actions, but there are towns in China where you can't even see the sky because of pollution. I denounce carbon markets – its permission to polluters to pollute the world even more and just pay for their pollution without having to change anything. It's a commitment to industrialization at the expense of the health of the earth. The earth is showing us its ill, and the manifestation is climate change. People seem to think there is another planet, but we haven't discovered it yet.

6. **Climate Justice:** What does "climate justice" mean? What action do you think climate justice requires us to take?

For me, climate justice is about addressing what compensation will be given? What compensation will be given to our country that is suffering from the disorder in the climate, where we are experiencing so many impacts that we can't live, where peasants can't plan and don't have a home anymore. What justice will be given to these people?

The best justice would be for the polluters to stop and understand that the planet is in danger and that they need to save it. That economic growth needs to be linked to human development. This capitalist system is failing. We can't just look at profit at all costs, we need to look at human wellbeing. Climate justice needs to be about shifting to a concern with the wellbeing of people, rather than our dominant frame being about an economic growth that goes along with social injustice.

For me climate justice is about looking at changing the system that creates inequality, to put a system that is much more human and much more concerned with people as people into the world. We have to get away from economic growth at all costs and orient ourselves towards how people can live better in the world. That's what climate justice is to me. We only have one home, it's up to us to save us. We can't rely on a system that pursues development and economic growth at the cost of human wellbeing.

**Appropriate Responses:** If you were the director of a national program to mitigate and combat climate change in Haiti, what would you do? What would be your priorities?

- Awareness raising, with peasants, government, the whole population. Working with local authorities so that they can begin to take up their responsibilities.
- Teaching young people about climate change, their responsibilities as citizens.
- Establishing plant nurseries so people can plant, and an agricultural credit system. Reforestation.
- Creating a system for waste disposal and trying to get rid of plastics use.
- At the international level, working with others to push major polluters to really take on their responsibilities: we need a COP that is really about saving the planet.
- At the local, national and international level we have to join forces with other countries and networks to put pressure on the larger [polluting] countries. I would also want to work with Via Campesina to support international advocacy, and to ensure we save areas of the planet that are common goods for humanity. That is a dream.

## Sosyete Kiltirèl Jen Ayisyen (SOKIJA)

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1. **Climate change:** Have you heard of climate change? What comes to mind when you hear that term? How do you understand it?

In many spaces, I often hear the term climate change, even though the majority of people who use that term are those lucky enough to know how to read and write. Every time I hear the term, I feel fear because Haiti is one of the countries most threatened by the negative consequences of climate disaster. Worse still, I've come to understand that it's the actions of us humans that have disrupted the climate, and major industries in imperialist countries have caused the damage -- but it's people in impoverished countries that are hit worst by the consequences.

2. **Impacts:** What impact or consequences do you see?
  - What are the most damaging impacts?
  - How do your community or nearby communities understand climate change? Do people use that term? If not, how do they talk about the situation?

In the case of Haiti, several kinds of impacts are visible to everyone, like how many springs are dry, rivers are dry, and the planting seasons have changed, which has resulted in farmers losing a lot of crops and the environment becoming more vulnerable because many of the remaining trees are dying. Unfortunately, despite this situation, lots of people in the Haitian community don't understand what's happening. Especially in the most remote communities, many people understand climate change as an act of so-called God. Religious groups especially are using this approach to manipulate people.

3. **Climate change and race-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination:**

The Special Rapporteur is interested on the impact of climate change on black communities. It is well documented that black people living all over the world are the ones suffering the most from the impact of climate change compared to other communities.

- How do you understand racial discrimination in this context? We are interested in your reflections at the country level - as Haiti is a black country, and it was the first black country in the world - and at the community level.
- Do you see or experience other forms of discrimination against certain categories of people that affect how they are impacted by climate change? Please give details. For example: women, people with disabilities, peasants, working-class communities.

I think that even if we haven't yet directly observed discrimination as a result of climate change, it clearly affects people along the lines of existing discrimination. Even though I don't have enough specific information on this subject, I always hear how the climate situation affects people according to their skin color. It's not a secret to anybody that the majority of Black countries are very vulnerable because they are victims of looting by imperialist countries, and these [victimized countries] are the countries that are most threatened by climate disorder. Similarly, for farmers in Haiti, when the planting season isn't stable, they are most affected, same thing for women who are



the main people who use water in their families, they are most negatively affected by the reduction in water quantity.

- 4. Efforts to fight against Climate Change:** Have you heard of global programs that are supporting efforts to reduce the effects of climate change in Haiti? If so, what kind of programs are they? Who leads them?
- Are you aware of global programs or efforts to address or mitigate the impact of climate change?
  - Are local authorities in your area working on climate change, such as providing information about the phenomenon? Are there any efforts by the authorities in this regard?
  - Are NGOs working in the area working on climate change?
  - How do you view these efforts and programs?

I have followed some information from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I have also participated in some workshops where Haitian organizations such as PAPDA encourage people to think about this topic. I listen to some organizations that speak about climate change such as Gwoup aksyon frankofòn pou anviwònman (GAFE, Groupe d'action francophone pour l'environnement, or Francophone Advocacy Group for the Environment) and Mouvmen Nasyonal Sitwayen pou Klima (Mouvement national citoyen pour le climat, or National Citizens' Movement for the Climate). The Haitian government, through the Civil Protection authority, which is under the Ministry of the Interior, put in place a structure called COUPN on the national level, COUPD on the department (state) level, and COUPC at the commune (county) level. Nearly all these actors work only on thinking about and raising awareness but I am not yet aware of any concrete action that has been taken on climate change in Haiti. And I have noticed that these awareness-raising initiatives have an approach that aims only to change the behavior of the Haitian people.

- 5. Causes and Responsibilities:** We recognize that climate change is created by human beings; it is not a process of nature. Who do you think is responsible for the climate change crisis? That is to say, which economic actor, which countries, who do you believe is responsible for the harm we are experiencing today?
- How do you know this?
  - Do you believe others in your community are aware of the causes of climate change? It is important for the Haitian people to understand that they are not the ones who created this problem; even though you are suffering greatly from it.
  - Do you think it is important for the population to understand who is responsible? If yes, why? If no, why?

According to almost all the research reports that experts have done on the causes of climate disorder, the results show that gas has heating effects that destroy the natural infrastructure and makes the climate angry with us. When we consider that major capitalist industries, which are controlled by the elites and the imperialist countries, are the biggest producers of gas with this heating effect, we understand full well that big imperialist countries are responsible for climate disorder. Unfortunately, the exploited countries are most vulnerable to and most threatened by the consequences of climate disorder. In the case of Haiti, colonization and plundering have destroyed

nearly all the country's resources. Unfortunately, the majority of Haitian people don't pay attention to the causes of climate disorder, because there is a lot of manipulation by the media and the church. I think that if we want to truly want to respond to climate disorder, we have to ensure that victims fully understand all the specifics, which will facilitate their understanding and ability to think to make the best decisions possible.

**6. Climate Justice:** What does "climate justice" mean? What action do you think climate justice requires us to take?

Climate justice is a new concept that isn't yet clear. It's mostly people who know how to read and write that use it. I have spoken to some people who dare to ask in what court we are seeking justice for the climate. For me, climate justice should promote awareness among all actors, ensure that those responsible pay reparations for the damage they've done, and make decisions to prevent any actor from continuing to commit acts that worsen climate disorder. All actors should be involved in repairing the environment in all ways.

**7. Fear:** What do you fear most about the reality of climate change?

The greatest fear in the case of Haiti is the water crisis, which represents a disaster that can affect life in the country. And in the context of climate justice, we are afraid that the actors who are responding to the climate crisis might go through the Haitian government, which doesn't have any legitimacy, or else give money to NGOs like USAID who are experts in wasting money in the name of the Haitian people while the living conditions of the population get harder and harder.

**8. Appropriate Responses:** If you were the director of a national program to mitigate and combat climate change in Haiti, what would you do? What would be your priorities?

I think the priorities in the case of Haiti should be : Deciding to halt all big extractivist projects that impact the environment, especially those that impact water, like metal mining projects. Developing a communication plan that enables people to get good quality information about climate disorder. Developing an effective plan to repair the land, a kind of agrarian reform (reforestation, managing water resources).

**9. Anything else:** Do you have any other comments you would like to send to the Special Rapporteur?

My other comment concerns Haiti's governance. Haiti has been suffering from a crisis of governance, under the influence of the alliance of ambassadors from powerful countries (the Core Group) who meddle in deciding who is going to run the country. This situation has resulted in the country being governed by a group of illegal, illegitimate, immoral people who have been accused of crimes. The majority of the population have no faith in those in power, because they have shown no will to improve the living conditions of the population. The most important thing the Haitian people are waiting for is the freedom for Haitians themselves to decide who will run the country. A recent example that illustrates this waiting is the August 30 2021 Accord (Montana Accord). As long as the Haitian people don't have a government that possesses the will and the ability to orient public policy in the interest of the people, we can't hope to mitigate the consequences of climate disorder.