

Co-sponsored by

NHRIs COP26 SYMPOSIUM
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
IN BRIDGING THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP IN THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Detailed draft agenda

3-4-5 November | Online on Zoom

Interpretation in Spanish, French and Arabic will be available as well as International Sign Language.

Day 1 - Wed 3 November 2021 (13:00-16:30 CET)

13:00 -13:30	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shona Robison, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Scottish Government (video statement) • Jacqueline Kinghan, Commissioner, Scottish Human Rights Commission • Maria Gavouneli, GANHRI, President Greek National Commission for Human Rights
13:30 - 14:05	<p>Session 1: Introduction to the climate regime <i>In this session, delegates will learn basic notions about the climate regime and the climate negotiations, and civil society's engagement with it.</i></p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the climate negotiations?</i> • <i>How can civil society and organisations, like NHRIs, get involved in this process?</i> <p>Speaker: Annalisa Savaresi, Associate Professor, International Environmental Law, University of Eastern Finland and University of Stirling. Dr. Annalisa Savaresi is an expert in environmental law and on the interplay between human rights and environmental law, with 20 years' experience working with international and nongovernmental organizations.</p>
14:05 – 14:20	Q&A
14:20– 14:30	Break

14:30 – 15:05	<p>Session 2: Human Rights at the COP and climate negotiations</p> <p><i>In this session, delegates will learn how the matter of human rights have been addressed at COPs, and about current issues under negotiation that are most relevant from a human rights perspective.</i></p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are most salient human right questions under debate at COP? • How can human rights bodies, like NHRIs, get involved in these debates? <p>Speaker: Sebastien Duyck, Senior attorney, Climate & Energy Program, Centre of International Environmental Law.</p> <p>Sébastien is the campaign manager for CIEL’s human rights & climate change portfolio. His work focuses primarily on promoting the integration of human rights and public participation in climate governance and in strengthening accountability for climate harms.</p>
15:05 – 15:20	Q&A
15:20 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:00	<p>A human rights-based approach to climate change and the role of NHRIs</p> <p>Speaker: David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment and associate professor at the University of British Columbia.</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Discussion and Q&A

Day 2: Thursday 4 November 2021 (13:00-16:30 CET)

13:00 -13:05	Welcome and Introduction to the day - <i>Nina Panikova, ENNHRI</i>
13:05 - 13:35	<p>Session 3: Influencing Policy Breakout groups’ discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Room - Influencing climate change-related policymaking: approaches, challenges and needs <p>The German Institute for Human Rights will briefly present the approaches it has taken to influence policy making in the field of climate change and environmental matters, most recently in the lead-up to COP26. Participating NHRIs are invited to share their experiences and to discuss common challenges and their needs to engage more effectively in climate change-related policymaking.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promising approaches to influencing policymaking in the field of climate change/environmental matters. • Common challenges and how to address them. • Needs of NHRIs to influence policy-making more effectively. <p>Speaker: Nina Eschke, Senior Researcher / Policy Adviser, German Institute for Human Rights</p>

	<p>Nina Eschke is a Senior Researcher / Policy Adviser at the German Institute for Human Rights, with expertise in the field of climate change/environmental matters. Previously she worked for UNDP (Indonesia), the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) as well as for a number of research and non-governmental organisations. She holds university degrees in economics, politics and human rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Room A - Climate mitigation, energy transition and human rights: what can NHRIs do? <p>In this session, NHRIs will share their experiences working with Human rights in the context of energy transition and identify possible collaborative initiatives for NHRIs to engage in.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is your NHRI already involved in work on the energy transition? How do you use your different mandate areas?</i> • <i>What could NHRIs do to engage more on this topic? What the opportunities for further engagement? Who are the relevant actors and initiatives that NHRIs could engage with?</i> <p>Speakers: Elin Wrzoncki, Department director, Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights. James Mwenda, Kenya National Human Rights Commission. Tamar Gvaramadze, First Deputy, Public Defender of Georgia.</p>
13:35 – 14:00	Q&A
14:00 – 14:15	Break
14:15 – 14:45	<p>Session 4: Development of inter-NHRI inquiry panels for transboundary and extraterritorial human rights issues</p> <p>In the absence of international judicial mechanisms that could handle issues imbued with Extra-Territorial Obligations (ETOs) like climate change, as well as other issues within the field of business and human rights which have cross-border dimensions, it is worth developing a model which two or more NHRIs may utilize for joint investigation: an Inter-NHRI Inquiry Panel.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mandate and Jurisdictional issues of NHRIs</i> • <i>Which current human rights issues would benefit from having an inter-NHRI inquiry</i> • <i>Legal framework or rules of procedure for inter-NHRI inquiries.</i> <p>Speaker: Roberto Eugenio T. Cadiz, Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.</p> <p>He was appointed to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) in 2015, where he handles Business and Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, Crisis and Conflict, International Humanitarian Law, and Peace. Commissioner Cadiz chaired the CHRP’s Inquiry Panel which investigated the impact of climate change on human rights, in a global inquiry process with hearings conducted beyond the territory of the Philippines.</p>

14:45 – 15:15	<i>Discussion and Q&A</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>
15:30 – 16.00	<p>Session 5. Remedies – judicial mechanisms Breakout groups’ discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main room - The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Fulfilling the Accountability Gap in Climate Emergencies <p>The objective of the session is to raise awareness on problems that generated the integration of various files, which culminated in Recommendations to redress the violation of human rights, including mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What difficulties and/or challenges have NHRIs noted in integrating, where appropriate, the effects or impacts of climate change on the enjoyment and exercise of human rights into investigations into human rights violations?</i> • <i>What actions are recommended to States to identify the effects or impacts of climate change according to the circumstances of regions and population groups?</i> • <i>If so, what actions or practices have been implemented in your country in relation to climate change, its effects and the protection of populations at risk?</i> <p>Speaker: Jorge Manuel Hori Fojaco, Area Director of the Sixth Inspector General's Office, Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos México</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Room A - The role of NHRIs in climate litigation before national and international courts <p>The objective of this session is to share the experiences and challenges of NHRIs in engaging with climate litigation before national and international courts. In particular, the Norwegian NHRI will discuss the third-party interventions it has submitted before the Norwegian Supreme Court in the ‘Arctic Oil Case’ and the European Court of Human Rights in the ‘Klimasenioren’ case (together with ENNHRI).</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does your NHRI have the ability to intervene in court proceedings as a ‘friend of the court’ and are there cases before national courts concerning climate change and human rights?</i> • <i>How can NHRIs ensure that third-party interventions provide general comments which are relevant to the questions before the court, without commenting on the facts or merits of the case?</i> • <i>How can NHRIs incorporate both scientific and legal analysis in their human rights assessments of the impacts of climate change? Particularly where internal scientific or technical expertise on climate change may be lacking.</i> <p>Speaker: Jenny Sandvig, Chief Policy Director, Norwegian National Human Rights Institution.</p> <p>Jenny is a lawyer specialising in climate change and human rights and is responsible for the Norwegian NHRI’s work in this area, including the institution’s report on climate change and human rights, as well as its third-party interventions in climate cases before national and international courts.</p>

16:00-16:30	Discussion and Q&A
Day 3: Friday 5th November 2021 (13:00-16:30 CET)	
13:00 -13:05	Welcome and Introduction to the day – Ileana Bello, GANHRI
13:05 - 13:35	<p>Session 6: Facilitating NHRI Engagement on Climate Change Action: Consultation on the Practical Guidance Tool for Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>In this session, participants will be introduced to the draft Practical Guidance Tool and invited to provide feedback on its content and form. An overview of NHRIs needs and interests identified in the GANHRI questionnaire will also be provided.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there elements not present in the draft Tool that you would like to see added? • What format should the Tool take to make it accessible and user-friendly for your NHRI? • How important is it that the Tool be regularly updated to reflect new developments and acquired NHRI experience with climate action? <p>Speaker: Peter Splinter, GANHRI Senior Consultant. He is an independent human-rights consultant. He represented Amnesty International to the UN in Geneva from 2004 to 2016 and was Executive Secretary for the Independent Panel of Experts that examined WWF’s involvement in alleged human rights abuses.</p>
13:35 – 14:00	Q&A
14:00 – 14:15	Break
14:15 – 14:45	<p>Session 7: NHRIs work on climate change: an interactive exhibition on diverse NHRI Practices Breakout groups’ discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main room- Education and Climate Awareness Raising The National Human Rights Council of Morocco will feature the various issues, practices, and ways forward regarding education and awareness raising about climate change and its human rights implications. <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various roles of NHRIs within the 2030 agenda; • Engagement with various stakeholders, including the youth and civil society, human rights programming at the NHRI strategies and environmental rights at the heart of public policies. <p>Speaker: Amina Bouayach, Chairperson, National Human Rights Council of Morocco She is a human rights defender who has been working for international and national NGOs, especially as former president of the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights and former Secretary general of the International federation for Human Rights. She was Ambassador of Morocco to Sweden and the first woman to chair the NHRI of Morocco since its establishment in 1990.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Room A – Floods and Fires - Climate and Human Rights Cases

	<p>The session will present the experience of Croatian Ombudswoman in applying the HRBA to the real events of Floods (in 2014) and Wildfires (in 2017) that hit parts of Croatia. The aim is to show variety of topics related to climate change and their interconnectedness.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mechanisms of NHRIs in addressing HR implications of climate change.</i> • <i>Interconnectedness of the right to a healthy environment and the right to health, with environmental protection and climate change.</i> <p>Speaker: <i>Dijana Kesonja, Deputy Ombudswoman for Human Rights Protection of Croatia.</i></p> <p>She has been appointed as Deputy Ombudswoman on 15 July 2021.</p> <p>From 2014, she worked as the Ombudswoman’s advisor for legal affairs and strategic litigation specialized in combating discrimination and the protection of whistleblowers. She also worked as an attorney at law in her private practice for 11 years and has experience in human rights protection and environmental cases.</p> <p>• Virtual Room B - Youth, climate change and human rights</p> <p>This session will look at a project between the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and Queen’s University Belfast. MA Broadcast graduates participated in creating two animations based on youth, climate change and human rights. The animations allowed young people to highlight how climate change has impacted them and highlights the human impact of the environmental crisis.</p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of our human rights in Northern Ireland.</i> • <i>What can we do to address the human rights concerns of young people around the climate crisis?</i> • <i>How do we as NHRIs engage young people more on this issue?</i> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Claire Martin, Director of Communications, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.</i> • <i>Representatives from Queen’s University Belfast.</i>
14:45 – 15:15	<i>Discussion and Q&A</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>
15:30 – 16.00	<p>Closing Remarks - Climate Change and Human Rights: Future agenda and the role of NHRIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monica Iyer, Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</i> • <i>Sarah Rattray, Global Policy Specialist for Human Rights, United Nations Development Programme Crisis Bureau</i> • <i>Soo-Young Hwang, Legal officer, UN Environment Programme</i>
16:00-16:30	<i>Discussion and Q&A</i>