

NHRI COP28 SYMPOSIUM

Climate change and human rights: the role of National Human Rights Institutions

Tuesday 5 December, 09:00-17:00 GST

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Al Mamsha St - Jumeirah Beach Residence,
Dubai (Room location: Loulou'a Ballroom)
& Online on Zoom

AGENDA (GST time)

Interpretation in Arabic, French and Spanish will be provided.

#COP28 #NHRISymposium #UDHR75 #HumanRights

8:30 Interpretation setup

9:00 - 9:15 - Opening Session

- **Katharina Rose**, GANHRI Geneva Representative
- **Maqsoud Kruse**, Chairperson, National Human Rights Institution of the UAE
- **Soo-Young Hwang**, Legal Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (online)

9:15 -10:20 - Session 1: Empowering those most affected by Climate Change

Objective: To explore how climate change particularly impacts certain sections of society and ways to support these groups.

Panel moderator: **Camilla Pollera**, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Speakers:

- **Roseline Odede**, Chairperson, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights: *Impacts of climate change on individuals and communities, including women and girls, and the role of the NHRI in monitoring their situation and addressing their needs (7 mins)*
- **Justice Arun Mishra**, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission India: *Impacts of climate change on individuals and communities, including women and girls, and the role of the NHRI in monitoring their situation and addressing their needs (7 mins, online)*
- **Frank Cruz**, Human Rights National Commission of Honduras, *Climate Impacts on Indigenous Peoples and minority groups (7 mins)*
- **Lagafuaina Tavita**, Samoa Office of the Ombudsman *Sea level rise and displacement / engaging Youth (7 mins)*

Open discussion

10:20 – 11:25 - Session 2: Protecting Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs)

Objective: To consider the problems faced by environmental defenders and climate activists and strategies to protect them.

Panel moderator: *Michaela Ujházyová*, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, & Co-convenor of Climate Caucus

Speakers:

- **Michel Forst**, Aarhus Convention Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders: *The situation of environmental defenders, trends and challenges; mechanisms and strategies to ensure their protection; and the role of NHRIs (7 mins)*
- **Gabriella Bianchini**, Global Witness: *Monitoring the situation of environmental defenders including data collection and global initiative to strengthen protection of environmental defenders (7 mins)*
- **Undrakh Ulziisumiya**, Head of Division, Administration and Cooperation, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia: *Protection of human rights defenders in Mongolia - the role and experiences of the Mongolian Human Rights Commission (7 mins)*
- **Mutuso Dhlwayo**, Environmental Human Rights Defender, Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association: *Experiences from an environmental defenders perspective; expectations towards COP 28 (7 mins)*

Open discussion

11.25-11.40: Coffee Break & Group photo

11:40 - 12:45 - Session 3: Challenging Climate Change: Litigation and National Inquiries

Objectives: To explore trends in climate litigation and understand how it relates to the work of NHRIs. To discuss climate inquiries and litigation already undertaken by NHRIs.

Panel moderator: Mohamed El Hachimi, Director, Studies and Documentation, National Human Rights Council of Morocco

Speakers:

- **Renée Gift**, Legal Officer Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme *Findings of the [Global Climate Litigation](#)*

[report](#), global climate change litigation trends and issues, and the roles of NHRIs and other stakeholders (7 min)

- **Richard P. Palpal-latoc**, Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (online intervention): *The [National Inquiry on Climate Change of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines](#) and opportunities for NHRI cooperation to address the transboundary nature of climate change and business activities* (online, 7 min)
- **Adele Matheson Mestad**, Director, Norwegian Institute for Human Rights: *Third Party Interventions of NHRIs – experiences and opportunities* (7 min)

Open discussion

12:45 -14:15 Lunch break

14:15-15:20 - Session 4: Business and Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change

Objectives: To explore the connection between business activities, human rights and climate change, connecting this with the discussions at COP28 and ongoing NHRI work in this area.

Panelmoderator: Prabianto Mukti Wibowo, Commissioner of Mediation, Indonesia National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM)

Speakers:

- **Damilola Olawuyi**, Chair, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights: [Climate Change and the UN Guiding Principles](#) (online) (7 min)
- **Michael Windfuhr**, Member of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: *Monitoring the impact of climate change and business activities in the context of CESCR* (7 min, online)
- **Mrizak Mustapha**, Member of National Human Rights Council of Morocco
- **Rafael Ávila Macke**, People's defender of Paraguay, "Environmental Protection and Corporal Responsibility: Good practices from Paraguay" (7min)
- **Sebastian Smart**, Researcher at Anglia Ruskin University and consultant for , Chair of GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights, *NHRIs role in Business and Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change*. (7min)

Open discussion

15:20 – 15:35 Coffee Break

15:35-16:55 - Session 5: Climate and Human Rights: where do we go from here?

Objectives: To consider the roles of NHRIs relating to climate action, including implementation of the outcomes of COP28. To consider what tools are needed to support them in these roles.

Panel moderator: **Victor Idrissa Lansana**, Commissioner and Vice Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, co-convener of GANHRI Caucus on Human Rights and Climate Change.

Speakers:

- **Victor Idrissa Lansana**, Commissioner and Vice Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, co-convener of GANHRI Caucus on Human Rights and Climate Change. *Presentation of the GANHRI Climate Caucus and its 2024 workplan. (7min)*
- **Gita Parihar**, International Consultant for GANHRI, Outcomes of Global GANHRI Survey on NHRIs and Climate Change (online, 7 min)
- **Katharina Rose**, GANHRI Geneva representative, *Updates from GANHRI & Partnerships in support of NHRIs (7min)*
- **Michaela Uyhazyova**, co-convener of GANHRI Caucus on Human Rights and Climate Change, *COP 28 Follow-up by NHRIs & GANHRI Open Letter (7min)*

Open Debate (20 minutes)

- **Morse Flores**, OHCHR, Upcoming events and engagement opportunities for NHRIs (7min)
- **Nikky Reisch**, Director of Climate and Energy Program, Center for International Environmental Law, *Cooperation with CSOs & discussion (7min)*

Open Debate (15 minutes)

16:55 – 17:00 Closing Session

- Katharina Rose, GANHRI Geneva Representative

17:30 – 19:30 Reception hosted by GANHRI Chairperson Maryam Al Attiyah (NHRI Qatar): Networking opportunity with invited representatives of NGOs

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Al Mamsha St - Jumeirah Beach Residence, Dubai. Room: Loulou'a Ballroom