

## **OPEN-ENDED CONSULTATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Geneva, 22 October 2008, Palais des Nations, Room XII**

### **INFORMATION NOTE**

#### **Background**

In its resolution 7/23 - Human rights and climate change, the United Nations Human Rights Council expressed concern that climate change “poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has implications for the full enjoyment of human rights”. Moreover, the Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a detailed analytical study on the relationship between climate change and human rights in consultation with various stakeholders, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The study will be considered by the Council at its tenth session in March 2009 and, together with a summary of the debate held during that session, it will be made available to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for its consideration.

More information on the study and on submissions received from States, United Nations funds, agencies and programmes, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations are available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/climatechange/study.htm>

#### **Objectives**

The open-ended consultation meeting on 22 October 2008 forms part of the consultative process which is guiding the preparation of the OHCHR study. Participants will include representatives of States, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and business. The consultation is open and other organizations or individuals are welcome, subject to pre-registration (see further below).

Through the consultation, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights aims to further consult with and gather input on issues relevant to the study, including on:

- Assessments at national or regional level of the impact of climate change (experienced or anticipated) on human lives and on the enjoyment of human rights;
- Assessments of the human rights impact of projects and measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change;
- Views on the relationship between obligations arising out of international climate conventions and international human rights treaties, including on international assistance and cooperation.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will prepare an informal report on the proceedings of the consultation which will be made available on the OHCHR website after the consultation.

### **Format of the meeting**

The meeting will be divided into two main sessions. The morning session will explore the implications of climate change for human rights while the afternoon session will focus on different forms of vulnerability and efforts for their measurement in the context of climate change.

To facilitate discussions, panellists will make short presentations at the beginning of each session followed by an open discussion.

### **Working language**

The working language of the meeting is English. The report of the meeting will be prepared in English and circulated to participants.

### **Registration**

Participants are invited to complete the registration form and to send it to OHCHR (to the attention of Mr. Ulrik Halsteen): E-mail: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org); Fax: +41 22 917 90 08; Mail: UNOG-OHCHR, CH-1211 Geneva 10.

Registration prior to the session will ensure that a badge to access the Palais des Nations will be available from 8 am on 22 October 2008 at the Security Identification Section located at main entrance to the Palais des Nations, Gate Pregny (opposite the building of the International Committee of the Red Cross), Avenue de la Paix, 1211, Geneva. The accreditation office remains open from 8 am to 5 pm.