



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CONCERNING

COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

AND

THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
(OHCHR)

Emphasizing their mutual commitment to advancing universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms – civil, cultural, economic, political, social and the right to development – in accordance with relevant international standards and in conformity with the mandates and goals of the two Organizations,

Inspired by the commitments set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its central pledge to leave no one behind,

Reaffirming their resolve to developing closer synergies on matters of common interest through an effective cooperation framework and drawing on previous and ongoing joint activities and programmes,

Mindful of their responsibilities and priorities in the field of human rights as set out in their respective strategic and programming documents,

Noting UNEP's mandate to progressively develop environmental law, including pertinent human rights obligations, promote environmental rule of law, which takes a rights-based approach, across the UN system and beyond, and support the building of capacity of key stakeholders in the implementation of environmental law and the human rights obligations related to the environment; and OHCHR's mandate to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations, and other human rights laws, treaties and instruments including through prevention of human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the United Nations, and strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights.

Do hereby agree to the following:

1. UNEP and OHCHR will cooperate to further their shared goals and objectives related to human rights and the environment. The Parties undertake to cooperate through

complementary and/or joint programming efforts. Policies and priorities under this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MoU") may be jointly reviewed on an annual basis to allow the Parties to respond to newly emerging issues in the realm of human rights and the environment, sustainability, and governance.

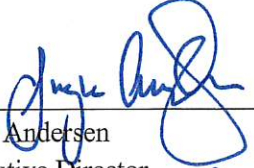
2. The following preliminary areas of cooperation reflect priorities or ongoing activities of UNEP and OHCHR in accordance with their respective mandates:
  - (a) Jointly identifying, promoting, and developing activities related to human rights and the environment;
  - (b) Conducting joint research and developing reports or other forms of publication in areas falling within, but not limited to, human rights and the environment;
  - (c) Knowledge management through enhanced collaboration on shared access to data and information as well as technical expertise, training materials, and good practices;
  - (d) Developing and strengthening international legal instruments, and national legislation regulations, policies and practices to promote a human rights-based approach to environmental matters;
  - (e) Support to and collaboration with relevant UN Special Procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment;
  - (f) Support to and collaboration with relevant human rights treaty-bodies;
  - (g) Organizing symposia, international meetings, conferences, or workshops;
  - (h) Resource mobilization, and the formulation of partnerships, including with actors from civil society and the private sector, for joint programmes;
  - (i) Supporting national governments to access UN expertise on human rights and the environment based on national development priorities and plans contributing to United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) outcomes and supporting complementary UN system programming;
  - (j) Protection of environmental human rights defenders through, *inter alia*, the development of advocacy or communication tools and resources, the convening of joint meetings for environmental human rights defenders, and the strengthening of networks of environmental human rights defenders;
  - (k) Promotion of access to information, participation in decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with Rio Principle 10 and relevant international norms and standards;

- (l) Exploring means and methods for joint outreach and communications, including via social media, joint communications, and e-communications;
  - (m) Sharing experience and developing common approaches, tools and training programmes, including for staff, to mainstream human rights and gender equality in policy formulation, as well as in programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including for relevant actors in humanitarian action, security, peace-building and peace-keeping operations; and
  - (n) Collaboration within the framework of UN interagency platforms and networks dealing with human rights and human rights-related issues.
3. UNEP and OHCHR will designate focal points for cooperation and convene a joint task force to periodically assess the implementation of the present MoU, set priorities, exchange views on key issues and emerging challenges, and discuss activities set out in future agreements specifying individual projects to be implemented jointly.
4. Representatives of UNEP and OHCHR shall be reciprocally invited to attend meetings organized by and/or under the auspices of the other. The fullest and most prompt exchange of relevant information and documents shall be maintained between the Parties.
5. UNEP and OHCHR will also explore cooperation in the areas of staffing in furtherance to the purpose of this MoU including the possible secondment of their respective staff. Such exchanges of personnel shall be governed by the Inter-Organization Agreement concerning Transfer, Secondment or Loan of Staff among the Organizations applying the UN Common System of Salaries and Allowances.
6. This MoU replaces and supersedes all previous agreements between the Parties concerning the subject matter of this MoU. It shall be subject to revision by mutual agreement.
7. The activities developed pursuant to the provisions of the present MoU shall be carried out in conformity with the applicable rules and regulations of the Parties.
8. The present MoU shall come into force upon the last day of signature of the approving officials and can be modified upon agreement by the Parties. Either Party may terminate the MoU upon six month prior written notice to the other Party.


Signed on 16 August 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, in two originals in English.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorised representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

For:  
United Nations Environment Programme

  
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Inger Andersen  
Executive Director  
Date: 16 Aug. 2019.

For:  
The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Date: 16/8/19.