**GNCHR Contribution to the Questionnaire with regard to the Climate Change and Cultural Rights**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please find attached the written contribution of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) on the Questionnaire concerning Climate Change and its impact on Cultural Rights.

We remain at your disposal should you require any further clarification or information.

Best regards,

The GNCHR Secretariat

**ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ (ΕΕΔΑ)**ΝΕΟΦΥΤΟΥ ΒΑΜΒΑ 6 (3ος όροφος), 106 74 ΑΘΗΝΑ
Τηλ: 210 7233 221 / 7233 216 - Φαξ: 210 7233 217, info@nchr.gr, [www.nchr.gr](http://www.nchr.gr) ***Η ΕΕΔΑ ιδρύθηκε με το N 2667/1998 ως συμβουλευτικό όργανο της Πολιτείας σε θέματα προστασίας Δικαιωμάτων του Ανθρώπου***


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***The GNCHR was founded by Law 2667/1998 as a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles***

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1. With regard to the cultural heritage, climate change, apart from the immediate threat to the tangible cultural heritage, can provoke severe irregularities in the operation of cultural institutions that might limit public access. In this context, the next generations might face more restrictions on cultural activities. Furthermore, the impact of extreme environmental events on the infrastructure of cultural sites might affect more severely the access of people with disabilities. Moreover, since the effects of climate change on monumental heritage are a new internationally confirmed risk, the competent Ministry (Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports) intended to establish a specific committee for the climate change impacts on cultural heritage. However, the body at hand has not been established yet.

2. Archaeological sites, monuments, and museums are mainly threatened by large scale extreme events such as floods, wildfires, and landslides. There are individual reports from archaeological services at central and/or regional level concerning specific cases but there is not a general risk assessment indicating priorities.

3. The geographic relief and extreme climate variability of Greece will cause strong localizations of climate change impacts. For example, areas in southern Greece, already facing water shortages, are threatened by desertification. Flatlands mainly in river estuaries are threatened by the sea level rise. Apart from the severe weather events, small climatic irregularities will also decrease cultural activities in heritage sites due to infrastructure capability (electric power plants and distribution facilities, water desalination facilities, etc).

4. There is no available information affiliated with the question at hand.

5. There is no available information affiliated with the question at hand.

6. There is no available information affiliated with the question at hand.

7. Exchanges between experts are limited in a small number of specific and local activities, mainly research projects. No intense discussion is initiated for the moment at national level, while relevant initiatives are not embraced by cultural authorities. Experts on cultural heritage conservation are for the moment not included in national policymaking, although their engagement with the aforementioned procedure is considered to be crucial due to their multilateral experience in the field.

8. The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (hereafter GNCHR) has recently started developing and promoting discussions with regard to the relationship between climate/environmental field and human rights. To that end, the GNCHR invited the independent private bodies working on environmental issues to participate in a conference concerning the right to the environment. In the context of that conference, important issues were highlighted such as, in particular the so far practice concerning the environmental policy, the challenges derived from climate change with regard to human rights, the national policymaking procedure, and the cooperation between the public bodies and the entities which work on the environment protection. The GNCHR being aware of the elaborate interaction between the climate change and human rights, and the immediate need for action, intends to scrutinize the field in question in order to both promote the right to environment and enhance awareness of the impacts of the climate change on human rights, including cultural rights and heritage.

9. There is no available information affiliated with the question at hand.

10. No specific regulations concerning the impact of climatic change on cultural heritage have been adopted so far.

11. Awareness campaigns are often though there are still very limited compared to the severity of the problem.

12. There is no available information affiliated with the question at hand.

13. There is no available information affiliated with the question at hand.

14. The impacts of climate change so far seem to be highly localized. Cultural mapping and respective parameterization would be a significant tool for policymaking, prioritizing, and planning.