From: Yousra Hemdan <yhemdan@law.gwu.edu>  
To: Sr Environment <srenvironment@ohchr.org>  
Date: 31/10/2015 16:32  
Subject: Re: Request for inputs for HRC report - deadline 30 October 2015

Dear  Prof. Knox,  
  
Hope this email finds you well.  
  
With reference to the below email, please find below my ideas for an effective implementation of human rights obligations relating to the environment:   
  
  
- Either to create a new international authority/UN department that monitors the implementation of obligations or to assign this monitoring responsibility to a current existing authority/department ("HREA)  
  
- One of HREA's tasks is to issue an annual index ranking countries on the basis of their respect to the human rights obligations relating to the environment (whether these obligations are created by a convention, treaty , or another means). Accordingly, countries listed at the end of the index are those of least respect to their obligations. The ranking of countries should be based on numerous factors among which the adopted policies, extent of policy enforcement, precaution measures undertaken, short-term strategy, extent of short-term strategy enforcement, long-term strategy, protection measures and tools for citizens living abroad ... etc. The index is to highlight the red-flag issues in each country that need more attention and prompt reformation. The aim from issuing this index is to disseminate information to the public.   
  
- In addition, this index could be used as a pressure means. The latter occurs through the following (i) issuing lists (to be steamed out from the index) ranking countries based on the region (ii) this list to be included in each country's foreign investment strategy (iii) priority of investment in a each region to be given to countries on the top of the list. Accordingly, there will be a direct relation between economic development and compliance with the human rights obligations relating to the environment and thus, encouraging countries to comply with their obligations in this context.    
  
- It is worth noting that the treaty/convention, to be concluded in this context, stipulate that its entrance into force will be upon signature to avoid countries to bypass its obligations under the convention/ treaty by signing it and not ratifying thereof. This is important because some countries resort to signing conventions/treaties as a show of in the international community then hinder its enforcement through not ratifying the convention/treaty.   
  
- Conducting social awareness campaigns about the nexus between human rights and the environment and to report on this to the competent authority/department as an obligation under the convention/treaty.  
  
- The creation of a fund for poor countries facing urgent problems with environment and human rights (like Somalia) for overcoming their problems.    
  
  
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification.  
  
Hope the above ideas are helpful.   
  
Best wishes,  
Yousra Hemdan (Ms.)   
  
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