

Program

CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE 15-16 JULY 2014 Hotel le Labrador, les Praz, FRANCE

Convened by the United Nations Independent Expert on human rights and the environment,
the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES),
and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Tuesday, 15 July 2014

12:00 - 12:30	Arrival at the venue and Check-In at Hotel "Le Labrador"
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Introduction and Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of participants • Objectives and overview of the programme <p>Felix Kirchmeier, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung John Knox, Independent Expert on human rights and the environment</p>
14:30 - 16:00	<p>SESSION 1: Internal obligations</p> <p>Moderator: John Knox</p> <p>Human rights law imposes duties on States relating to environmental harm felt within their own territory or jurisdiction. The obligations are procedural, such as providing for information, participation, and remedy, and substantive, such as protecting against severe threats to human rights, including from private actors. Questions to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do these duties apply to harm from climate change? • What other human rights duties, if any, apply to such harm? • How do questions of causation and uncertainty affect the application of these duties? • How can these duties be implemented in national law?
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00	<p>SESSION 2: Vulnerable groups and displacement</p> <p>Moderator: Melinda Ching-Simon</p> <p>In addition to a duty of non-discrimination in the application of environmental policy, human rights law imposes additional obligations with respect to the protection of those in vulnerable situations from environmental harm. The norms applying to indigenous peoples are particularly well developed. Certain groups are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Among other effects, climate change will result in widespread displacement, both internal and transboundary. Questions that will be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do human rights duties to protect groups in vulnerable situations apply to harm from climate change? • How does human rights law apply to displacement caused by environmental harm? • Are new human rights norms necessary to protect some vulnerable groups? If so, how should they be developed?
19:00	Dinner

Wednesday, 16 July 2014

	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<p>SESSION 3: Extraterritorial obligations</p> <p>Moderator: Yves Lador</p> <p>The issue of extraterritorial duties is a difficult one in international human rights law generally. It is of particular importance in climate change, for obvious reasons. This session will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are extraterritorial obligations under human rights treaties clear enough to provide guidance relating to climate change? • How does the general obligation of international cooperation apply? • How do the problems of causation and uncertainty apply here? How certain does a threatened harm have to be to give rise to obligations under human rights law?
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>SESSION 4: Response measures</p> <p>Moderator: Barbara Ruis</p> <p>Human rights obligations apply to measures taken to anticipate or to respond to harm from climate change, including (but not limited to) measures such as REDD+. Questions that will be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the previous discussion of internal and extraterritorial duties, as well as duties relating to groups in vulnerable situations, apply to response measures? • How are such duties implemented in this context? • What challenges prevent full implementation of such duties?
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30	<p>SESSION 5: The role of human rights in FCCC processes</p> <p>Moderator: Dan Magraw</p> <p>The FCCC is the principal international forum for negotiating and implementing measures to address climate change. Questions to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the FCCC system currently incorporating, or failing to incorporate, human rights norms? • How should the FCCC processes incorporate such norms? • What challenges are there to incorporation of human rights norms in the FCCC, and how can they be overcome?
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	<p>SESSION 6: Implementing a human rights approach to climate change at the international and regional levels</p> <p>Moderator: Olivier de Schutter</p> <p>Questions to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps can and should be taken to bring greater attention to climate change in international human rights bodies, including the treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as well as regional human rights tribunals? • How can a human rights approach to climate change be incorporated in regional human rights systems?
17:30 – 18:00	Closing remarks
18:15	Return to Geneva by bus