**Contribution by Hungary**

**to the Call for Input No. 1: Questionnaire on „** **Climate Change and Human Rights: a Safe Climate” put forward by Mr David Boyd, the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the**

**enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, in his letter to Permanent Missions to the UNOG dated 11 April 2019**

1. **Please provide examples of ways in which climate change is already having adverse impacts on the human rights of people within your State. Adversely affected rights could include, among others, the rights to life, health, water, adequate sanitation, food, culture, housing property, self-determination, non-discrimination, a healthy and sustainable environment and Indigenous rights.**

*Hungary respects human rights and has implemented guarantees in order to protect the right of all individuals regardless of their sex, race, age, belief or opinion and the principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in Hungarian legislation. The Fundamental Law of Hungary ensures and protects the rights of all individuals to physical and mental health and to healthy environment.*

*At present, the most noticeable threat generated by climate change in Hungary is the negative effects on health. With the increased number of summer heatwaves, the number of deaths and medical cases, cardiovascular illnesses have increased, and the most vulnerable groups are elderly, young infants or people suffering from different illnesses. However, Hungary is aware that with the exacerbation of the adverse effects of climate change, other challenges that impact basic human rights (e.g. loss of agricultural production) might also occur in the future. Hungary is working on tackling these issues inter alia through its Climate Change Action Plan.*

*Another serious impact of climate change that is becoming more and more imminent is the climate induced migration. Governments need to prepare strategies and measures to have an early response and to be able to properly prevent and handle migration.*

1. **Given that “urgent, effective and ambitious action” to ensure a safe climate is essential to protecting a wide range of human rights, what are the specific obligations of States and businesses in terms of addressing the main drivers of climate change (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, industrial agriculture)?**

*First, it is important to note that each and every member of the international community has the responsibility to adopt appropriate measures and ambitious goals in order to be able to fulfil the obligations laid down in the Paris Agreement and to successfully combat climate change. Abiding by international climate rules is the first step to ensure that climate change has a less severe effect on human life and thus, on human rights. For that, proper mitigation and adaptation measures have to be introduced, and a huge emphasis should be put on public awareness raising. Increasing carbon sinks, changing to green and innovative technology and applying sustainable agricultural practices and consumption habits are also inevitable.*

*States are responsible for determining the main policy pathways and strategies and to create the necessary legal environment, and, to provide incentives and support for climate action.*

*The fight against climate change, however, can only be successful if private actors and enterprises also take climate change and environmental protection high on their agenda, which can be incited by different market incentives, market drivers and by redefining CSR policies and creating a sustainable corporate vision, among others. Enterprises can also play a crucial role in spreading climate awareness through their activities and products. The market sector needs to take part in the transition to a low carbon economy.*

1. **Please provide examples of good practices in preventing, reducing or eliminating the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. Specific examples could include legislation, regulations, standards, policies, investments, and programmes in relation to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. These examples may occur at the international, national, sub-national or local level.**

*Hungary has introduced several measures in order to fulfil its climate commitments and to protect the rights of its citizens. Hereby, we introduce of few examples, without being exhaustive:*

* *Rights to health and a healthy environment guaranteed in the Fundamental Law of Hungary and other laws, together with other human rights and fundamental freedoms.*
* *Policies on electrification of transport and funding provided.*
* *Funding programs for different energy efficiency investments (e.g. structural refurbishment of houses, household appliance replacement, window and door replacement, funding for renewables)*
* *Providing affordable and secure energy to all citizens, while greening energy production.*
* *Innovation in public transportation (e.g.: introduction of smart passenger information systems; plans on greening urban public transport (electric and low emission buses among others).*
* *Development of cycling infrastructure and cycle route network.*
* *Recent adoption of congestion charges in the capital.*
* *Afforestation plans.*
* *Public awareness raising through programs, events, social media.*
* *Involving the public in policy making (e.g. public consultations, responding to questions of the public, consulting with relevant environmental organizations).*
* *Legislation in place, which ensures that 100% of income generated by emissions transfers have to be spent on further greening and energy efficiency.*
* *The preparation of National Climate Strategy examining also the social dimension of climate change*
* *Significant amount within the framework of international climate financing designated to support developing countries.*
* *Other, not climate related policy measures (protection of families, family policy).*

1. **If your State has set a deadline for eliminating coal-fired electricity generation end/or ending the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines, please provide details. If your State imposes a price on carbon emissions, please provide details.**

*At this stage, Hungary has no set deadline on coal phase-out or the end of sale of internal combustion engine vehicles. However, the issue of clean energy production and electrification of transport is under continuous discussion. Several policies have been introduced in order to increase the share of renewables in electricity production and Hungary is also planning to maintain its nuclear capacities to continuously ensure a large share of GHG free energy production. With regards to electrification, the Hungarian Government promotes the sale of electric and low emission vehicles through Government support, and also works on the installation of the infrastructure necessary for that. At the same time, there are proposals on how to discourage the purchase of technically outdated, high emitting vehicles. Hungary is also working on the electrification of urban transport buses.*

*With regards to price on carbon emissions, Hungary does not have its own national system for that, however, as an EU Member, it is part of the EU-ETS and the ESD/ESR market mechanisms.*

1. **Please provide evidence related to the implementation, enforcement and effectiveness of the measures identified in your responses to Questions #3 and 4. This could include information related to budgets (e.g. investments in renewable energy or revenues generated by carbon taxes), human resources (size of agencies responsible for environmental monitoring and enforcement) and measurable outcomes such as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, declining rates of deforestation, or increases in the area of reforested/numbers of trees planted.**

* *About 3.2 million EUR pledged for bilateral climate finance at the COP21, an additional 3,2 million EUR was transferred to the Green Climate Fund in 2016. Between 2019-2021 a guaranteed 1.9 million EUR/year allocated through bi- and multilateral channels.*
* *GIS Panel Sub-Program (2008); GIS Climate-Friendly Home Subprogram (2009); GIS Energy Efficient Household Appliance Exchange sub-Program (2010); Warmth of Home Program (since 2008); The results:**the modernisation of ~ 475 000 homes; annual CO2 saving up to 225 000 t; overall energy saving over 850 GWh.*
* Jedlik Ányos Electromobility Plan: As of 2018, 194 service stations were installed and the purchase of 1191 electric vehicles were supported with subsidies
* *Under the Green Economy Financing Scheme 129 705 households concerned, with expected energy savings of 123,3 GWh / year and the expected CO2 reduction of 5 487 923 t/ year*
* *Under the Green Investment Scheme 191 220 households concerned, with expected energy savings of 486,7 GWh / year and the expected CO2 reduction of 8 092 376 t/ year*
* Number of planned low-emission and electric buses is 6000 units in the coming years from which at least half should be electric.
* Hungary has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by around 42% in 2017 on the basis of the average of 1985-87 and by 31,9% on a 1990 basis without LULUCF sinks. The same number with LULUCF is 36% between 1990-2017.

1. **What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in responding to climate change, while simultaneously contributing to sustainable development in those low-income States?**

*There are different and also currently operational ways to assist low income countries, among which, we would like to highlight a few options that we consider to be the most potent tools:*

* *Climate financing (providing financial assistance for mitigation, adaptation, capacity building activities).*
* *Implementing projects to tackle climate change, bilateral co-operation.*
* *Technology and knowledge transfer.*
* *Providing training and guidance.*

1. **What are the main challenges or barriers that your government, business or organization has faced in attempting to address the impacts of climate change on human rights?**

*Hungary believes that the current human rights system is suitable to address present human rights challenges that might occur as a result of climate change. However, in the future, if other impacts can be observed, it might be necessary to adopt new regulation and protective measures.*

1. **What are ways in which additional protection is provided (or should be provided) for populations who may find themselves in circumstances in which they are particularly vulnerable to climate change (e.g. women, children, persons living in poverty, Indigenous peoples and members of traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic, racial or other minorities and displaced persons)? What are ways in which these populations can be empowered to act as agents of change in addressing climate change?**

*One key aspect to have a proper human rights framework in place, where all vulnerable groups are treated according to their needs. On the other hand, adaptation measures and other policy incentives that help to withstand the negative impacts of climate change are necessary. Empowerment can also be attained through different ways, based on the circumstances of the affected group. It could be through providing relevant rights and benefits, social policy measures, funding, education, training both, at local and national levels.*

1. **How do you ensure that the rights of individuals working on climate change (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government or business made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, harassment or reprisal?**

*Individuals working on climate change are free to exercise their rights as provided to them in the Fundamental Law of Hungary and other related laws on free speech and the right to freedom of assembly among others. There is no differentiation between organizations or persons based on different issues, hence there is no specific legislation only concerning environmental human rights defenders, but each and every citizen and organization is entitled to equal rights.*

1. **For businesses, what policies or practices are in place to ensure that your activities, products and services (extraction/sourcing, manufacturing, distribution, sale, and end-of life management) minimize climate change impacts and meet human rights standards, especially those articulated in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?**

*The Ministry for Innovation and Technology does not gather data on specific actions private corporations take in order to respond to challenges by climate change. However, there is certain legislation in place which sets standards or obligations on different activities (e.g. in relation to equipment containing fluorinated greenhouse gases specific requirements for quantities, training and certification).*