**Call for Inputs:**

**Climate Change and Human Rights: a Safe Climate**

There is now global agreement that human rights norms apply to the full spectrum of environmental issues, including climate change. The previous Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Mr. John Knox, developed [Framework Principles](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/FrameworkPrinciplesReport.aspx) on Human Rights and the Environment that set forth three sets of duties that engage both States and businesses: procedural obligations; substantive obligations; and obligations relating to those in vulnerable situations.

The current Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Mr. David Boyd, is working to provide additional clarity regarding the substantive obligations relating to a range of elements that are essential to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. His first report to the Human Rights Council addressed air pollution and associated obligations. He is now preparing a thematic report focusing on human rights obligations related to global climate change. For that purpose, he is seeking inputs on the topic from States and stakeholders through responses to the brief questionnaire below.

Your replies will inform the Special Rapporteur’s analysis and contribute to his report, which will be presented to the **General Assembly** in October 2019.

**Questionnaire**

The Special Rapporteur invites and welcomes your answers to the following questions:

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.

2. Given that “[urgent, effective and ambitious action](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/BurningDowntheHouse.aspx)” 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)?

3. 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. Examples could involve:

-research and monitoring;

-guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g. access to climate change information, public participation in decision-making about climate change, access to justice and remedies);

-eliminating subsidies for fossil fuel production and use; climate change legislation, regulations, standards, and policies;

-initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from specific sectors (e.g. electricity generation, industry, government, transportation, agriculture, waste management);

-laws, policies and programs to protect vulnerable populations from climate change;

-laws, policies, or programs to concurrently address climate change and air pollution (e.g. programs promoting clean fuels and stoves for cooking and heating); and

-effective enforcement of rules governing greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and industrial agriculture.

4. If your State has set a deadline for eliminating coal-fired electricity generation and/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.

5. 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 reforested/numbers of trees planted.

6. 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?

7. 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?

8. 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?

9. 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?

10. 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?

**Submission of responses**

We strongly encourage you to please send your responses to the questionnaire in Word format **by email** to [srenvironment@ohchr.org](mailto:srenvironment@ohchr.org).

Submissions will also be accepted via regular mail at the following address:

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment

Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development DivisionUNOG-OHCHRCH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

We kindly request that your submission be concise and limited to a maximum of 5 pages (or 2,500 words), not including appendices or attachments. Due to a limited capacity for translation, we also request that your inputs be submitted in English, French, or Spanish.

To avoid unnecessary duplication: if you have recently replied to other questionnaires from UN human rights mechanisms (or other international bodies) with information that would be relevant to this request as well, we welcome your directing us to those replies.

**The deadline for submission is 8 June, 2019.**

Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be made publicly availableand posted on the Special Rapporteur’s homepage at the OHCHR website.