

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment

Call for inputs: the environment and the rights of the child

In the fulfilment of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has clarified human rights obligations of States with regard to matters relating to the environment. There is a growing consensus about how human rights norms apply to environmental issues. The Special Rapporteur's assessment points out three sets of duties: procedural obligations; substantive obligations; and obligations relating to those in vulnerable situations.

The Special Rapporteur's next thematic report will focus on obligations relating to the rights of children. For that purpose, he is seeking inputs from stakeholders on the topic through submissions to the questionnaire below.

Your replies will inform the Special Rapporteur's analysis and feed into his observations, which will be reported to the Human Rights Council in March 2018. The report will also build upon the previous studies of the Special Rapporteur by placing the right of the child in the context of broader relationship between human rights obligations and the environment.

Questionnaire

The Special Rapporteur welcomes your answers to the following questions:

1. Please provide specific examples of legislation, policies and programmes in relation to the protection of children's rights from environmental harm.
2. Please provide specific examples of good practices in environmental-related matters in the fulfilment of obligations to protect and promote children's rights. Such examples may include practices related to: promoting the enjoyment of children's human rights in general (e.g., rights to life, food, housing, health, water and sanitation, cultural rights, etc.); guaranteeing procedural rights of children (e.g., rights to information, participation and access to remedy); protecting children's freedom of association and expression in this context; monitoring children's rights affected by environmental related legislation, programmes and projects (e.g., rights to life, food, housing, health, water and sanitation, cultural rights, etc.); protecting children from adverse impacts related to environmental degradation and, in particular, children of indigenous and other minority communities; promoting children's rights to environmental education and to play.
3. Please specify, where relevant, challenges your Government has experienced in the integration of children's rights protection in environmental-related matters (and vice-versa).
4. Please provide specific examples related to the regulation of corporations and other non-State actors in relation to the protection of children's rights from environmental harm and the fulfilment of their obligations in this regard.
5. Please specify, where relevant, any laws or policies referring to the rights of future generations in relation to environmental matters.

Submission of responses

Please send your responses to the questionnaire in Word format by email to srenvironment@ohchr.org.

We kindly request that your submission be concise and limited to a maximum of 3 pages (or 1,000 words).

Due to a limited capacity for translation, we also request that your inputs be submitted in English or French.

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 **15 September 2017**.

Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be *made publicly available* and posted on the Special Rapporteur's homepage at the OHCHR website.