



High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2019
Side Event on

Inclusive national policies in the face of climate change: towards a rights-based approach to the implementation of SDG 13.

**15 July 2019, 13h15 – 14h30
UNHQ Conference Room 5**

Organized by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, Franciscans International and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Fiji

Objective

The event's main objective is to highlight experiences for the effective integration of human rights into actions to combat climate change and to achieve sustainable development. Representatives from Governments, the United Nations and civil society will share experiences in developing, implementing and supporting inclusive national climate change policies.

Overview

Combating climate change and its impacts is imperative to achieve the goals and targets of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including for the protection of human rights, especially for those in vulnerable situations.

It is increasingly evident that not all people are affected by climate change in the same way. Some are more marginalized than others, live in areas that are prone to increased climate-related disasters, or have been forced to migrate, and may therefore have fewer resources to adapt, reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change. Empowerment, non-discrimination and meaningful participation in the design and implementation of climate policies is critical.

With SDG 13 (climate action), the global community affirmed its commitment to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. However, there is still a need to address the unequal distribution of the negative impacts of climate change and ensure sustainable development that leaves no one behind. It is essential that States apply long-term human rights-compliant solutions to successfully implement SDG 13 and other relevant climate commitments at all levels.



Context and rationale

Combatting inequalities, discrimination and marginalization takes on a particular significance and urgency in times of massive climate change risks.

General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/232 focuses on the importance of promoting the protection of the global climate for the well-being of present and future generations of humankind, and, throughout several contexts, other GA resolutions stress the importance of fully operationalizing the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC.

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva has recently issues multiple new mandates requesting input and guidance on ways to integrate human rights and SDGs. HRC resolution A/HRC/RES/37/13 requests the Secretary-General to continue to prepare an annual report on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights. HRC resolution A/HRC/RES/37/24 mandates the holding in Geneva of intersessional meetings for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda, and transmission of discussion summaries to the HLPF. HRC resolution A/HRC/38/4 focuses on women's rights in the context of climate change. The SG report A/HRC/40/29 affirms that tackling economic inequality alone is insufficient to reduce poverty, and that addressing social and environmental inequality is essential for poverty eradication.

This event will take place in the lead-up to two High level events in September 2019: the SDG Summit, that will track the progress made in the last four years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and the Climate Action Summit that aims to enhance ambitions to tackle climate change; as well as COP25 of the UNFCCC, to take place in December 2019 in Santiago de Chile.

Participation

This event is open to all States, civil society representatives and the general public.

PROGRAMME

Opening remarks

- H.E. Ambassador Luis Gallegos, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN

Moderator

- Sandra Epal-Ratjen, International Advocacy Director, Franciscans International

Keynote speakers

- Mr. Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (Video message).
- Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Mrs. Gabriela Zuquilanda, Director of International Relations, Municipality of Quito.
- Mr. Willy Missack, civil society representative from Vanuatu.

Open discussion