



THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE: AN INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGE



14 March 2022, 15:00-16:00 - VIRTUAL



Register [HERE](#)

Municipalities and communities around the world are at the frontline of humanity's battle against climate change. For them more than anyone else, the negative impact of climate change on human rights is not something to be discussed or anticipated, but rather a grim everyday reality. The event will bring together high level speakers working at national and international level, with mayors and local leaders of vulnerable and affected communities around the world. The discussion will aim to highlight local experiences and practices and formulate recommendations, also aiming to inform the work of the newly established UN Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of climate change.

Keynote speakers

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **Michelle Bachelet**

EU Special Representative for Human Rights **Eamon Gilmore**

Marshall Islands Climate Envoy **Tina Stege**

Followed by panel discussion with leaders from climate-affected communities



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



The Human Rights impact of climate change: an international and local challenge



March 14th 2022 at 3pm CET

An online high level event in the margins of HRC49

Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/3hYTXdz>

Background:

Communities and people around the world have already experienced the negative effects of climate change, and its impact on their human rights. In the last three years, frequent and uncontrollable wildfires have ravaged large areas in Australia, Russia, the United States and Canada. Severe flash floods have plagued the United Kingdom, Germany and parts of Africa. A rise in sea levels and massive hurricanes have combined to reap devastation on coastal communities and small island developing states. While some areas experience uncharacteristic and dangerous excesses of precipitation, others endure droughts leading to desertification. Climate change is truly an existential threat to the rights of present and future generations, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The world has committed to action. But are we doing enough, fast enough and the right way? At the 48th session of the Human Rights Council, States adopted resolutions recognizing that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right (48/13) and establishing the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of climate change (48/14) sending a clear signal that more needs to be done to support a human rights-based approach to climate action. Unfortunately for many people the impacts are already all too real. Their stories, and the momentum from HRC 48, can help inspire the action we need to better promote and protect human rights in the context of climate change. During this event, mayors and leaders from municipalities and communities that are suffering the negative impacts of climate change will share their experiences and recommendations.

Objective:

The discussion aims to put a human face on the climate catastrophe and to address the mitigation, adaptation, risk-reduction and resilience-enhancing measures that are needed to protect people and the planet. By focusing on the community level, the event will illustrate how climate change affects the basic building blocks of society on which all people depend. It will also reinforce the point that the effects of climate change are already impacting local communities' human rights throughout the world. An outcome document will be produced which will serve to explore how the event's conclusions and recommendations can inform the newly appointed special rapporteur on the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of climate change, including in engagement with relevant UNFCCC processes.

Programme:

Moderator: Anh Thu Duong, Co-Director Geneva Cities Hub

Keynote speeches:

Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

H.E. Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Tina Stege, Marshall Islands Climate Envoy

Panel discussion:

Mayor Yvonne Aki Sawyerr of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Mr. Chris Constantin, Former Assistant City Manager, Chico, USA

Mr. Anare Leweniqila, Deputy Permanent Representative of Fiji in Geneva

Mr. Johnson Cerda, Senior Director of DGM GEA at Conservation International

Followed by discussion and Q&A with interventions from the floor

