



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 February 2022

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-ninth session

28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Indian Council of Education, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[4 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Need of the Hour: Measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change

Today, due to human actions crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss is severely affecting many rights and have economic, social, cultural, and environmental consequences and have both direct and indirect negative implications, for the effective promotion and protection of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Drastic changes in the Earth's climate, and the ensuing adverse effects such as water scarcity is one of the serious concerns. Accessible fresh water represents less than 1 per cent of the Earth's water. "People depend on fresh water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, sanitation, growing food, fishing, generating energy, navigation, recreation and tourism. Safe, sufficient water and healthy aquatic ecosystems are essential for protecting health, achieving food security, and ending poverty. Balancing human needs for water with the health of aquatic ecosystems is one of the key challenges of the twenty-first century" (1)

Recalling article 2 of the Paris Agreement, which states that the Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty (2). With rights comes responsibilities, and similarly with several firm international laws that protect the basic human rights of the people across nations, there also comes the sense of responsibilities that nations of the world must practice these laws staunchly to move towards an egalitarian setup

Considering the impact of climate change, the unsustainable management and use of natural resources, the pollution of air, land and water, the unsound management of chemicals and waste, the resulting loss of biodiversity and the decline in services provided by ecosystems may interfere with the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and children are particularly at heightened risk of harm to their health, due to the immaturity of their body systems (3), and that, henceforth, these issues require a comprehensive, cross-sectoral, global and intersectional approach.

It is the need of the hour in recognising the measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to mitigate and adapt to its adverse impact, and the protection of the environment, contribute to human well-being and to the better enjoyment of human rights, as well as to sustainable development, and to raise awareness on the human rights affected by climate change, especially of persons living in developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change.

1. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/28> Point 4

2. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf Article 2

3. Stanley, F. & Farrant, B., 'Climate Change and Children's Health: A Commentary' (2015), 2, 412-423; <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/5/992?rss=1&cited-by=yes&legid=pediatrics%3Bpeds.2015-3232v1>