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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Partners For Transparency, 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.

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* 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.



The Negative Impact of Climate Change on the Human Rights Situation in Africa

Preamble

Since the 1980s, Africa has been suffering from the severe repercussions of climate change, which included high temperatures, severe droughts, and intermittent rains accompanied by floods. Unfortunately, disadvantaged and marginalized groups are always the most exposed and susceptible to climate hazards, thus impacting their full and effective enjoyment of human rights.

In this context, Partners for Transparency discusses the negative human rights impacts of extreme climatic phenomena on Africa, focusing on the conditions of vulnerable and marginalized groups, then it reviews the most prominent human rights repercussions and climate phenomena that hit the African continent recently, focusing on the right to housing, personal security and the right to life.

First: Climate change and its human rights repercussions in the Lake Chad region... Security of Person

Lake Chad was once considered one of Africa's largest lakes, and has been a source of economic livelihood for over 30 millions of people in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria over the past 5 centuries. But, over the past six decades, climate variability has dramatically depleted the lake's size and resources. Lake Chad has lost 90 percent of its water volume since the 1960s. The diminishing waters have also become uninhabitable for fish and other aquatic life, deteriorating the living conditions of the communities depending on the lake for their livelihood. The impact of climate change in the Lake Chad Basin, including warmer temperatures, drought, erratic rainfall, lower water levels, and degraded grasslands, has led to the emergence of two patterns of conflict and violence in the region. First, increased competition over scarce water resources; second, the increase in human migration.

In addition to the above, Boko Haram in West Africa is exploiting these tensions to increase its operations in communities throughout the Lake Chad Basin. In late 2017, more than seven million people were acutely suffering from food insecurity, due to attacks of Boko Haram. More than two million people were displaced by the intractable conflict that has plagued the region.

Boko Haram has taken advantage of the geography of the lake to seek refuge in its many islands. Attacks in Chad by the Nigerian jihadist group Boko Haram have killed hundreds, displaced more than 100,000 and damaged the regional economy of the Lake Chad Basin. Violence culminated in 2015 with suicide bombings in the capital and the lake area. Looting natural resources, including fisheries, livestock and food crops by extremist Boko Haram, has exacerbated climate-induced food insecurity in the region.

Second: Climate change and its human rights repercussions in the Horn of Africa... Compulsory migration

The people of the Horn of Africa have been forced to migrate due to climatic drought, food and water scarcity, inter-communal conflicts and other social, economic and political insecurity. For example, drought in Somalia led to mass migration to Ethiopia and Kenya. Daily arrivals of Somali migrants fleeing drought reached 2,000 in Ethiopia and 1,200 in Kenya in 2011.

In 2017, some 943,000 people have been internally displaced in Somalia, 423,914 people in Ethiopia and 39,256 people in Kenya. Moreover, erratic weather conditions in the region have increased cross-country movement in search of habitable land, food, pasture and water.

In the Horn of Africa, drought, especially in Somalia, have had an impact on individuals' access to their basic rights, the spread of climate change-induced migration and drought.

Every year, the number of migrants and displaced people increase due to drought across the country.

In 2021, more than 1 million people have been displaced by floods, conflict and drought in Somalia, which are the highest numbers recorded since 2016. More than 1.3 million Somalis were also displaced in 2020. Unfortunately, 112,000 were displaced in the first three months of 2021, 34% of whom were displaced due to drought. Drought is likely to be the driving factor behind the migration of many Somalis this year 2022 due to the poor monsoon rains, along with drought conditions spreading across the country against the backdrop of high levels of forced displacement.

Third: Climate change and its human rights repercussions in South Africa... The right to life

In South Africa, in April 2022, nearly 500 people lost their lives due to the floods that hit South Africa, and dozens of citizens were displaced from their original homes due to the effects of climate change, despite South Africa's contribution with a small percentage of global climate change.

In the past 40 years, South Africa has experienced more than one third of all weather-related disasters, affecting 177 million people and causing \$14 billion in damage, and even today the impacts of climate change continue to increase. Although South Africa has contributed little to human-caused climate change, it is one of the most affected regions in the world, and these impacts are felt most by the population, as the communities least prepared to respond to the effects of climate are the most exposed to them.

On 11-13 April 2022, severe floods and landslides caused by heavy rainfall affected southern and southeastern South Africa, particularly the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape. As a result of this, 443 people have died in KwaZulu-Natal, more than 40,000 gone missing, more than 40,000 people have been displaced, nearly 4,000 homes across the city of Durban and surrounding areas have been destroyed and over 8,000 others have been damaged.

Conclusion & Recommendations

In light of the foregoing, climate change crisis has negatively affected human rights in Africa, and the situation is getting worse in recent years, as environmental displacement rates are rising due to climate change in conjunction with a decrease in food security rates due to droughts and floods that strike Africa. In that context, Partners for Transparency presents a set of recommendations as follows:

First: Partners for Transparency stresses the need to ask the Chadian authorities to work out a medium and long-term plan for the development of the Lake District, together with development donors and in consultation with the local population, in order to combat the negative impacts on the population in the area and also to counter the losses caused by the Boko Haram group.

Second: Partners for Transparency calls on the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, to establish a special African mechanism aimed at monitoring and following up on the progress achieved and the obstacles faced by the governments of African countries, in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 13 on climate action.

Third: Technology is a key mean of reducing or slowing the growth and stabilizing the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions, the private sector and donors should support technological innovation and climate-friendly clean technology projects, which will help create or expand markets for green products and services, create jobs, and support growth economically, while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Fourth: We call on the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, in cooperation with African governments, to support

initiatives related to the mitigation of climate change and its impacts on humans, and to work to enhance the capacity of societies to deal effectively with climate change, not only through improving laws policies and mechanisms, but also by educating people about the effects of climate change, adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as its human rights implications, in line with the objectives of the Special Rapporteur.

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