



Virtual Briefing & Discussion

A UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change? Regional Perspectives

Conversation with representatives from Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and States

Thursday 28th January 2021, 15:00-16:30 CET/9:00-10:30 ET

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/PerspectivesUNSR-HRCC>

Interpretation will be provided in Spanish and French

Background:

In 2019, the Marshall Islands, on behalf of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), called upon the Human Rights Council to establish a mandate for a new UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change. Member States of the CVF and Pacific Island States have since echoed this demand, calling for the mandate to be instituted in 2021 to better protect the rights of those on the front line of climate impacts. These calls reiterate demands made by civil society organisations as early as 2010.

In autumn 2020, the Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA), the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Franciscans International (FI), Natural Justice, the Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change, (PISFCC), the Pan African Climate Justice, Alliance (PACJA), and the Vanuatu Climate Action Network (V-CAN), conducted regional web-based consultations with over 150 civil society and Indigenous Peoples experts across more than 50 countries with the support of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Geneva Office. The objective was to collect views on the idea of the Human Rights Council establishing a mandate for a new UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change. The report "A UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change? Regional Perspectives" aims to channel their perspectives in order to inform discussions on the issue.

This virtual briefing will provide an opportunity for States championing this proposal to present their rationale for the establishment of a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change and for Civil Society Organizations to share the expectations and perspectives of CSOs and IPOs that emerged during the regional consultations. The objective is to make sure that conversations on the establishment of this mandate are informed by civil society and indigenous peoples' priorities, and to

strengthen the consensus base among States on the added value of a new UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change.

Speakers:

- **Ambassador Md. Mustafizur Rahman**, Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, People's Republic of Bangladesh (TBC)
- **Ambassador Doreen de Brum**, Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- **Augustine Njamshi**, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- **Javier Dávalos González**, Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
- **Melissa Groenink**, Natural Justice
- **Kranti L.C.**, independent lawyer
- **George Koran**, Vanuatu Climate Action Network
- **Clémence Billard Schachter**, Franciscans International
- **Valeriane Bernard**, Geneva Interfaith Forum
- **Andrea Carmen**, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)

30 minutes will be devoted to Q&A.

For an overview of Special Rapporteurs' role and functions, please refer to the Background Note on the Establishment of a UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur (in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)).