

The Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”¹

We, the undersigned, note that climate change-related impacts have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, and recognize that while these implications affect individuals and communities around the world, the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population who are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability.

We also note that human rights obligations and commitments have the potential to inform and strengthen international and national policymaking in the area of climate change, promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes.

We recall that this relationship between climate change and human rights has been recognised by both the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² (UNFCCC) and by the Human Rights Council³ (HRC), and can be further strengthened.

As a diverse group of national governments engaged with both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the processes of the Human Rights Council, we work on behalf of our people in defence of a climate system that is safe for all humanity, and allows for the benefits of development to be reaped by all.

On the occasion of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action in February 2015, we, the undersigned, pledge to enable meaningful collaboration between our national representatives in these two processes to increase our understanding of how human rights obligations inform better climate action.

We will facilitate the exchange of expertise and best practice between our human rights and climate experts to build our collective capacity to deliver responses to climate change that

¹ Article 1, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

² decisions 1/CP.16 and 1/CMP.6

³ resolutions 7/23, 10/4, 18/22, and 26/27.

are good for people and the planet. To realise this we will strive to include human rights knowledge in our delegations to the UNFCCC and where applicable, climate change expertise in the HRC.

We cannot overlook the injustice faced by the poorest and most vulnerable people who are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. In a transition to a low carbon economy we want to ensure that no one is left behind. We will promote and respect human rights in our climate actions. We stand in solidarity with our people and future generations to take urgent action on climate change.

Signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday the 13th of February 2015.

Costa Rica – Chile – Guatemala – France – Ireland – Marshall Islands – Kiribati – Maldives – Micronesia – Mexico – Palau – Panama – Peru – Philippines – Samoa – Sweden – Uganda – Uruguay –