

**SUBMISSION TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE  
DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTION CALLING FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS IN THE 2015 CLIMATE AGREEMENT**

*7 February 2015*

**We, the undersigned organisations, call for language in the 2015 climate agreement stating that the Parties to the UNFCCC shall, in all climate change-related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all.**

Climate change is a global injustice to present and future generations, and one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. We are highly concerned about the grave harm that climate change is already causing, and will continue to cause, to people and communities as well as to the environment on which we all depend. It has a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable, and we are increasingly exceeding adaptation limits, resulting in significant loss and damage, as documented by the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This report also highlights that current emission reduction actions are insufficient to limit global warming to the 1.5 degrees needed to avoid the most catastrophic of predicted impacts.

A safe climate is critical to the full enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, adequate housing, and self-determination. However, it is well recognized—by the UN Human Rights Council and others—that climate change and certain actions being taken to address climate change interfere with the enjoyment of human rights protected under international law. For this reason, in 2010, the Parties to the UNFCCC agreed that “Parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights.” We regard this recognition of existing obligations as critical for a range of aspects, including with regard to safeguards and accountability for all climate actions, full and effective participation, and support for poorer countries whose capacities to protect their citizens’ human rights are strained by climate change impacts. However, we are concerned that this language has not been further operationalised in the UNFCCC process.

**With negotiations for the Paris agreement underway, NOW is the time to fully integrate rights protections in the climate regime.**

We welcome the reference to human rights, indigenous peoples rights and gender in the current version of the draft negotiating text annexed to the “Lima call for climate action”, which stresses that “all actions to address climate change and all the processes established under this agreement should ensure a gender-responsive approach, take into account environmental integrity / the protection of the integrity of Mother Earth, and respect human rights, the right to development and the rights of indigenous peoples.”

Yet we urge all Parties to include human rights in the *operational provisions* of the 2015 agreement. In doing so, we endorse the recommendations of 28 independent experts of the Human Rights Council, set forth in their “Open Letter from Special Procedures mandate-

holders of the Human Rights Council to the State Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,” dated 17 October:

**We urge the State Parties to the UNFCCC to recognise the adverse effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, and to adopt urgent and ambitious mitigation and adaptation measures to prevent further harm. We call on the State Parties to include language in the 2015 climate agreement that provides that the Parties shall, in all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all. And we urge the State Parties at COP 20 in Lima to launch a work program to ensure that human rights are integrated into all aspects of climate actions.**

These UN experts highlight the fact that climate change threatens to undermine the protection of human rights, and that the UNFCCC has a crucial role in effectively protecting human rights for all. We wholeheartedly agree.

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The following organizations have signed on to this letter calling for human rights to be integrated in the 2015 climate agreement:

350.org  
350.org Africa & Arab World  
Academics Stand Against Poverty  
Acción Ecológica  
Aclimatando  
ActionAid International  
Active Remedy Ltd  
Active Remedy Ltd  
Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment  
Aide et Action pour la Paix  
Al-Hakim Foundation  
Alaska Institute for Justice  
Alaska Native Science Commission  
Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD)  
All India Women's Conference  
American Jewish World Service  
Aotearoa New Zealand Human Rights Lawyers Association  
APRODEV  
ARUANA  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact  
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development  
Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)  
Asociacio Ambiente y Sociedad  
Asociación Ambientalista de Chiriquí  
Asociacion Ambientalista MAYU SUMAJ  
Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad

Asociación Catalana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ASCA)  
Asociación para la Justicia Ambiental  
Asociacion Raxcho'ch' Oxlaju Aj (Tierra Verde 13 Aj)  
Asociación Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ARCA)  
Ateneo School of Government  
BankTrack  
BERNARDINE ANSAH ASARE  
Beyond Copenhagen Collective  
Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha  
Both ENDS  
Bread for the World - Protestant Development Service  
Bureau d'Etudes Scientifiques et Techniques (B.E.S.T)  
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre  
CAN Europe  
CAN International  
Carbon Market Watch  
Carbone Guinée  
CARE International - Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network  
Caribbean Policy Development Centre  
Caritas Norway  
Cayman Institute  
CCFD-Terre Solidaire  
CEDDRE PERU  
Center for Environment  
Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North  
Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Rutgers University  
centre des ressource et de formation pour les femmes  
Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)  
Centre for Health Rights Advocacy (CfHRAD)  
Centre for Research and Advocacy Manipur  
Centre For Research Documentation and Publication Manipur  
Centro Alexander von Humboldt  
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental  
Centro de Planificación y Estudio Social  
Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental  
Centro Mesoamericano de Estudios sobre Tecnología Apropiaada  
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental  
Centro para la Sustentabilidad y los Riesgos Climaticos  
Change Partnership  
CIDSE  
Climate & Development Advice  
Climate & Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet)  
Climate Action Network - Latin America  
Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch  
Climate Emergency Institute  
Climate Justice Programme  
Climate Wise Women  
CliMates

Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement  
Collectif des Associations Féminines pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Consejo de Pueblos de Tezulutlán  
DanChurchAid  
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
Diverse Voices and Action for Equality  
Drowning Islands  
Earthjustice  
Earthlanka Youth Network  
EcoEquity  
Ecological Forum of Kazakhstan (network of environmental organizations and experts)  
Ecological Society of the Philippines  
Edmund Rice Centre Sydney  
Edmund Rice Centre/Pacific Calling Partnership  
Egyptian Centre for Economic & Social Rights  
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia  
European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO)  
Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)  
Fiji Women's Rights Movement  
Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente-FIMA Chile  
Fond des Femmes Congolaises  
Food & Water Watch  
Forest Peoples Programme  
Forests of the World  
Foundation for GAIA (GAIA)  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freshwater Action Network (FAN)  
Friends of the Earth International  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Friends World Committee for Consultation  
Fundación +Verde+Humano  
Fundación Alianza para un Mundo Verde  
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research  
FUNDEPS - Foundation for the Development of Sustainable Policies  
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives  
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice  
Germanwatch  
Global Education Motivator (GEM)  
Global Gender and Climate Alliance  
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
Global Network for Disaster Reduction  
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance  
Green Alliance  
Greenpeace International  
Gret - Professionals for Fair Development  
Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités (GERES)  
Gujarat Forum on CDM  
Habi Center for Environmental Rights

HEDA Resource Centre  
Heinrich Boell Foundation North America  
HELIO International  
Hivos  
HUMA  
Human Rights Advocates  
Human Rights Foundation Aotearoa New Zealand  
IBON International  
Iceland Nature Conservation Association (INCA)  
Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change  
Indigenous Educational Network of Turtle Island/IEN  
Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)  
Indigenous Peoples Links (PIPLinks)  
Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)  
Iniciativa Construyendo Puentes  
Institute for Planetary Synthesis  
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)  
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs  
International-Lawyers.Org (INTLawyers)  
Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA)  
ITDP  
Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD)  
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre  
LIFE e.V.  
Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise  
Love Thy Neighbour (LTN)  
Loyola Human Rights Advocacy Project  
MAISON DE L'ENFANT ET DE LA FEMME PYGMEES ()  
Maison des Mines du Kivu (MMKi)  
Maloca Internationale  
Many Strong Voices  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Maryknoll Sisters of Saint Dominic  
Mesa Nacional de Cambio Climático  
Minority Rights Group International  
Misereor  
Moravian College  
Movimiento 10 de Abril para Defensa del Río Tabasará (M10)  
Naga Women's Union (NWU)  
Nature and Youth Sweden  
NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE)  
Noa Sustentable  
NRDS, Bangladesh  
Oil Change International  
Oxfam  
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)  
Panay Rural Development Center, Inc.  
Paola Vasconi Reca

Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum  
Paryavaran Mitra (Janvikas)  
People's Movement on Climate Change  
Perspectives Monde Juste (PMJ)  
PhilNet  
Pivot Point  
Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)  
Plataforma Boliviana frente al Cambio Climático  
Polish Climate Coalition  
Population and Sustainable Development Alliance  
Public Advocacy Initiative on Rights & Values in India  
Quaker Earthcare Witness  
QUERCUS – National Association for Nature Conservation  
rainbow sunrise mapambazuko  
Rainforest Foundation Norway  
Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua (FANCA)  
Red Colombiana Para la Defensa de Los DH, el Medio Ambiente y La Paz  
Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)  
Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour l'Economie Verte en Afrique Centrale (ROSCEVAC)  
Reseau GATT-RN  
Rio+NOA  
Savera Swayamsevi Sangathan  
SEE Change Net  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team  
Social Justice Connection  
Sociedad Amigos del Viento  
Society for Sustainable Development Design  
Society of Development and Education for Small Households-SoDESH  
SONIA for a Just New World  
SOS Africa  
South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy  
Stand Up For Your Rights  
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)  
SustainUS: U.S. Youth for Sustainable Development  
SUSWATCH Latinamerica Network  
Taiwan Environmental Protection Union  
Taiwan Youth Climate Coalition  
The Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation  
The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice  
The Climate and Development Lab  
The Shalom Center  
The University of the South Pacific – Marshall Islands  
Tribal Environmental Policy Center  
Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (UEEF)  
UK Youth Climate Coalition  
UNESCO Etxea-UNESCO Centre Basque Country  
Union des Juristes Engages pour les Opprimés, la Paix et le Développement  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
VINCENT MARK ABEDI  
Water Initiatives Odisha & Combat Climate Change Network, India  
WaterLex International Secretariat  
Women Environmental Programme  
Women in Europe for a Common Future  
Women United Together Marshall Islands  
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network  
Women's Environment and Development Organization  
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)  
World Council of Churches  
WWF Canada  
WWF International  
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)  
Zeliangrong Boudi, Assam, Manipur & Nagaland (ZBAM&N)