



## *The Post-Paris agenda: bridging human rights, climate change and the environment*

### **Concept Note<sup>1</sup>**

*Dialogue on the sidelines of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
Marrakech*

**Date:**

*Thursday, 17 November 2016*

*From: 12:30h to 14:00h (TBC)*

*Blue Zone. Bab Ighli site (or the green zone)*

**Organizers:**

*Signatories of the Geneva Pledge*

**General Objective:**

*To present the Geneva Pledge to a wider community within the UNFCCC and to initiate a dialogue on how the Paris Accord Preamble can be linked to specific mechanisms and domestic actions within the UNFCCC framework.*

*Building on the post- Paris Agreement preamble<sup>2</sup>, Agenda 2030 and the Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights, climate change and environment respectively, we the signatories of the Geneva Pledge, come together at COP22 to identify opportunities to collaborate on both agendas at the international policy level and to promote concrete actions to further develop these links at the domestic level.*

*Kindly co-hosted by UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Geneva Pledge Country signatories, we hereby convey climate change and human rights experts, and other interested stakeholders to:*

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been enriched with the views and work of UNFCCC, OHCHR, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, among others

<sup>2</sup> The Paris Accord states that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights.

1. *present the progress made to date on identifying the linkages, policy options and best avenues to integrate human rights, climate change and the environment.*
2. *share, on a voluntary basis, examples of country-based practices where climate change is being tackled with a human rights perspective.*
3. *develop a mechanism within UNFCCC for knowledge sharing of 'climate right' practices developed by different actors, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. John Knox the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, the Mary Robinson Foundation, among others.*

**Context:**

*The international community has long recognized the importance of addressing climate change and of mainstreaming human rights through various UN processes. As stated, the Paris Accord acknowledges that climate changes is a common concern for humankind. The Accord states that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also seek to realize the human rights of all. The right to food, water, health, education as well as the civil and political rights, where opportunities are equal for all. Although the issues of climate change and human rights are closely linked, to date there has been a disconnect between the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and international human rights processes.*

*There are communities across the globe that are now rebuilding from the latest climate impacts, and/or fleeing away from related climate change disasters and other environmental hazards. Loss of land and the displacement that result from these conditions affect the enjoyment of human rights and put many of our SDGs completely out of reach. We have a moral mandate to strengthen the link between climate change and human rights, beginning with informing of this connection to a wider community of leaders, both from the private and public sectors, scientists and civil society in general.*

*It is our interest that policymakers develop policy that sustain both human rights and climate change tackling. For instance, policy for the sustainable management of forests and natural resources, also protects the rights of indigenous peoples. Climate smart agriculture and gender sensitive climate change programs, create more resilient communities. In this way, we help stabilize the atmospheric system by delivering benefits to people.*

*In this context, the Geneva Pledge provides a policy forum where interested parties collaborate to bring improved coherence between climate change and human rights processes under the UN system and to strengthen concrete actions at the national level. Furthermore, we believe in fostering a transformational shift where human rights, including the right to a healthy environment are guaranteed. Following the UNFCCC Executive Secretary suggestion on the context of the Geneva Dialogue on Human Rights and Climate (September 13, 2016), at the outskirts of the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, we aim at leveraging our vision and work through a wider network of constituencies, i.e. private sector, academia and civil society.*

**Format for the side-event:**

**Speakers:**

*Opening remarks: Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (to be confirmed)*

*High level speaker/ and moderator: Environment and Energy Minister from a Geneva Pledge country (Costa Rica)*

*High-level speaker: Minister from a Geneva Pledge country (Luxemburg)*

*High-level speaker: Minister from a Geneva Pledge country (Maldives)*

*High-level speaker: Minister from a Geneva Pledge country (Morocco)*

*Closing remarks: High level representative from the OHCHR (TBC)*

*First, Mrs. Patricia Espinosa will talk about the linkages between climate change and human rights from the climate change challenge perspective. She then will layout the foundation for a moderated discussion among high-level panelists that will ultimately underscore the need to better develop policies and actions that bridge the climate change and human rights perspectives.*

**Agenda:**

- 1. Presentation by master of ceremony*
- 2. Opening remarks*
- 3. Geneva Pledge representative*
- 4. Geneva Pledge representative*
- 5. Geneva Pledge representative*
- 6. Geneva Pledge representative*
- 7. OHCHR high level representative*
- 8. Q and A (moderator and audience)*

**Proposed list of invitees**

*This is an open side-event at the COP22 blue zone (or green zone). No previous registration is needed in order to attend.*