

CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Rights of Future Generations

The interlinked environmental crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution violate the rights of countless people every day and threaten the effective enjoyment of the human rights of future generations. A clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, a safe and stable climate, and a non-toxic environment, are rights in and of themselves. Without these rights, our own survival is at risk.

Those who have contributed the least to the climate emergency suffer the worst impacts. This raises questions of justice, peace and security and equity within and between nations and generations.

Environmental actions must be taken at all levels and by all actors, in particular state actors and the private sector. Many brave individuals and groups, including children and youth, and national, regional and global human rights bodies, have been the first line of defence against the triple planetary crises, pursuing environmental justice often against significant pushback and even in the face of the escalating violence.

The Call to Action recognizes that for environmental actions and sustainable development to achieve their objectives, they must be informed by human rights. With this understanding, the UN system is jointly working to promote and protect the right to a healthy environment for present and future generations, including through:

1. Support for States and other stakeholders in their successful efforts to secure **recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** by the [UN Human Rights Council](#) and the [UN General Assembly](#).
1. A **Joint Commitment** to promote the right of children, youth and future generations to a healthy environment and their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, endorsed by the heads of diverse UN entities.
2. Support for the development of practical **guidance for National Human Rights Institutions** (NHRIs) on addressing human rights and climate change, as well as the establishment of a Climate Caucus of NHRIs.
3. Establishment of a **UN Issue Management Group on human rights and the environment** by the UN Environment Management Group in order to facilitate interagency coordination and action.
4. Development of a **“UN Common Narrative” and operational guidance on the rights of present and future generations** to a healthy environment, including climate justice, to support the UN system to advance the Right to A healthy Environment.
5. Joint programming to promote rights-based environmental actions across the UN system and to enhance collaboration within the UN system.
6. **Development of a system-wide approach to protection of Environmental HRDs (EHRDs)**, to increase the UN’s capacity for protection and promotion of EHRDs at all levels.

