

CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Rights of Future Generations

The interlinked crises of climate change, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and pollution violate the rights of countless people every day and threaten the effective enjoyment of human rights of future generations. A healthy environment, in the form of healthy nature, including a safe and stable climate, is a human right in and of itself. It is the foundation for the enjoyment of a wide range of other human rights such as the rights to life, health, food, housing, water and sanitation, and self-determination. Without it, our very survival is at risk.

The rights of millions of people around the world are already affected by the climate crisis. Those who are most vulnerable and have contributed the least, suffer the worst impacts. This raises questions of justice, peace and security and equity within and between nations and generations.

Climate actions must be taken at all levels and by all actors. State actors from regulatory agencies, to parliaments and judiciaries all have roles and obligations to address climate change and protect human rights from environmental harm, such as the loss of nature and pollution. The private sector has a responsibility to contribute by respecting human rights, aligning their goals with the SDGs, shifting away from environmentally damaging activities, and urgently transitioning to carbon neutrality. Moreover, many brave individuals and groups, including children and youth, environmental human rights defenders, and indigenous groups, have been the first line of defence against the climate crisis pursuing climate justice even in the face of the escalating violence they are being subjected to around the world.

The Call to Action recognizes that for climate actions and sustainable development to achieve their objectives, they must be informed by human rights, including the rights of present and future generations to a healthy environment. With this understanding, the UN system has committed to take the following initial joint actions to advance the rights of future generations, especially climate action:

1. Develop a **“UN Common Narrative”** on the rights of present and future generations to a healthy environment.
2. Ensure **rights-based environmental actions** from within and across the UN system
3. Issue a **joint pledge** from heads of UN agencies to promote child and youth participation in decision-making at all levels.
 4. Develop a system-wide approach to **protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders**
 5. Enhance **partnership with National Human Rights Institutions**

