

Side event

Climate Change and Human Rights: The IPCC Synthesis Report

Human Rights Council, 52nd session

Tuesday 21 March, 12h00-13h00 CET | Palais des Nations, Room XXII

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is tasked with providing States with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. Since 2014, in the course of the 6th Assessment Cycle (AR6), it has produced 6 major reports the reports of its three Working Groups (*The Physical Science Basis; Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerabilities; and Mitigation of Climate Change*), and three Special Reports (*Global Warming of 1.5°C; Climate Change and Land; and The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*).

On 20 March 2023, the IPCC will present the AR6 Synthesis Report (SYR), following its 58th session in Interlaken (13-17 March 2023). The SYR will consist of the shorter Summary for Policy Makers - which is a politically agreed text - and a Longer Report, which summarizes the key findings of the six AR6 reports.

The Synthesis Report, amongst other things, will inform the 2023 Global Stocktake under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose outcome document will serve as a basis for States to review and update their climate commitments, in order to keep global average temperature increase below 1.5°C.

The content of the SYR has important implications for the protection of human rights, as it will inform States' measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. States have the obligation to take measures to address climate change that ensure an effective promotion, protection, and respect of human rights. Human Rights institutions have already highlighted multiple times that climate change is negatively affecting human rights (including the rights to life, health, food, water, housing, education, decent work, cultural rights, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment) and that measures to address it have the potential to further undermine fundamental rights.

This side event will assess the IPCC Synthesis Report through human rights lenses, in order to understand how its messages about the gravity of the climate crisis, and the urgency to take effective and rapid action to tackle it can promote rights-based climate action.

Agenda

- H.E. Doreen de Brum, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the UNOG
- TBD, IPCC Author
- Lili Fuhr, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Ben Schachter, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Jonas Kampus, Climate Strike Switzerland

Moderator: Yves Lador, Earthjustice

To join online: bit.ly/407ruGE

