



Human Rights Council, 56th session  
**Annual Panel Discussion on the Adverse Impact  
of Climate Change on Human Rights**  
**1 July 2024**

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and Earthjustice welcome the convening of this panel and thank the speakers for their insights on the matter of the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. Climate change poses an unprecedented threat to human rights, disproportionately affecting those who have been made vulnerable through historic marginalization.

Under international human rights law, those who have experienced human rights violations are entitled to access to effective remedies. Fundamental to this obligation are reparations to individuals and peoples, domestically and extraterritorially. While the right to remedy also applies in the context of climate harm, communities bearing the brunt of the climate crisis continue to be denied this right.

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are finally starting to address the human rights impacts of the climate crisis through the creation of a dedicated Loss and Damage Fund. Yet, we are witnessing both reluctance to fund it at scale and a preference for voluntary contributions, of which both have long been demonstrated to underdeliver when it comes to climate finance. It shall not be ignored how the largest cumulative emitters have long sought to evade and dilute their legal obligations to respect the right to remedy in the context of climate harm, including under the Climate Convention.

Discussions on the question of climate harm in the context of the Human Rights Council are timely and critical to inform ongoing discussions within the UNFCCC and beyond. Human rights standards are essential to ensure that responses to loss and damage are inclusive and effective, and therefore must inform the further operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. At the same time, in order to build concrete pathways for redress and reparations for climate harm, including in the context of non-economic loss and damage, foundational guidance can be found in existing international arrangements for compensation and other forms of redress.

We look forward to the advisory opinions being prepared by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice on States' obligations in the context of climate change, and the consequences of breaching those obligations, to provide clarification on the duty of States to provide climate reparations, and we call on States to explore all options to fulfill the right to remedy in the context of climate harm.

Thank you.