



Human Rights Council, 56th session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change

2 July 2024

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), and Earthjustice, members of the Geneva Climate Change Consultation Group (GeCCco), would like to congratulate Professor Elisa Morgera on her appointment as the new Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's mapping report, which provides a solid foundation for further work, by identifying the key findings by international human rights institutions across many climate-relevant dimensions. The focus on fossil fuels, and loss and damage, is particularly relevant, given the role that human rights institutions are playing in clarifying States' human rights obligations to tackle the root causes of climate change, as well as to provide remedy and redress for climate harm. Moreover, the concern expressed in the report regarding the compatibility of geoengineering and the use of carbon credits with the human rights obligations of States reinforces that climate solutions must be human rights-compliant and based on the best available science.

While the science is clear about the role of fossil fuels in driving the climate crisis, further work is needed by human rights institutions to highlight the human rights violations that occur across the fossil fuels' lifecycle, in order to inform States' political will to put in place a rapid, ambitious and human rights-based just transition. This entails rejecting ineffective or unproven technologies and carbon markets that further expand the fossil fuels industry and putting in place effective mechanisms for remedy and redress for economic and non-economic loss and damage. As the report importantly highlights, an intersectional approach is essential when addressing all these dimensions, in order to meaningfully integrate the needs and rights of all marginalized groups.

As a growing number of international human rights institutions are looking at climate change from their respective perspectives, the role of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change continues to be essential to ensure coherence and to identify normative gaps that need further attention and clarification.

Thank you.