

Human Rights and Climate Change  
Meeting in Room XXIV  
24 February 2013  
13:00-15:00

North South XXI, Brahma Kumaris, the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Franciscans can co-sponsor

H.E. Mr. Remy Pagani, Mayor of Geneva (speaking in French translated to English) welcomed this discussion on human rights and climate change and drew attention to Geneva's leading role as a city of human rights. He stressed that everyone is responsible for human rights.



H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, Minister of Environment and Energy and acting Minister of Gender, Human Rights and Family Life of the Maldives, described the vulnerabilities of the Maldives and the adverse effects of climate change. She stressed the need to take international action and that, "we cannot wait to take action." She emphasized CbDR (Common but differentiated responsibility) and equity and called for a special procedure saying "We need to urgently create a special procedure on human rights and climate change, we cannot wait."

**H.E. Amb. Angelica Narvarro Llanos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva for Bolivia drew attention to the increasingly deadly consequence of climate change and especially the economic consequences of climate change. She described the consequences in Bolivia, which made it one of the top 10 countries affected by disasters. She emphasized CbDR and equity and described the action by the Human Rights Council (HRC) on human rights and climate change. She asked, "Can the Human Rights Council do more?" and replied, "For Bolivia the answer is undoubtedly yes." She called for HRC action to ensure better collection of data on impact & awareness raising and promotion of international action in UNFCCC based on existing international law, including CbDR. IHRL(International Human Rights Law.) re-enforces commitments in UNFCCC ([\*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change\*](#))**

She also emphasized the duty to cooperate and the right to development and the necessity to promote rights-based alternatives in dealing with climate change (using a non-market based approach to forest protection as an alternative to REDD to illustrate action compatible with human rights).

Dr. Guillermo Keber, moderator, WCC programme officer on climate change emphasized the need to take climate action to protect the most vulnerable and that a broad coalition of NGOs support the HRC naming a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change to that end. He suggested setting up a petition that all could join.

Questions (Responses L=Llanos):

1. Alvero from Tupca Amaro made a comment linking (economic) development and economic crisis to climate change vulnerability.

L: Morales first letter was entitled 'let's save the earth from capitalism'. If we don't change the current financial and economic system we are only dealing with palliatives.

2. Genevieve Jourdan from the Association of World Citizens feels the need to understand climate changes from ground-up. She asked what action has been taken on water.

L: Emphasizes the importance of water as a right in itself and mentioned Bolivia's war on water. We must work from the people up. Community action is necessary. It can overcome inequalities.

3. Jan Lonn from ISMUN asked about having a mandate for a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change.

L: Supports Special Rapporteur human rights and climate change.

About +/- 75 present