



Human Rights Council, 48th session
Item 2 - General Debate on the High Commissioner's Oral Updates

Thank you, Chairperson/Madam President,

I deliver the statement on behalf of 16 organizations.¹

We welcome the Oral Updates of the High Commissioner delivered to the Human Rights Council on Monday, which provided a stark reminder of how the interlinked crises of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity amplify human rights threats and harms across the planet.²

For the Council to deliver on its mandate, it must address these issues head on now.

The members of the core group on human rights and the environment have consulted for over 18 months regarding the possibility of the Council to recognize the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. This right is protected in the legal order of more than three quarters of the UN Member States and by several regional human rights mechanisms.

We have been presented with robust evidence of the benefits that such a recognition will provide, as well as the increasing calls for the Council to proceed as a matter of urgency.

We are encouraged by Costa Rica's³ consideration of tabling a resolution on the global recognition of the right to a healthy environment at this session of the Council.

Echoing the appeal by over 1,100 civil society and Indigenous peoples organizations⁴ urging the Council to proceed with this recognition, we call upon all Members States to proactively support this initiative at this session.

The time is now.

¹ The statement is co-sponsored by: Amnesty International, Child Rights Connect, EarthJustice, FIAN International, Foundation for Gaia, Franciscans International, the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH), Plan International, Save the Children, Soka Gakkai International, Child Rights International Network (CRIN), Humanium.

² See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27443&LangID=E>

³ Costa Rica on behalf of the Core Group on human rights and the environment

⁴ See <https://healthyenvironmentisaright.org/>