

48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 2: General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

14 September 2021

Thank you Madam President,

I am speaking on behalf of the organizations listed at the end of our joint statement, available on the Council's Web Page.

We thank the High Commissioner for her constant engagement on the issue of climate change and human rights and we would like to bring the Council's attention on the report released last August 9 by the IPCC WG1 on the physical science basis, as the 1st part of the 6th Assessment Report.

It confirms that extreme changes have strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (A.3) and that a number of these changes are irreversible for centuries to millennia (B.2). The climate crisis is worsening and consequently, the negative impacts on the enjoyments of human rights will continue to increase.

Last June, at its 47th session, the Council adopted its annual resolution on human rights and climate change, including the operative paragraph 15 calling to pursue discussions towards the possible creation of a special procedure, which we welcome. But, Madam President, facing today's threats, the Council can no longer justify just exchanging views among Members and Observers, however interesting they may be.

Since the Council's Social Forum in 2010, civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations across the globe have been calling for the establishment of a special procedure to strengthen the protection of human rights in this aggravating climate crisis and to support appropriately the efforts of States and international organizations. Momentum has also increased with the calls made by the Climate Vulnerable Forum at the COP25 in 2019, followed by the recent CVF Dialogues in the Pacific, Africa and the Middle-East, as well as statements by a number of countries.

In this context, we welcome RMI' and SIDS's announcement of an event on September 15th, to discuss the potential creation of a Special Procedure. We urge Member of the Council and Observer States to engage constructively in this discussion and to move forward with the creation of the new mandate at this session. It is a matter of urgency.

Thank you for your attention.