



**58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3: General debate**  
**17 March 2025**

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Mr President,

Climate change is an existential challenge for developing countries that are highly vulnerable to climate impacts yet have scant resources to adapt and build resilience to runaway climate change.

Many of these countries are spending more on servicing debt than on life-saving public services and responding to the climate emergency. In other words, obligations to repay debt are preventing governments from meeting people's rights to health, education, and a clean environment. At the same time, following extreme climatic events, these countries are pushed to borrow more to support communities and to fund reconstruction, trapping them in a vicious cycle of indebtedness.

Further, developing countries are bleeding billions of dollars annually due to tax evasion and avoidance by multinational corporations and wealthy individuals – money that could have been invested in just transitions.

COP29 established a roadmap to deliver US1.3 trillion in climate finance to developing countries. This demands a holistic approach that breaks down the silos between climate finance, debt and tax policy and connects ambitious climate action with deep reform of the global financial architecture.

In this context, and in line with the Biblical Jubilee tradition, we call on the HRC to fully support the proposals of the **Independent Expert on the Effects of Foreign Debt** to **cancel unjust and unsustainable debt** without harmful austerity conditions and to **promote a fairer system of taxation**.

Further, we call upon the HRC to support a **transparent debt restructuring framework and a UN Debt Convention** to develop rules on settling debt crises in a fair and accountable manner.

We call upon the HRC to address the climate-debt-tax-human rights nexus as a moral imperative. The global financial system must deliver climate reparations for climate vulnerable communities and uphold human rights in a time of climate crisis.

Thank you.