



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Sixtieth session

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement submitted by Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status\***

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 August 2025]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## Human Rights and the Climate Crisis

The impacts of climate change on human rights are increasingly visible and concerning. We, as one of the NGOs based in China, are witnessing more frequent and severe weather events all over the world – such as devastating floods, prolonged droughts, dangerous heatwaves, and powerful storms. These events, which scientific evidence strongly links to human activities [1], are causing loss of life, destroying homes and livelihoods, and harming people's access to essential rights. The effects are felt most acutely by communities who have contributed least to the problem: people in Small Island Developing States facing rising sea levels [2], communities in the poorest countries dealing with failing crops, [3] and vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples, women, children, persons with disabilities, and those living in poverty. Their rights to life, health, safe water, enough food, adequate housing, and the ability to maintain their culture are under threat. Additionally, as highlighted by health authorities, climate change is worsening health problems, spreading diseases, and making air pollution worse – [4] all linked to the continued use of fossil fuels.

Despite growing awareness, current global efforts to address climate change fall significantly short of what is needed to protect human rights effectively. Recent assessments indicate that the current national climate plans, if fully carried out, would still lead to dangerous levels of global warming, far exceeding the safer limit that scientists recommend to avoid the worst human rights impacts. A critical gap [5] exists in providing sufficient support, especially financial resources, to help vulnerable communities adapt to unavoidable changes and recover from climate-related losses. Estimates suggest that developing countries need many times more funding than they currently receive to adapt effectively to climate impacts. While the long-promised goal in climate finance from developed countries may finally be close to being met, it is still far below the actual needs. The recent agreement to establish a fund to address unavoidable losses and damages is an important step, but ensuring this fund becomes operational, receives adequate contributions, and truly reaches affected communities facing permanent harm remains a major challenge. Efforts to shift towards cleaner energy sources must also carefully consider the needs and rights of workers and communities currently reliant on fossil fuel industries.

In light of these concerns, we, Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations respectfully advise relevant departments and units to:

**Strengthen Efforts to Reduce Emissions:** Call on all countries, especially the largest contributors to greenhouse gases, to significantly improve their national climate plans with clear targets and timelines for reducing emissions rapidly and fairly, in line with the goal of limiting warming. This includes concrete steps to move away from fossil fuels.

**Increase and Improve Climate Finance:** Ask developed countries to not only deliver on commitment but to increase their support substantially, particularly for adaptation and addressing losses and damages. This finance should be easier to access, more predictable, and provided as grants where possible. Work towards making international financial systems better able to support vulnerable nations. Ensure that all climate funding respects human rights principles and prioritizes reaching those most at risk.

**Integrate Human Rights into Climate Actions:** Encourage governments to consistently consider how climate policies (like national climate plans and adaptation strategies) affect human rights throughout their design, implementation, and review. Actively involve affected communities, including indigenous peoples, in these decisions.

**Focus Support on Vulnerable Populations:** Enhance international cooperation, sharing of knowledge and technology, and building local capacity, specifically targeting the unique challenges faced by Small Island States, Least Developed Countries, and other highly vulnerable groups to help them cope with climate impacts.

**Improve Information Sharing and Participation:** Support stronger mechanisms so that people have access to clear information about climate risks and can meaningfully participate in decisions that affect them, including ways to seek accountability for climate harm.

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Summary for Policymakers, 2021, p. SPM-5, Fig. SPM.1.
2. IPCC, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Summary for Policymakers, 2022, p. 9, Section B.2.3.
3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), \*Human Development Report 2021-2022\*, 2022, p. 57.
4. World Health Organization (WHO), Climate Change and Health Fact Sheet, October 2021.
5. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Emissions Gap Report 2023: Executive Summary, 2023, p. xvi.