

# Environmental Human Rights in Germany

## Universal Periodic Review

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**ClientEarth**<sup>Ⓢ</sup>

# Issue I: Climate Change and the Environment

## Previous recommendations

- Received 2 recommendations and supported both:
- Senegal: *“Continue to better explore renewable sources (...) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions”*
- Viet Nam: *“Continue to strengthen international cooperation in addressing climate change and its impacts for the promotion and protection of human rights”*

## New developments

- June 2022: German Advisory Council on the Environment calculated that reduction targets under national framework would lead to CO<sub>2</sub> budget required to stay within the 1.5°C being exceeded in the next 1 to 5 years
- June 2023: according to government’s own calculations, Germany will miss its emissions reduction target for 2030 by at least 20% (= more than 200 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)
- Now: weakening of existing, already insufficient legislation

# Issue I: Climate Change and the Environment

We recommend that the German government:

- Take effective measures and adopt human rights compliant climate legislation to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions in line with the 1.5°C warming limit

# Issue II: Business and Human Rights

## Previous recommendations

- Received 9 recommendations on business and human rights; supported 6 and noted 3

## New developments

- German Supply Chain Act entered into force in January 2023
- Does not provide effective access to remedies for victims
- Relevant authority understaffed: less than 100 employees for over 5.000 companies; not every company is audited
- Does not explicitly address the impacts of climate change and deforestation on human rights
- Germany voted in favor of the recognition of the right to a healthy environment

# Issue II: Business and Human Rights

We recommend that the German government:

- Ensure that relevant authority has enough resources to implement and monitor the new Supply Chain Act
- Ensure that the human rights impacts of climate change and deforestation are considered through inclusion of the right to a healthy environment on the list of protected rights
- Actively engage in the development of further business and human rights frameworks

# Issue III: Human Rights and the Agricultural Sector

- In 2023, 13.4% of Germany's total emissions were produced by the meat and dairy sector
- Agricultural sector is closely associated with the use of harmful agrochemicals, including pesticides
- In 2021, Germany still had 39 pesticides in use, considered particularly harmful to health and environment
- Limited access to information
- Overuse of pesticides violates a number of protected human rights

# Issue III: Human Rights and the Agricultural Sector

We recommend that the German government:

- Reduce the impact of the agricultural sector on biodiversity, environment and human health
- Ensuring proper implementation of existing policy and legislation
- Ensuring that progressive and human rights-compliant legislation is achieved at the regional and international level

# Thank you

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