

Universal Periodic Review  
South Africa  
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UN Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change & Human Rights



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OCEANIA (Oceania Center for Ecology Advocacy Nonviolence Independence and Autonomy ) Human Rights is a regional movement connected by the currents of Moana Nui (Pacific Ocean) uniting the communities and cultures to coordinate together for a culture of peace and human rights among the island civilizations. OCEANIA Human Rights campaigns for genuine recognition of dignified existence of all peoples of Oceania and preservation of the natural environment for future generations through a human rights framework for freedom.

OCEANIA Human Rights cares deeply about human rights of all peoples on the planet as well as our mother earth. OCEANIA Human Rights has been pioneer in climate change and human rights raising the issue for a study at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, delivering interventions at the UN Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and presenting research at UN OHCHR Expert Workshops to create UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures.

OCEANIA Human Rights has also been active at the negotiations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties and the UN Sustainable Development Goals process, including the High Level Political Forum. OCEANIA Human Rights is committed to ensure a human rights framework leads both efforts for equality and equity on earth.

Regarding South Africa, the state of our planet is crucial for every country and our global civilization. The environment is a human right. Increasingly the intersectionality of climate change and human rights is an important framework to promote rights and protect our planet. The new Global Goals offers an additional angle for realizing rights beyond silos toward solidarity among all life forms combining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for people, prosperity and planet.

Issue: Climate Change is impacting the Peoples of Big Ocean Nations. Human rights is a necessary lens to protect the peoples facing an existential threat due to climate change. The Paris Agreement is a positive step toward planetary survival and peoples rights being respected. The Sustainable Development Goals is also significant process to assist Pacific Islands Peoples to realize full rights.

Questions:

Will your government reach the national level to achieve global 1.5? Please share greatest challenges to implement the Paris Agreement at the national level?

At upcoming United Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, will your state align with the High Ambition Coalition?

How will your state assist Pacific Islands coping with climate change regarding adaptation and mitigation measures?

Will your state support improving the UN High Level Political Forum to adopt a longer and interactive format like the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review?

Does your state support the creation of a UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights?

Recommendations:

When reporting for the 3rd Cycle of the UPR, your nation should report on how it is doing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals linking it with economic, social, cultural, civil, political and ecological rights recognized in international human rights.

Please provide specific reforms that can improve possibility to realize human rights in the Paris Agreement and the SDG HLPF.

Support reforms of the UN High Level Political Forum including moving the Ministerial Segment to the beginning of the annual program with more time provided beyond the current under 30 minutes per country closer to the UPR time period. Also encourage a 4-year cycle with an advanced schedule similar to the UPR cycle calendar.

Provide steps your state will take to support climate change and human rights initiatives at the UN Human Rights Council and other UN bodies such as the UN General Assembly Third Committee as well as the UN Security Council.

Conclusion:

OCEANIA Human Rights comprehends the connections between climate change and human rights as a powerful tool to protect our nature and our nations.

OCEANIA Human Rights navigates the seas of social justice, sustainability and human security to create a regional human rights movement to continue our cultural practices of sharing indigenous wisdom to assure promotion and protection of the peoples of the Pacific in International Public Law.

OCEANIA Human Rights fosters communication based on consensus to express the unique and universal message of the peoples of the Pacific for justice. OCEANIA Human Rights is dedicated to the right of self-determination for all peoples in the Pacific and the planet.