



OHCHR submission on the elements for the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake

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OHCHR welcomes the opportunity to share further views on the elements for the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake. OHCHR has actively contributed to and participated in the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake, emphasizing the importance of integrating human rights in the process of the stocktake and in its outcome. The views shared here reflect and should be considered in addition to OHCHR's previous contributions, including OHCHR's [submission of March 2022](#) and [submission of February 2023](#) to the global stocktake, as well as its active participation in World Cafes, roundtables and other activities organized in the context of its technical dialogue.

As the global stocktake proceeds further to consider outputs, OHCHR urges that the process continue to be participatory and inclusive, draw upon equity and the best available science, and reflect States' human rights obligations. All people have a right to benefit from science and its applications. They have a right to participation. And they have a right to access information so that their participation can be meaningful and effective. Public participation and access to information in environmental matters are critical for effective climate action, the fulfilment of other human rights and to achieve sustainable development. The global stocktake must meaningfully reflect these and all other human rights in its process and its outcome.

The General Assembly in its resolution 76/300 of July 2022 recognized that a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right and affirmed that the promotion of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment requires the full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements under the principles of international environmental law. Further, as affirmed by the IPCC in its [Summary for Policymakers](#) of the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), “[a]daptation and mitigation actions that prioritise equity, social justice, climate justice, rights-based approaches, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development”, while “[r]edistributive policies across sectors and regions that shield the poor and vulnerable, social safety nets, equity, inclusion and just transitions, at all scales can enable deeper societal ambitions and resolve trade-offs with sustainable development goals” (at C.5.2).

The Human Rights Council has mandated numerous reports on climate change over the past years, most recently on climate change and its impacts on the enjoyment of the right to food, human rights and new technologies for climate protection, and the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council and human rights treaty bodies have also consistently engaged with issues related to human rights and climate change. This body of work documents not only the human impacts of climate change but also the tremendous resilience of rights-holders, many of whom are already experiencing the catastrophic impacts of climate change. In its most recent resolution on human rights and climate change ([A/HRC/RES/53/6](#)), the Council emphasized that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights.

OHCHR urges the global stocktake to take stock of efforts to empower people and to also be a tool for their empowerment. It is critical that the outputs of the global stocktake are evidence-based and grounded in human rights. Climate change mitigation is a human rights imperative. Each incremental increase in temperature carries a terrible toll in human suffering. The Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree Celsius target is at serious risk of slipping away, and ultimately it is people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, who will be most impacted if we do not increase climate ambition now.

The global stocktake must be the ambition driver for the next cycle of Nationally Determined Contributions, drawing upon equity and the best available science, and reflecting States' human rights obligations. It needs to reflect the human impact of climate change, build on the findings of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report noting that rights-based, participatory approaches lead to more effective and sustainable climate outcomes, and avoid relying on false or unproven solutions.

To achieve this, the outputs of the first global stocktake should include, inter alia:

- A clear call for the equitable phase out of all fossil fuels in line with a sustainable, evidence-based pathway to limit global heating to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- A commitment to rights-based climate action and the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- A long-term vision for mobilizing resources, including finance, for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities as well as State human rights obligations, including to ensure all those affected by climate change have access to effective remedy.
- A commitment to ensuring human rights guardrails for all climate action including environmental and social safeguards, consultative and participatory processes, and independent redress mechanisms.
- Recognition of the importance of and a commitment to the free, meaningful, active, safe and informed participation of diverse stakeholders, civil society, women, children, and Indigenous Peoples, including those most affected by climate change in climate decision-making.
- A commitment to a rapid, equitable, and just transition which will help prevent future human rights harms and advance the rights of workers in the formal and informal economies as well as those of the people most affected by climate change.

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