



EARTHJUSTICE
Because the earth needs a good lawyer



Expert Meeting on Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change

Program

Château de Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland

25-27 January 2012

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Arrival at Geneva airport

Until 18:30

Participants coming from abroad will be picked up by a driver of "taxi alpha + omega" at the arrival area of the airport as detailed in the practical information sheet

(in case of problems please call +41 79 686 6 586)

Arrival at conference center and individual check-in

Welcome to the Expert Meeting

Matthes Buhbe (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung)

18.45 **Marcos A Orellana** (Center for International Environmental Law)

Yves Lador (Earthjustice)

Salon Blanc, Château de Bossey

Keynote Speech : Jan Dusík (Deputy Director and Officer-in-Charge, UNEP Regional Office for Europe)

19:15

Welcome Dinner, Salon Blanc

Thursday, January 26, 2012

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 **Introduction and Welcome: Marcos Orellana (CIEL), Yves Lador (Earthjustice) and Matthes Buhbe (FES)**

Introduction and objectives of the Meeting – *Marcos Orellana, CIEL*

The expert discussions will be based on a discussion paper prepared by CIEL, which sets out options how the linkages between human rights, environment and climate change might be advanced within the HRC and the Rio+20 process.

All discussions will be held under Chatham house rules.

Self-introduction of the participants

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS HOW TO OPERATIONALIZE HUMAN RIGHTS – ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES

Moderator: Daniel Magraw

10:00 – 11:00 **Background on the ongoing processes regarding Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change at the Human Rights Council**

HRC Res 16/11 calls on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to conduct a detailed analytical study on the relationship between human rights and the environment. HRC Res 18/11 extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste. HRC Res 18/22 calls on the OHCHR to convene a seminar on addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights. This session will take stock of current developments regarding environmental and climate change issues at the Council and its sub-organs.

Participants are invited to take stock of further developments in the field.

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee / Tea Break

11:30 - 13:00 **Introduction and discussion of part 1 of discussion paper**

Establishment of a new Special Procedure Mandate on Human Rights and Environment

This session will discuss the value, role and specific nature that such a mandate could take, i.e. Independent Expert vs. Special Rapporteur, its potential scope, and ways in which it could prioritize its work. The session will also discuss precedents, such as the first phase of the water mandate in clarifying existing legal obligations. Further, the session will address how such a new Mandate would interact with other mandates, such as the mandate on toxics, as well as prospects for further developments.

13:00 – 14:00

Buffet Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 **Continuation of part 1 of discussion paper**

Establishment of a new Special Procedure Mandate on Human Rights and Environment

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee / Tea Break

15:45 – 18.15 **Introduction and discussion of part 2 of discussion paper**

Establishment of a new Special Procedure Mandate on Human Rights and Climate Change

This session will discuss the value, role and specific nature that such a mandate on climate change could take. This session will also discuss the form that the mandate could take, the functions it could perform and the issues it could prioritize, looking at the example of the Right to Food mandate and the possibility of receiving complaints from climate victims. Further, this session will discuss how the creation of such a Mandate would influence debates at the Council on environment-related issues.

19:00

Dinner

Friday, January 27, 2012

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

Recognition of the human rights and environment linkage at Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development

Moderator: Daniel Magraw

9:00 – 11.00

Introduction and discussion of part 3 of discussion paper

While references to rights aspects were recognized in Stockholm and Rio, the Rio+20 process is still weak on such issues. Nevertheless progressive suggestions have been formulated, like e.g. to start the elaboration of a universal Convention regarding Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

11:00 – 11.15

Coffee / Tea Break

11:15 – 12.15

Final Observations

Participants will in conclusion share their views on the topics discussed during the expert meeting.

The organizers will revise the background paper and circulate it among the participants after the event for final comments.

Subsequently the revised paper will be made public and forwarded to countries to inform Human Rights Council debates and Rio +20.

12:30 – 13:30

Buffet Lunch

14:00

Return to Geneva