



Breakfast meeting on Climate Change and Human Rights 16 February 2010

PHILIPP TURRI

On 16 February 2010, FES Geneva invited UN and NGO partners to assess the outcome of COP 15 from a human rights perspective and to coordinate their respective activities with regard to the upcoming climate talks, COP 16 and the Human Rights Council.

Evaluation of the Copenhagen Accord

In the aftermath of COP 15, the major point of criticism aimed at its at least unclear legal status. Nevertheless, it was also regarded as an opportunity to further lobby for human rights issues in the context of climate change such as social, economic, and environmental concerns. Migration was mentioned as an additional problem to be considered in order to reduce the risks of disasters, be it environmental or humanitarian ones.

Since too high expectations had been raised in the run-up to COP 15, it has only become more urgent to address this matter of a worldwide dimension. However, the Copenhagen Accord may be considered as a first step since climate change has now been raised politically to government level and there has been said to be at least a consensus regarding the long-term targets.

Perspectives for upcoming climate talks and COP 16

With regard to the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Cancún, Mexico in December 2010, particularly NGOs were encouraged to intensify their lobbying work as well as their grassroots engagement in order to raise awareness of the most critical issues being dealt with.

The same is of course true for the several other meetings and conferences coming up in 2010 and therefore the suggestion was made that a cooperation with major actors in the field of international politics be not merely useful but vital to give human rights concerns a prominent voice.

Activities and side events at the Human Rights Council / UN human rights system

Extensive lobbying work was called for the 14th HRC session in summer 2010 since the March session will probably not address these issues explicitly. For this session the Maldives are expected to propose a resolution concerning directly climate change and human rights whereas Switzerland and Costa Rica could be encouraged to prepare a resolution on environment and human rights. Another topic mentioned was the proposed revival of the Draft Resolution on "Strengthening the Envi-

ronmental Activities in the United Nations System" lastly reviewed in 2008.

Also in the sphere of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of Special Rapporteurs, Representatives, Independent Experts and Chairpersons of Working Groups of the Human Rights Council in June / July 2010 lobbying work and interaction were explicitly encouraged.

Activities in 2010

As for concrete events and activities in 2010, FES Geneva is planning a publication on the

issue of CC and HR focusing on the effects on the most vulnerable parts of society as well as a side event parallel to the 13th HRC session, probably on 12 March.

OHCHR will continue the examination of CC impacts on HR; particularly entering into a dialogue with state actors as well as NGOs to get a reliable basis for assessment. Furthermore, there will be cooperation and possibly a joint report with UNEP clarifying the linkages between environmental issues and HR.

Further information shared at the meeting is available at the following websites:

- ITUC portal on climate change: <http://climate.ituc-csi.org/>
- South Centre statement on Copenhagen: http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1131&Itemid=67
- CIEL / FES Publication on CC&HR: http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/Study_FES_CIEL_2009.pdf
- Olivier de Schutter: Climate Change and the Right to Food: http://www.boell.de/downloads/ecology/Series_Ecology_Volume_8_Climate_Change_and_the_Right_to_Food.pdf
- Sébastien Jodoin: Lost in Translation - Human Rights in the Climate Change Negotiations: http://www.cisd.org/pdf/working_papers_climate/Jodoin.pdf
- UNEP sent the following link for your attention: <http://www.unep.org/environmental-governance/Events/HumanRightsandEnvironment/tabid/2046/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- IASC task force on climate change (comprising the major humanitarian organizations from the NGO, UN and Red Cross Red Crescent):
 - an overview of submission papers to the UNFCCC with web links, covering a wide range of issues from disaster response and food security to migration and displacement
 - case studies documenting best practice by humanitarian agencies<http://humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-news-newsdetails&newsid=134>

More information is available on
www.fes.de/globalization

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Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Genf
6 bis, Chemin du Point-du-Jour
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 733 3450
Fax: +41 22 733 3545
E-mail: info@fes-geneva.org
<http://www.fes-geneva.org>