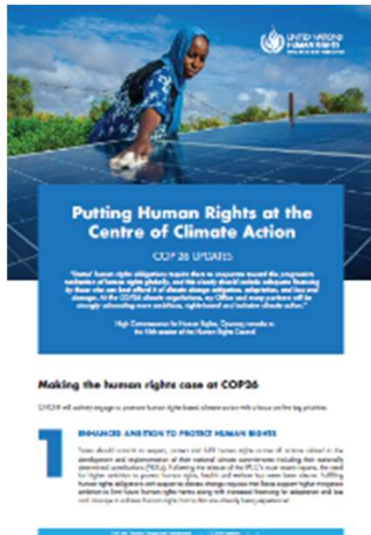


# A human-rights based approach to climate change

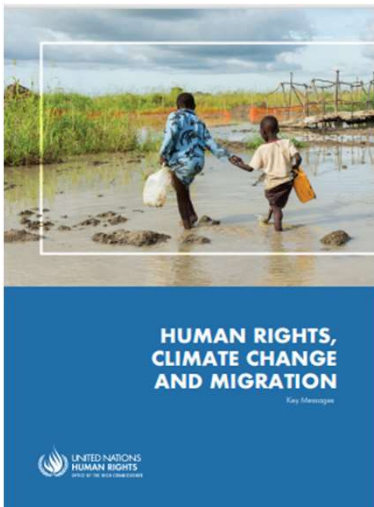
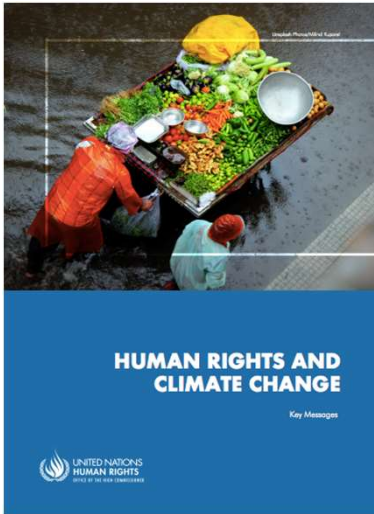


- Environmental degradation and climate change has negative impacts on the effective enjoyment of an array of rights, including the rights to **food, water and sanitation, adequate housing, health, development and life itself.**
- Paris Agreement:** when taking action to address climate change - “**respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights**”.
- For instance, the **ICCPR** recognizes participation, access to information and access to justice as human rights, reaffirmed in environmental matters by **Rio Principle 10**, the **Aarhus Convention** and the **Escazú Agreement**, and the **Paris Agreement itself.**
- A rights-based approach results in **better outcomes and more sustainable climate action** (e.g. [Human Rights Council Resolution 47/24](#), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2022 WG II Summary for Policymakers)
- Further examples available in [OHCHR's submission on the Global Stocktake](#)



# OHCHR submission on the Santiago Network

(I)



- A **commitment to rights-based action and processes** should be integrated throughout the future work and operations of the Santiago Network, including in a section on **principles guiding the efforts of the Network**. Such a commitment would focus the work of the Network on those most affected by loss and damage.
- This would also align with the **Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights**, which includes a dedicated action area on climate justice and the rights of future generations, and with **Our Common Agenda**.
- The **process of designing and operationalizing the Santiago Network should respect and protect human rights**, including the rights to access to information, public participation, and access to justice.
- Ensure **inclusive and transparent process**, with free, active, meaningful and informed participation of all constituencies and stakeholders, and engage with and support affected persons, groups and peoples in implementing relevant approaches at local, national and regional levels.



# OHCHR submission on the Santiago Network (II)



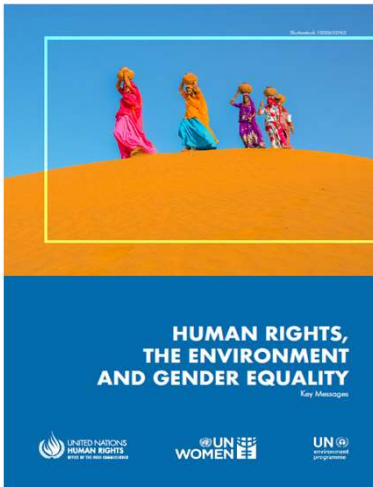
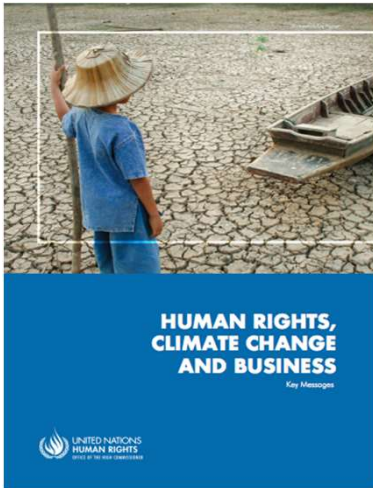
**Human rights mechanisms** can provide technical advice and support better understanding of the human rights dimension of loss and damage, e.g.:

- *Universal Periodic Review*: “99.65 Intensify its ongoing efforts to seek enhanced international finance and technology to mitigate loss and damage and to combat climate change meaningfully”, (Pakistan’s recommendation to Nauru, [A/HRC/47/17 \(UPR 2021\)](#))
- *Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment*: country visits to Norway and Fiji, Policy Brief on Air Travel and Maritime Shipping Levies
- *Human Rights Committee*: *Teitiota v. New Zealand* (2019, impacts of climate change on migration and the human rights of people on the move in the context of climate change)
- *Special Rapporteur on promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change*, established by Human Rights Council resolution 48/14.





# OHCHR submission on the Santiago Network (III)



Terms of reference of a potential convening/coordinating body:

- Language on **human rights**, including the human rights of **Indigenous Peoples**
- Promote **policy coherence** and effective implementation of existing commitments regarding human rights and the protection of the environment and **contribute to other areas of work under the UNFCCC**, including a just transition, action for climate empowerment, gender-responsive climate action with respect for women's rights and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

**OHCHR** has continuously engaged with the Warsaw International Mechanism and its Task Force on Displacement, to support rights-based climate action on loss and damage and advocate for effective remedies and protection measures for those who suffer human rights harms in the context of climate change.

