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**OHCHR Statement to the opening of the technical dialogue on the  
Global Stocktake**



**Statement by Benjamin Schachter**

**Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change, Office of the United  
Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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Thank you. I speak on behalf of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the technical dialogue on the global stocktake.

Climate change is caused by humans and it harms humans. This makes it a human rights issue. And this means the global stocktake needs to take a rights-based approach to tell the human story of climate change.

As recognized by the IPCC through the recent summary for policy-makers of its Working Group II, rights-based approaches, participation and inclusion can reduce structural vulnerabilities to climate change and advance climate resilient development.

In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary referred to the best available science. 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 human rights, the realization of which is critical for effective climate action, the fulfilment of other human rights and to achieve sustainable development.

The Human Rights Council in its resolution 47/24, affirms “that human rights obligations, standards and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international, regional and national policymaking in the area of climate change, thereby promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes”.

The work of the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other human rights mechanisms has a key role to play in informing any assessment of the impacts of climate change, collective progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement, and also any response to these impacts.

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 rights of people in vulnerable situations. The special procedures of the Human

Rights Council and human rights treaty-bodies have also consistently engaged with this subject.

This body of work documents not just 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. For more information, we refer you to [OHCHR's written submission on the GST](#).

Ultimately, it is peoples' stories and their empowerment that can catalyse transformative change. We urge the global stocktake to take stock of efforts to empower people and to also be a tool for their empowerment – letting rights-holders share their stories and perspectives through open discussions that take into consideration people, their perspectives and their human rights. Thank you.

For more information contact Benjamin Schachter ([benjamin.schachter@un.org](mailto:benjamin.schachter@un.org)).