



Ministère Permanent de Costa Rica
auprès l'Office de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
à Genève



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
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Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès
de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres
organisations internationales à Genève

10.08.2021

In view of the 48th session of the Human Rights Council

Workshop on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment

SAVE-THE-DATE

Date and venue

31 August 2021, 15:00 – 17:00, Palais des Nations, Room XXI, Geneva.

The workshop will be in a hybrid format, with state representatives invited to attend in person.

All participants are required to register via Indico: <https://indico.un.org/event/36481/overview>

Objective

The workshop will focus on the possible recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the Human Rights Council. It will allow a discussion on

- The scope of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- The rationale and purpose of a recognition of the right by the Human Rights Council
- The implications for states of such a resolution of the Human Rights Council

Moderation

- Ambassador Catalina Devandas, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

Opening statement

- H.E. Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives, President-elect of the 76th Session of General Assembly [tbc]

Panelists:

- David Boyd, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
- John Knox, former Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
- Sébastien Duyck, Center for International Environmental Law
- Soo-Young Hwang, United Nations Environment Programme

Background

Since 2011 the Human Rights Council has agreed on annual resolutions on human rights and the environment and thereby not only created a mandate for an Independent Expert and later for a Special Rapporteur but also laid a solid base for a common understanding of the mutual implications of human rights and the environment. The current and former Special Rapporteurs have contributed substantially to this common understanding through extensive reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

This workshop is a further step of the core group on human rights and the environment (Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland) towards the introduction of a resolution recognizing the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the Human Rights Council. Following a joint statement in the 46th session and a workshop on the issue in the 47th session of the Human Rights Council, the core group has been reaching out bilaterally to a number of delegations and is committed to build broad based understanding of the implications of the Right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, in an inclusive and transparent manner.

The objective of this workshop is to allow representatives of all states to further engage on the question of a recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the Human Rights Council. The experts on the panel will allow the representatives to exchange in detail on the scope of this right, rationale and purpose of a recognition by the Human Rights Council as well as on the implications for states of such a resolution.

In order to prepare for the workshop, we invite representatives to consider some of the more important reports of the Independent Expert and Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment:

- Report of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John H. Knox (Mapping report, 30 December 2013, [A/HRC/25/53](#))
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Framework principles, 24 January 2018, [A/HRC/37/59](#))
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (First report to the General Assembly, 19 July 2018, [A/73/188](#))
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Good practices and extent of legal recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, 30 December 2019, [A/HRC/43/53](#))