

THE GENEVA  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
PLATFORM



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica  
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas  
Ginebra



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Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès  
de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres  
organisations internationales à Genève



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

# AGENDA

## WORKSHOP: THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

### 47<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Date:** 7 July 2021 **Time:** 14:00 to 16:00 (CEST)

**Room:** Zoom Platform

**Co-organizers:** Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, Switzerland and the Geneva Human Rights Platform

**Co-sponsors:** Austria, Cabo Verde, Chile, CCyprus, Ecuador, Fiji, Germany, Mexico, Monaco, Panama Portugal, Uruguay; Additional co-sponsoring States to be announced.

OHCHR, UNEP, Center for International Environmental Law, Earthjustice, Franciscans International, Universal Rights Group.

A project of the:

**GENEVA  
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international  
humanitaire et de droits humains  
Academy of International  
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

The Geneva Academy, a Joint Centre of





## Agenda

### 14:00 – 14:15 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- H.E. Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica
- H.E. Sabra Ibrahim Noordeen, Special Envoy for Climate Change of the Maldives

### 14:15 – 15:00 Discussion

Moderator: Felix Kirchmeier, Executive Director, GHRP, Geneva Academy

Panelists:

- David Boyd, United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
- Hélène Tigroudja, Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee
- Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Astrid Puentes, Co-Executive Director, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)

### 15:00 – 15:45 Open Discussion

## 15:45 – 16:00 Closing by panelists and organizers

- H.E. Catalina Devandas, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN in Geneva

## Background

The number of States recognizing the right to a clean, safe, healthy and sustainable environment (hereafter “right to a healthy environment”) has grown over the past few years. The right to a healthy environment has been recognised by 156 States.

This recognition at national level responds to the serious environmental crises that we are facing as a global community and, together with the demands from individuals, communities, civil society and human rights experts, provides for a unique momentum to advance the discussion on the universal recognition of the right to a healthy environment. The international system, in particular the United Nations human rights system has made an important contribution to inform this discussion through the work of the Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures.

Building on that momentum and the vibrant call of the human rights system and civil society Member States, led by the Core Group (Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland), have prompted the needed discussion on the potential universal recognition of this right, through consultations and an open and transparent and inclusive dialogue. Support to this process was expressed through a joint statement at HRC 46 cosponsored by 69 States.

## Objective

As part of the process of consultation, the co-organizers of the workshop aim to further the discussion on the issue of the right to a healthy environment through a debate to exchange views among Member States and human rights experts.

The main objective of the workshop will be to jointly advance in the understanding of the scope of the right, the legal aspects of the potential resolution, as well as how it would contribute to address the global environmental crisis.

## Issues to be addressed

The workshop will take place through a panel, in which States, human rights experts, the United Nations system and civil society can discuss and present their views on the following topics:

1. The content and scope of the right to a healthy environment;
2. Potential protection gaps. Particularly, if current human rights instruments are providing the protection needed to guarantee that people can enjoy their right to live in a healthy environment;
3. The role of a Human Rights Council resolution in moving forward and the importance of the universalization of this right.

## Registration

This event will take place online on our Zoom platform. You need to [register](#) to follow it.