



2020 Annual Conference

CONCEPT NOTE WORKING GROUP 2

Environment and human rights: How do regional and global human rights mechanisms address this link?

**Maison de la Paix (Pétale 5), Thursday 15 October 2020,
14:00 – 15:30**

International and regional human rights mechanisms have made considerable progress in recent years on the express recognition of the “right to a healthy environment”, on handling complaints based on procedural or substantive human rights violations related to the environment or again the protection of environmental defenders and other groups (indigenous peoples for instance). More and more States have recognized the right to a healthy environment, in different formulations. In addition, at the regional level, some human rights mechanisms have linked the right to healthy environment to specific human rights protected by existing human rights instruments, such as the right to life.

Most notably, the Aarhus Convention recognized the importance of procedural rights as a key to guaranteeing the right of every person, of present and future generations, to live in a healthy environment. This recognition has gained additional momentum with the 2018 adoption of the Escazù Agreement. At the international level, many experts, like the former and the current Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights and the Environment, have made clear the interrelation between human rights and environment. The Special Rapporteurs have also urged States to adopt and implement laws to ensure access to information and to justice, in the field of environment and urged them to proceed with the global recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment while guaranteeing the adequate protection of this right at the domestic level.

This panel will compare the development of legal standards and the provision of concrete protection and remedies provided by the relevant frameworks at the international and regional level. It shall also elaborate suggestions on how to better connect the work of regional and international mechanisms in this area and propose ways forward to harness the potential mutual reinforcing roles.

PANELISTS

- **Helene Tigroudja**, Professor of Law, Aix-Marseille University and Member of the Human Rights Committee
- **Ginevra Le Moli**, Assistant Professor, University of Leiden
- **David Ugolor**, Executive Director, Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice
- **Yves Lador**, Representative of Earthjustice to the United Nations in Geneva (tbc) /**Séb Duyck** , Representative of CIEL to the UN in Geneva

MODERATOR

- **Lucy Maxwell**, Legal Associate, Climate Litigation Network

PARTNERS

[Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, CIEL, Earthjustice]