

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT

# ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AS A HUMAN RIGHT

- Human rights are rooted on dignity of Human beings.
- Environmental sustainability and promotion of Human Rights are mutually supportive.
- In what situations can environmental protection be relevant for the fulfillment of HR?

# Recognition of the human right to environment

- 1972 UN conference on Human Environment ( Stockholm Declaration)
- The UN established the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the world's principal international environmental organization.

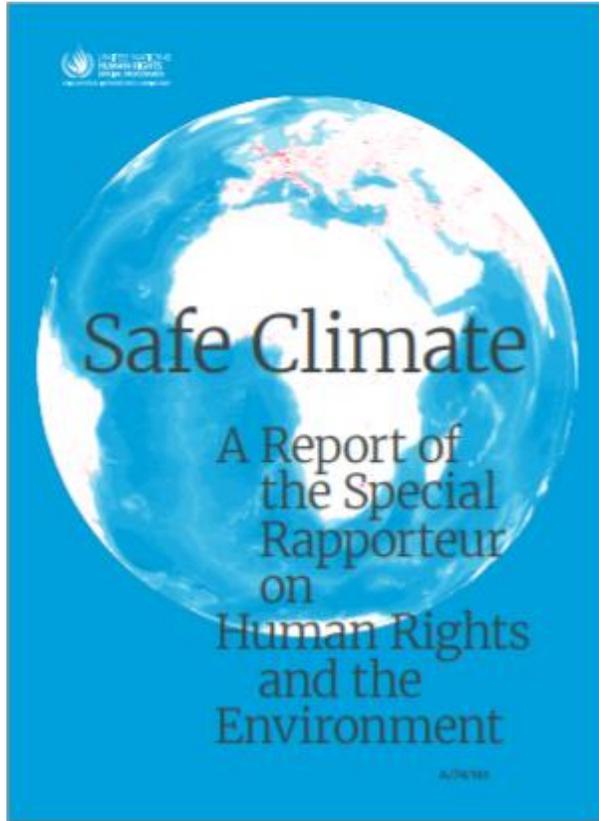
# Continued

- The **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** recognizes that “all peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favorable to their development” (Art. 24).
- Child right convention;
- 1992 Rio Declaration ;-Rio earth summit Human Beings are the center of Concerns for sustainable development they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

# Continued

- The right to a healthy environment
- The right to a healthy environment is now recognized in many national constitutions and regional instruments, with over 150 national constitutions recognizing some form of environmental rights since the mid-1970s

# Recognition of the human right to environment



- Increasing **recognition and implementation of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment** contributes to mitigating and adapting to climate change, realizing human rights for all.
- The Human Rights Council has **referenced the right to a healthy environment** and protection of human rights as they relate to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/HRC/RES/40/11).
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# Protection of environmental human rights defenders (I)

- **Human Rights Council resolution;10/4, 7/ 23 on the impact of climate change on human rights.**
- **Human Rights Council resolution 40/11** recognizes the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development.
- The UN **Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights** (February 2020) calls for the development of protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and environmental activists and calls on the UN to support Member States “at field level for laws and policies that regulate and promote the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and for effective individual access to justice and effective remedies for environment-related concerns”.

# Substantive rights

- The right to health ;- incorporated in Universal Declaration of Human Rights , ECSR, Article 12 of ICESCR , General Comment 14
- Respect, protect, fulfill
- The Right to food and water; what aspects can we mention here to link with environment ?
- The right to adequate housing, land tenure and living conditions in a secure, healthy and ecologically sound environment.

# Procedural Rights

- Civil and political Rights ; -Rights to access to information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice.
- Right of all people to benefit equitably from the conservation and sustainable use of nature and natural resources for cultural, ecological, educational, health, livelihood, recreational, spiritual and other purposes

# Sustainable development goals

- The **Sustainable Development Goals** are the blueprint to achieve a better and more **sustainable** future for all.
- in the preamble to the 2030 Agenda, world leaders affirmed that they are: “Determined to **protect** the planet from degradation, including through **sustainable** consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present .

# SDG Goals

- SDG 1;Poverty alleviation
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG3: Good Health & Well-being
- SDG4: Quality Education
- SDG5: Gender Equality
- SDG6: Clean Water & Sanitation
- SDG7: Affordable & Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
- SDG 10:Reduced Inequality
- SDG 11:Sustainable Cities & Communities
- SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land
- SDG 16: Peace & Justice Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnership to achieve the Goal

- **What environmental rights could be protected.**

- Healthy environment;

- right to clean air;
- right to safe drinking water;
- right to natural food;
- right to clothes without toxins;
- right to adequate standard of living and adequate housing;
- right to a safe and healthy workplace;
- freedom from pollution; preservation of unique sites