Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change

Preamble:
Guided by the United Nations Charter; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action of the World Conference of Human Rights; The Universal Declaration on Rights of Children; The Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants; The International Labour Organization Convention No. 169; The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth; The Earth Charter; The Nagoya Protocol; Title II of the 2008 Constitution of Ecuador, and other relevant international rights instruments,


Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelationality of all human rights, the interrelationality of all life on Earth and the dependency of all life on Earth on a healthy biosphere and Earth system integrity,

Recognizing that climate change, caused by the human industrial and consumer activities, disproportionally affects indigenous peoples, the poor, women and children, the vulnerable, small island and low elevation coastal communities, developing countries, least developed countries, future generations and innumerable living beings and systems,

Recognizing that the ultimate realization of human rights in the age of climate crisis requires the full legal protection of the living beings and systems upon which human life depends,

III. Principles (continued)

16. All persons, individually and in association with others, have a moral responsibility to avoid and/or to minimize practices known to contribute to climate damage.

17. All States and business enterprises have a duty to protect the climate and to respect the rights set out in this Declaration.

18. All Parties shall, in all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples. Such rights include support to facilitate mitigation measures; rights to collective self-determination and to free, prior and informed consent; to full and equal participation in environmental and political processes; and to respect and protection for indigenous traditional knowledge. This shall include respect and protection for indigenous customary laws, and proper recognition of the role of indigenous peoples in ensuring the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems.

19. All Parties shall, in all climate change related actions, ensure gender equality and the full and equal participation of women; intergenerational equity; a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work; food sovereignty; and the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems.

20. All States have a duty to provide assistance and solidarity to climate refugees. States shall respect the rights to assistance and solidarity and create the necessary legal frameworks to assist and support climate refugees in order to ensure their life and dignity.

21. All States shall respect and ensure the right to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound environment and to a stable climate, and ensure the rights outlined in Parts I—III of this Declaration. Accordingly, they shall adopt the administrative, legislative and other measures necessary to effectively implement the rights in this Declaration.

22. All States shall ensure international cooperation with other States and international organizations and agencies for the purpose of respecting the rights outlined in Parts I—III of this Declaration. All States shall observe the rights and duties in this Declaration, including extraterritorially.

23. All international organizations and agencies shall observe the rights and duties in this Declaration, including the human and procedural rights of indigenous peoples, women and other traditionally under-represented and marginalized groups and individuals.

24. All States, international organizations, business enterprises and individuals acting to reduce climate harms shall respect and recognize the rights of any affected human beings and other living beings and systems to be free from climate change-related harm.

For more information and to endorse this Declaration please go to our website: www.gnhre.org
Recognizing that human beings are part of the living Earth system, that climate destruction and ecocide results from human activities, that science confirms the threat of climate change to the livelihoods and well-being of present and future innumerable living beings and systems that are intrinsically valuable in their own right and unable to defend themselves, that international, cross-border and internal migration has increased the climate changes and is likely to continue to do so, and that increasing numbers of people are feeling the impacts of climate change in their everyday lives, this Declaration underlines the need for all cultures, faiths and traditions to play a role in the fullest development of climate and environmental stewardship, the teaching of respect for all living beings and systems and the development of climate resilient communities.

Recognizing that human beings have the right to respond to the climate harms and damage caused by harmful emissions and to be free from dangerous activities, such that rising global temperatures are kept well below 1.5 degrees centigrade, that courts and jurists of international standing link the fulfillment of human rights to a secure, healthy and ecologically viable environment, and consequently recognize that harming the environment undermines human rights, human beings to respond to the climate harms and damage caused by harmful emissions and to be free from dangerous activities, such that rising global temperatures are kept well below 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Recognizing that climate impacts disproportionally affect marginalized communities and populations, that science confirms the threat of climate change to the livelihoods and well-being of present and future innumerable living beings and systems that are intrinsically valuable in their own right and unable to defend themselves, that international, cross-border and internal migration has increased the climate changes and is likely to continue to do so, and that increasing numbers of people are feeling the impacts of climate change in their everyday lives, this Declaration underlines the need for all cultures, faiths and traditions to play a role in the fullest development of climate and environmental stewardship, the teaching of respect for all living beings and systems and the development of climate resilient communities.

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