



**Mary Robinson  
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■ Climate Justice

# Rights for Action – Putting people at the centre of climate action

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**PCCB Side Event: Building capacity for integrating  
human rights into climate action**

**COP 24 – 7 December 2018**

# Human rights and climate change

- i) Climate change has implications for the full range of human rights, particularly for people living in situations of poverty and vulnerability
- i) A failure to integrate human rights into climate action can undermine people's rights
- i) The integration of human rights into climate action can increase effectiveness and result in benefits for people and the planet

Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred response to climate change.



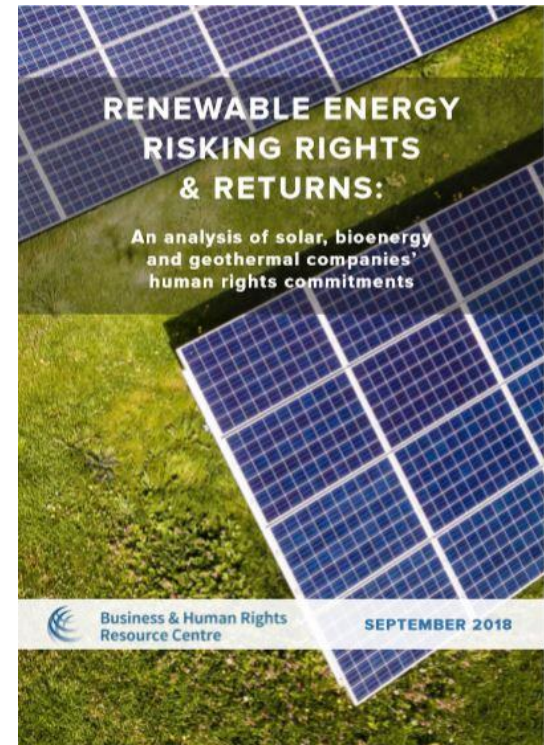
# Rights at risk from climate action

Analysis of 59 solar, bioenergy and geothermal companies' human rights policies and practices

Companies' human rights policies and practices are not strong enough to ensure the transition is both fast and fair.

Failure to respect human rights can result in project delays, legal procedures and costs for renewable energy companies

Countries and companies need to strengthen human rights due diligence in renewable energy projects.



# Rights informing climate action

In Vietnam there are constitutional and legal rights to education and gender equality

These rights inform the National Climate Change Strategy

- successful adaptation requires the engagement of all citizens
- opportunities for climate action to advance human rights and socio-economic goals

In Costa Rica a constitutional right to a healthy environment and the General Environment law provide a strong rights basis for the country's environmental policies, including Costa Rica's livestock NAMA.



# Reporting on human rights and climate change

Incorporating human rights into climate action portal

<https://www.mrfcj.org/incorporating-human-rights-into-climate-action/>

Tracking reporting by countries to the Human Rights Council (UPR) and the UNFCCC (Nat Coms and NAPAs)

- 2016 – 12 countries reporting human rights and climate change linkages in reports to both HRC and UNFCCC
- By the end of 2018 - 31 countries (>75% developing countries)
- Emphasis to date on climate change undermining rights
- Less emphasis on human rights informing climate action
- NDCs - 17 countries - HR as a principle guiding NDC implementation



# Capacity gaps

## Parties:

- Capacity to address human rights in NDCs
- Capacity to integrate human rights into climate action
- Capacity to act on the commitments in the Geneva Pledge

## Secretariat:

- Limited capacity in the secretariat on human rights
- Growing references to human rights across multiple agenda items
- Capacity to cooperate with OHCHR
- Implementing the UN Rights Up Front initiative



# Proposal to strengthen HR capacity

Establish a human rights focal point in the UNFCCC secretariat

## Tasks:

- Build capacity on human rights in the secretariat (to support all agenda items where human rights are arising)
- Support Parties to plan and implement rights based climate action in accordance with the Paris Agreement
- Liaise with OHCHR and other relevant bodies on human rights and climate change

Precedence: Gender focal point

## Why now:

- To support rights based implementation of NDCs
- To integrate human rights into the updating of NDCs pre-2020