

*Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*

**Civil Society Expert Consultations on Climate Justice, Environmental Racism and Racial Equality**

**Date & Time:** 20 July 2022, 2:30 A.M. – 5:30 AM UTC

**equivalent to:**

*Los Angeles:* Tuesday, 19 July, 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM

*New York:* Tuesday, 19 July, 10:30 PM to Wednesday, 20 July, 1:30 AM

*Paris:* Wednesday, 20 July, 4:30 AM to 7:30 AM

*Tokyo:* Wednesday, 20 July, 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

*and*

20 July, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM UTC

**equivalent to:**

*Los Angeles:* Wednesday, 20 July, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

*New York:* Wednesday, 20 July, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*Paris:* Wednesday, July 20, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

*Tokyo:* Thursday, July 21, 12:00 AM to 3:00 AM

*(participant choice)*

**via Zoom**

**Brief description of the civil society expert consultations**

Together with the University of California–Los Angeles Promise Institute for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism is convening two civil society expert consultations to inform her upcoming report to the U.N. General Assembly on “**Climate Justice, Environmental Racism and Racial Equality**”. These expert consultations will feature testimony from civil society organizations, grass-roots groups, human rights defenders and community advocates representing diverse racial, national, ethnic and advocacy backgrounds. The Special Rapporteur is interested in civil society perspectives on the link between racial injustice, the ongoing climate emergency and manifestations of what has been called “environmental racism”.

The Special Rapporteur aims to include not only transnational civil society organizations that label their work as “climate justice” or “environmental justice”, but also advocates who are on the frontlines of environmental harm, drought, natural disasters, pollution, climate migration, rising sea levels and other outcomes that disproportionately affect communities in the Global South or racially marginalized communities in the Global North. The issues of food sovereignty, climate/environmental apartheid, forced migration/displacement, “sustainable” development, mining and other extractive industries, corporate exploitation, land rights, indigenous autonomy, environmental degradation during military occupation or conflict, and related issues are within the scope of the Special Rapporteur’s report.

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The civil society expert consultations will take place over two virtual sessions. Each speaker will be invited to present 5-10 minutes of oral testimony on one or more of the key questions below. The Special Rapporteur is collaborating with the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights to broadcast the testimony live via Zoom and YouTube. As such, all testimony will be open to the public and preserved on the UCLA Promise Institute website. Civil society organizations which seek to make non-public submissions to the Special Rapporteur's report can do so via a written input, per the instructions in her [call for submissions](#).

The event can accommodate the live translation of specific testimony into English when necessary, and it will also accommodate pre-recorded testimony in certain circumstances.

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**Key questions**

- What are the disproportionate impacts of climate change and/or environmental degradation on racially marginalized groups, such as people of African and Asian descent, indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees?
- Have international climate and environmental frameworks failed to respond to the specific concerns of UNFCCC party groupings, such as Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and certain regional groups?
- Have certain racial, ethnic, or national communities been excluded from global climate discourse to date, including through lack of representation and structural barriers to participation in international environmental and/or climate decision-making bodies?
- What solutions and/or opportunities exist to improve access to and inclusion in climate- and environment-related decision-making processes for indigenous groups and historically marginalized racial, ethnic and national groups?
- What is the relationship between environmental degradation and climate change-related harms and other forms of systemic/structural discrimination, for example, racial inequalities in access to housing, access to food, access to clean water and access to healthcare?
- What is the role of historical processes, particularly economic processes linked to colonialism, extractivism and imperialism, in contributing to climate change and environmental degradation?
- What are prominent examples of 'environmental racism' or communities living in 'sacrifice zones' from various regional and national contexts?
- What is the efficacy of existing remedies provided for in the existing international climate change framework, such as the loss and damage framework, nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the Green Climate Fund?
- What are the negative impacts of existing climate mitigation interventions on indigenous peoples and other racially, ethnically, and nationally marginalized peoples?
- What are alternative climate change remedies which could mitigate the negative impacts of existing climate or environmental interventions?

**Relevant Past Reports by the Special Rapporteur**

- [Report on reparations for racial discrimination rooted in slavery and colonialism \(A/74/321\)](#)
- [Report on global extractivism and racial equality \(A/HRC/41/54\)](#)