



49th Session of the UN Human Rights Council  
Agenda Item 4, General Debate  
21 March 2021

## **WELCOMING THE NEW SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr President,

On behalf of the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF)<sup>1</sup>, we welcome the appointment at this session of the first UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change following the adoption of the Council Resolution 48/14 in September last year.

This is a result of joint efforts between members of this Council and the hundreds of civil society stakeholders, including faith-based, women's and indigenous peoples' organizations who have called for more than a decade the Council to create such a mandate as one of the necessary actions to address the impacts of climate change on human rights.

As civil society and faith-based organizations, we extend our support to the future Special Rapporteur in fulfilling the mandate. We encourage and expect the Rapporteur to develop systematic and inclusive ways of working with all civil society stakeholders, including faith-based and women's rights' organizations

We also call upon the future Special Rapporteur to promote better participation of civil society actors in national processes. The voices of those whose human rights are already affected by climate change, many who are part of our faith communities, are important for fulfilling the new mandate.

We thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> The Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF) is composed of the following faith-based NGOs: World Council Churches, Lutheran World Federation, Franciscans International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Soka Gakkai International, and ACT Alliance.