



50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Joint Oral Statement

ITEM 3 –Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on climate change

23 June 2022

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

Mr President,

The Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF)¹ welcomes the appointment of UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. We appreciate the SR's preliminary priorities for his mandate².

We call upon the Special Rapporteur to ensure that adequate protection for environmental defenders and access to legal redress at the national level is prioritized under his mandate. We believe that is important to ensure business and human rights norms are abided by and that profit-seeking practices do not trump human rights of people and communities.

We also believe that the communities whose human rights are already affected by climate change, many of whom are part of our faith communities, are critical stakeholders for fulfilling the Special Rapporteur's mandate and we should therefore ensure that their voices are protected and supported.

We thank you.

¹ 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.

² <https://srcclimatechange.medium.com/8-preliminary-key-themes-for-my-mandate-8337cea748c>.