



Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF) Oral Statement to the Human Rights Council - HRC59

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Climate Change - 30 June 2025

The Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights thanks the Special Rapporteur for her comprehensive report on the imperative of defossilizing our economies.

We particularly commend the acknowledgment of the systematic violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, showing how fossil fuel projects violate free, prior and informed consent, destroy sacred sites, and catalyze violence and militarization.

The report's call for "defossilization" resonates deeply with our interfaith perspective that recognizes the interconnectedness of climate, human rights, and spiritual values. We strongly support the Special Rapporteur's key message that the right to development should not be used as an excuse to avoid defossilization, while recognizing that some States are locked into fossil fuel-dependent systems. Her call to reassess energy needs and transform economic models away from overexploitation is essential for a truly just transition that protects human rights.

The transition must address "green and blue colonization" - ensuring that renewable energy projects do not repeat the same patterns of rights violations that have characterized fossil fuel extraction.

Guided by values of climate justice and human dignity, we call on all States to urgently implement the Special Rapporteur's recommendations for immediate, participatory defossilization plans that protect the most vulnerable while transforming our economic systems.

Thank you.