



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 August 2023

English only

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by International Muslim Women's Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[9 August 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## Climate Change and Its Impact on Conflict

The debate on the relationship between climate change and conflict needs to be discussed objectively. There are two dominant narratives, either climate change causes conflict or that contemporary conflicts have political and institutional causes. It is time for a calculated view of vulnerability to climate change and a better understanding of the causes of the conflict.

According to United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report[1] “the current levels of both climate ambition and climate action are inadequate to meet the challenge. As a consequence, individuals, communities, non-governmental organizations, business entities, governments and others have brought cases seeking to compel enforcement of those laws, replace them with stronger ones (and sometimes weaker ones), extend existing laws to address climate change, or define the relationship between human rights and the impacts of climate change. UNEP suggests that climate cases to date often fall into one or more of six categories: (a) climate rights; (b) domestic enforcement; (c) keeping fossil fuels in the ground; (d) corporate liability and responsibility; (e) failure to adapt and impacts of adaptation; and (f) climate disclosures and greenwashing.

The main purpose of UNEP was to strengthen environmental standards and helping implement environmental obligations at the country regional and global level.

We have observed that UNEP programme to fight the climate change on priority bases was not followed by some countries as per the policy. It is time for a new approach that shifts the focus of research to the power relations, negotiations and rights that influence competition and co-operation in different risk situations.

The Special Rapporteur is particularly interested in whether climate change litigation incorporates considerations of human rights.

The principle of intergeneration equity goes back to the Stockholm Declaration 1972. This principle occurs in many agreements including the preamble to the Paris Agreement. Nevertheless, the concept of intergenerational justice does not appear to be well advanced in international or national laws. Intergenerational justice in the context of climate change and human rights is founded on the principle that people must protect current and future generations from the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Special Rapporteur wants to explore whether intergeneration justice has been incorporated into international law, national constitutions and domestic laws and how it can be anchored in these key elements of law.

The climate crises has its visible impact on the social economic and political environment including physical environment. These impacts have a constraint to manage the localised forms of conflict and need an inclusive and creative process of peace building.

“The understandable desire to identify a clear causal path between climate change and conflict misses the point that each is a complex phenomenon in its own right conflict and collaboration occur in different many forms. they are not an opposite ends of a spectrum and they often coexist similarly the impacts of climate change will vary between different bio physical environments and governance context and for different social actors and groups. The multi faceted nature of climate change reduces the effectiveness of using predictive modelling and grand theory to frame policy instead there is a need for detailed empirical analyses of particular contexts of conflict”

The warming of the planet and the resulting changes to the natural environment pose numerous threats to humanity. Increased competition for resources like fertile land and fresh water is already disrupting societies and uprooting entire communities exacerbating current conflicts and fuelling new ones. Responses to the climate crisis themselves, can add to existing tensions and create further conflict.

According to a research study the following observations and findings are very alarming. This is due to a number of factors and heavy military concentration.

“The crease in temperature in conflict areas like India administered Jammu and Kashmir is due to deforestation and melting of glaciers. The climate change has disturbed infrastructure

and loss of livestock. Floods have increased during summer and it has been recorded that 16 people died due to cloudbursts in 2021-22. Due to heavy rainfall environmental changes and damage to agricultural crops and other asserts are increasing. It's important and serious for UN bodies to control the sanction restrictions on heavy weapons who are reason for increasing the temperature and global warming. It will be beyond the control if United Nations mechanisms and promises are not fulfilled by member countries.

It is reported from Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir that "In June this year, after four days of nonstop rain, the Jhelum River in the Kashmir region reached the danger mark in some places, bringing back memories of a devastating 2014 flood that claimed 300 lives and destroyed billions of dollars' worth of property."

The water level in the major rivers and tributaries surged significantly, flooding several low-lying districts in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Kashmir region. As a result, many residents shifted to the upper floors until the rains ended after four days."

Official records reported showed that Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir experienced nine extreme weather events between May and July, including flash floods and cloudbursts.

The climate change has effected the lives and resources of common man. The extreme weather has not spared livestock. According to the region's sheep husbandry department, the valley's grasslands provide summer shelter for about 2 million sheep. However, herders in the highlands of south of the Kashmir region suffered severe losses this year as a result of the unusual occurrence of snow in June.

The shepherds in these areas confirm that heavy snowfall between June 19 and June 22 blanketed the region's green meadows with a layer of snow 2 to 3 feet deep. The authorities in the region declared the heavy snowfall as a state-specific natural disaster.

A resident in the village of Zampathri, who takes his livestock to higher elevations for grazing in the summer, told VOA that he used to take his sheep to an area known as Gaadar but in recent years has had to venture farther because of reduced vegetation in the area.

"The pastoralist community belong to poor communities and are most vulnerable to climate-related disasters," wrote researchers Sajad Ahmad Mir and Maliha Batool in a paper titled "Impact of Climate Change on Gujjar and Bakarwal Communities of Jammu and Kashmir." They said the convergence of land-use change and climate insecurity "is impairing the resilience of various social and ecological systems."

"Climate change has accelerated the already rising temperature, and unstable precipitation patterns and worsened the vulnerabilities to drought, thereby bringing the Himalayan ecosystem to naught. As per the findings of the article, "Recent Glacier changes in Kashmir Alpine Himalayas, India" glaciers have shrunk by 17%. Another study 'Linking the recent glacier retreat and depleting stream flow patterns with land system changes in Kashmir Himalaya (India)' examined changes in the Kolahoi Glacier between 1962 and 2018, and reveals that the glacier is receding at an alarming rate. It has lost almost 23% of its land, splitting into smaller pieces since 1962. As per IPCC, the glacial meltdown is projected to swell flooding; avalanches from snow slopes will become rampant and erode water supplies down the river stream. Another study reveals that the annual precipitation is likely to plummet by a maximum of 2.09–6.61% in the 2080s. Along with, during the 2080s, the seasonal distribution of precipitation is predicted to change dramatically, with reductions of 9%, 5.7 %, and 1.7%, respectively, in the winter, spring, and summer seasons."

"In light of the above-stated climatic transformations that have and will continue to cause life-altering events, it is important to understand, assess and evaluate the impact accounted by climate change in the Kashmir Himalayas. A study that maps climate hotspots over the forest cover in India using computer-model-based temperature and rainfall has been conducted for the three future time periods i.e. years 2030, 2050, and 2085. It has been observed that the biggest temperature rises are expected in Ladakh, Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh are expected to witness the smallest increases in rainfall if any at all."