



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-seventh session

9 September–9 October 2024

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 ArabEuropean Forum for Dialogue and Human Rights, 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.

[11 August 2024]

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



The Need to Strengthen International Action to Ensure the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights in the Context of the United Arab Emirates Climate Accord

The issues of climate justice, environmental protection, and climate change are widely regarded as the most significant challenges facing the world today. This is not only due to their profound and direct impacts on human life and the planet's safety but also because they represent a global crisis that affects every country without exception. The direct and indirect negative consequences of climate change jeopardize a wide range of fundamental human rights guaranteed internationally. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has highlighted that climate change poses direct threats to the full and effective enjoyment of numerous human rights, including the rights to life, water, food, health, housing, and development. These rights are increasingly difficult for states to secure, particularly for developing or most affected nations, and impossible for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to fully enjoy. This situation places a significant responsibility on states to take action to prevent the adverse effects of climate change and to protect their populations from its harmful impacts.

Human Rights Council resolution 41/21 on human rights and climate change is crucial for addressing human rights issues within the context of climate change. Notably, the second item of the resolution underscores the urgent need to continue addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on all individuals, emphasizing states' human rights obligations. This is particularly significant for developing countries and those most affected by climate change.

Emphasizing the critical role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in promoting human rights and climate justice in the context of climate change, it is essential to stress the importance of a human rights-based approach to global climate policies and measures. Placing human rights at the forefront of these policies and measures ensures that states remain committed to the principles and standards derived from international human rights law.

Emphasizing the importance of the United Nations General Assembly's recognition that "all people everywhere have the right to live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment," and stressing that this right is directly and closely linked to both environmental law and human rights law, we urge you to call on your esteemed Council to take decisions that contribute to protecting the climate, mitigating climate change, and achieving climate justice. This will help ensure that everyone enjoys their human rights in a fair, full, and comprehensive manner.

Emphasizing that the "Paris Agreement" represents a milestone in international action to protect the climate, combat climate change, and reduce its consequences for humans and the planet, despite the major challenges it faces in terms of compliance and implementation, and the agreement's reliance on a five-year phased plan of ambitious climate action, which prevented the agreement from achieving its targeted goals and created the need to consider many possible alternatives, and with nearly 10 years having passed, the need has become urgent to consider more realistic and viable alternatives that are more capable of achieving the rapid changes needed to protect the climate.

Whereas the convening of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-eighth session in the United Arab Emirates in 2023 is a very important event in terms of the decisions taken and their direct impact on human rights, which is considered one of the biggest achievements in international action on climate protection, we praise the key and pivotal role played by the United Arab Emirates in leading the world to adopt the "United Arab Emirates Agreement".

As representatives of civil society, we applaud the outcomes of the 28th Climate Summit and the leadership of the United Arab Emirates in making pivotal decisions to address the severe consequences of climate change. These efforts are crucial in confronting the challenges and risks that climate change poses to the most vulnerable and fragile countries and communities.

The United Arab Emirates' adoption of the United Arab Emirates Climate Agreement has become a key driver of effective climate action, aiming to preserve both people and the planet, mitigate the impacts of climate change, reduce carbon emissions, exceed the targets set at the 28th Climate Conference, and ensure the necessary resources and investments are allocated to achieve these goals.

We also emphasize the importance of the “United Arab Emirates Climate Accord” in accelerating climate action, launching the world's largest investment fund for climate change solutions, reaching the highest level of pledges for climate protection, and neutralizing the negative interventions of all parties. We particularly commend the following achievements:

- The establishment of a global climate fund aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change, with international pledges amounting to USD 792 million and an additional USD 3.5 billion allocated for the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- The inception of the United Arab Emirates' Altera Climate Investment Fund, which will deploy USD 30 billion in catalytic capital to stimulate and attract climate finance.
- Historic financial contributions include: USD 5 billion to enhance renewable energy production capacity, USD 3.5 billion to the Green Climate Fund, USD 3.1 billion towards developing food and agricultural systems, USD 2.9 billion for health initiatives, USD 2.6 billion for nature protection, USD 1.2 billion for relief, recovery, and peace efforts, USD 1.2 billion for reducing methane emissions, USD 568 million for catalyzing investments in clean energy, and USD 467 million for national climate action in various countries.

Based on the above, we make the following recommendations:

- Adopt the “United Arab Emirates Climate Accord” as the primary framework for leading international efforts in climate protection, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigating harmful environmental interventions. This agreement should form the basis for the methodology and governance of climate protection work by concerned countries.
- Take the necessary steps to re-evaluate and follow up on National Climate Action Plans (NDCs) in alignment with the United Arab Emirates Climate Compact, implementing necessary changes within international bodies, mechanisms, government policies, programs, and plans.
- Work to establish the “United Arab Emirates Climate Accord” as a binding international mechanism, and develop mechanisms, indicators, and metrics to monitor decisions, outcomes, pledges, and initiatives from the Climate Summit (COP 28), ensuring countries' commitment to and fulfillment of their pledges and initiatives.
- Document the United Arab Emirates' pioneering experience in organizing the climate conference and leading countries towards decisive and pivotal climate protection decisions, promoting climate justice with a humanitarian approach, and use this as a guide for organizing future climate summits.
- Emphasize the importance of strengthening international efforts to protect the climate, ensuring that the most vulnerable countries and communities are safeguarded from the adverse effects of climate change.

Union Association for Human Rights (UAHR) NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.