

Estimate delegates, your Excellencies, colleagues. I first want to thank the organizers for inviting us to this already successful seminar.

In the past day and a half, we have heard very critical information about the impacts of climate change already have and will have on the full enjoyment of human rights. We have heard about the specific human rights that would be impacted and were very clearly what these impacts mean in terms of achieving the objectives of a just and equitable society. We have also heard about the level of commitments needed by all actors to address this pressing issue, and

We have heard about what is needed, from increased international cooperation and financial resources and ambitious leadership, to radical changes of our consumption patterns to a redefinition of how we consider vulnerable populations and how their participation to decision making is essential in finding real innovative solutions.

We have heard how a common but differentiated responsibility in the current situation puts a moral obligation on all of us, as members of the human family, to do everything we can to prevent the worst effects of climate change on human rights, and mitigate and adapt to, the unavoidable impacts that shape this new reality of ours.

However, in the context of this session looking at ways forward for human rights and climate change, I would like to explore what we can do alltogether, not merely as individuals, but as actors in this arena. We've heard how global civil society has tried to inject the a HR approach into the UNFCCC. At the same time, political representative of governments, international organizations also have a heightened responsibility to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by all on the planet. Yes, being here, in the HRC, representing

governments and organizations, we have increased responsibilities, as well as related increased power to design and propose practical solutions and ways forward. And the timing for this discussion could not have been better.

As we know the human rights council will be discussing the possible steps forward to address the issues related to the impact of environmental degradations on human rights enjoyment, the specific impacts of climate change on HR enjoyments and possibly consider the creation of special procedures to address these issues.

I don't think I will break any news to anybody in the room in saying that these two discussions have been following distinct and parallel tracks and even seemed to compete against one another at times. In line with our constant engagement of all interested parties to find practical solutions for many years, and recognizing that this apparent competition is unnecessary and will be harmful to the future integration of human rights in addressing climate change situation, CIEL, together with its longtime partners, EJ and FES, convened a two days meeting last month to explore the points of frictions, and potential synergies between those two tracks. With the gracious participation of many experts, many present here today, and government representatives, this meeting fleshed out what the mandate of these potential special procedures could cover, potential synergies and potential divergences. We invite you to consult the report from this meeting available on the table outside our meeting room and build on the ideas developed during this meeting. The conclusions of the expert workshop of the human rights, environment and climate change was that those linkages require an institutional mechanism to be carried forward such as a special procedure. Given the multifaceted characters of these linkages as I will elaborate in a second of the .. Such mechanisms could capture the synergies in a joint procedures or take the form of two distinct procedures.

Issues raised by climate change are part of a larger body of issues linked to the impact on HRs of environmental degradation. These complex issues, as heard in comments from the floor yesterday, require a number of legal and theoretical clarifications on the specific state HRs obligations as they pertain to the environment. The role of non-state actors in this dynamic also requires clarifications and theoretical development. Similarly the question of the recognition of a right to a healthy environment is a critical step in addressing Environmental degradations via a rights-based approach. This recognition would largely benefit from the work of a legal expert, which could be fulfilled by a special procedure with a broad mandate to look at human rights and environment linkages. Engaging the RIO+20 process in this regards is critical to seize the opportunities presented by this global meeting later this year.

Similarly, in the context of the the RIO+20 process, the idea to develop an international binding instrument relating People 10 adopted in RIO 92 has been put forward. This idea, that all aspects of vulnerability is knowledge intensive, put the notion of access to information at the center our concerns and would benefit from a greater engagement of the HRC. A special procedure appears as a natural way to implement this.

Although Climate change is also an environmental issue, there is an immediate sense of urgency to effectively resolve the the climate crisis and a rights based approach is indispensable in this respect because addressing this crisis cannot be done at the expense of human rights. . This urgency calls for a the establishment of a specific fact finding mandate, capable of identifying best practices and disseminating them, actively engage UNFCCC and other relevant processes and processes, including the Montreal protocol, and serve as a focal point for dialogue with governments, stakeholders, IFIs, treaty bodies and other SPs. The

urgency to implement these simple steps has been demonstrated over and over again since the beginning of the seminar (and before that) and requires that a decision be taken in the very short term. Other aspects of such a mandate could include communication and consultation with affected communities, developing guidelines for the establishment of policy and management tools (such as CC impact assessment), and mainstreaming a rights based approach in all CC related actions and policies.

I am aware, of course of the political obstacles lying on the road before us, but I am confident that the level of expertise, deep commitment and legal and political experience represented in the room today, we can be innovative enough overcome these obstacles: be it via the creation of distinct SP, the creation of a joint mandate that would address the most pressing issues or any other options that will be devised in the coming weeks.

As you know the decisions are now in the hand of government representatives, but CIEL, and, I feel I capture the sentiment of all the other experts that have given such brilliant and inspirational presentations in the past two days, will continue to relentlessly work with you all to develop innovative and constructive solutions.

The upcoming discussions in the council present us with fantastic opportunities to make decisions to alter our current course to environmental disasters and unprecedented degradation of conditions of living for all inhabitants of the planet. We have to raise to this opportunity and lead by example, showing the level of international cooperation that we have been calling for since yesterday morning.

I'd like to finish with a very personal observation: In two weeks from now, I will become a dad to a lovely baby girl. This is a fascinating moment in every person's life, and sitting in this room at this time in my life, I can't help thinking of what my daughter-to-be will think of us. And I'm afraid that if we further indulge in very interesting discussions, but lack the courage to take actions, she will have every right to conclude that we are all guilty of criminal negligence to her, and the planet she will inherit.