

## UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### Call for Inputs: Air Pollution and Human Rights

There is now global agreement that human rights norms apply to environmental issues. The previous Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Mr. John Knox, developed [Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment](#) that set forth three sets of duties that engage both States and businesses: procedural obligations; substantive obligations; and obligations relating to those in vulnerable situations.

The newly-appointed Special Rapporteur, Mr. David Boyd, will prepare a thematic report focusing on human rights obligations in the context of air pollution (both outdoor and indoor). For that purpose, he is seeking inputs from stakeholders on the topic through responses to the brief questionnaire below.

Your replies will inform the Special Rapporteur's analysis and feed into his observations, which will be reported to the Human Rights Council in March 2019.

### Questionnaire

The Special Rapporteur invites and welcomes your answers to the following questions:

1. Please provide specific examples of constitutional provisions, legislation, regulations, standards, policies and programmes in relation to preventing, reducing, or eliminating air pollution, both outdoor and indoor. Please include, inter alia, any instruments that refer directly to the right to a healthy environment and/or the right to breathe clean air.
2. Please provide specific examples of good practices in preventing, reducing, or eliminating air pollution, both outdoor and indoor. These examples may occur at the international, national, sub-national, or local level. Examples may involve air quality monitoring; guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g. public access to air quality information, public participation in decision-making about air pollution, access to remedies); air quality legislation, regulations, standards, and policies; initiatives to reduce air pollution from specific sectors (e.g. electricity generation, industry, transportation, indoor cooking, heating, and lighting); laws, policies and programmes to protect vulnerable populations from air pollution; laws, policies, or programmes to concurrently address air pollution and climate change; and effective enforcement of rules governing air pollution.
3. Please identify specific challenges that your government, business, or organization has faced in attempting to address air pollution and its impacts on human rights.
4. Please specify ways in which additional protection is provided for populations who may be particularly vulnerable to air pollution (e.g. women, children, persons living in poverty, members of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities).

5. Please provide specific examples related to the regulation of businesses and other non-State actors in relation to the protection of human rights from air pollution and the fulfilment of their obligations in this regard.

6. How do you ensure that the rights of environmentalists working on air quality issues (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government or business made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, or reprisal?

### **Submission of responses**

We encourage you to please send your responses to the questionnaire in Word format by email to [srenvironment@ohchr.org](mailto:srenvironment@ohchr.org)

We kindly request that your submission be concise and limited to a maximum of 5 pages (or 2,000 words), not including appendices or attachments.

Due to a limited capacity for translation, we also request that your inputs be submitted in English, French, or Spanish.

To avoid unnecessary duplication: if you have recently replied to other questionnaires from UN human rights mechanisms (or other international bodies) with information that would be relevant to this request as well, we welcome your directing us to those replies.

**The deadline for submission is Wednesday, 31 October 2018.**

Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be made publicly available and posted on the Special Rapporteur's homepage at the OHCHR website.