



Human Rights Council, 55th session
Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on climate change
13 March 2024

The Center for International Environmental Law and Earthjustice welcome the High Commissioner's report, and the suggested human rights-based measures that States should undertake to address food security in the context of climate change, across mitigation, regulation of private actors, social protection measures, and finance, among other dimensions.

The report explicitly mentions the fossil fuels-agrochemicals nexus, which is often overlooked. Greenhouse gas emissions do not only arise once fertilizers are applied on the field, but over one third are also associated with fossil fuel extraction, transport, and processing. Moreover, as the report highlights, fossil-based agrochemicals used in industrial food production to sustain monoculture systems do not offer long-term solutions to food insecurity.

Food production depends on healthy ecosystems. The heavy use of synthetic agrochemicals durably pollutes the environment and causes soil degradation, which in turn reduces the soil's capacity to produce food, sequester carbon, and retain water, and leads to severe biodiversity loss.

The right to food can only be upheld if the triple environmental crisis, including climate change, does not escalate further. Phasing out all fossil agrochemicals is part of the solution.