

**55th Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**  
**7 March 2024**

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and Earthjustice thank the Special Rapporteur for her report on the right to participate in science.

The report importantly highlights the centrality of a human rights-based approach for environmental policies, in order to ensure that these do not undermine human rights. It further recalls that when taking action on climate change, States must comply with their human rights obligations and uphold the principles of participation and information, transparency, accountability, intergenerational equity, and non-discrimination.

Implementing a human rights-based approach to climate action implies that only measures that are scientifically proven and that address the root causes of climate change should be pursued. These include phasing out fossil fuels and scaling up renewable energies in a way that is equitable and grounded in human rights.

The report makes it clear that the right to participation in science also includes the right to participate in anticipating the harms resulting from science, in accordance with States' obligation to prevent harm and the precautionary and the due diligence principles. This is particularly relevant in the context of unproven and dangerous geoengineering technologies, which aim to address some of the impacts of climate change. Ongoing research, development, and testing of geoengineering technologies are currently taking place without the effective participation, access to information, and access to justice of those individuals, groups, and communities that are affected by them. We welcome the particular attention that the report devotes to Indigenous Peoples, recalling that States must ensure their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and integrate their scientific knowledge along with western approaches.

Finally, we echo the report's warning against the risks of actors with vested interest distorting the scientific discourse. The report refers as an example to the decades-long efforts by the fossil fuel industry to undermine effective climate action by manipulating public opinion. We urge States to take strong action to address the issue of conflict of interest and disinformation in all relevant fora.