



53rd Session of the Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on International Solidarity

June 28, 2023

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) would like to thank the Independent Expert for his work on revising the draft declaration on the human right of international solidarity.

We welcome the explicit inclusion of climate change and environmental degradation into the revised text. As currently drafted, the declaration includes elements and principles that are essential in tackling the triple planetary crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The draft declaration rightfully highlights that international solidarity, along with international cooperation, and intra- and inter-generational equity and justice, underpins States' obligation to protect, respect, and fulfill human rights.

We would like to emphasize two important points that are outlined in the Declaration.

First, developed States have an obligation to provide adequate resources and support to countries vulnerable to climate change to respond to mounting and foreseeable climate-related loss and damage. In the context of the UN climate framework, this translates to the operationalization of effective and equitable funding arrangements, including a Loss and Damage Fund.

Second, all States have the obligation to counter dis- and misinformation, and undue influence of corporate actors in governance processes - particularly environmental policymaking - and to reverse the shrinking of civic space by ensuring safe and meaningful participation of civil society organizations and Indigenous Peoples at the national, regional and international levels.

To conclude, we call on States to recognize and implement the right to international solidarity, and their corresponding duties, as a core element of effective human rights-based climate – and, more broadly, environmental – action.

Thank you.