Preamble:

Guided by the United Nations Charter; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action of the World Conference of Human Rights; The Universal Declaration on Rights of Children; The Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants; The International Labour Organization Convention No. 169; The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth; The Earth Charter; The Nagoya Protocol; Title II of the 2008 Constitution of Ecuador, and other relevant international rights instruments,


Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelationality of all human rights, the interrelationality of all life on Earth and the dependency of all life on Earth on a healthy biosphere and Earth system integrity,

Recognizing that climate change, caused by the human industrial and consumer activities, disproportionally affects indigenous peoples, the poor, women and children, the vulnerable, small island and low elevation coastal communities, developing countries, least developed countries, future generations and innumerable living beings and systems,

Recognizing that the ultimate realization of human rights in the age of climate crisis requires the full legal protection of the living beings and systems upon which human life depends,
**Preamble (continued):**

Recognizing that human beings are part of the living Earth system,

Recognizing the climate destructive and ecocidal results of assuming human separation from nature,

Recognizing the need for all cultures, faiths and traditions to play a role in the fullest development of climate and environmental stewardship, the teaching of respect for all living beings and systems and the development of climate resilient communities,

Recognizing that science confirms the threats of climate change to the Earth's systems and its multiple life forms,

Recognizing that science confirms the threat of climate change to the livelihoods and well-being of present and future generations,

Recognizing that climate impacts disproportionately affect innumerable living beings and systems that are intrinsically valuable in their own right and unable to defend themselves,

Recognizing that climate change displaces populations and that international, cross-border and internal migration has increased due to climate change and is likely to continue to do so,

Recognizing that courts and jurists of international standing link the fulfillment of human rights to a secure, healthy and ecologically viable environment, and consequently recognize that harming the environment undermines human rights,

Recognizing that it is the stewardship responsibility of human beings to respond to the climate harms and damage caused by human activities,

Deeply concerned by the severe human rights consequences of the continuing political failure to reach adequate commitments on climate mitigation and adaptation; by the dominance of the market as the primary value coordinating international responses to the climate crisis; and by the ongoing lack of accountability for corporate actors that violate human, environmental and climate rights,

Convinced that the potential irreversibility of climate change effects gives rise to an urgent need for new forms of state and non-state responsibility, accountability and liability.

**The Following Principles Are Declared:**

1. Human rights and a profound commitment to climate justice are interdependent and indivisible.
2. All human beings, animals and living systems have the right to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound Earth system.
3. All human beings have the right to fairness, equity and justice in all climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation measures and efforts.
4. All human beings have the right to a planetary climate suitable to meet equitably the ecologically responsible needs of present generations without impairing the rights of future generations to meet equitably their ecologically responsible needs.
5. All human beings, animals and living systems have the right to the highest attainable standard of health, free from environmental pollution, degradation and harmful emissions and to be free from dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system such that rising global temperatures are kept well below 2 degrees centigrade above preindustrial levels.
6. All human beings have the right to investments in adaptation and mitigation to prevent the deleterious consequences of anthropogenic climate change, and to international solidarity and timely assistance in the event of climate change driven catastrophes.
7. All human beings, animals and living systems have the right to fairness, equity and justice in respect of responses to the threat of climate change. This includes protection from deleterious impacts caused by adaptation and mitigation efforts to develop climate resilience, and by the potential deployment of climate geoengineering technologies.
8. All human beings have the right to a just transition towards a sustainable society characterized by meaningful inclusion and distributive justice
Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change

The first draft of this Declaration, prepared by a team of thirteen scholars from seven different countries on five different continents, was completed in November 2015, ahead of the COP21 meetings in Paris that year. The draft was later submitted for review globally in nine European, African and Asian languages* to environmental and human rights scholars, lawyers, jurists, indigenous community representatives, NGOs and others. Well over one hundred thoughtful responses and suggestions were received in response to this review process and incorporated into the final draft. The final version of the Declaration, completed in May 2016, was authorized by the drafting group for distribution.

Drafting group members
- Anna Grear, Professor of Law and Theory, Director of the GNHRE, Cardiff Law School, Wales, UK.
- Louis J. Kotzé, Research Professor, North-West University, South Africa; Deputy-Director, GNHRE.
- Dr Tom Kerns, Director, Environment and Human Rights Advisory; Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, North Seattle College, USA.
- Dr Kirsten Davies, Senior Lecturer, Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University, Australia.
- Dr Sam Adelman, Associate Professor of Law, School of Law, University of Warwick, UK.
- Deva Prasad M, Assistant Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India.
- Joshua C. Gellers, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Florida, USA.
- Dr Kerri Woods, Lecturer in Political Theory, University of Leeds, UK.
- Engobo Emeseh, Senior Lecturer in Law, Aberystwyth University, UK.
- Catherine Iorns Magallanes, Senior Lecturer in Law, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.
- Dr John Pearson LLB. LLM. LLM. Lecturer in Environmental Law and Human Rights, University of Manchester, UK.
- Ravi Rajan, Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA.
- Dr. Silja Klepp, Senior Researcher/Acting Managing Director, Sustainability Research Center, University of Bremen, Germany.

Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment
www.gnhre.org

* Spanish, German, Italian, Polish, Norwegian, Amharic, Mandarin, Persian and English