Business and Climate Justice:

What role can business play in tackling the human rights impacts of climate change?

16 April 2015 at 9 am EDT
Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
   - Shubha Chandra and Margaret Fenwick, UN Global Compact
2. Setting the Background to Climate Change and Human Rights
   - Tara Shine, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice
3. Business and Climate Justice
   - Edward Cameron, BSR
4. Legal Dimensions of Climate Change and Human Rights: Introducing the IBA Task Force Report
   - David W. Rivkin, International Bar Association
5. Question and Answer Session
6. Resources and Closing Remarks
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**Example:** Question for John Doe: What is Human Trafficking?
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

**8,000+**
Business participants

**4,000+**
Non-business participants

**28,000+**
Disclosure reports submitted

**Stakeholders**
- Business
- Industry Associations
- Investors
- Civil Society
- Labour
- Academia
- Government

**Global Network**
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America
- Asia & Oceania
- Africa
- MENA

**Platforms & Programmes**
- Human Rights & Labour
- Women's Empowerment
- Children's Rights and Business Principles
- Child Labour Platform
- Caring for Climate
- CEO Water Mandate
- Food + Agriculture Business Principles
- Anti-Corruption
- Business for Peace
- Business for the Rule of Law
- Business and Education
- Supply Chain Sustainability
- Global Compact LEAD

**Business Partnership Hubs**
- Water
- Climate and Energy
- Social Enterprise
- Anti-Corruption Collective Action
- UN-Business Partnership

**Sister Initiatives**
- Global Compact Cities Programme
- Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)
- Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)
- Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE)
Relationship between the UN Global Compact’s Human Rights principles and the Guiding Principles

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Principle 1  Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
Principle 2  make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

**LABOUR**

Principle 3  Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
Principle 4  the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
Principle 5  the effective abolition of child labour; and
Principle 6  the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Principle 7  Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
Principle 8  undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
Principle 9  encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

**ANTI-CORRUPTION**

Principle 10 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The same minimum requirement to **RESPECT** human rights as in the Guiding Principles

Voluntary opportunity to also **SUPPORT** human rights through:

- core business
- strategic social investment / philanthropy
- public policy advocacy
- partnerships / other forms of collective action
“We are not the sources of problems; we are the resources needed to solve them. We are not expenses; we are investments. We are not just young people; we are people and citizens of this world.”

- Children’s Forum, 5-7 May 2002 UN Special Session on Children
Caring for Climate

400 signatories
60 countries
30 sectors

Strategic Partners

PRI Principles for Responsible Investment
UNEP Finance Initiative
CDP Driving Sustainable Economies
THE CLIMATE GROUP
UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION
wbcSD
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Setting the Background to Climate Change and Human Rights

Business and Climate Justice
What role can business play in tackling the human rights impacts of climate change?

Webinar Thursday 16th April
About the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

Principles of Climate Justice

Climate Justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources. In seeking through its mission to realise its vision of a world engaged in the delivery of climate justice, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice dedicates itself to action which will be informed by the following core principles which it has elaborated.
About the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

Bridging

Convening

Thought-Leadership
Overview

1) How climate change undermines the enjoyment of human rights
2) How climate actions can pose risks to human rights
3) How human rights obligations can inform more effective climate action
4) The role of business
1. How climate change undermines the enjoyment of human rights

Climate change has implications for the full range of human rights, in particular the rights of poor, vulnerable and marginalised people.

As recognised by the Human Rights Council, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the UNFCCC

Example: the Right to Food

Climate change is unjustly and disproportionality affecting the food supplies of the most vulnerable

Arctic

Niger
2. How climate actions can pose risks to human rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct Impacts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inadequate consultation with citizens &amp; communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• [Violent] displacement of people and communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Exclusion from, or diversion of, essential resources</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indirect Impacts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increasing food prices and energy costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Loss of livelihoods for communities employed in fossil fuel sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Diminished developmental progress reducing countries overall ability to provide conditions for the realisation of rights</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Example: Right to Food - [Biofuels policies](#)
3. How human rights obligations can inform more effective climate action

“Applying human rights in the context of climate change brings many benefits. It moves the rights of affected individuals and communities centre stage in all response strategies.”

Example – Costa Rica

Constitutional right to a healthy environment informs participative climate policies in livestock and coffee sectors that have reduced poverty, realised the right to food, increased resilience & contributed to more sustainable business.

80% the country’s livestock farmers are taking action to remove thirteen million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent from the atmosphere over a 15 year period.
4. The role of business

The UN Guiding Principles require businesses to put in place policies and processes to respect human rights.

a) A policy commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change and undermine human rights.

b) A due diligence process which includes environmental and human rights factors and which seek to minimise the contribution of business to GHG emissions while maximising positive investments and actions to increase resilience and enable the transition to low carbon development.

c) Business engagement in processes to remediate the negative impacts of climate change on human rights.
4. The role of business

Opportunities through:

- ESG reporting
- UN Principles for Responsible Investment
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Business and Climate Justice

What role can business play in tackling the human rights impacts of climate change?

Edward Cameron
Managing Director, BSR

Webinar convened by UNGC and MRFCJ

16.04.2015
BSR Climate Goals

1. **Enhance** our collective understanding of climate risk

2. **Redefine** climate resilience to drive action

3. **Reduce** GHG emissions in line with holding temperatures below 2°C above pre-industrial levels

4. **Build** adaptive capacity to inevitable climate impacts through the power of the private sector
BSR strategy for climate resilience

**Translation:** The nature of risk differs across geographies and sectors, with most industries exposed to multiple and intersecting climate risks. BSR will translate these risks to help companies go further, faster in their efforts to reduce emissions and build adaptive capacity.

**Collaboration:** Tackling the challenge of global climate change requires more than the action of any one company, organization or sector alone. Business can avail of the transformational power of collaboration by working across industries to share lessons, pioneer new approaches and technologies, test solutions, and share costs and resources.

**Stabilization** of the climate system through a series of “resilience wedges” that BSR will create to help companies mitigate emissions and build adaptive capacity in eight industry sectors:
Global network
Membership of 250 multinational companies representing technology, heavy industry, consumer sectors, and more, with a network of international partners.

Climate action enablement
Expertise enabling companies to make climate commitments by developing sustainability strategies supported by key stakeholders.

Industry expertise
Deep experience turning climate theory into actionable and scalable solutions for business in the field, factory, and board room.

Collaborative power
Trusted convener bringing industries and experts together to address shared climate challenges.
Climate change and human rights

A powerful chain links climate change and human rights. Business has a role at the center of this chain.

Climate change undermines the realization of a variety of human rights.

When business becomes aware of, prevents, and addresses human rights impacts a powerful contribution is made to building climate resilience.

When business addresses climate change with urgency and ambition socio-ecological systems fundamental to human rights are preserved and strengthened.

Intersecting inequalities and the failure to protect and respect human rights can exacerbate vulnerability to climate change.
A new piece in the climate puzzle

Business is increasingly thinking of how climate change and human rights link and how that linkage could advance work on both issues.

For six consecutive years respondents to the BSR / Globescan survey on sustainability have ranked human rights, workers’ rights and climate change as the top three sustainability priorities for business.

Business has traditionally viewed these issues as sitting on separate ends of a socio-ecological spectrum. This is beginning to change.
Business interest and execution

Driver of interest

Method of execution

BRAND REPUTATION

WORKFORCE WELL-BEING

BOARD NARRATIVE

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

RESEARCH and COMMUNICATIONS

NEW APPROACH TO ADAPTATION

ENHANCED COMMITMENT TO GHG REDUCTIONS
Thinking about next steps

The development of the Sustainable Development Goals; the finalization of a new climate agreement; and the growing interest in the investor community provides a platform to go further. With this in mind:

• What support does business need to turn this embryonic understanding into sustained action?

• Are there ways to draw greater links between the climate / rights nexus and the Ruggie principles?

• What more can sustainability leads in companies do to increase understanding of social development interventions in shaping corporate climate policies?

• Are there additional ways to leverage the power of the rights / climate justice narrative to drive business action on GHG reductions?
Thank you!

Questions and comments are most welcome!
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Legal Dimensions of Climate Change and Human Rights: 
*Introducing the IBA Task Force Report*

David W. Rivkin
President, International Bar Association
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
IBA Climate Change Justice and Human Rights Task Force

• Task Force of eminent human rights and environmental law specialists convened in November 2012
• Chaired by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC and David Estrin
• Report “Achieving Justice and Human Rights in an Era of Climate Disruption” launched at showcase event in Tokyo in October 2014
Overview of IBA Report

- Comprehensive survey of existing international, regional and domestic legal frameworks which have an effect on climate change
- Recommends legal, regulatory and institutional reforms to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Recommendations at multilateral, State, corporate and individual levels
- Shift towards a human rights and justice-centred approach to focus on the needs of the most vulnerable communities

Key Challenge:
Fragmentation and decentralisation of international and domestic rules governing climate change; not drafted with climate change in mind
Matrix of Recommendations

- Over 50 recommendations addressed to States, international organisations, domestic institutions, corporations, communities and individuals
- Recommendations designed to be practical, manageable and politically feasible

Climate change and Corporate Responsibility:
- Chapter on corporate responsibility – recognises role of both businesses and regulators
- Increasing recognition of corporate responsibility for environmental harms that impact human rights
- Development of clear and coherent regulatory standards
## Report Recommendations – Short Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>• Adopt and promote the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td>• Mandatory reporting of GHG emissions (based on ISO standards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organisations</td>
<td>• UN High Commissioner for Human Rights should develop <strong>model internal corporate policy</strong> for environmental risk analysis and remediation</td>
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</tbody>
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## Report Recommendations – Medium Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies</td>
<td>• Disclose climate change impacts (including those of subsidiaries, affiliates and supply chain) in corporate reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td>• Development of standards for corporate reporting on human rights issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Standardise quantification of GHG emissions through incorporation of ISO standards in GHG business management programmes; promote good practices in energy management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organisations</td>
<td>• Monitor multinational corporations’ compliance with human rights standards and GHG emissions</td>
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## Report Recommendations – Long Term

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<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>• Development of enforcement and compliance mechanisms to ensure compliance with environmental commitments and climate change justice in international agreements</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Promote application of domestic legislation and reporting requirements to companies’ overseas operations</td>
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</table>
Next Steps - Implementation

- Working Group on Model Statute on Climate Change Remedies
- Working Group on Adaptation
- Participation of IBA Committees and Sections on specific recommendations
- UN Global Compact – Caring for Climate
- UN Business & Human Rights Forum – November 2015
- UNFCCC – Paris 2015
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Resources

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- UN Global Compact
  - Climate Change: www.caringforclimate.org
  - Women’s Empowerment Principles: http://weprinciples.org
  - Children’s Rights and Business Principles: http://childrenandbusiness.org
Questions?

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www.unglobalcompact.org