

Dear delegate,

On Monday, 10th of December, 2018, the world will celebrate the **70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. In 1948, this historic moment signalled the beginning of a new era founded on the respect of human dignity and the belief that the rights of all humans deserve equal protection.

Seventy years afterwards, the growing impacts of climate change threaten to undermine these very notions. **Preserving this vision now requires decisive action by all governments**. To remain true to their commitment to human rights, governments must urgently tackle the disastrous impacts of the fossil fuel industry on our planet, protect those speaking up for the rights of their communities, promote gender equality in climate action, provide adequate support to vulnerable countries, and guarantee that projects implemented in the name of climate action do not reinforce existing abuses.

While the majority of these actions require resolute domestic action, **governments can reaffirm in Katowice their commitment to upholding their human rights obligations by taking the following steps:**

1. The COP-24 must endorse the need for urgent enhanced action. Less than two months ago, the IPCC's Special Report on 1.5°C provided a sobering assessment of the risks associated with any additional amount of warming. In light of these findings and of the outcomes of the Talanoa Dialogue, the Parties must **express unequivocally their willingness to increase ambition in a COP decision**.
2. Parties must **adopt in Katowice a comprehensive set of modalities to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement**. Whether the Agreement will contribute to avert the most dangerous impacts of climate change depends on whether all of the Agreement's incentives are fully leveraged and whether any loophole is avoided through the modalities for its implementation.
3. **These modalities must reflect the full vision of the Paris Agreement — that of rights-based, participative, and gender-responsive climate action that contributes to promoting a just transition and food security while respecting indigenous rights and traditional knowledge**. When finalising the guidelines related to the communication of future NDCs, the scope of national reporting, or the modalities of the Article 6 mechanisms, the Parties should ensure that this vision is adequately reflected so as to provide an incentive for the integration of human rights in domestic climate action.
4. The COP-24 Presidency's proposal for a Solidarity & Just Transition Declaration reaffirms the commitment made in Paris to **promote a just transition of the workforce, including the recognition of the importance of participatory and representative social dialogue**. We urge your government to join this ministerial declaration, as well as ensure that the principle is adequately reflected in relevant COP-24 outcomes.
5. The COP-24 must finalise the **operationalisation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform** to ensure that their perspectives and their knowledge informs effectively the implementation of climate policies. This operationalisation must facilitate the delivery of all of three functions of the Platform while respecting the principles put forward by indigenous peoples and accepted by Parties at COP-23.

Finally, climate policy making can only be effective when citizens are fully associated — the principles of transparency and participation being cornerstones of your country's human rights obligations. These principles must be fully upheld during the COP-24, both in the negotiation process but also with regards to demonstrations and public gatherings taking place in Katowice. [Given the concerns raised by the United Nations with regards to the Polish government's plans for the COP](#), **we call on your delegation to stress the importance of civil and political rights in your interactions with the Polish presidency**.

By adopting adequate decisions in Katowice, the States can demonstrate their commitment to tackling the human rights implications of climate change and to placing communities at the centre of climate responses.

We will come to COP-24 with great expectations on your delegation as well as with the commitment to support your work on these issues throughout COP-24.