

Human Rights Council – 41st session

Panel discussion on women's rights and climate change:

climate action, good practices and lessons learned

Thank you Mr President.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Croatia and Slovenia.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of the modern world, which can only be addressed by a united approach, based on multilateral commitment and through common action on an international, national, regional, local and individual level. Everyone has a role to play.

Human Rights Council has been a longstanding actor on issues related both to climate change and the environment as well as rights of women, and we welcome today's panel addressing this intersection.

Climate change is a threat and a threat multiplier. It exacerbates pre-existing gender inequalities and exposes women to risks associated with disasters and climate change, making them disproportionately affected by it. Likewise, it is important to underline that the role of women in disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies is indispensable.

The adverse effects of climate change on the effective enjoyment of the rights of women require urgent, rights-based, gender-responsive climate action that will respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women and ensure their empowerment as agents of change. We welcome the work done by the OHCHR in producing the analytical study. We hope that the recommendations will be taken into account in the preparations for the Climate Action Summit in September.

We would like to propose that the coalitions formed for the Climate Action Summit contribute to ensure that a gender perspective is taken into account in the ambitions formed throughout all the proposals, on a horizontal level, in addition to the specific chapter on gender and climate change in the coalition on social and political drivers.

Thank you.