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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 January 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Climate Motivation and Mobilisation for the effective Realization of the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment

The recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly marked a historic progress, but implementation gaps remain severe. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment underlines that realizing this right requires both substantive outcomes (clean air, safe climate, healthy ecosystems) and procedural guarantees (access to information, participation, and justice).

In her report A/80/187, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes that environmental degradation and climate change disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, children, women and persons in vulnerable situations. The report stresses that measures to implement the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment must be people-centred, locally grounded and consistent with human dignity, equality and non-discrimination.

Scientific evidence on rising temperatures, biodiversity loss and pollution is overwhelming, yet the scale and speed of responses remain inadequate to the emergency. Bridging the gap between knowing and doing requires climate motivation and mobilisation: awakening the social and political will to act at the scale that the crisis and human rights obligations demand.

Climate mobilisation, as articulated in our Climate Motivation and Mobilisation Manifesto, is about: inspiring moral courage and emotional connection to the Earth; building movements that demand rapid, systemic transitions rather than incremental performance; and recognizing the agency and power of communities to act locally while thinking globally. It calls for an emergency response that unites youth, faith actors, civil society and institutions to move from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism or even cosmocentrism, consistent with the Special Rapporteur's call to protect ecosystems for present and future generations.

Motivation is the inner dimension of this transformation: the deep understanding that protecting the Earth is not optional, but integral to the enjoyment of all human rights. Traditions such as the Sikh concept of *chardi kala*, resilient hope and joy in the face of adversity, exemplify the kind of hope that does not wait for permission but acts, aligning with the mandate's emphasis on empowerment and participation.

We launched the Climate Motivation and Mobilisation Manifesto at Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference in 2022 as a call to transform climate motivation into sustained, community-rooted mobilisation across sectors and faiths. We are encouraged to see that this initiative has contributed to the spirit of the COP30 Brazilian Presidency's Global Mutirão agenda, which seeks to unite humanity in a global mobilization against climate change. During COP30 in Belém, we hosted three side events to further strengthen the emerging global coalition around climate motivation and mobilisation.

Faith, spirituality and local knowledge can be powerful drivers for implementing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Special Rapporteur has highlighted the importance of culturally grounded approaches, Indigenous knowledge and community leadership in shaping effective, legitimate environmental action.

In Punjab, India, the Nishan-e-Sikhi Charitable Trust offers a concrete illustration of how values-based motivation becomes sustained mobilisation. Guided by the teaching "Pavan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahat" (Air is the Guru, Water is the Father, and Earth is the Great Mother of all), the initiative has, over more than two decades, combined spiritual inspiration with practical environmental stewardship.

Key elements include: large-scale tree planting in hundreds of mini-forests, with diverse species providing ecological benefits and community spaces; a shift to organic farming without chemical fertilizers, aligned with the right to healthy food and a non-toxic environment; and the use of renewable energy and water-recharge systems that reduce emissions and protect local resources. These actions are integrated with education, youth engagement and plastic-reduction efforts, demonstrating how faith-based leadership and

community ownership can deliver mutually reinforcing co-benefits for climate, biodiversity, health and social cohesion.

Such examples echo the Special Rapporteur's emphasis in A/80/187 on holistic approaches that connect environmental quality with health, food, water, culture and participation. They also show that when communities see environmental care as sacred duty and shared responsibility, they are more likely to sustain ambitious action over time.

To support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and close the implementation gap, we respectfully recommend that the Human Rights Council:

- Encourage States to recognize and support the role of faith-based actors, different worldviews, Indigenous Peoples and local communities as key partners in implementing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- Invite the Special Rapporteur to further explore in future reports the contributions of faith traditions, different world views, local knowledge systems and community-rooted initiatives to climate motivation and mobilization.
- Urge States to integrate community-driven, values-based approaches into national policies on climate, biodiversity, pollution and just transition, ensuring meaningful participation, access to information, and accountability mechanisms.
- Call on international financial institutions, United Nations entities and donors to provide accessible, flexible support for grassroots, faith-linked, pluralistic perspectives and local initiatives that advance environmental protection and human rights, with particular attention to those most affected by environmental harm.
- We also encourage all stakeholders, states, businesses, cities, faith and community leaders, youth and civil society to join and support climate mobilisation efforts that start in schools, universities, gurdwaras, temples, mosques, synagogues, churches and other community spaces, and that translate motivation into concrete, measurable improvements in environmental quality and human rights enjoyment.

In the spirit of shared responsibility and hope, we invite partners to endorse and implement the Climate Motivation and Mobilisation Manifesto as a tool to operationalize the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment from the local to the global level.
