

***Charting the way forward:  
Combating the impact of climate change on human rights***

**Side Event  
at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
on SDGs 13 and 16**

**11 July 2024, 1.15 – 2.45 pm EDT**

*Permanent mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the UN  
600 3rd Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10016  
and on-line on Zoom*

The 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Reykjavík (Iceland) recognised the urgency of additional efforts to protect the environment, as well as to counter the impact of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It committed the Organisation to strengthening work on the human rights aspects of the environment.

One year on, the time has come to chart the way forward: building on our first achievements, we need to discuss how best to build a resilient, multi-stakeholder coalition to address the on-going challenges in Europe and beyond related to SDG 13 and SDG 16.

Organised by the Council of Europe and Lithuania, this side event will discuss crucial questions with high-level panellists from the Council of Europe, the current and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, the Vice-President of the Lithuanian Consumers Alliance, MPs, representatives of local and regional authorities, INGOs and young people:

- How to form constructive and resilient partnerships to effectively counter the impact of the triple planetary crisis on human rights and democracy?
- What priority areas for action to accelerate the legal anchoring and the effective implementation of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment?
- In the face of accelerating climate change, how can we guarantee the human rights of current and future generations?

**Come and share your points of view in an interactive discussion!**

**In person participation** (*light refreshments will be served at 1 pm*):

Due to limited room capacity, in-person participation is available by registration on a first-come, first-served basis only.

To register, please send an email to [andrius.malinauskas@urm.lt](mailto:andrius.malinauskas@urm.lt) and [irina.spoiala@coe.int](mailto:irina.spoiala@coe.int) with your name, organisation and position, and the subject: "Registration\_request\_HLPF Side-event\_SDGs 13, 16".

**Online participation on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82981845801?pwd=s3gnMSHkeZBAf3NPBNvgOdM3Fve9kg.pULDPkFb-TbXBKA0>

Passcode: 085365

## SPEAKERS:

- **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (*video message*)
- **Rytis Paulauskas**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations (*opening remarks*)
- **Kęstutis Kupšys**, member of the European Economic and Social Committee and Vice-President of the Lithuanian Consumers Alliance
- **Rafael Benitez**, Director, Council of Europe Directorate on Social Rights, Health and Environment
- **Astrid Puentes**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment
- **David Boyd**, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment
- **Simon Moutquin**, Chairperson, PACE Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Rapporteur on “Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavík process”
- **Bernd Vöhringer**, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities (Germany, EPP/CCE), Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Marko Bošnjak**, President of the European Court of Human Rights (*video message*)
- **Małgorzata Kwiędacz-Palosz**, ClientEarth, representative of the Council of Europe Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations
- **Agnes Gkoutziamani**, Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)
- **Moderator: Tanja Kleinsorge**, Head of Department, Reykjavík Process and Environment, Council of Europe

