



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 10

### Technical assistance and capacity-building

## **Written statement\* submitted by Women's Federation for World Peace International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status**

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

[22 August 2022]

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



## **Nature-based Education and Partnership for Social Responsibility for the Advancement of the Human Rights Council Resolution 48/1 “Human Right to Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment”**

This statement is presented by the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) on behalf of its members in 114 countries, addressing the 51st Human Rights Council sessions. We foresee unlimited opportunities to work with the newly adopted resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Without such mitigating actions, conditions conducive to community develop are severely impeded. Global leaders have agreed to a right to development, implying a right to shared prosperity, and sustainable and regenerative communities. Climate change affects living conditions through lack of access to sustainable and healthy food and water sources, health, and disease from pollution. Addressing climate change is addressing our basic right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and brings the conditions for development and prosperity to communities and nations.

### **Pollution and food insecurity**

Only 1.2 per cent of the earth's freshwater is consumable. There is a significant need to protect the little we have. In many countries, the available water can be contaminated due to agricultural runoff of pesticides, inadequate disposal of solid waste (plastic pollution), and toxic heavy metals from local mining. Current widespread agricultural practices have greatly contributed to the breakdown of the natural environment as well as human wellbeing. Malnutrition and food and water security are worsened due to climate change.

As of 2020, roughly, 16 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America have been affected by the food crisis induced by extreme weather events. The food crisis is aggravated by unsustainable agricultural practices and awareness in the face of climate change, deforestation, and a lack of finance to create sustainable food sources. Deforestation contributes to pollution from the emissions, it also contributes to malnutrition due to cutting down fruit-bearing trees.

### **Soil building and educating for win-win partnership**

Soil building is as important as peacebuilding. Small scale farming practices, such as home food forests, with eco-based practices have not been widespread due to a lack of support from some governments. Recently governments have tried to block this practice because of biosecurity, leaving no alternative but to buy products from large scale growers implementing unhealthy and unsustainable farming practices. Although this is removing individuals' basic right to help themselves and their environment to perpetuate the recommendations of Resolution 48/13.

Education is needed in order to change the mindset of individuals and empower them with new ideas so that they may work toward removing destructive practices that have been ingrained into society and replacing them with new and more beneficial practices. Nature-based principles should be common practice, involving the general principles of no waste, sustainable living, and permaculture principles. Win-win partnership between government and civil society to create policies that support impactful implementation such as subsidising education programs on regenerative agriculture, designing homes, communities and businesses that work with nature and climate smart technologies.

Encouraging businesses, manufacturers, and heavy CO2 emitting businesses such as fuel stations to engage in partnerships with civil society and education sectors in projects that are regenerative such as funding green education programs for children and young people, designing and building green communities through community recreation areas and food forests.

Affirming WFWPI's commitment to allow an enabling environment for the achievement of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (HRC Resolution 48/13) Section 4. Encourages States: (a) To build capacities for the efforts to protect the environment to fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments, and to enhance cooperation.

### **Climate Action Projects**

WFWPI in partnership with local governments and civil society organizations, through permaculture education, circular fashion, and green community livelihood projects such as the Giving for Good Climate Action Projects Grant, implemented in the following countries: Albania, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Africa, and Zambia have generated civil society engagement promoting awareness, education and practices for climate adaptation and regenerative livelihoods that are making significant improvements to the health of local communities and the planet. WFWPI developed reports for fourteen countries on environmental issues they faced, it indicated their promises outlined in their governments' COP26 statements, and provided suggestions on how they could support the intentions of their governments with sustainable programs and actions.

WFWPI encourages the Human Rights Council, member States and global leaders to provide a clear explanation of mitigating actions and educate on programs, incentives and actions that meet the needs of resolution 48/13. While the matter of climate change and the need for adaptation and mitigation is accepted by policy makers and civil society, implementation of mitigating actions is poor due to lack of knowledge and guidance on what sustainable planetary healing actions are.

### **In conclusion**

WFWPI would like to remind governments that their commitment to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment entails providing information and guidance on how to sustainably reach this right for all citizens, and to work together in increasingly effective partnership to secure our common future.

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