**Reply to the questionnaire on human rights and climate change**

***Answers are provided by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic***

**2. Please describe any specific policy, legislation, practice or strategy that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementations.**

The Greek National Adaptation Strategy, endorsed in 2016, sets out general objectives, guiding principles and implementation tools, which are in line with EU Directives and the international experience. The Greek National Adaptation Strategy suggests potential adaptation actions for all environmental and socio-economic sectors in Greece likely to be significantly affected by climate change, i.e. natural ecosystems and biodiversity; agriculture and food security; forestry; fisheries and aquaculture; water resources; coastal zones; tourism; health; energy and industry; transport; the built environment; cultural heritage; insurance industry.

The key objectives of the Greek National Adaptation Strategy are:

1. To establish and enhance the short-term and long-term decision-making procedure regarding adaptation issues;
2. To link adaptation with the promotion of a sustainable growth model through the implementation of regional/local Action Plans;
3. To promote adaptation actions and policies in all sectors of the Greek economy, with emphasis on the most vulnerable ones;
4. To create monitoring, evaluation and update mechanisms for adaptation actions and policies; and
5. To build adaptation capacity and raise public awareness.

Moreover, this Adaptation Strategy is being implemented through 13 Administrative Regional Adaptation Action Plans, one for each Greek Administrative Region; it has been adopted in line with the Aarhus Convention provisions for participatory governance, bringing together all the key regional adaptation stakeholders, including major water consumers such as agriculture, industry and tourism, both at the planning and implementation stages.

**Please identify and share examples of good practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.**

The Greek National Adaptation Strategy considers education as a lever for building “climate conscience and adaptive capacity” and foresees integrating climate adaptation into the environmental education programmes of primary and secondary education, as well as into the tertiary education curricula and research. It also promotes life-long learning for adaptation.

The Regional Adaptation Action Plans include, inter alia, concrete training and informal education activities tailored to regional vulnerabilities and circumstances, while they are tailored-made for public servants, climate vulnerable professional groups and other key adaptation stakeholders.