# **Contributions to the Questionnaire on Human Rights and Climate Change**

*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

*for the Report to be presented at the 44th session of the Human Rights Council*

This document constitutes the response of the State of Honduras to the Questionnaire on human rights and climate change in relation to Human Rights Council Resolution A / HRC / RES / 41/21.

## On the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities.

According to the information provided by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) in Honduras, 50% of disasters are associated with hydrometeorological events, and tropical storms / hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts and forest fires occur more frequently. The events that have registered the greatest number of loss of life are floods and tropical storms in a 90% occurrence and more than 80% of destroyed homes have been recorded during the floods.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Rains and droughts extended for unusual periods of time have affected both the urban and rural population, mainly affecting the right to life, access to water, food security, health and housing, in the face of these situations are especially vulnerable children, people with disabilities and older adults.

Regarding food security, it is also limited as a result of floods or droughts that affect the region, which implies a decrease or loss of agricultural productivity, which negatively affects the rural population of the country that It is dedicated to the field, with respect to access to drinking water, this has decreased, due to pollution of aquifer sources, extreme weather events such as prolonged droughts, and population growth. Recent droughts in the capital have disproportionately affected people in poverty.

A deteriorated and water-scarce environment is a severely expose the population to the transmission of pathogens, which are the main triggers of infectious diseases or epidemics.

## On legislation, policies and other relevant measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change that guarantees the full and effective enjoyment of rights

1. The General Environment Law,

2. Climate Change Law[[2]](#footnote-2),

3. Country Vision Law (2010-2038) and the Nation Plan (2010-2022)[[3]](#footnote-3),

4. Law of the National System of Integral Risk Management (SINAGER)[[4]](#footnote-4),

5. Law of Equity and Integral Development for Persons with Disabilities[[5]](#footnote-5),

6. The Central American Integration System approved the Central American Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management,

7. Public Policy and National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2013-2022)[[6]](#footnote-6),

8. The National SDG Agenda[[7]](#footnote-7),

9. National Climate Change Strategy[[8]](#footnote-8),

10. State Policy and Plan for Comprehensive Risk Management in Honduras (2017-2030)[[9]](#footnote-9)harmonized with the SENDAI Framework,

11. Public Policy for the Exercise of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion in Honduras[[10]](#footnote-10).

12. Food and Nutrition Security Policy[[11]](#footnote-11)

13. National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Agri food Sector,

14. National Family Farming Strategy of Honduras 2017-2030.

The mechanisms responsible for complying with these regulations are mainly housed in the Executive Branch and the Presidential Council on Climate Change (Climate +)[[12]](#footnote-12) and the National SDG Commission (CN-ODS) stand out. Apart from these coordinating instances, the executing entities are concentrated in the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) for which it has the Local Emergency Committees (CODEL) and the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM). In 2019, it formed and trained 169 CODEL Committees, made up of 1,859 people.

In addition, in 2016 the National Center for Atmospheric, Oceanographic and Seismic Studies (CENAOS) of COPECO became operational.

***Regarding the examples of good practices in the promotion, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of persons with disabilities in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.***

According to the data collected by COPECO, it is estimated that deaths generated in emergencies have been reduced by 70%[[13]](#footnote-13), despite the increase in recurrence of the phenomena year after year.

This has been achieved thanks to the COPECO Institutional Modernization (2011-2014) process that covered the entire national territory in all areas of Integral Risk Management, improving the response capacity, increasing its territorial presence, modernizing the monitoring system and surveillance with radars and telemetric stations, implementing the Early Warning System (SAT) in several municipalities. Especially the Directorate of Prevention Management was strengthened with equipment to carry out studies and analyzes to measure vulnerability and risk. In addition, COPECO achieved the expansion of its warehouses and currently has 35 thousand m2, and 1,773 members nationwide for civil protection.

COPECO executes the Policy for Integral Risk Management in Honduras and the National Plan for Integral Risk Management, whose objectives and axes are linked to the priorities of SENDAI and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1, SDG 11 and SDG 13).

At the municipal level, 186 municipalities have been identified at medium and high-risk levels, managing 135 to intervene by COPECO, which have Municipal Risk Management Plans with a Territorial Planning Approach, Prevention and Response Plans, and Threat Mapping.

Likewise, as a result of the incorporation of risk prevention in the education processes, the “Methodological Guide for the Incorporation of the GIRD in the Educational Curriculum”[[14]](#footnote-14) was prepared, at the Pre-Basic, Basic and Middle levels.

Another of the good practices is the progress in the management and management of emergencies of the National Emergency System 911, where contingencies due to natural phenomena are attended, requiring humanitarian assistance and prehospital services.

***On the current challenges.***

It is possible to continue advancing in the territorial planning and analysis of the investment to avoid generating more risks, which will be done with the “Methodological Guide and Tool of Territorial Planning and Risk Management”. Another challenge according to the data collected is the inclusion of the private sector with the implementation of alliances for Integral Risk Management, the installation and operation of the Emergency Medical Unit to other cities in the country.

There is also the challenge of incorporating the population with disabilities, organizations of and for people with disabilities and their families in all processes that from the State are implemented to mitigate the risks and effects of climate change, as well as make even more visible to the various groups placed in a situation of vulnerability.

1. COPECO: Annual Work Report 2018. Page 8 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Decreto No. 297-2013 published in the Official Gazette No. 33,577, of November 10, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Decreto No. 286-2009 published in the Official Gazette No32,129, of February 2, 2010. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Decreto No. 151-2009 published in the Official Gazette No32,098, of December 26, 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Decreto Legislativo No. 160-2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Decreto Ejecutivo No. 003-2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Available at: <http://www.scgg.gob.hn/es/node/236> accessed December 23, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Decreto Ejecutivo No. PCM-046-2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Available at: <http://www.pgrd-copeco.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/POLITICA-NACIONAL-GR.pdf> accessed December 24, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Decreto Ejecutivo PCM No. 33-2013 published in the Official Gazette No. 33,205, of August 17, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Available at: <http://www.ceniss.gob.hn/alianzacs/documentos/BORRADOR%20PYENSAN%202030%2018012019%20EC%20SL%20RM%203%20editado%20FINAL.pdf> accessed December 24, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Decreto Ejecutivo PCM-035-2017 published in the Official Gazette No. 34,670, of June 19, 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. COPECO: Annual Work Report 2018. Page 12 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. GIRD: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management [↑](#footnote-ref-14)