



Stakeholder Communication Form (Version 01.0)

This form shall be used for any CDM-related communication with the UNFCCC secretariat or the CDM Executive Board. All the questions are mandatory unless otherwise indicated.

The completed form and any supplemental documents shall be submitted electronically to cdm-info@unfccc.int, or via fax to +49-228-815-1999 or via post to: Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM) Programme, UNFCCC secretariat, P.O. Box 260124, D-53153 Bonn, Germany.

SECTION 1: COMMUNICATION HEADER

Please provide your contact information.

Title: Mr. **First Name:** John **Last Name:** Knox

Name of Organization: UN Special Rapporteur on human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment **E-mail Address:** srenvironment@ohchr.org

Postal Address: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10 **Phone Number:** 13364041785
Country: Switzerland *Include country code (e.g. +49-228-815-1999)*

Stakeholder Type: Other If other: United Nations Special Rapporteur

Please indicate from whom you would like to get an answer.

This communication is addressed to¹: Chair of CDM Executive Board (normal track)

SECTION 2: PROJECT ACTIVITY OR PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (PoA)

If this communication refers to a specific CDM project activity/PoA, please answer questions in this section (otherwise proceed to Section 3).

Project/PoA Ref. Number	5-digit# format 01234	If applicable, CPA Ref. Number:	8-digit# format 0123-4567
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Project Cycle Stage	[Choose an item]	If other:	
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If there is no specific CDM Reference Number, please answer the remaining questions in this section (otherwise proceed to Section 3).

Host Country(ies)

Project/PoA Title

Technology Type	[Choose an item]	If other:	
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SECTION 3: YOUR COMMUNICATION

Title/Subject <small>Maximum 250 characters</small>	Open Letter on Human Rights and Climate Change
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Communication Text <small>Include background, details, and conclusion (unlimited length)</small>	<p>Dear CDM Board Members:</p> <p>I write in my role as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.</p> <p>On Human Rights Day last year, 10 December 2014, all 76 of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and other Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council came together to issue a joint statement on climate change and human rights. We stated there</p>
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¹ In accordance with the "Procedure: Direct communication with stakeholders" (version 02.0), stakeholders may address communications either (a) to the secretariat, in order to seek a fast-track technical or operational explanation regarding the implementation of existing CDM rules, or (b) to the CDM Executive Board, in order to communicate to the Board their views on CDM rules and their implementation, or to seek official clarifications of CDM rules.

	<p>that human rights obligations apply not only to the urgent need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, but also to measures taken to respond to climate change. This includes measures taken under the auspices of the Clean Development Mechanism.</p> <p>Specifically, the joint statement includes the following:</p> <p>“Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our generation with consequences that transform life on earth and adversely impact the livelihood of many people. It poses great risks and threats to the environment, human health, accessibility and inclusion, access to water, sanitation and food, security, and economic and social development. These impacts of climate change interfere with the effective enjoyment of human rights. In particular, climate change has a disproportionate effect on many disadvantaged, marginalized, excluded and vulnerable individuals and groups, including those whose ways of life are inextricably linked to the environment. . . .”</p> <p>“Human rights can also be threatened through mitigation and adaptation measures seeking to reduce, control and prevent climate change and its impacts. Where such measures are adopted without the full and effective participation of concerned individuals and communities, they can result in violations of human rights and may lead to the adoption of measures that are unsustainable and not responding to the needs of rights-holders. . . .”</p> <p>“Climate justice sees the effect and causes of climate change in relation to the concept of justice, namely, whether the rights of most marginalized and vulnerable populations are taken into account when implementing response measures and whether such measures are fair, equitable and transparent.”</p> <p>In this light, I urge you to give favorable consideration to the points made by the 98 civil society organizations and individuals who joined in the 9 October 2015 letter to you. In particular, I support their recommendations that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- develop a work programme to establish an independent accountability mechanism for the CDM; -- adopt international sustainable development safeguards consistent with international law, including international human rights law; -- support engagement by the UNFCCC Secretariat with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Procedures, especially in relation to potential human rights impacts of CDM projects; and -- support the recommendations in the UNFCCC Secretariat concept note on improving stakeholder consultation processes. <p>Taking these steps would go a long way towards ensuring that CDM projects comply with human rights norms on information, transparency, and participation – and that, in turn, would help to ensure that the projects are both fair and effective.</p> <p>I and the other Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts of the Human Rights Council are available and willing to assist in any way we can as you undertake this important work!</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>John H. Knox</p> <p>Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law, Wake Forest University</p>
<p>Supplemental Documents <i>If applicable, list the title(s) of any attached file(s) or link(s)</i></p>	
<p>This communication may be made public</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	02 March 2015	This form supersedes and replaces the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F-CDM-RtB: <i>Form for submission of Letters to the Board</i> (version 01.2)• F-CDM-RtB-DOE: <i>Form for communication on policy issues initiated by AEs/DOEs</i> (version 01.1)• CDM-RtB-DNA: <i>Form for communication on policy issues initiated by DNAs</i> (version 01.1)

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