

Committee: Human Rights Council

Delegation: The Climate Reality Project

Topic: Countering Disinformation



The history of *The Climate Reality Project* is closely linked to former U.S. Vice President Albert Arnold Al Gore (1993–2001) and his longstanding public commitment to addressing the climate crisis. In 2006, Al Gore founded *The Climate Project (TCP)* with the mission of raising public awareness of climate change at the grassroots level in the United States and abroad. Its objective was to catalyze a global response by making urgent climate action a societal priority.¹ *TCP* rapidly expanded in membership, funding and public consensus and later merged in 2010 with the *Alliance for Climate Protection*, another organization created by Al Gore. In 2011, the merged entity adopted its current name: *The Climate Reality Project (CRP)*.

Today, *CRP* is a global initiative dedicated to confronting climate change and promoting just, sustainable solutions that accelerate the worldwide energy transition.² It advances its mission by recruiting, training and mobilizing individuals across the globe who are united in pursuing a truly sustainable future. One of the organization's core pillars is the *Climate Reality Leadership Corps*, which equips "*Climate Reality Leaders*" with the tools to engage in advocacy, community organizing and educating;³ moreover, to advance its mission, *CRP* has established 11 regional branches across the Indo-Pacific, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe, and currently has a presence in 192 countries,⁴ over the partnerships with other important NGOs across the world.⁵

As part of its global mission, *CRP* considers the fight against climate disinformation a priority. According to the European Commission, climate disinformation refers to the intentional spread of false or misleading information about climate change and climate action.⁶ Such narratives - often amplified through social media, political interests or economic lobbies⁷ - undermine public trust in governments, international institutions and scientific committees working on climate change. They increase societal polarization - restricting space for informed debate -, delay climate action and fuel skepticism regarding

¹ The Climate Reality Project; URL: <https://www.climate realityproject.org/climate-101>

² The Climate Reality Project Japan, URL: <https://climate realityjapan.org/en/about-us>

³ according to The Climate Reality Project Japan, the worldwide *community of Leaders* currently totals 53,135 people; URL: <https://climate realityjapan.org/en/about-us>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ The Climate Reality Project; URL: <https://www.climate realityproject.org/partners>

⁶ European Commission on the Climate disinformation; URL: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-disinformation_it

⁷ such as the interests of "Big Polluters" like oil and coal companies; according to the Human Rights Council, A/HRC/47/25, "...companies play a major role in spreading disinformation..."; URL: <https://www.climate realityproject.org/climate-101> pp. 2-4

the urgency of the crisis.⁸ At the same time, the global disinformation industry is increasingly professionalized and financially lucrative, driven largely by commercial incentives.⁹

According to the Human Rights Council, there is no universally accepted definition of disinformation.¹⁰ The lack of such an agreement creates ambiguity and complicates the regulation: the inherently political nature of the concept of disinformation makes coordinated global action difficult. At present, does not exist any binding international treaty specifically aimed at countering disinformation, and this limits the ability to develop coherent national policies and ensure the dissemination of accurate scientific information on climate change.

CRP actively counters disinformation by combining scientific communication and the training of *Climate Reality Leaders*,¹¹ who are equipped to deliver evidence-based information in their communities and to support local institutions in building resilience against false or manipulated climate narratives. *CRP* intends to train the future leaders of the world - both politicians and businessmen - teaching them how to challenge the status quo, thinking big and acting boldly in every sector and innovating the energy policies of each State of the world.¹² Through global campaigns, fact-based toolkits, partnerships with research institutions and rapid-response communication during climate-related events, *CRP* seeks to strengthen the integrity of the public debate, ensure that climate policies are grounded in reliable data and empower citizens to make informed decisions.¹³ *CRP* supports multilateral cooperation consistent with the UN *Sustainable Development Goals* and aligns with recommendations from UNESCO's *Global Media and Information Literacy Framework*.¹⁴

In the context of this committee, *CRP* calls for increased cooperation between civil society, governments and NGOs to promote transparent scientific communication improving early-warning systems for false climate narratives, reduce the spread of climate-related disinformation and reinforce the accountability mechanisms of information dissemination.¹⁵

⁸ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; Facts not Fakes. Tackling disinformation, strengthening information integrity, pag. 14; URL: https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2024/03/facts-not-fakes-tackling-disinformation-strengthening-information-integrity_ff96d19f/d909ff7a-en.pdf

⁹ *Ivi.*, pag. 4

¹⁰ Human Rights Council, A/HRC/47/25; URL: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/47/25> pag. 2

¹¹ The Climate Reality Project; URL: <https://www.climate realityproject.org/climate-101>

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.* For example, *CRP Indonesia* organized initiatives during the COP 29 held in Baku; URL: <https://climatereality.id/blogs/innovation-and-collaboration-climate-reality-indonesias-climate-action-at-cop29-baku/>

¹⁴ UNESCO, Global Media and Information Literacy Framework; URL: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000224655/PDF/224655eng.pdf.multi>

¹⁵ see the UN Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change; URL: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/information-integrity>



The *Climate Reality Project* recognizes *plastic pollution* as a critical environmental and human rights issue whose impacts intersect with the global climate crisis. Indeed, its pervasive nature affects not only the environment but also the social, economic and health dimensions of human life, specially in marginalized and vulnerable communities living near petrochemical plants or waste-processing facilities. Those communities experience disproportionate health burdens, including respiratory diseases, water and soils contamination and reduced access to safe living conditions; for these reasons, plastic pollution impacts directly on fundamental human rights, such as the rights to health, clean water, food security and a safe environment, whose rights *CRP* aims to protect.¹⁶ The fact that a significant amount of e-waste is shipped from the Northern hemisphere for informal disposal in low-income countries¹⁷ is a factor that cause the problem to worsen. The environmental justice is one of the priorities of *CRP*.

International assessment of the impact of plastic pollution on human rights classify plastics into several categories: Macro-, Micro- and Nano-plastics, Marine Litter, Single-Use Plastics, Hazardous Substances, but even Bioplastics and Biodegradable plastics.¹⁸ Plastics are synthetic polymers, primarily derived from fossil fuels such as petroleum and natural gas¹⁹ and are characterized by their durability and resistance to biodegradation, with lifespans ranging from decades to centuries. This persistence exacerbates their environmental impact, as plastics do not decompose but fragment into smaller particles over time. In fact, the plastic life cycle - from extraction to production, ending with disposal or incineration - contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, toxic exposures and severe environmental degradation such as the contamination of soils, freshwater and the ocean²⁰- basically because toxic chemicals are commonly added to plastics, poses

¹⁶ On October 8, 2021, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), in resolution 48/13, recognized for the first time that having a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right. See the UNEP report Marine Litter, Plastic Pollution and Human Rights; URL: <https://www.unep.org/resources/factsheet/marine-litter-plastic-pollution-and-human-rights>

¹⁷ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, A/76/207; URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/201/78/pdf/n2120178.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁸ UNEP, 2021a; URL: <https://www.unep.org/resources/annual-report-2021>. According to PlasticsEurope (the association of plastics manufacturers in Europe), there are 14 types, each with several applications

¹⁹ Over 99 per cent of all plastics is produced from fossil fuels; see the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/201/78/pdf/n2120178.pdf?OpenElement>

²⁰ UNEP, *The Business of Plastics: The impacts of plastics pollution on human rights in the Pacific Region*; URL: <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/01b46246-d7e2-47b3-8078-49e7ca032049/content>

serious risks to both human rights and environmental integrity,²¹ specially because toxic additives and microplastics contained in rain, soil, oceans and on mountaintops cannot be eliminated by recycling, landfilling or incineration.²² For example, according to a report, in 2015 the Global Waste Management Outlook estimated that at least 2 billion people do not have access to regular waste collection;²³ as of today, 23% of the waste produced globally goes uncollected, while 33% is openly dumped, while the countries with low-income have 60% of solid waste uncollected and 93% improperly managed.²⁴ For example, the chronic exposure to polluted air or water can cause different kinds of cancer in humans, chromosomic alterations and aplastic anaemia;²⁵

As part of its broader commitment to climate justice, *CRP* promotes awareness of the connections between plastic pollution, climate change, and human rights violations, highlighting how unjust environmental practices perpetuate global inequalities. Although *CRP* is not a state actor and cannot ratify international treaties, it actively supports global frameworks such as the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13 recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the ongoing negotiations of the *Global Plastics Treaty*;²⁶ as well as the objectives embedded in *Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6, 12, 13 and 14*,²⁷ and aligns its advocacy with UNEP's '*Turning off the Tap*' roadmap for ending plastic pollution.²⁸

In the context of this international discussions, *CRP* advocates for a set of concrete measures, including a progressive reduction in the primary production of virgin plastics; strict regulation of toxic additives such as PFAS; enhanced transparency obligations for petrochemical producers and the explicit integration of human rights safeguards within the resolution.

Addressing plastic pollution is therefore not only an environmental responsibility, but also a necessary step toward safeguarding human rights and advancing climate justice.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, A/76/207; URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/201/78/pdf/n2120178.pdf?OpenElement>

²³ World Bank's Machine Translation of Indicator Metadata for the Sustainable Development Goals; URL: <https://worldbank.github.io/sdg-metadata/metadata/en/11-6-1/>

²⁴ World Bank Blogs; URL: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/sustainablecities/how-the-world-bank-is-tackling-the-growing-global-waste-crisis>

²⁵ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, A/76/207; URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/201/78/pdf/n2120178.pdf?OpenElement>

²⁶ UNEP, 2025; URL: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution>

²⁷ UNDESA, Sustainable Development; URL: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

²⁸ UNEP, 2023; URL: <https://www.unep.org/resources/turning-off-tap-end-plastic-pollution-create-circular-economy>

