

Special Session [Climate Crisis and National Responsibility]

The Public Basic Rights Infringed by Climate Crisis

Oct 12, 2022 (Wed) 13:00-15:30

Organizer: National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Background

Nations have been given duties and responsibilities to protect people's lives and safety and guarantee their basic rights. Even though people are in a very precarious situation due to food crisis and natural disasters resulted from climate crisis, responsive efforts of the governments have not been seen. Climate crisis is not just a matter of environment, but a matter of inequality and injustice and even a matter of human security that the future generation is forced to bear.

The intrinsic basic rights infringed by climate crisis are the ones stipulated in and guaranteed by the Korean Constitution. They include the basic human rights, the right to life, the right to health, and the right to a healthy environment and it is the nation's obligation to protect them. Thus, the nation has to put efforts to guarantee them, however, the Korean National Assembly and the Korean government have just sat idly. Accordingly, some children and the youth, highly likely to fall victims to the crisis, have decided to file a lawsuit against the government as a call for climate action from the government. In this regard, throughout the session, we would like to provide a venue for a public discussion on the issue and firmly call to government to take responsibility in coping with climate crisis and its consequential human rights infringement.

Objective

The session would provide a chance to discuss why the nation is the one who need to take responsibilities on climate crisis and to listen to the testimony of victims. Also, we would like to emphasize that the Korean government needs to come up with a national master plan and implement concrete policies.



Main agenda

1. Relations between climate crisis and human rights.
2. Severity of climate crisis in perspective of national security.
3. Climate crisis as a matter of food crisis and food security.
4. Climate crisis at the level of obligation to guarantee the basic rights.
5. Witnesses of climate crisis: farmers and other.
6. Direction of policy responses.

