



Statement by South Centre

**Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on
human rights**

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The climate emergency is fundamentally a human rights crisis. It threatens the rights to life, health, food, and development, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, which bear the least historical responsibility.

Today, insufficient, debt-creating climate finance forces a difficult choice: service foreign debt or protect populations. This undermines economic, social, and cultural rights.

Climate action must be anchored in the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and supported by adequate, predictable and accessible finance. We recommend four actionable pathways:

First, advanced economies must provide new grant-based public finance rather than relying solely on profit-driven private-sector solutions.

Second, following the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion, providing climate reparations is a binding legal obligation. Therefore, the Loss and Damage Fund must recognise historical emissions and be adequately funded.

Third, we must dismantle barriers shrinking the policy space of states for a green transition. We must address the impacts of intellectual property monopolies that block

technology transfer, ISDS mechanisms that penalise legitimate climate regulations, and Unilateral Coercive Measures that cripple domestic resilience of targeted countries.

Finally, climate finance must facilitate the Right to Development. It must not be weaponised through restrictive conditionalities that block vulnerable communities from accessing urgently needed funds.

I thank you.