

Addressing Climate Change in Sri Lanka in light of the Human Rights Law: Legal analysis

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Abstract

The rise of climate change consequences is evident across the globe and Sri Lanka is no exception. Sri Lanka, being an island, is extremely vulnerable to coastal erosion due rising of sea level, droughts, floods and earth slips.. Climate change issues are not addressed sufficiently within the environmental or economic policy plans or programs in developing countries including Sri Lanka. Lack of resilience capacities of populations to climate change scenarios can therefore be viewed as a hindrance to the development of a nation. The UN General Assembly claimed that climate change must be a common concern of mankind. The Climate change-related effects threaten the effective enjoyment of a series of human rights, such as the right to adequate water and food, the right to health, right to life and right to development. In this study, the authors used the qualitative research methodology and secondary data from various sources. The basic objectives of the present study are to provide an understanding and balance the role of Sri Lankan law and its applicability to climate change within a framework of human rights, obligations imposed in Sri Lanka in both international and domestic laws to respond to the consequences arising from climate change scenarios. In the legal framework for mitigation of climate change can have additional or equal benefits that will contribute to the human development goals in a country. Nevertheless, it is essential to give prominence to the role of climate mitigation and adaptation policies within a framework of human rights context in order to identify probable synergies between development priorities and climate policy objectives.

Keywords: Climate change, human rights law, environmental law