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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE JUSTICE – 1 June 2021

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

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The "Blue Marble," a picture of our planet from the 1972 Apollo 17 mission, shows that our planet is a finite place with many interacting systems. While the exact photographer is unknown, it was most likely taken by the first (and only) geologist on the moon: Harrison "Jack" Schmitt.

**In the geological
history of the
earth,
climatic changes
have often
manifested
themselves in a
violent form.**



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Climate change refers to **slow changes in temperature** and **precipitation patterns** over **long-term** for a particular area or the earth as a whole. Moreover during much of the Earth's history the geological **carbon cycle has been** **balanced** and the climates remains stable



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Anthropocene: when humanity changed the Earth

A non-geological form of carbon-cycle imbalance is happening today on a very rapid time scale: the process of extracting vast volumes of fossil fuels and converting them to energy and carbon dioxide. By doing so, we are changing the climate faster than has ever happened in the past.

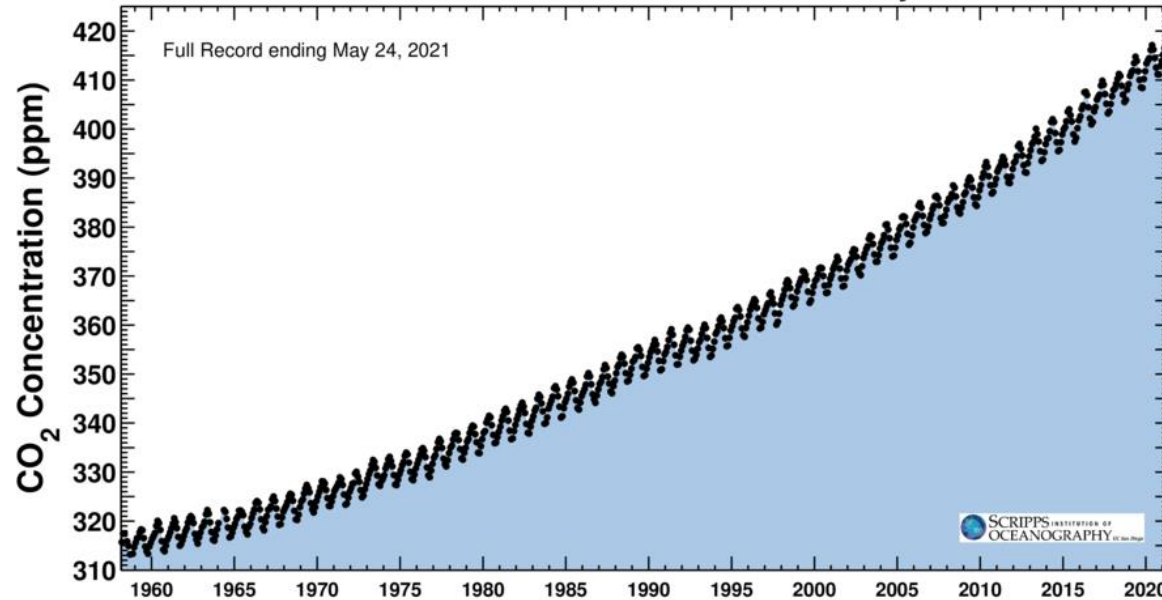




The Keeling Curve

May 24, 2021

Carbon dioxide concentration at Mauna Loa Observatory

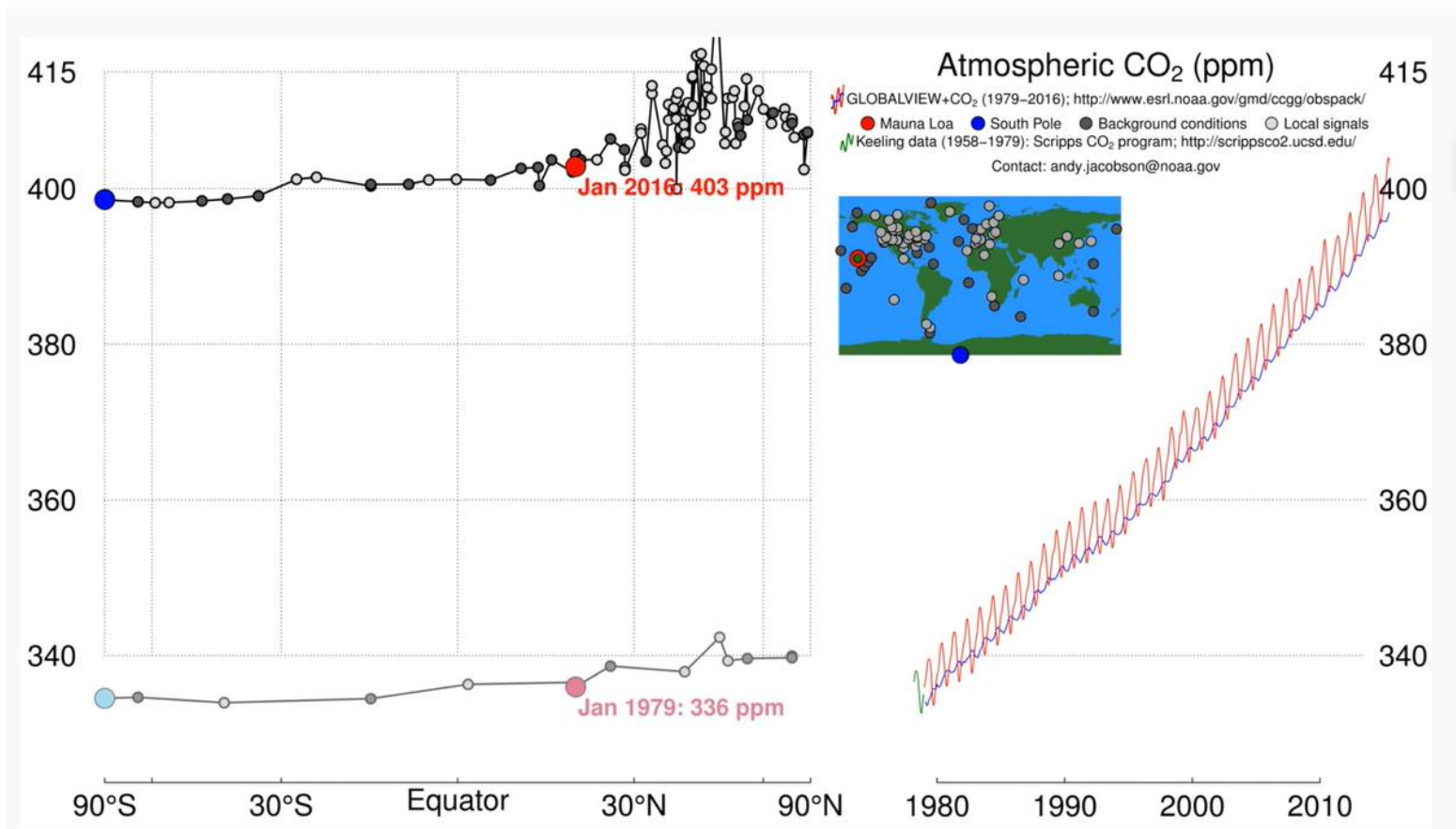


See the Mauna Loa record in other graphic forms at the Scripps CO2 site.

Scripps CO2 measurements at Mauna Loa have been supported for many years by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and have more recently been supplemented by Earth Networks, a technology company collaborating with Scripps to expand the global GHG monitoring network. Support for website development was provided in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NSF.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH6fQh9eAQE&t=12s>





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Climate change is a **human rights**
issue:

to emit greenhouse gases into the
atmosphere means destroying
ecosystems and leading species to
extinction,

indirectly **violating human rights.**



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Climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of a range of **human rights** including those to:

- **Life,**
- **Water and sanitation,**
- **Food,**
- **Health,**
- **Housing,**
- **Self-determination,**
- **Culture**
- **Development**



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The **respect for human rights** in the face of climate

change is **climate justice**:

Political

Ethical

Environmental



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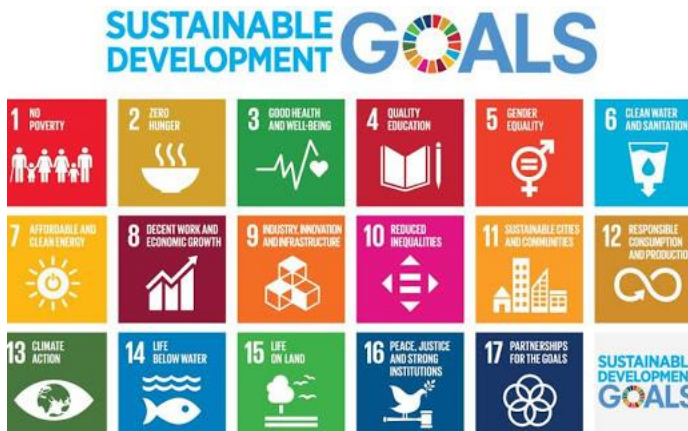


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The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** aims, in line with the [2030 Agenda](#) and the [Paris Agreement on climate change](#), to promote a human rights-based approach to climate action.



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OHCHR's [Key Messages on Human Rights and Climate Change](#):

- **Mitigate climate change and prevent its negative human rights impacts**
- **Ensure that all persons have the necessary capacity to adapt to climate change**
- **Ensure accountability and effective remedy for human rights harms caused by climate change**
- **Mobilize maximum available resources for sustainable, human rights-based development**
- **International cooperation**
- **Ensure equity in climate action**
- **Guarantee that everyone enjoys the benefits of science and its applications**
- **Protect human rights from business harms**
- **Guarantee equality and non-discrimination**
- **Ensure meaningful and informed participation**



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Human Rights Council

period **2008 2020**

adopted **10 resolutions**

on **human rights and climate
change**



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The **Human Rights Council** has adopted the following **resolutions** on climate change:

[Resolution 44/7](#) (July 2020): negative impacts of climate change disproportionately affected the rights of older persons.

[Resolution 42/21](#) (July 2019): the rights of persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change

[Resolution 38/4](#) (July 2018): a gender-responsive approach into climate policies

[Resolution 35/20](#) (July 2017): the urgency of protecting and promoting the human rights of migrants and persons displaced across international borders in the context of the adverse impact of climate change.

[Resolution 32/33](#) (July 2016): integrate human rights in climate change mitigation and adaptation,



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[Resolution 29/15](#) (July 2015): the urgency of continuing to address the adverse consequences of climate change for all...

[Resolution 26/27](#) (July 2014): for all States to enhance international dialogue and cooperation to address the adverse impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights ...

[Resolution 18/22](#) (September 2011): The Council affirmed that human rights obligations,.... standards, and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international and national policy-making in the area of climate change...

[Resolution 10/4](#) (March 2009): The Council noted that "climate change-related impacts have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights ..."

[Resolution 7/23](#) (March 2008): The Council expressed concern that climate change "poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world" and requested OHCHR to prepare a study on the relationship between climate change and human rights.



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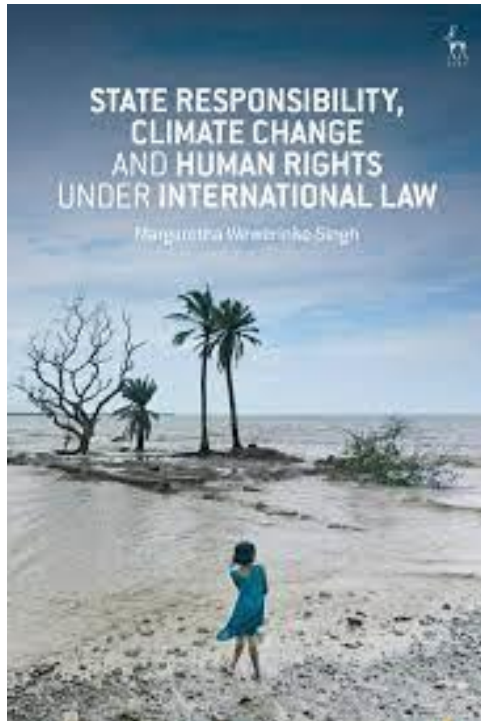
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[Michelle Bachelet](#), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, , Opening Statement to the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council in September 2019 claimed:

"Climate change is a reality that now affects every region of the world. The human implications of currently projected levels of global heating are catastrophic. Storms are rising and tides could submerge entire island nations and coastal cities. Fires rage through our forests, and the ice is melting. We are burning up our future – literally."

Thank you for your kind attention



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