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ORAL STATEMENT  
ITEM 3: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO THE ENJOYMENT OF A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE  
ENVIRONMENT

UN Human Rights Council

Thirty-seventh session  
26 February – 23 March 2018

Mr. President,

Amnesty International endorses the statement read by Human Rights Watch which CIEL, Earthjustice and Amnesty International have joined. I would like to add a few remarks. Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur containing Framework Principles on human rights and the environment.

The Principles provide much needed guidance on most human rights obligations of States under international law in relation to the environment. The implementation of the Principles, along with other relevant human rights standards, is crucial to address current global environmental challenges with severe impacts on human rights such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

Amnesty International also welcomes the Special Rapporteur's call for the recognition of a human right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Formal recognition of this right would provide a clearer framework for individuals and communities to defend their rights related to the environment and seek accountability for any violations. The Human Rights Council has a central responsibility in promoting global recognition of this right.

Amnesty International calls on the Human Rights Council to:

- Firstly, urge States to implement the Framework Principles, as well as other aspects of international law, so as to ensure that human rights are central in the planning and implementation of environmental decisions and that the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights leads to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and
- Secondly, continue and step-up its engagement on the issue related to human rights and the environment, including by facilitating global recognition of the right to a healthy environment and by renewing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

Thank you Mr. President.