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THEME: Health and Safety

DATE: 3 March 2021

SESSION: 46th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

PRESENTER: Ms Elena Cedillo, Program Executive for Climate Justice

RECOGNITION OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHLY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

The Lutheran World Federation would like to address the importance of recognizing a healthy environment as a human right.

We are deeply concerned that due to human activities we are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate.

As a faith-based organization that is rooted in local communities, we recognize that this loss threatens the delicate balance of the earth and puts all life at risk.

The effects of COVID-19, the climate, nature and pollution crises continue to jeopardize human rights especially of those who are already vulnerable – refugees, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples, among others.

As people of faith, we acknowledge the need for urgent action to conserve, protect and restore ecosystems. We are called to live in right relationships with creation and not exhaust it.

Conserving each living thing and the ecosystems is critical to maintaining the intricate and evolving balance of creation. The failure to prevent ecological degradation and the extinction of a species seriously harms lives and livelihoods of people.

Madam, President

Given the impact the environment has on a range of human rights, we call for the legal recognition of the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

I thank you, Madam President

Action for Justice is the expression of the Lutheran World Federation's advocacy, where the witness, voice, and decades of experience of our member churches, country programmes and communities inform and influence policies, legislation and decisions.

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