

# *Examining the Elements of the Right to a Healthy Environment*

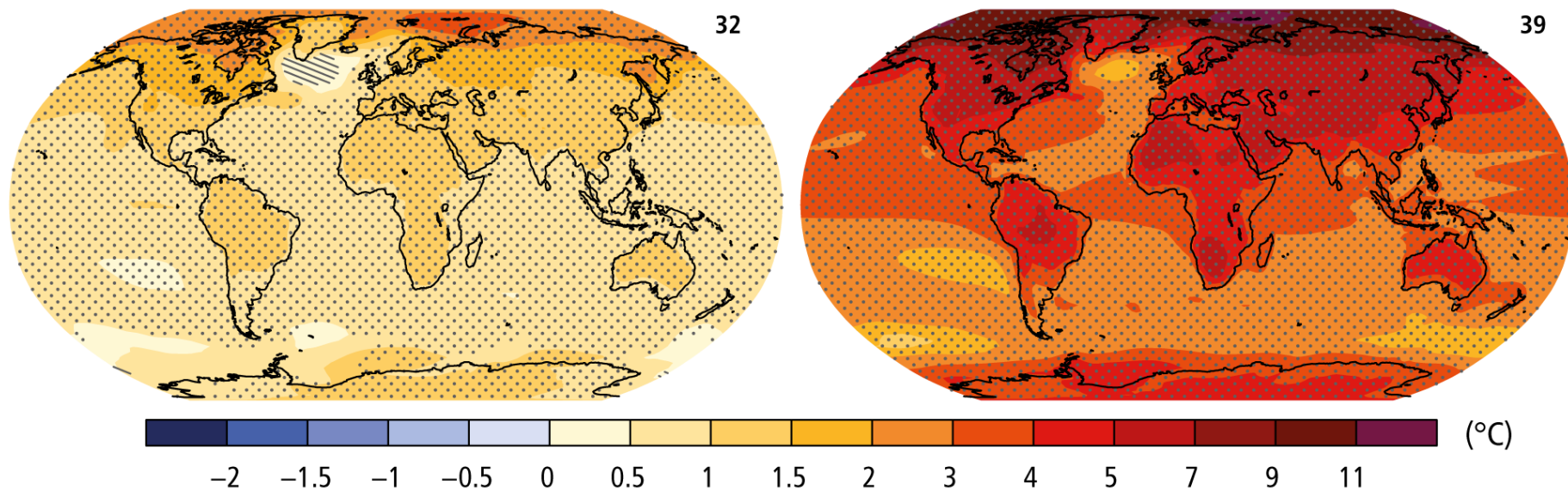
## **Human Rights and Climate Action**

RCP2.6

RCP8.5

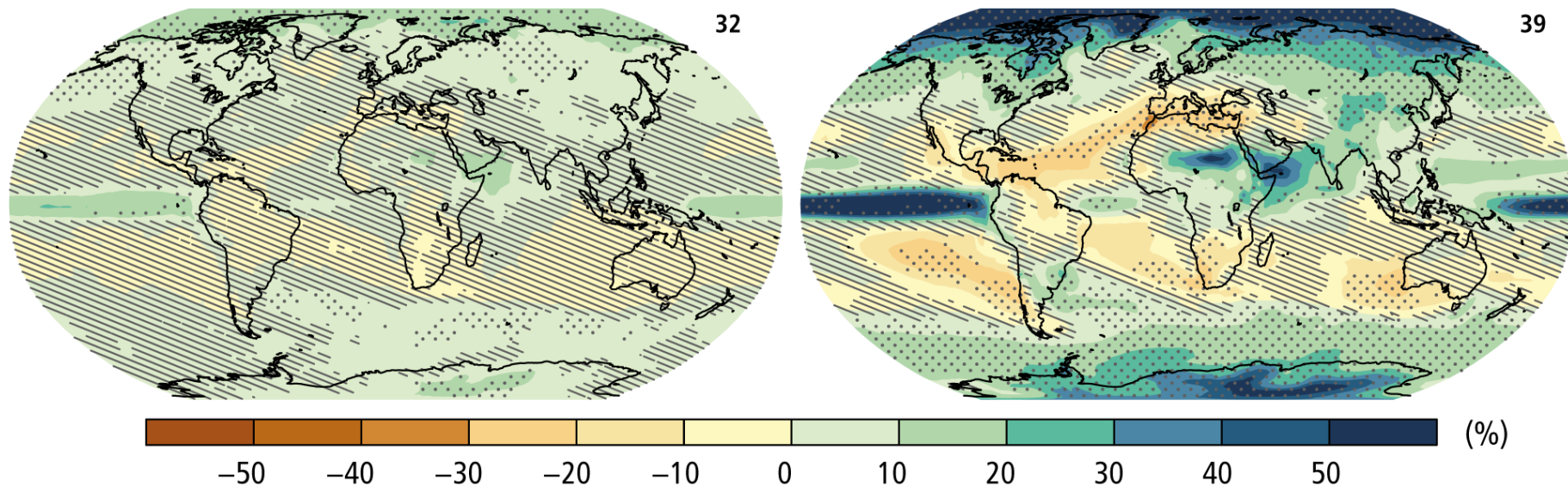
(a)

Change in average surface temperature (1986–2005 to 2081–2100)



(b)

Change in average precipitation (1986–2005 to 2081–2100)



# Importance of human rights in climate policies

“



Civil society is to a great extent the only reliable motor for driving institutions to change at the pace required.



Equitable outcomes are enhanced when they pay attention to just outcomes for those negatively affected by change and promote human rights, increase equality, and reduce power asymmetries within societies.



Education, information, and community approaches, including those that are informed by indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, can accelerate the wide-scale behaviour changes consistent with adapting to and limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

”

# Example: Land tenure rights and carbon sequestration

Research focusing on relation between land tenure and forest rights for indigenous peoples and local communities in 14 forests-rich countries

Key findings:

1. When Indigenous Peoples and local communities have no or weak legal rights, their forests tend to be vulnerable to deforestation and thus become the source of carbon dioxide emissions.
2. Legal forest rights for communities and government protection of their rights tend to lower carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation.
3. Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal forest rights maintain or improve their forests' carbon storage.



*Source: Rights and Resources Initiative and World Resources Institutes (2014)*





# 2015: The “Paris Vision”





# Human Rights in the Implementation of the UNFCCC and of the Paris Agreement

## Reporting of Climate Action



*In the UNFCCC, considering both National Communications and NAPAs, 49 countries have made explicit references to human rights.*

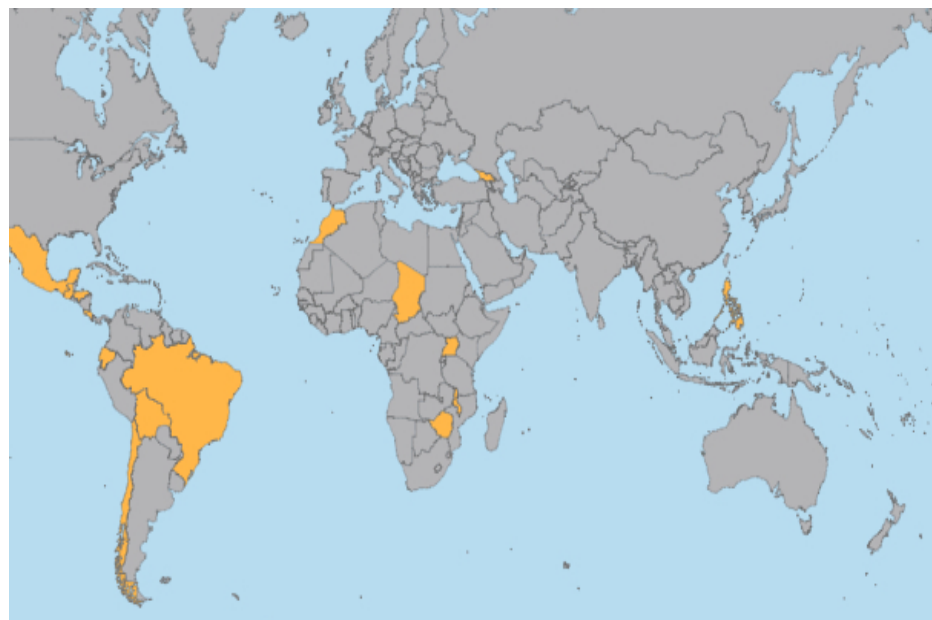


13% Substantive Rights  
1% Developed  
12% Developing



20% Procedural Rights  
10% Developed  
10% Developing

## Climate Commitments



*24 countries referred to human rights in their INDCs*



*BREAKING THE SILOS*





**Thank You for  
Your Attention**

[www.ciel.org](http://www.ciel.org)  
[sduyck@ciel.org](mailto:sduyck@ciel.org)



# Resources

- SECURING RIGHTS, COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE - WRI and RRI (2014)  
<https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/securingrights-full-report-english.pdf>
- Key Messages on Human Rights and Climate Change - OHCHR (2015)  
[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/KeyMessages\\_on\\_HR\\_CC.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/KeyMessages_on_HR_CC.pdf)
- Incorporating Human Rights into Climate Action - MRFCJ (2016)  
<https://www.mrfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Incorporating-Human-Rights-into-Climate-Action-Version-2-May-2016.pdf>
- Climate justice and the use of human rights law in reducing greenhouse gas emissions –  
QUNO  
(2016)  
[http://www.quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/Climate%20Justice\\_August\\_2016.p  
df](http://www.quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/Climate%20Justice_August_2016.pdf)