



Foreword

11 July 2014

In October 2012 when the International Bar Association (IBA) held its annual meeting in Dublin, I was honoured to be invited to give the George Seward Memorial lecture. In that lecture, entitled 'A New Justice Challenge for the IBA', I discussed the human rights dimensions of climate change and introduced the concept of climate justice. I also made a bold proposal and challenged the IBA to develop a working group on climate justice to provide leadership in shaping the global response to climate change.

I was thrilled when the incoming IBA President Michael Reynolds responded positively to my challenge and the Taskforce on Climate Change Justice and Human Rights was born. With the publication of this report I have to say that the IBA has surpassed my expectations and delivered an excellent contribution to the understanding of climate justice and the role of human rights law in addressing the climate challenge.

The significance of this report lies in its legal treatment of the impacts of climate change on human rights and the proposal of practical ways of integrating human rights into climate policies and actions. Through this Report the legal community embraces climate justice, elucidates the links between climate change and human rights and makes clear recommendations on ways to secure justice for those affected by climate impacts.

I want to end as I began 2 years ago, with a challenge! I call on the IBA to follow up on the recommendations in this Report, to establish the working groups identified and to continue to contribute knowledge, evidence and legal solutions to the global effort to combat climate change and achieve climate justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Robinson

President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change