

Climate change and its negative consequences represent a common problem of all the people on Earth and are likely to become one of the most serious challenges that humankind faces. The expected and already observed impacts of climate change include an increase in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising of global average sea level. We are all familiar with changes of climate – in some parts of the globe the summers are hotter and drier than they used to be, there is less snow in the winter, while in others there are heavy rainfalls and the frequency of extreme weather events has intensified. In the words of a member of an Indigenous community of Araracuara, Colombia: *It rains when it should not, it is hot when it should not be.*

Although climate change has severe impact on the whole population, there are groups which experience the climate change in much more direct way. The total population of Indigenous Peoples is estimated to be over 370 million people living in over 70 countries worldwide, such as Canada, the United States, Finland, Kenya and Peru. Although at the international level there is no agreed definition due to the principle of self-identification, Indigenous Peoples share some commonalities, such as: they are cultural groups, that are characterized by cultural continuity and they have a special relationship with their territory, inhabited since the time immemorial. As the primary activities of Indigenous Peoples are fishing, hunting, and livestock herding, their survival is entirely depended on natural resources and habitats. Increasing droughts in Africa and Latin America result in water scarcity. In the Arctic region rising temperatures accelerate the melting of snow and ice, which changes the breeding and migration patterns of many animals, especially caribou, that are central in the diet of many northern Indigenous communities. Moreover, melting ice makes hunting and navigation more dangerous, and makes constructing igloos and food storage almost impossible. Without the traditional ways of acquiring the food, Indigenous Peoples face extinction, as traditional foods provide the components of a high quality diet at relatively low monetary cost as according to the Canadian government the annual cost of substituting imported food for that obtained from subsistence hunting and harvesting would be C\$35 million, which is well above the average household income of Indigenous Peoples. Moreover, the oil extraction in Ecuador, deforestation in Brazil or construction of dams in Nigeria, are associated with displacement, leading to loss of livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples. As such, climate change leaves only two possibilities to Indigenous Peoples – migration or death.

Although the issue of Indigenous Peoples' special relationship with environment has been acknowledged by the international community, the first documents, usually soft law, were adopted less than 40 years ago. As such, the main role in achieving international justice until now has been played by the international human rights tribunals. Therefore, the hypothesis of the project is that comparison of case-law of regional human rights tribunals will allow to find possible gaps in international law and establish what are the legal possibilities of redress for Indigenous Peoples in the case of violation of human rights arose from the changes to environment due to the climate change. The project aims to establish, through the analysis of international instruments, especially referring to the right to environment, the right to water, the right to food and the right to culture, what is the role of international law in the protection of Indigenous Peoples against impacts of climate change. As most of the development projects are undertaken by private corporations, the question of responsibility arises. In the light of the above, the second research question is, what are the state obligations considering that the vast majority of the greenhouse gas emissions and pollution related to gas and oil extraction can be attributed to the non-state actors and if there is any business responsibility towards human rights? The analysis of international law together with the analysis of the case-law of international tribunals will allow to establish whether international law is effective in addressing special needs of Indigenous Peoples in coping with the climate change.

Lessons learned now in the context of Indigenous Peoples about the complexity and unpredictability of change are of crucial importance for all world regions. Moreover, the model of protection of Indigenous Peoples could constitute a minimum benchmark for the future protection against climate change impacts. As such, the outcomes of the project may not only initiate a fresh look at the topic, but also introduce new paradigms that may advance the normative debate on the fight against climate change.