



Recommendation 2272 (2024)¹

Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik process

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its [Resolution 2545 \(2024\)](#) “Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik Process”.
2. The Assembly maintains that the recognition of the right to a healthy environment must be based on a human rights-centred approach. In this regard, it reaffirms its [Recommendation 2211 \(2021\)](#) “Anchoring the right to a healthy environment: need for enhanced action by the Council of Europe”, in which it proposed complementary tools to achieve this.
3. The Assembly notes that the Council of Europe provides a conventional ecosystem covering many aspects of the right to a healthy environment. It sees this as an opportunity to capitalise on existing standards.
4. In this context, the Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:
 - 4.1. actively support the work of the Inter-Secretariat Task Force on the Environment established following the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, and carefully consider its proposals when drawing up a strategy and an action plan;
 - 4.2. give utmost priority to the creation of an ad hoc intergovernmental committee, as envisaged in Reykjavik, to organise, co-ordinate and steer the implementation of the strategy and the action plan;
 - 4.3. devote the normative part of the strategy to the formal recognition of the right to a healthy environment at the level of the Council of Europe, by drafting a binding legal instrument as soon as possible;
 - 4.4. in so doing, focus on the rapid implementation of [Recommendation 2211 \(2021\)](#), including devising an autonomous, specific and inclusive instrument covering substantive rights and procedural matters relating to the environment that capitalises fully on the standards which have already been drawn up;
 - 4.5. ensure that the draft convention superseding and replacing the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (ETS No. 172), currently being prepared within the Council of Europe, incorporates the notion of ecocide as a criminal offence and establishes an effective monitoring mechanism;
 - 4.6. give the ad hoc intergovernmental committee a multidisciplinary role, enabling it to act as an interface between the Council of Europe and civil society in its broadest sense, and to carry out activities aimed at environmental monitoring and governance as soon as it has been set up;
 - 4.7. highlight the committee’s added value in dealings with the Organisation’s other bodies with which effective and focused partnerships may be established, to drive forward change in environmental monitoring and governance;
 - 4.8. set up a rapporteur group on environmental affairs at Committee of Ministers level to ensure unity and co-ordination in decision making.

1. *Assembly debate* on 18 April 2024 (12th sitting) (see [Doc. 15955](#), report of Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, rapporteur: Mr Simon Moutquin). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 18 April 2024 (12th sitting).

