Water Issues: Climate Change and Globalization in International Law

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Abstract

Many of the graves human rights issues that face the world today are related to water, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to one’s own resources, and the right to family life in one’s own home.

The main sources of these problems are not only climate change, which brings exacerbating extreme weather events, including floods, high heat giving rise to crop failure and water scarcity, glacial melts, tidal waves and tsunamis, but also globalization itself. The latter is based on regimes that give primacy to trade and economic issues, while it ignores the environmental conditions that affect health and life.

A brief review of existing international legal instruments will indicate a number of glaring lacunae in the law, which must be addressed in order to protect life on Earth, especially the most vulnerable and poorest in developing countries, as well as future generations.