



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the  
United Nations has the pleasure to invite to the**

Panel Discussion

On

**Environment and Human Rights:  
A New Perspective from the Inter-American  
Court of Human Rights**

On the occasion of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights  
Council

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

**13:00 – 14:30**

**Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

## **Environment and Human Rights: a New Perspective from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights**

A Look at the Advisory Opinion by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of 15 November 2017 (Requested by Colombia)

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On 15 November 2017, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued the Advisory Opinion 23/17 in response to a request presented by the Government of Colombia. The request concerned State obligations in relation to the environment in the context of the protection and guarantee of the rights to life and personal integrity – recognized in Articles 4 and 5 of the American Convention on Human Rights – regarding Articles 1(1) and 2 of said treaty.

The Advisory Opinion has spawned many positive responses from academia and practitioners, who see it as a historical and ground-breaking decision with regard to the connection between human rights and the environment. It has even been perceived by some as the most significant decision yet by an international judicial body in fully acknowledging certain legal consequences for environmental harm.

Given the importance and relevance of this Advisory Opinion, on the occasion of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, the Speakers will deal with what Colombia asked from the Court: **the legal analysis carried out by the Court and the scope of the decision and an assessment of the implications of the Opinion for the protection of the environment and its link with human rights rules**. After these presentations, the floor will be opened for the audience to engage in an interactive exchange with the Speakers.

Moderator:

**H.E. Mrs. Beatriz Londoño**, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, Geneva

Speakers:

**H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana**, Ambassador of Colombia to the Netherlands

**Dr. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes**, Professor of International Law and International Organizations at the University of Geneva

**Mr. Benjamin Schachter**, Associate Human Rights Officer, Environmental Law and International Human Rights Law