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Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Human Rights: One step forward, two steps back?

Both academic and NGOs alike have long advocated for the inclusion of human rights in COP documents which until quite recently contained only a passing reference to human beings. Although the draft Paris Agreement contained a reference to human rights in both the Preamble and Article 2, in the final document that was adopted states removed the reference to human rights from Article 2 but mercifully, left the Preamble untouched.

Reference is also made to ‘climate justice,’ a term hitherto not included in COP documents. What does this mean for action on climate change going forward? Does the removal of human rights from draft Article 2 hinder action with regard to human rights claims or is the inclusion in the Preamble sufficient? This presentation looks at the implications of this provision for vulnerable communities, particularly those who are living on small island states. It will discuss the relevance of both human rights and climate justice for these vulnerable communities.

Friday, March 11, 2016 1:30pm  
AOSS Building, Room 811  
1225 W. Dayton St.

Please join us for coffee at 1:15 in Room 853