

Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts
(Chapter VI of the ILC Report)

In her opening statement at the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council, Ms. Michelle Bachelet said she was "(...) encouraged by the increasing recognition of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment, in over 100 national and regional laws, which defines the relationship between the environment and human rights". The High Commissioner for Human Rights also recalled that "all people, everywhere, should be able to live in a healthy environment and hold accountable those who stand in the way of achieving it.". The human right to a healthy and sustainable environment calls for positive action on the part of States in the different stages of the armed conflict cycle.

ratione temporis

Humanity – and not only to the people inhabiting the sites where those objects are located at.

ratione materiae

Nevertheless, a suitable concept of “environment” should not be reduced to the natural resources available at a given area and at a given time. The Commission has made this clear, for example in Draft Principle 19 on “Environmental modification techniques”. It is important, in our view, to reiterate that the

