The Rights Turn in Climate Litigation

César Rodríguez-Garavito
Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
NYU School of Law
Key Lessons
Climate change as existential threat to human rights
A justiciable right to climate action
Closing the accountability gap
4

Closing the transparency gap
Courts as guardians of long-term interests (rights as guarantees of intertemporal freedom)
HRCC cases filed per year

Case Count

Year

HRCC cases per region since 2015

- International bodies: 6.33%
- Regional bodies: 3.80%
- North America: 17.72%
- Latin America & the Caribbean: 17.72%
- Asia Pacific: 16.46%
- Africa: 5.06%
- Europe: 32.91%
Definitive Rulings for Plaintiffs: 15.6%
Definitive Rulings for State: 15.6%
Pending or On Appeal: 63.6%
Possibility of Appeal: 2.6%
Ruling for State, No Evidence of Appeal: 2.6%
Urgenda
Urgenda

Amazon Future Generations
Neubauer et al. v. Germany

Alle Dörfer for Future
Key Lessons
Climate change as existential threat to human rights
2

A justiciable right to climate action
Closing the accountability gap
Closing the transparency gap
Courts as guardians of long-term interests (rights as guarantees of intertemporal freedom)