

# *Plaintiffs lay out urgent crisis as ICJ climate hearings wrap up*

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**Laingane Italeli Talia, the attorney-general of Tuvalu**

The Hague, December 13 (RHC)-- In The Hague, the International Court of Justice has heard more testimony and arguments this week on how the unfolding climate catastrophe is creating an existential crisis for low-lying Pacific island nations. Those countries are demanding wealthy, polluting nations be held legally responsible for addressing the crisis they created.

Laingane Italeli Talia, the attorney-general of Tuvalu -- which could soon become the first country to be wiped from the map due to sea level rise -- said: "Tuvalu may soon become uninhabitable. In these circumstances, there can be no question that our fundamental right to self-determination is being violated. And in these proceedings, there is unsurprisingly considerable consensus across participants that climate change is impeding the right to self-determination."

Friday was the last day of hearings at the World Court, which is expected to publish its final advisory opinion on the matter in the new year.

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