

05 April, 2024

Subject: Urgent Call to Prioritise Human Rights and Environmental Protection in Light of the Recent UN Report on Fisheries and the right to food in the context of climate change.

To Global Leaders,

In light of States' longstanding international human rights and environmental obligations, the undersigned organisations call on all States to take urgent action to halt the mounting threat that offshore oil and gas activities pose to oceans, and the coastal and Indigenous communities they support.

The recent United Nations [report](#) on Fisheries and the right to food in the context of climate change highlights the grave impacts of offshore oil and gas activity on the human rights of communities in vulnerable situations, particularly those dependent on artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Oil and gas projects in and on the oceans contribute to degradation of the marine environment, including the loss of biodiversity and the imbalance of ecosystems. They also exacerbate the socio-economic vulnerabilities of fishing communities, undermining their access to a safe, healthy, and sustainable food supply. With [over 30% of new oil and gas projects occurring in the world's oceans](#), alongside a massive buildout of coastal infrastructure and shipping routes due to LNG production, ending offshore oil and gas activity is essential to keeping global temperature rise below 1.5C and avoiding the worst of climate chaos.

It is evident that the livelihoods, cultural identities, and basic human rights of small-scale fishing communities are at stake, and that immediate and comprehensive measures must be taken to address these issues, especially as they face increasing cumulative challenges such as climate change, overfishing, and habitat degradation.

The UN report's recommendations urge States to ensure respect for and protection of human rights, as well as the global climate, biodiversity, and the health of oceans by:

- rejecting the expansion of offshore oil and gas projects,
- suspending ongoing projects that are detrimental to the livelihoods of coastal communities,
- addressing climate and biodiversity impacts before approving or financing projects
- holding periodic audits of oil loading operations and compensation for coastal communities for any environmental damage.

It is imperative that States prioritise the well-being of current and future generations by shifting towards renewable and sustainable energy sources that do not compromise the rights of communities in vulnerable situations and the integrity of our ecosystems. We therefore urge global leaders to take measures to rapidly and equitably phase out oil and gas production and use, including offshore oil and gas activity.

Upholding human rights and environmental obligations goes hand in hand with protecting the oceans for present and future generations, and States need to take decisive actions to fulfil these obligations, particularly in light of the growing challenges associated with climate change.

Sincerely,

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