

Human Rights Council, 56th session

**High-Level informal Presidential discussion on
“The link between Climate Change, food security, and health security, and
their impact on the enjoyment of human rights”**

20 June 2024

Thank you Mr President. We echo the interventions by FIAN and ISHR, especially with regard to the risks posed to human rights by agrochemicals and the utmost importance of safe participation of civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations in environmental fora.

As the Human Rights Council President has stressed, we shall not overlook the rights of the generations to come. The Maastricht Principles on the rights of future generations seek to consolidate and interpret existing human rights standards to enhance the protection and fulfillment of the rights of future generations, including with regard to climate change action.

As we discuss the impacts of climate change on health and the right to food, we shall not overlook the root cause: fossil fuels. As the recent joint statement by six Special Procedures clearly highlights, and as has been repeatedly stated by the UN Secretary-General, fossil fuels are at the heart of the triple planetary crisis and related impacts on human rights, including on the rights to food and health - across their whole life cycle.

Offshore oil and gas activities pose a particularly acute threat to human rights, endangering the food security of entire regions by exacerbating the climate and pollution crisis, and threatening coastal and marine ecosystems. 30 percent of new oil and gas projects occur in the world's oceans, and 40 percent of maritime trade consist of shipping fossil fuels and fossil fuel products. Halting ocean oil and gas activity is thus essential to keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C, and to protecting ocean-dependent communities from irreparable harm.

Phasing out fossil fuels requires binding action to hold polluters accountable. States must effectively regulate corporate actors' operations, across their subsidiaries and value chains; counter misinformation, lobbying, and greenwashing, and strengthen public access to information, public participation – including Free and Prior Informed Consent – and access to justice and to effective remedy.

In parallel to phasing out fossil fuels, States must put in place policies and measures that are grounded in the best available science, to achieve a human rights-based, equitable transition towards renewable energy and a safe climate future. Technologies that claim to capture carbon dioxide are ineffective or unproven at scale, energy-intensive, and pose significant documented risks to the environment and human rights, including the rights to food and health. As the Advisory Committee and several Special Procedures have highlighted, approaches such as solar radiation modification or ocean fertilization have the potential to affect weather patterns at a regional or global scale, undermining food security and the livelihoods of billions of people, unleashing potentially irreversible consequences for fundamental human rights.

As we approach the Summit of the Future and continue to discuss climate change at this and future sessions of the Human Rights Council, we call upon States to make explicit the link between fossil fuels and human rights harms and to reiterate their commitment to pursue a rapid, human rights-based energy transition that doesn't rely on dangerous and unproven technologies. Thank you.