



Human Rights Council, 56th session
Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on International Solidarity
27 June 2024

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and Earthjustice welcome the Independent Expert’s report on “Participation of civil society organizations seeking to express international solidarity through transnational, international, and regional networks”.

The report rightfully highlights the essential role of international solidarity among civil society and Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, and the growing obstacles that international solidarity actors face across jurisdictions.

As the report points out, environmental degradation and climate change are some of the themes that international solidarity actors play an essential role in addressing. Yet, States are increasingly scrutinizing and criminalizing international solidarity actors, especially environmental human rights defenders, for their work at the intersection of human rights and environmental degradation.

States must uphold the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, in their individual and collective dimension, as the foundation for international solidarity, refraining from their deportation, expulsion, flagging, or denial of entry or exit visas.

These recommendations are particularly relevant in the context of international climate change conferences. During past Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the UNFCCC, international civil society and Indigenous Peoples representatives faced harassment and security threats, before, during, and after the conferences took place. This was highlighted by [several Special Procedures](#) during the COP27. Ahead of the 29th Conference of the Parties that will take place in Azerbaijan, in November 2024, there are serious concerns due to the closed civic space in the host country, putting the safety and security of observer participants from both within and outside the country at risk. We call upon the host State as well as all countries to ensure safe and inclusive civil society participation at the COP, and the Independent Expert to monitor the situation.

Thank you.