

Forum: United Nations Environment Program Governing Council

Question of: Reducing Side Effects of Oil and Gas Extraction

Submitted by: Argentina

Co-submitted by: Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Morocco, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Greenpeace



1 The United Nations Environment Program Governing Council,

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3 *Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the aims of
4 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular SDG 13 and related goals,

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6 *Fully aware of* the fact that offshore oil sources besides their harm to the environment are not
7 proving to be very effective in oil production, as between 2009 and 2030 only 1% of global oil
8 production has emerged from offshore oil sources,

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10 *Alarmed by* a history of environmental disasters such as multiple oil spills caused by leakage
11 and accidents on oil-drilling sites,

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13 *Deeply disturbed by* the lack of action taken to prevent, reduce and recover from environ-
14 mental pollution by oil and gas extraction,

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16 *Emphasizing* the issue of long lasting destruction of ecosystems and contribution to the ac-
17 celeration of climate change due to a failure to secure, regulate and maintain drilling sites,

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19 *Noting* the fact that our planet's resources are only available to a limited extent,

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21 1. **Encourages** the efforts of all UN members to develop national Climate Change Initia-
22 tives that may be in charge for means such as but not limited to:
- 23 a. introducing serious and mandatory methane standards on national, state and
24 federal levels,
 - 25 b. a diligent oversight of wastewater disposal to minimize groundwater contami-
26 nation,
 - 27 c. overseeing the prevention of marine pollution by illegal dumping of waste and
28 other matter;
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- 30 2. **Calls upon** all member states to require companies to take measures providing last-
31 ing infrastructural improvements in the region of their drilling sites by providing and
32 maintaining e.g. public transport systems for workers and their families;
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- 34 3. **Strongly condemns** companies buying up entire villages and evicting the local popu-
35 lation in order to access resources, on national as well as foreign territory;
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- 37 4. **Suggests** establishing an UNEP-subcommittee consisting of all UN member states,
38 called OLMUN (Oil Legislative Meeting of the United Nations) controlling oil and gas
39 extractions by:

- 40 a. inspecting oil and gas extraction laws and identifying flaws at irregular check-
41 ups,
42 b. preventing the use of extreme toxic and carcinogenic chemicals during all gas
43 and oil extractions by mandatory logging:
44 i. every company and the exact location where the extraction takes
45 place,
46 ii. the type and current state of the extraction,
47 iii. the exact chemical components used,
48 iv. all company's dates of arrival at the drilling-site,
49 v. beginning and end of extraction and time of decommission,
50 vi. the head of respective extraction,
51 c. presenting all of their results at annual meetings,
52 d. implementing an internet database in order to make the data accessible for all
53 representatives of member states and their citizens,
54 e. contacting other reliable organizations and exchanging findings;
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- 56 5. **Encourages** all member states to restrain corporations from using environmentally
57 unsustainable techniques such as gas-flaring or the disposal of polluted fracking wa-
58 ter by pumping it back into the natural environment;
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- 60 6. **Strongly urges** all member states to make additional efforts on preventing major oil
61 spills from causing natural disasters by means such as but not limited to:
62 a. mandatory, comprehensive, annual safety inspections at drilling sites,
63 b. building or upgrading existing vessels to double-hull standard in order to pre-
64 vent spillage in the event of collisions or similar accidents,
65 c. providing sufficient amounts of safety equipment, fire suppression equipment
66 and clean-up materials, directly at the drilling sites,
67 d. developing individual evacuation plans for all drilling sites;
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- 69 7. **Recommends** all member states to fund and improve effective methods for oil clean-
70 up after accidents at water-based drilling sites, such as but not limited to:
71 a. "dredging" of materials on the bottom of the sea,
72 b. "skimming" of less dense materials floating on the surface of the water,
73 c. using non-toxic solidifying materials e.g. dry ice to allow for an easier removal
74 of the spilled oil,
75 d. using centrifuges for smaller volumes of polluted water to separate both liq-
76 uids,
77 e. implementing numerous emergency response teams that are properly trained
78 and always accessible cooperating on an international level;
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- 80 8. **Urges** all member states to optimize and innovate methods used in the oil and gas
81 industry and implement new technologies to deal with environmental problems at the
82 plants such as but not limited to:
83 a. building and reconstructing gas-dust-removal-systems,
84 b. eliminating pollution sources,
85 c. using low-waste technologies,
86 d. restraining the utilizing of harmful substances from off-gases,
87 e. purifying sewages;
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- 89 9. **Recommends** all member states to oblige the oil and gas companies to only use
90 their chemicals in doses that have been proven to not be cancer-causing or toxic in
91 any other way to any living creature;

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- 10. Proposes** to carry out prophylaxis of cancer diseases with workers and nearby inhabitants who are involved with the oil and gas industry;
- 11. Calls for** the creation of nature protection zones as part of regional and global efforts on biodiversity conservation in which:
- a. the extraction of oil and gas is frequently controlled by the government to ensure that regulations and safety measures are not violated,
 - b. the creation of new extraction venues is strongly regulated and depending on the state's decision may be taxed to a higher extent;
- 12. Asks** to adjust the definition of a "sealed" source of natural gas, so that no source where methane gas can still escape into the atmosphere is considered sealed, as opposed to the current situation where a leakage of up to 40 percent is still defined as sealed;
- 13. Endorses** the implementation of 'Rigs-to-Reefs' programs using the company's oil and gas offshore platforms as an alternative to the complete removal of its non-productive oil and gas structures to:
- a. conserve and enhance resources and fisheries production in coastal areas,
 - b. contribute to the overall productivity of marine ecosystems, generating both local and regional socio-economic benefits,
 - c. minimize waste and create artificial habitats for ecosystem rehabilitation;
- 14. Urges** all member states to realize that in the long term, fossil fuels are not at all a sustainable solution while taking ecological as well as economic and social effects into account by means such as but not limited to:
- a. increase their usage of renewable energy up to at least 3,5% each year until 2025,
 - b. entirely stop using fossil fuel as their source of energy by 2050,
 - c. actively reduce disposable products with high amounts of fossil components e.g. working towards the abandoning of single use plastic packaging,
 - d. stop subsidizing the extraction of fossil fuel;
- 15. Calls upon** support for all countries who are dependent on oil and gas extraction by creating a fund which gives nations the opportunity to invest in renewable energy while 70% of the funds financial resources are for those member states who do not have the means to invest in renewable energy or whose economy is based on the extraction of fossil fuels and hence endangered by its reduction themselves and 30% is to subsidize research on renewable energy;
- 16. Urges** all member states to implement regulations to ensure that the companies are improving the living conditions of the inhabitants living around the drilling site e.g. by making sure that most of their workers are local;
- 17. Encourages** all member states to improve the direct democratic influence of the affected inhabitants concerning matters of oil and gas extractions e.g. the decision whether gas or oil should be extracted, the extent and duration of extraction or the place of the extraction to protect the inhabitants from possible exploitation and mistreatment;

- 143 **18. Recommends** governments of member states to increase funding for existing meth-
144 ods of public transport specially by rails, in order to make the wage of these more af-
145 fordable and attractive to the average workers and therefore use oil more productively
146 decreasing the need for extraction;
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- 148 **19. Approves** carrying out nature protection actions by subsoil users, such as planting
149 new forest arrays where it makes sense and where there have been forests in order
150 not to break balance of the circular processes, which are established in the bio-
151 sphere;
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- 153 **20. Calls for** the adoption of a minimize-fracking-policy by the UNEP, urging member
154 states to minimize fracking whenever possible:
155 a. reducing carcinogenic and seismic health risks to the local people and envi-
156 ronment ,
157 b. preventing socio-economic damages to local populations, due to but not lim-
158 ited to:
159 i. displacement,
160 ii. decreasing land value around fracking sites,
161 c. increasing the likelihood that the world can get over its oil and gas-addiction
162 and move to more sustainable energies, by not further flooding it with fossil-
163 fuels from fracking, also leading, industries and companies to not stay in fos-
164 sil-fuels forever,
165 d. ensuring that the above stated measures are applied by irregular check-ups
166 on companies carried out by government officials;
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- 168 **21. Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.