

Forum: United Nations Environment Program Governing Council

Question of: Reducing the side effects of oil and gas extraction

Submitted by: Russian Federation



Co-submitted by: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, IPIECA

- 1 The United Nations Environment Program Governing Council,
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3 *Noting* that the demand for energy is increasing due to the growth of the world population
4 and the world economy,
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6 *Pointing out* the importance of fossil fuels to the energy industry,
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8 *Aware* of the special ecological responsibility that goes along with oil extraction and the abil-
9 ity of the oil industry to have a positive impact on the environment,
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11 *Viewing with appreciation* the willingness of the member states to tackle the negative side
12 effects that an extraction of oil and gas might cause,
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14 *Recognizing* that the protection and conservation of the environment is of utmost importance,
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16 1. **Calls for** the formation of:
17 a. national research groups of all countries involved with the petroleum industry,
18 consisting of one representative of each research program currently in pro-
19 gress within the nation, along with government officials and chosen specialists
20 in jurisprudence, which should work on ways to abolish side effects of oil and
21 gas extraction,
22 b. an international research group under the auspices of the United Nations En-
23 vironmental Program, consisting of one representative of each national re-
24 search group;
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26 2. **Suggests** member states to increase funding for scientific research on reducing side
27 effects of oil and gas extraction, including topics such as:
28 a. new efficient methods to reuse fracking water respectively to purify it,
29 b. development of technologies which enable energy companies to economically
30 use the "waste" gas, which accrues during oil extraction, to prevent flaring,
31 c. improvement of technologies to minimize and prevent the release of green-
32 house gases into the atmosphere,
33 d. methods to remove and prevent marine pollution due to incidents caused by
34 oil platforms or tankers e.g. Deep Water Horizon;
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36 3. **Encourages** member states to perform their part in spreading awareness of the
37 importance of reducing side effects of oil and gas extraction through ways such as:
38 a. encouraging national energy companies to use more sustainable and safe
39 ways to extract oil and gas through distributing information from representa-
40 tives of the national research groups to local energy companies, which detail
41 methods to increase their productivity and improve their infrastructure, while at

- 42 the same time promoting more ecological ways to deal with carbon-hydrate-
43 based fuels,
- 44 b. cooperating with the aforementioned research groups to gain valid data, which
45 may then be published on an official government approved website,
46 c. providing information on the progress, which was made, to various media ac-
47 cessible to the general population;
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- 49 4. **Urges** all member states to ensure safety on all oil and gas extraction sites by means
50 such as, but not limited to:
- 51 a. preparing a "Report on Major Hazards" for their oil and gas extraction sites,
52 which must contain a risk assessment and an emergency response plan
53 such as evacuation in case of emergency, before companies begin explora-
54 tion and production,
55 b. making sure that companies keep resources at hand in order to put them into
56 operation when necessary,
57 c. member states granting licenses only to companies that are well financed and
58 have the necessary technical expertise and proper safety education for work-
59 ers,
60 d. independently verifying technical solutions, which are critical for the safety of
61 operators' installations, having to be done prior to the installation going into
62 operation,
63 e. verifying safety provisions, environmental protection measures, and the emer-
64 gency preparedness of rigs and platforms by national authorities,
65 f. avoiding safety hazards by regular government invigilated check-ups on active
66 and inactive production sites,
67 g. ensuring the full liability of the company in case of an emergency;
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- 69 5. **Calls upon** all governments to minimize the risk of hydraulic fracturing in terms of:
- 70 a. seismic risks through means such as:
- 71 i. monitoring and controlling the fracturing process including detailed
72 geological studies to assess the risk of seismic activity and to prevent
73 any fracturing operations near geological faults,
74 ii. scanning layers of the earth to prevent any other possible risk factors,
75 iii. setting up a system which detects seismic activity and implements se-
76 curity measures immediately when the measured values differ from the
77 set point,
78 b. environmental risks through means such as:
- 79 i. water resources, including groundwater (aquifers), by assessing and
80 approving the use of chemicals, which form part of the hydraulic frac-
81 turing fluid, using non-toxic respectively biodegradable chemicals if
82 possible and by stopping deep injection of fracking fluid,
83 ii. appropriate treatment and disposal of mining waste, produced during
84 the borehole drilling and hydraulic fracturing process,
85 iii. suitable treatment and management of any naturally occurring radioac-
86 tive materials;
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- 88 6. **Urges** relevant nations to introduce a zero-gas flaring policy, but allow it in unavoida-
89 ble circumstances by:
- 90 a. using multipoint flares which has radiant heat control noise control, adjustable
91 to cover up less space and it is 100% smokeless,
92 b. introducing a mandatory report on every major occurrence of gas flaring,
93 which requires the company responsible to state and justify their reason for
94 doing so;
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- 96 7. **Emphasizes** the need to ensure the health and safety of workers and citizens by:

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- a. reducing air pollution caused by, for instance nitrogen oxides and carbon oxides, using filter technologies which trap harmful gases in order to dispose them properly and by making these filters affordable to all relevant nations,
 - b. providing medical care and adequate protective gear/equipment to workers,
 - c. allowing UN-recognized non-governmental Environmental and Human Right Organizations to oversee that these measures are being implemented;
- 104 **8. Further calls upon** all member states to:
- a. invest in transportation systems, such as tankers, railways and pipelines, both above and below ground,
 - b. inspect them regularly,
 - c. cooperate with transit states by allocating UN-Funds for the construction of pipelines for the transportation of carbon-hydrate-based fuels, prevent its release and hence prevent pollution, which could cause harm to flora and fauna of the affected ecosystem;
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- 113 **9. Proposes** to undertake measures to safeguard oil- and gas-extracting infrastructure, a failure of which:
- a. evidently gives rise to terrorism, civil-war and forced foreign interventions,
 - b. directly kills humans in other countries, traps countries in poverty and a continuous low-intensity war,
 - c. is to be prevented by additionally funding forces that secure that the infrastructure remains in possession of the rightful UN-recognized government, by using UN-Funds to support government troops, which explicitly must only be used for such peacekeeping and safeguarding and be supervised by the United Nations Environment Program Governing Council;
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- 124 **10. Recommends** that all member states implement governmental supervision on energy companies to ensure that the above stated measures are applied.
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