

Oral Statement:

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Thank you, Mr. President,

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's timely report on non-toxic environments. As the report highlights, the extraction, processing, distribution, and combustion of fossil fuels produces prodigious volumes of pollution and toxic chemicals, violating rights such as those to a safe and healthy environment, to health and to life. It is therefore crucial to move away from our current fossil-fuel led energy system towards a sustainable, green energy model.

As States move to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement, they often leave human rights far aside. Especially large-scale capital and land-intensive renewable energy projects can pose a threat to human rights if they are not sufficiently scrutinized and implemented without a human rights compass to guide them.

The corporation *Electricité de France* is establishing a windfarm through its Mexican subsidiary on the indigenous land of the Zapoteca peoples in Mexico, which has a detrimental impact on the community, violating their rights to participation and free, prior, and informed consent. The wind farm threatens their livelihood as their access to areas which provide crucial sources of income and are essential for their cultural lives is restricted. This severely and disproportionately impacts indigenous women and girls who additionally face systemic discrimination, care and domestic work burdens and increased social conflict in the community hindering them from actively participating in decision-making processes related to the windfarm.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur:

What measures must States take to ensure a gender-just green transition in line with international human rights law?

Thank you.