

Name of the Session: Preventive measures
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FoEI speaker: Vitaly Servetnik
Panel: Subject 4. Preventive measures
Vitaly Servetnik, Friends of the Earth – Int, Russia

Mr Chairman,

I speak on behalf of Friends of the Earth International and the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power

We welcome the fact that the elements of the treaty include preventive measures, but we consider this part could be strengthened in several aspects.

First of all, the treaty should establish the duty of the States to ensure not only participation, but consent of the affected people, and the duty of the companies to respect it.

This process requires real access to information. Thus,, State Parties shall guarantee that public authorities divulge information on activities carried out by public or private agents that may have impacts on human rights and the environment, especially when the information has been requested by the public.

I would like to illustrate this point with a concrete example: *the Nuclear Industry.*

Nuclear Industry on daily basis causes pollution, threats of radioactive cross border disasters, hazardous nuclear wastes that remain a threat for thousands years in the future. Some countries or regions consume the energy from Nuclear Power Plants when others struggle in the mining sites or with nuclear waste disposal, including situations where radioactive materials remain a long term risk to be controlled and monitored.

In fact the companies and the states are using security reasons and so-called “national interest” to limit access to information, prevent public discussions, and anti-nuclear activists are being threatened with espionage accusations, defamation and persecution. In example in Russia antinuclear NGOs are labelled as Foreign Agents and half of them have been closed down.

*Conclusion: The preventive measures, before including participation on monitoring risk, should be based on the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent applied for all the TNCs projects, everywhere, and to nuclear industry specifically, **We want the right to know, and above all we want the right to say no!***

Thank you.