

Planetary Collaboration

Rue Jean-Dassier 7
1201, Genève
Switzerland

19 May 2023

Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Call for inputs: Extractive sector, just transition and human rights

Ref. Human Rights Council resolution [44/15](#)

Excellency,

We have the opportunity to include Ocean Economy on the discussion. The report “Extractive Sector, Just Transition and Human Rights” mentions indigenous populations and communities but **fails to mention the oceans, maritime industries, or coastal communities that are affected by extraction and particularly in the context of energy transition projects**. These topics are covered on Second World Ocean Assessment developed by the UN Division for Oceans.

Proposed inputs to the report:

- Explicit mention of extraction in the ocean and seas, considering maritime industries, off-shore and tidal energy generation (energy transition as a stressor) and hydrocarbon exploration (petroleum), among others.
- Include small islands and coastal communities as the main groups at risk.

Contextualisation

“About 40 per cent of the world’s population lives in the coastal zone, that is, within 100 km of the coast. The proportion is increasing. Coastal communities play a key role in supporting all components of the ocean economy, as well as a range of social and cultural values, and all forms of coastal and marine management and governance”¹.

The off-shore energy generation may increase significantly in the next years as well as oil extraction under the deep sea has already increased. Also, different alternatives are being created for using tidal energy. All of them with advantages and disadvantages.

“The Ocean must play a critical role in helping the world counter the climate crisis,” says Leticia Carvalho, Head of the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Marine and

¹ UN DOALOS. Coastal communities and maritime industries, Chapter 8A: World Ocean Assessment II vol. II pg.5

Freshwater Branch. “But right now, many marine environments, including coastal ecosystems, are under threat, reducing both their mitigation and adaptation potential, as well as breaking down their ability to function and provide services to humanity”.

Questions addressed

State duty to protect human rights

6. What are the gaps in the development and implementation of existing National Action Plans, legislation, and domestic, regional, or international frameworks (e.g., the Paris Agreement or climate change laws) on business and human rights, particularly in relation to the extractive sector, which if addressed will advance a just and human rights-based energy transition?

Corporate responsibility to respect human rights

14. How could extractive sector associations, higher education institutions and other stakeholders promote awareness and encourage human rights-compatible business practices (e.g., addressing greenwashing and green scamming practices)?

About Planetary Collaboration

Planetary Collaboration is a non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland. It develops a knowledge network with the aim to promote global collaboration and capacity-building in Human Rights related practices.

Related to the SDG 14 – Life Below Water and the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process), the organisation focus its work on **Socio-ecological Systems**”, including **Food Systems** and **Energy** as our priority topics towards a more sustainable and inclusive ocean economy.

Sincerely,

Diego Costa
Executive Director
+41 77 815 7375
diegoc@planetarycollaboration.com