



**55th Session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food,
7 March 2024**

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and Earthjustice welcome the Special Rapporteur's report on [fisheries and the right to food in the context of climate change](#). We would like to highlight one conclusion that follows from the report's findings: that offshore oil and gas activity is incompatible with the human rights of small-scale and artisanal fishers and fish workers.

Around the world, offshore oil and gas activity poses a growing threat to the food security and rights of small-scale fishing communities and to the oceans on which they depend. As the report lays out, every phase of the offshore oil and gas lifecycle presents unique ecological and livelihood risks: from exploration and drilling in the seabed, to the processing of oil and gas at coastal facilities and at sea; from the transport of oil and gas via subsea pipelines and tankers, to the improper closure and abandonment of wells. Despite being on the frontlines of these impacts, small-scale and artisanal fishers, fish workers, and Indigenous communities are often denied a say in whether and how offshore projects are carried out. CIEL welcomes the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that States respect the rights of small-scale fishing communities and Indigenous Peoples to actively, freely, and meaningfully participate in all decision-making processes that may impact their lives, lands, and livelihoods, which necessarily include those concerning offshore fossil fuel projects.

As the Special Rapporteur explains, offshore activities also directly undermine human rights and endanger the food security of entire regions by exacerbating the climate crisis. With over 30 percent of new oil and gas projects occurring in the world's oceans, alongside a massive buildout of coastal infrastructure and shipping routes due to LNG production, halting offshore oil and gas expansion is not only essential to keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C, but also to protecting oceans and ocean-dependent communities from irreparable climate harm. We thus commend the Special Rapporteur for calling on States to carefully assess and disclose the full range of risks posed by offshore projects — including their climate footprints across their life cycles — *before* approving or financing them, and we urge States to take all necessary measures to prevent and mitigate these risks.

Finally, we echo the Special Rapporteur's strong call for States to reject the advancement of and suspend any offshore oil and gas activity that deprives impacted small-scale fishers and fish workers of their enjoyment of fundamental human rights. In the face of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, we must prioritize the human rights of current and future generations by transitioning to renewable energy sources that do not compromise the integrity of our ecosystems and shared resources. As the report emphasizes, we must recognize oceans as a life source and reject fossil fuel activities that jeopardize the myriad lives and livelihoods that depend on our marine environments.