

HAUSFELD

888 16th Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

202-540-7200 Main
202-540-7201 Fax

May 13, 2020

Prime Minister Erna Solberg
The Office of the Prime Minister
P.O. Box 8001 dep.
(NO-)0030 Oslo
Norway
postmottak@smk.dep.no

CC: Hon. Sveinung Rotevatn
Ministry of Climate and Environment
P.O.Box 8013 Dep
N-0030 Oslo
Norway
postmottak@kld.dep.no

CC: H.E. Mona Juul
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza #35
New York, NY 10017
delun@mfa.no

CC: Dr. David R. Boyd
United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human rights and the Environment
Associate Professor
Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
Faculty of Science
Vancouver Campus
AERL Building
429-2202 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4
srenvironment@ohchr.org

***Re: Follow-Up to Norway's International Treaty Violations on Climate Change;
On behalf of Greta Thunberg, Chiara Sacchi, Catarina Lorenzo, Iris Duquesne, Raina
Ivanova, Ridhima Pandey, David Ackley, III, Ranton Anjain, Litokne Kabua, Deborah
Adegbile, Carlos Manuel, Raslen Jbeili, Carl Smith, and Alexandria Villaseñor.***

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Dear Prime Minister Solberg:

As counsel for children from around the world who have brought a complaint concerning the human rights impacts of climate change before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child against Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Turkey, I write to you concerning a matter of new urgency.

While the world is facing a climate emergency, Norway is considering increasing oil and gas production. The Norwegian Parliament is currently debating the fate of the marginal ice zone. This is a critical test of whether Norway understands and is committed to its obligation to be on a pathway to limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C. Norway is confronted with the choice of expanding and declaring the marginal ice zone a no-go area for offshore activity or succumb to the ill-conceived interests of oil and gas companies. Choosing the latter would undermine Norway's climate leadership and shared responsibility for a universally acknowledged "common concern of humanity." Increasing its oil and gas production at the expense of the marginal ice zone is also in clear violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Norway has also agreed.

Science is not negotiable. Recent analysis by Oil Change International shows that existing fossil fuel extraction projects – where the capital is sunk, wells have been drilled, and the related infrastructure built – already hold enough oil, gas, and coal to take the world well above 1.5°C and exhaust a 2°C carbon budget.¹ The world simply cannot afford new fossil fuel emissions if the catastrophic impacts of climate change are to be prevented.

Every child living today, the recent Lancet Report found,² will face increased risks of death and disease in a fundamentally altered world as a result of these destructive emissions. Norway should not, must not, act to increase this loss of life.

Moreover, the recent Covid-19 crisis has reminded the world of the necessity for governments to take the highest degree of action feasible to preserve and protect the lives and well-being of their citizens. Action in response to such crises is not discretionary, it is mandatory. Governments are obligated to affirmatively respond, to the fullest extent possible, to threats to life and health; they are obligated to follow the facts and science and they are obligated to cooperate, positively and jointly with all other governments. These are the fundamental lessons of the pandemic which apply with even greater force to the climate crisis.

¹ Kelly Trout and Lorne Stockman, *Drilling Towards Disaster: Why U.S. Oil and Gas Expansion is Incompatible with Climate Limits*, Oil Change International (Jan. 2019).

² Nick Watts et al., *The 2019 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate*, The Lancet (2019).

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Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Norway has agreed to listen to the voices of children on matters affecting their right to life; yet, to date we have not had the courtesy of a reply to our December 10, 2019, inquiry. In addition, and in compliance with Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,³ petitioners respectfully request that any Norwegian decision determining the status of the marginal ice zone and any delegation attending COP26 include knowledgeable child activists who wish to exercise their right to be heard and to express their views about a crisis that will risk their lives and future. We respectfully request that you open a dialogue with us to address this time-sensitive and critical matter.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Hausfeld
Counsel

*On behalf of signatories:*⁴

Greta Thunberg (Sweden)
Chiara Sacchi (Argentina)
Catarina Lorenzo (Brazil)
Iris Duquesne (France)
Raina Ivanova (Germany)
Ridhima Pandey (India)
David Ackley, III (Marshall Islands)
Ranton Anjain (Marshall Islands)
Litokne Kabua (Marshall Islands)
Deborah Adegbile (Nigeria)
Carlos Manuel (Palau)
Raslen Jbeili (Tunisia)
Carl Smith (USA – Alaska)
Alexandria Villaseñor (USA – New York)

³ Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides:

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

⁴ This material is distributed by Hausfeld LLP on behalf of Environmental Youth Activists. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.