

President,

The COP conferences are an opportunity for states and civil society to work constructively towards achieving the SDGs and creating a more habitable Earth. However, at COP27, 18 out of the 20 corporate sponsors directly supported the oil and gas industries. COP28 does not look more promising with the appointment of the Chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Sultan al-Jaber, as president of the conference.

The growing presence of oil and gas lobbyists in climate conferences is a cause for concern. The UAE's attempt to brand itself as responsible and proactive in climate action contradicts with its pledge to continue supplying oil and gas to the world as the second largest producer per capita.

Additionally, human rights concerns including the suppression of free speech cannot be ignored in favour of the climate agenda. It is impossible to create "realistic, practical and pragmatic" solutions without the free and un-politicised truth.

GIWEH calls for the UNFCCC to investigate and rectify the involvement of parties that contradict the purpose and aims of COP. GIWEH also calls for the international community to condemn the UAE's wrongful suppression of dissenting voices and demand the unfiltered and unbiased truths of the climate crisis. Tangible climate action will continue to fail as long as interests are polluted.

Thank you.