Submission to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

16 September 2025, Submitted at the UN Conference Center during the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights 2025.

To Dr. Pitchamon Yeopanthong, Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

We, Rayong Clean Energy Network, Network of the Rayong Fisherfolks, and Thailand Climate Change Action Network concerning the MapTaPhut Phase 3 expansion in Rayong, submit this petition concerning the expansion of industrial complex in Rayong, its impacts to fisherfolks and the construction of LNG projects, invested by Thailand Petroleum Authority and Gulf Energy Development. The expansion of MapTaPhut Industrial Complex couple with the construction of LNG terminal and regasification facilities will destroy our small boat fisherfolk's livelihoods and our occupation will collapse. Certainly, the investments such as LNG projects should not go ahead due to its nature as a fossil fuel project.

This expansion, which includes heavy industrial development and the establishment of LNG infrastructure along Rayong's coastal areas, poses a grave threat to the livelihoods of small-scale fisherfolk. Our communities rely on the sea for sustenance, employment, and cultural identity. The increased pollution, coastal alteration, marine traffic, and ecological degradation expected from these projects will irreversibly damage marine ecosystems and render small boat fishing unsustainable. If these projects proceed as planned, our traditional way of life and primary occupation will collapse.

We urge relevant authorities, stakeholders, and the general public to reconsider this development trajectory in light of its severe social, environmental, and climate consequences.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), in its nature such as the LNG terminal and regasification facilitates in Rayong, is often falsely promoted as a "clean transition fuel"; however, credible climate science and international energy agencies have clearly shown that LNG is a major source of methane emissions – a greenhouse gas significantly more potent than CO_2 in the short term. Continued investment in LNG projects locks countries into long-term fossil fuel dependency, directly undermining the urgent need to transition to sustainable, renewable energy systems.

Such investments are incompatible with the goals of the Paris Agreement, which calls for rapid decarbonization and a just transition away from fossil fuels. Moreover, the expansion of LNG infrastructure in coastal Rayong exacerbates climate vulnerability, threatens biodiversity, and

endangers frontline communities that have contributed the least to the climate crisis but bear the brunt of its impacts.

Rayong Clean Energy Network, Network of the Fisherfolks, and Network of the Coastal Areas in five provinces and Thailand Climate Change Action Network or CCAN are the network that work with the fisherfolks and frontline communities in Rayong who fight against the fossil fuel projects and the expansion of MapTaPhut phase 3 in Rayong province, Thailand. We concerned about the expansion of the MapTaPhut phase 3 which already on the intense speed and has already impacted the small boat fisherfolks and lead to the collapse of fishing occupation. The expansion includes the sea filling and the construction of LNG projects.

The networks work with Rayong communities to document impacts from the MapTaPhut phase 3 expansion and the construction of LNG terminal in Rayong**. Over two years working with Rayong fisherfolks and communities, we document the changes in environmental, cultural and livelihood impacts via the community-based research documentation called "Thai Baan Research".** Based on the documentation, interview, and research findings, we recommend that the LNG project should not go ahead due to the impacts to the livelihoods of communities and fisherfolks in the area. The project is seen as fossil fuel projects which will cause global warming and destructive to our climate.

The project is widely recognized as a fossil fuel development, which directly contradicts Thailand's stated commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward a low-carbon economy.

Investing in new LNG infrastructure at this critical moment not only delays the urgently needed shift to renewable energy, but also entrenches dependence on fossil fuels for decades to come. This is inconsistent with the global scientific consensus, as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which clearly warns that any further expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure will push the world beyond safe climate limits.

We therefore urge the United Nations and the global community to recognize LNG development as a climate threat and **to call upon the Thai government and corporate actors to immediately cease support for LNG infrastructure in favor of sustainable and community-led alternatives.**

We are gravely concerned that this development:

- **Violates our environmental and cultural rights**, protected under international human rights law and Thailand's constitutional provisions;
- **Contravenes Thailand's commitments under the Paris Agreement** and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 1 (No Poverty);

- **Accelerates fossil fuel dependency** at a time when the global consensus calls for a just transition to renewable energy and climate-resilient economies.

If allowed to proceed, the Map Ta Phut Phase 3 expansion and LNG infrastructure will destroy coastal ecosystems, displace traditional fishing livelihoods, and increase the social and environmental burdens borne by already marginalized communities.

We call on the United Nations and its relevant bodies to:

1. **Investigate the impacts of this industrial expansion** on human rights, environmental integrity, and climate obligations in Thailand;
2. **Urge the Thai government to suspend these projects** until full, transparent, and inclusive environmental, social, and human rights impact assessments are conducted in line with international standards;
3. **Support the protection of the rights of small-scale fisherfolk**, in accordance with the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas**, and **FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries**;
4. **Advocate for a transition away from fossil fuels** in Thailand's energy planning, prioritizing decentralized, community-led renewable energy systems.

We stand in solidarity with global movements for climate justice, environmental integrity, and the protection of Indigenous and traditional livelihoods. We respectfully request the support of the United Nations in safeguarding our coastal communities, our ecosystems, and our future. We take this opportunity to submit concerns and articulating on impacts and seek the attention of the UNWG on Business and Human Rights to address the issues of MapTaPhut expansion and construction of LNG terminals and regasification facilities.

Respectfully submitted,
[Signed by representatives of each organization]

- Rayong Clean Energy Network
- Network of Rayong Fisherfolks
- Burapa Network of Coastal Areas in five provinces of Eastern Thailand
- Thailand Climate Change Action Network (CCAN)
- Foundation of Natural Resources and the Environment
- Foundation of Culture, and Environment in Southeast Asia