Mr. President,

The right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of many others, including the right to life.

Yet, despite the global environmental crisis, too many governments continue to invest in fossil fuel projects and extractive activities. Among them is the government of Uganda which is fully disregarding the irreparable harm that such projects cause to local communities.

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline ideated by the French energy giant TotalEnergies and supported by the government, will have devastating impacts on local ecosystems and is likely to displace more than 100,000 people. Many of the affected communities are already suffering from food insecurity and household debt, as a result of land evictions and poorly managed compensation plans.

We deplore that, instead of protecting the rights of its population, Uganda has been targeting activists and peaceful protesters who stand against oil projects. Multiple civil society organisations saw their offices vandalized, and activists have been arbitrarily arrested and then put on police bond, in an attempt to silence and intimidate them.

We call on the Council to urge Uganda and all other stakeholders, to put an end to the extractive activities linked to the EACOP project, provide the affected communities with adequate compensation, and promptly implement a human rights-based approach to environmental protection.

Lastly, Uganda must end all judicial harassment against environmental defenders and NGOs, putting an end to the misuse of police bonds, as well as arbitrary arrests and detentions.

Thank you.