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Topic: Limits on Extraction of Carbon-based Fuels in Vulnerable Conditions

*“We cannot burn our way to prosperity.”*

*-Ban Ki-moon, Former Secretary-General, United Nations*

[Energy](https://www.ipcc.ch/2020/07/31/energy-climatechallenge/) is at the heart of the climate challenge – and key to the solution. A large chunk of the greenhouse gases are generated through energy extraction and production, by burning hydrocarbon-based fossil fuels to generate electricity and heat. The science is clear: to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, emissions need to be reduced by almost half by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Happily, a growing coalition of countries and businesses are pledging to get to net-zero emissions. [More than 140 countries](https://ca1-nzt.edcdn.com/Reports/Net_Zero_Stocktake_2023.pdf?v=1689326892), including the biggest polluters, have set a net-zero target, covering about [88% of global emissions](https://ca1-nzt.edcdn.com/Reports/Net_Zero_Stocktake_2023.pdf?v=1689326892). In March 2022, UN Secretary-General António Guterres created a High-Level Expert Group to improve and accelerate the implementation of net-zero emissions commitments made by entities like businesses, investors, cities, and regions

Kuwait, situated on the tip of the Persian Gulf, is vulnerable to the physical impacts of climate change on its ecology, human systems, and natural resources. In Kuwait, it is estimated that a significant part of the population, nearly 65 to174 thousand people are vulnerable to rising sea levels. In order to fight the effects of climate change (chiefly propagated by hydrocarbon fuels), The State of Kuwait has pledged net-zero emissions by 2060. Domestically, it has already undertaken several strategic projects to reduce its carbon footprint by nurturing clean energy initiatives, introducing new low-carbon technologies, and developing long-term partnerships to exploit sustainable energy opportunities. Progress toward such actions is already underway, and when fully implemented by 2035 will result in total annual emission reductions of about 5,600 Gg, with cumulative emission reductions of nearly 60,000 Gg of CO2-equivalent. Internationally, it has expressed through its Nationally Determined Contribution a commitment to explore future GHG emission reduction policies and measures in the energy sector. The Kuwaiti nation is committed to efforts that harmonize economic growth with a low-carbon, climate-resilient development and is also keen to promote practical methods to foster cleaner energy techniques, like low-carbon infrastructure.

However, Kuwait believes that much more can still be done to alleviate the hydrocarbon question. Kuwait encourages the introduction of stronger, more extensive regulations to control hydrocarbon production. To protect vulnerable areas, usually close to mining sites, organizations must be set up to oversee, regulate and advise private operations. The Delegate of Kuwait believes that cooperation in this field can foster better relations in other areas too.

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