



39th session of Human Rights Council

20 September 2018

UPR Azerbaijan

Since the first cycle of UPR, Azerbaijan has received many recommendations on ratifying or acceding the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). After 9 years the country is still one of the rare European countries who yet has to accede the Rome Statute.

Sudwind believes that the education strategy planned by the state was not adequate to limit the endemic corruption. The international corruption perception index of 122 between 180 states, indicates no significant changes.

We are pleased to know about the proposed program to build a sewage purifier for preventing the direct flow of the sewage of the seaside towns to the Caspian Sea. However, until the plan is implemented the industrial waste, pesticides and sewage in addition to oil pollution pumped into the Caspian Sea remain a great source of concern.

We are still concerned that the special attention of the Baku authorities has solely been the exploration and exploitation of oil from the Caspian sea, but not about the oil pollution it produces. It is a priority to pay attention to the protection of the Caspian sea for the benefit of all the Caspian coastal countries including Azerbaijan.

Human rights defenders and activists of Iranian civil society and environmentalists, in particular, are seriously concerned about the ratification of the Caspian Sea Legal Convention, which has been signed without consultation with independent Iranian experts. It is worrisome that this legal convention is signed by a pseudo elected government and might be approved by parliament which is not elected in a democratic way.