

Brussels/Basel/Tokyo/Stockholm,

30.09.2025

Hitachi Energy Ltd

Att: Andreas Schierenbeck, CEO

Boveri Strasse 5

8050 Zurich

Switzerland

REGARDING HITACHI ENERGY AND THE OCCUPATION OF WESTERN SAHARA

Dear Mr. Schierenbeck

Western Sahara Resource Watch (WSRW), terre des hommes schweiz, Artikel2 and Friends of Western Sahara Japan are privileged to present you with our compliments.

Our four associations, representing civil society from Switzerland, Japan, Sweden and Belgium are writing to follow up on earlier correspondence regarding your company's operations in occupied Western Sahara. We refer to the following correspondence:

* A letter from terre des hommes schweiz to ABB Schweiz AG on 11 June 2018¹, and response from ABB Management Services Ltd on 11 June 2018².

* An email from Friends of Western Sahara Japan, terre des hommes schweiz, Switzerland, Emmaus Stockholm, Sweden to Hitachi Ltd on 19 December 2019. The company responded on 18 December 2019 that "Negotiations regarding the acquisition of ABB's power grid business are proceeding smoothly. Hitachi is promoting the clearance of competition laws around the world, and advancing as scheduled toward the completion of the acquisition in the first half of 2020. Therefore, we are very sorry we can't answer at this time."³

* A letter from WSRW to the new joint-venture Hitachi ABB Power Grids in 18 August 2020, requesting it to clarify its current contractual obligations in Western Sahara⁴. No reply was received.

We also refer to the following pieces of information that has appeared since then:

- 1) In 2021, at a time *after* our associations on three occasions had requested clarifications from ABB, Hitachi Ltd and Hitachi ABB Power Grids, your company published a presentation erroneously claiming that its Aftissat project was located in Morocco.⁵
- 2) 15 September 2022, a representative of the French company Clemessy posted on LinkedIn that work that was carried out on the Aftissat 2 project was made under supervision of Hitachi Energy.⁶
- 3) 22 June 2022, staff of the company Fairwind posted on LinkedIn a picture of ABB equipment in the occupied territory in relation to the construction of the Aftissat 2 project.⁷

As mentioned in our previous correspondence, we find it deeply problematic that ABB, and later Hitachi ABB Power Grids, implemented such an infrastructure project in the occupied territory. We also find it regrettable that the fundamental error from ABB already in its initial press release from 7 July 2017⁸, claiming that the

¹ https://www.wsrw.org/files/dated/2018-11-20/180425_abb_tdhs.pdf

² https://www.wsrw.org/files/dated/2018-11-18/terre_des_hommes_abb_response_20180611.pdf

³ https://vest-sahara.s3.amazonaws.com/skvs/feature-images/File/2358/684570615c892_Japan-Hitachi_18.12.2019.jpg

⁴ https://vest-sahara.s3.amazonaws.com/skvs/feature-images/File/192/5f7a094b4b20b_WSRW-HitachiABB_18.08.2020.pdf

⁵ https://vest-sahara.s3.amazonaws.com/wsrw/feature-images/File/2359/6845749c0ec46_Discover-Hitachi-Energy_CIGRECroatia.pdf

⁶ <https://www.wsrw.org/en/news/general-electric-conflict-windpark-near-completion>

⁷ <https://www.wsrw.org/en/news/general-electric-conflict-windpark-near-completion>

⁸ <https://web.archive.org/web/20190720033703/https://www.abb.com/cawp/seitp202/0298d3f659e53aaac12581560022ae7d.aspx>

location of the project is located in "Morocco", was repeated in the Hitachi Energy company presentation of 2021.

What we consider the deeply problematic aspects of this assignment is outlined in our previous correspondence.

Based on the above, our four associations have some follow-up questions to your company:

1. In the letter from Friends of Western Sahara Japan, terre des hommes schweiz and Emmaus Stockholm, to Hitachi Ltd on 19 December 2019, four questions were asked. The company responded that "Negotiations regarding the acquisition of ABB's power grid business are proceeding smoothly. Hitachi is promoting the clearance of competition laws around the world, and advancing as scheduled toward the completion of the acquisition in the first half of 2020. Therefore, we are very sorry we can't answer at this time". Now as the acquisition has been completed, we ask Hitachi Energy Ltd to respond to the following questions, that were initially asked:
 - a. What is Hitachi's policy concerning projects in Western Sahara?
 - b. What actions are Hitachi planning to undertake in relation to the project it has acquired in Western Sahara?
 - c. Does Hitachi plan to realize more projects in Western Sahara?
 - d. What steps will Hitachi take to obtain the consent of the people of Western Sahara if it is to undertake further projects in Western Sahara?
2. Taking into account its above-mentioned 2021 presentation, in which Hitachi Energy Ltd refers to the location of the Aftissat project as being in "Morocco", is Hitachi Energy of the opinion that the location of Aftissat project is in Morocco?
3. If yes to the above, on what legal grounds does Hitachi Energy believe that the project of Aftissat is located in Morocco?

With this in mind, we are looking forward to hearing from you. This letter and your response will be published on the website www.wsrw.org, as well as in a report on renewable energy in Western Sahara that WSRW is publishing later this year.

Sincerely,

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