



## United Nations completes removal of oil from decaying tanker in Red Sea

*More than 1.1 million barrels of oil transferred to the replacement tanker over 18 days*

**Hodeidah, Yemen, 11 August** – At 1800 local time, the United Nations successfully completed the transfer of oil from the FSO *Safer* supertanker off Yemen’s Red Sea coast, preventing the immediate threat of a massive spill.

The *Safer* has been at risk of breaking up or exploding for years. A major spill from the vessel would have resulted in an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe.

The cargo of oil aboard the FSO *Safer* has been pumped onto the replacement vessel MOST *Yemen* (formerly *Nautica*) in a ship-to-ship transfer that began on 25 July, following preparations on site for the operation that began in May by leading marine salvage company SMIT, a subsidiary of Boskalis. The UN Development Programme (UNDP), which contracted SMIT, is implementing the operation.

As much of the 1.14 million barrels has been extracted as possible. However, less than 2 percent of the original oil cargo remains mixed in with sediment that will be removed during the final cleaning of the *Safer*.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: “I welcome the news that the transfer of oil from the FSO *Safer* has been safely concluded today. The United Nations-led operation has prevented what could have been an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe on a colossal scale.”

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said: “Today is a proud moment for the many people across the UN System as well as our donors and partners who have worked tirelessly over the past months and years to avert a disaster in a country already vulnerable following protracted conflict. There is still work to be done, but today we can say with confidence that the immediate threat of a spill has been averted.”

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly, who has led UN system-wide efforts on the *Safer* since September 2021, said: “Today is a great milestone. A remarkable global coalition came together under the UN umbrella to prevent the worst-case scenario of a catastrophic oil spill in the Red Sea. We need to finish the work the UN started. The installation of a CALM buoy to which the replacement vessel will be safely tethered is the next crucial step.”

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### *The United Nations thanks donors for their generous support*



We also thank the HSA Group, the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers, the Trafigura and Leo Balmer Foundations, Octavia Energy/Calvalley Petroleum, and generous individuals that have contributed to the UN crowdfunding campaign.

**UN Secretary-General’s statement:** <https://www.un.org/sg/en/latest/sg/statement>

**Broadcast footage:** <https://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/>

**Visit:** <https://www.un.org/en/StopRedSeaSpill>

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