G20 Fossil Fuel Subsidies Sign-On Statement

Implementation of G20 Commitment to Phase-Out Fossil Fuel Subsidies

We – representing over 200 civil society organizations – urge G20 governments to establish a deadline for the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies and public finance for fossil fuels at the 2016 G20 Summit.

We were pleased to see the G20 Finance Ministerial in Shanghai on February 28, 2016, reaffirmed the long-standing G20 commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, a promise which has been made at G20 leaders’ summits every year since 2009. However, given the urgency of the climate change crisis, underscored by the Paris Agreement reached in December of 2015, the next steps on this commitment are long overdue.

To catalyze real progress on phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, the 2016 G20 communique should include clear language that:

- Sets a clear timeline for the full and equitable phase-out by all G20 members of all fossil fuel subsidies by 2020, starting with the elimination of all subsidies for fossil fuel exploration and coal production.

- Sets a clear timeline for the phase out of domestic and international public finance for oil, gas and coal production by 2020, except in extreme cases where there is clearly no other viable option for increasing energy access to the poor.

- Commits all G20 members to be fully transparent from 2017 onwards about all fossil fuel subsidies in a consistent format that is publicly available on an annual basis. The OECD inventory should be strengthened and expanded to include all G20 countries (based on the current OECD model for tracking agricultural subsidies). The G20 should simultaneously increase transparency of reporting on investment in and finance for fossil fuel production by G20 majority publicly-owned financial institutions and state-owned enterprises.

To signal a commitment to these objectives, G20 members could enshrine the following text in the 2016 G20 communique:

- We reinforce our commitment to phase out and rationalize fossil fuel subsidies by 2020, recognizing the need to support the poor, and supported by transparent and publicly available annual reporting. Fossil fuel subsidies encourage wasteful consumption, reduce our energy security, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with the threat of climate change.
We commit to strengthening green and low-carbon policies and regulations with a view to ending public investment in oil, gas and coal projects both domestically and internationally by 2020, starting with the elimination of public finance for fossil fuel exploration and coal, supported by transparent and publicly available annual reporting.

These proposals (a) are in line with the objective of the recent Paris climate agreement to make “finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.”, (b) fulfill the U.S. and China’s commitment to working closely with other G20 members to phase out fossil fuel subsidies by a “date certain” and the commitment in the China-US Joint Presidential Statement to “align finance flows with low-emission, climate-resilient development and to strictly control public investment flowing into projects with high pollution and carbon emissions,” (c) support the G20’s 2015 statements that “actions on energy, including improving energy efficiency, increasing investments in clean energy technologies and supporting related research and development activities will be important in tackling climate change and its effects”, and (d) on “the importance of diversification of energy sources and continued investments for increased energy security.” These proposals will also build on (e) the recent G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, in which G7 leaders reaffirm their commitment to “the elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and encourage all countries to do so by 2025.”

A recent assessment found that G20 governments are spending $444 billion every year on support to fossil fuel production - via national subsidies ($70 billion), investments by state-owned enterprises ($286 billion) and public finance ($88 billion). [1] The report shows that subsidies are locking in long-lived, high-emitting infrastructure and unlocking new fossil fuel reserves. This is at the very time that we need to be investing public resources into alternatives to fossil fuels, and in spite of the recognition that we will need to keep 80% or more of existing fossil fuel reserves in the ground if we hope to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Public finance continues to drive the climate crisis, while, by contrast, the cost of renewables is falling, and the investment returns on public support are better.

We urge G20 members to take the decisive steps toward ending fossil fuel subsidies outlined in this statement, with the key action being the establishment of an ambitious 2020 deadline for the phase out of subsidies, in order to drive sustained and scaled-up action in the coming years.

[Argentina]

Center for Human Rights and Environment
CIMA
Foro del Buen Ayre

[Australia]

Australian Youth Climate Coalition
Bayside Climate Change Action Group
Centre for Climate Safety
Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia
Climate Action Hobart
Climate Action Monaro
Climate Justice Programme
Darebin Climate Action Now
Environment Victoria
Market Forces
Wodonga & Albury Towards Climate Health
350 Australia

[Brazil]

Engajamundo

[Canada]

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Canadian Youth Climate Coalition
Canadian Youth Delegation
Environmental Defence Canada
Friends of the Earth Canada
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
Stand
Windfall Ecology Centre

[China]

Innovative Green Development Program
[European Union]

ACT Alliance
BankTrack
CAN-Europe
Carbon Market Watch
Change Partnership
CIDSE
Climate Express
CNCD-11.11.11
Concerned Citizens against Climate Change
Diakonia
E3G
Entraide et Fraternité
European Environmental Bureau
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Focus Association for Sustainable Development
Fundacja Rozwój TAK Odkrywki NIE
Green Budget Europe
Health and Environment Alliance
Health Care Without Harm
Hivos
Koalicja Klimatyczna
Mouvement Ecologique
Quercus - National Association for Nature Conservation
SOS Faim
Transport & Environment
Women in Europe for a Common Future
ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável
11.11.11

[France]

Alofa Tuvalu
Réseau Action Climat
CliMates

[Germany]

BUND Sachsen e.V.
Germanwatch
Green Budget Germany
Jugendbündnis Zukunftsenergie
Klima-Allianz Deutschland
Urgewald

[India]
Beyond Copenhagen Collective
JusTeach Foundation

[Indonesia]
The Habibie Center
Indonesian Consumers Organisation
Institute for Essential Services Reform
People's Coalition for the Right to Water (KRuHA)
350 Indonesia

[Italy]
Legambiente Onlus

[Japan]
Friends of the Earth Japan
Kiko Network
350 Japan

[Korea]
Korean Federation of Environmental Movements (Friends of the Earth Korea)

[Mexico]
Asociación de Usuarios del Agua de Saltillo
Bicitekas AC
CartoCrítica
Colectivo Ts’unel Bej
Instituto de Políticas para el Transporte y el Desarrollo
Latin American and the Caribbean Climate Finance Group

[Russia]

Friends of the Siberian Forests

[South Africa]

Economic Justice Network of Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa

[Turkey]

Çevre ve Tüketici Koruma Derneği
Ecology Collective Association
Emekli Öğretim Üyesi
Foça Çevre ve Kültür Platformu
Osmaniye Kastabala Çevre Platformu
Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, For Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats
WWF-Turkey
Yeşil Düşünce Derneği
Yuva Association

[United Kingdom]

Ashden Trust
Carbon Tracker Initiative
Environmental Funders Network
Frederick Mulder Foundation
JJ Charitable Trust
Mark Leonard Trust
New Economics Foundation
Overseas Development Institute
The Orp Foundation
ShareAction
Tax Justice Network
This Changes Everything UK
UK Youth Climate Coalition

[United States]

Amazon Watch
Ban the Bottle
Bold Nebraska
Center for Biological Diversity
People for Renewable Energy Now
Clean Water Action
Climate Action New England
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy
Climate Justice Project
Climate Law & Policy Project
Corporate Accountability International
DC Divest
Divest Dartmouth
Earth Day Network
Earth in Brackets
Earthlust
Elders Climate Action
Energy Action Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Action Club
Environmental Action Coalition
Environmental Solutions Club
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Green Amherst Project
iMatter
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition
Labor/Community Strategy Center
Montana Environmental Information Center
Other 98%)
People for Sustainable Solutions
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Seacaucus Environmental Department
Sierra Club
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Students for a Just and Stable Future
SustainUS: U.S. Youth for Justice and Sustainability
Union of Concerned Scientists
Utah State University Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources
Virginia Student Environmental Coalition
Youth for a Sustainable Future
350 DC
350 Louisiana
350 New Hampshire
350 Silicon Valley

[International]

Bicycle Solutions International
CARE International - Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network
Clean Up the World
The Climate Reality Project
EKOenergy
Fast for the Climate
Forum for the Future
Global Catholic Climate Movement
Global Witness
Greenpeace International
International Institute for Sustainable Development - Global Subsidies Initiative
International Union of Socialist Youth
Leave It in the Ground Initiative
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oil Change International
Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport
We Are The Solution
World Renew
WWF International
Your Trash, Our Treasure
350.org
Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger (Africa)
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (Bangladesh)
Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad (Colombia)
Carfree (Nepal)
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research (Nigeria)
Centro de Estudios de Movilidad en Bicicleta (Venezuela)
Climate Change Network Nigeria (Nigeria)
Climate Watch Thailand (Thailand)
Cycle City Network Nepal (Nepal)
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Peru)
Despacio (Colombia)
Digo Bikas Institute (Nepal)
East Africa Climate Change Network (East Africa)
EKDJ (Latin America)
From Words to Action (Nepal)
Global South Initiative (Nepal)
Greater Active Reconstruction and Justice Action Network-Nepal (Nepal)
Iniciativa Construyendo Puentes (Latin America & Caribbean)
Jóvenes por las Soluciones (Latin America)
Kuku Ranch for Sustainability (East Africa)
La Ciudad Verde (Colombia)
Mom Loves Association (Taipei)
Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático (Peru)
New Zealand Climate Action Network (New Zealand)
Our Niger Delta Environment (Nigeria)
P3 Foundation (New Zealand)
Reacción Climática (Bolivia)
Sano Sansar Initiative (Nepal)
Sociedad Amigos del Viento (Uruguay)
Spaces for Change (Nigeria)
TierrActiva Perú (Peru)
We Need the Environment (Nepal)
Young Sustainable Development Solutions (Benin)