G7 Leaders: Stop Pushing All Fossil Fuels & Invest in the Clean Energy Transition

As governments gather for the G7 Summit to discuss how to build a "strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive recovery," it is critical that G7 governments put "global ambitions on climate change and the reversal of biodiversity loss at the centre" of their plans[1] and stop financing fossil fuels.

We are at a pivotal moment in the climate emergency. The devastating local, regional, and global impacts of climate change are already disproportionately affecting frontline communities, Indigenous people, women, youth, social movements, workers, unions, urban movements, and farmers in the global South. The longer action is delayed, the harder it will be to avoid the worst climate impacts and ensure a just transition for workers, communities, and countries. At the same time, the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, combined with the increasing impacts of climate change, have created devastating situations for countries in the global South.

We Can't Afford More Fossil Fuels

The currently planned production and expansion of fossil fuels globally is not compatible with globally agreed climate targets.[2] In its May 2021 report, the International Energy Agency has confirmed that new oil, gas, and coal projects anywhere in the world are not compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5°C and that governments need to urgently step up their ambition in phasing out existing production.[3] Northern countries must pay their fair share for a global transition and move first and fastest in phasing out fossil fuels. This also means the continued and deliberate proliferation of coal, oil, and gas in Africa, Asia, and Latin America is contrary to scientific evidence that calls for an urgent halt to fossil fuel expansion due to debilitating impacts on the climate, livelihoods, public health and the environment.

Gas is Dirty, Expensive, and Unnecessary for Development

G7 governments and other northern countries continue to promote reliance on gas and other fossil fuels in the global South. G7 and other northern government financial institutions are supporting the expansion of gas projects not just at home but overseas with huge sums of public money. Continued investment in fossil fuels, including gas, will lock in emissions and create stranded assets that will particularly burden developing countries into the future. Instead of seeking loopholes to prop up dirty gas development, financial institutions — and the governments that back them — should explicitly end all financing and support for fossil fuels. This would in turn free up significant sums of public money to invest in building back better from the coronavirus and increase support for developing countries.

A Just Recovery Must Alleviate Debt Burdens

The COVID-19 crisis has led to instability in oil prices, less investment, and falling government revenues, and as a result global South debt payments have become even more unsustainable,

especially in fossil fuel producing countries. These debt payments are mounting at the same time that countries need to expand healthcare and social protections to deal with the effects of the pandemic. G7 governments must pursue debt cancellation to alleviate this burden.

What our governments decide now will set the course for whether we cut global carbon emissions by 2030, stop harming communities with dirty fossil fuel projects, and keep people whole — or fail to protect our planet and communities.

We, the 353 undersigned organizations from 58 countries, call on the leaders of G7 governments to listen and respond to the voices of global citizens calling for climate justice, debt cancellation, and an end to fossil fuel extraction, and take the following actions:

- Cancel debt payments in global South countries grappling with COVID-19 and climate impacts;
- Stop all fossil fuel finance from bilateral and multilateral funding sources, and encourage other governments to do the same;
- Support mechanisms for countries in the South that will speed up a just transition, and discourage international trade arbitration mechanisms that protect fossil fuel investors;
- Pay their fair share of climate finance to global South countries for climate adaptation, the development of renewable energy technologies, a just transition to clean energy for workers, communities, and countries, and access to energy for those who currently lack it;
- Put an end to fossil fuel development in your own countries, including by ending fossil
 fuel subsidies; manage the decline of existing production of oil, gas, and coal; and
 rapidly initiate a just transition to clean and safe renewable sources of energy involving
 extensive engagement with oil, gas, and coal workers, their unions and affected
 communities.

The climate crisis poses the greatest existential threat to our planet and our communities. The IPCC has warned that we must cut global greenhouse gas emissions roughly in half by 2030 to avert the most catastrophic impacts. Continued support for fossil fuels undermines global climate action and puts local communities' health at risk.

At this critical moment, we demand G7 governments demonstrate meaningful climate leadership and stop fueling the climate crisis with continued support for fossil fuels, including fossil fuel production and consumption in countries of the global South.

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[1] G7 February Virtual Summit Commitments

[2] See Production Gap and The Sky's Limit reports

[3] IEA: Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector

Signed,

AbibiNsroma Foundation - Ghana
Action Center on Race & the Economy - United States
Action for Nature - Zambia
ActionAid Denmark - Denmark
ActionAid International - International

ActionAid USA - United States
Africa Coal Network - Africa
Africa Institute for Energy Governance - Africa
Africa Network for Environment & Economic Justice - Nigeria
Aitec - France

Akad Cultural Institute - Iraq
Alianza Mexicana contra el Fracking - Mexico
Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities - Ghana
Amazon Watch - United States
Amnesty International - International

Andy Gheorghiu Consulting - Germany
Animal Save Movement - Canada
Animals Are Sentient Beings - United States
Anti-Slavery International - United Kingdom
Arab Watch Coalition - Middle East & North Africa

Asamblea por el Agua y la Tierra de Fiske Menuco - Argentina Asian Energy Network - Philippines Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt & Development - Asia Association La Siesta Mohammedia - Morocco Association pour l'Autopromotion des Communautes de Base - Togo

Association pour la Taxation des Transactions Financières et pour l'Action Citoyenne France - France

Association Talassemtane pour l'Environnement et Développement - Morocco Association Tunisienne de Droit du Developpement - Tunisia Association Tunisienne de Gouvernance Locale - Tunisia Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility - Australia

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change - Australia Automation Control Quality Identification - Belgium Aytzim: Ecological Judaism - United States Bank Information Center - United States BankTrack - Netherlands

Bellagram Telegrams - United States Berks Gas Truth - United States Big Shift Global - International Blue Future - United States Bold Alliance - United States

Bond - United Kingdom
Both ENDS - Netherlands
Bretton Woods Project - United Kingdom
Businesses for a Livable Climate - United States
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Call to Action Colorado - United States
Campaign Against Climate Change - United Kingdom
Canadian Health Association for Sustainability & Equity - Canada
Care for the Elderly Intellectuals - Azerbaijan
Care on Call - New Zealand

Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribal Nation - United States
Catherine Park Bushcare - Australia
Catholic Agency For Overseas Development / CAFOD - United Kingdom
CatholicNetwork US - United States
Center for Biological Diversity - United States

Center for International Environmental Law - International
Center for Natural Resources Governance - Zimbabwe
Centr za Ekologiju i Energiju - Bosnia & Herzegovina
Centre de Recherche et d'Action sur les Droits Economiques, Sociaux et Culturels - Senegal
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Earth Day Initiative - United States

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Friends of the Earth Europe - Europe

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Global Justice Now - United Kingdom
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Yuzhno-Primorsky - Russia
Zero Hour - United States
198 methods - United States

2degrees Northampton - United States

350 Brooklyn - United States

350 Butte County - United States

350 Central Mass - United States

350 Charlotte - United States

350 Colorado - United States

350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley - United States

350 Eugene - United States

350 Fairfax - United States

350 Hawaii - United States

350 Kishwaukee - United States

350 Montgomery County - United States

350 New Orleans - United States

350 PDX - United States

350 Seattle - United States

350 Silicon Valley - United States

350 Tacoma - United States

350 Triangle - United States

350 Vermont - United States

350.org - International

350.org Africa - Africa

350.org Japan - Japan

350.org Latin America - Latin America