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Re: Glasgow statement implementation

We would like to congratulate the Italian government on joining the historic Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition at COP26 in Glasgow.

We welcome the momentum this joint statement has generated and particularly the clear, near-term deadline of the end of 2022 for ending international public finance for unabated oil, gas and coal projects. It has united some of the largest historic providers of trade and development finance for fossil fuels with 34 countries and 5 institutions signed on. The large number of Global South government signatories underlines the reality that fossil fuels do not provide a viable development pathway.

With strong implementation by signatories like the Italian government, the Glasgow Statement has the potential to directly shift at least USD 24 billion a year in influential, government-backed finance out of fossil fuels [1]. Strong implementation would also be likely to shift even larger sums of private finance and encourage other countries and institutions to become signatories.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have been clear that we need a rapid phase out of fossil fuels globally to stay within a safe 1.5°C emissions trajectory [2]. Shifting preferential, government-backed fossil fuel finance globally to support just, rights-upholding, community needs-oriented and clean energy systems instead is a critical and transformative step to help us get on this trajectory.

However, for the Statement to have this potential impact, the Italian government must implement its commitments under the Glasgow statement with integrity and encourage other signatories to do the same. This means translating the commitment into binding policy by the end of this year, ensuring strong guidelines that do not leave loopholes to promote gas or other false solutions.
In recent days we have been concerned in becoming aware of the strong exposure of SACE, the Italian export credit agency, to Russian Federation's business, and in particular to operations related to fossil fuels. This business not only jeopardies efforts to tackle climate change but put the lives of people at risk, indirectly supporting the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine financed through oil & gas exports.

While the efforts of European governments are directed towards breaking dependence on Russian Federation's gas, there is a strong risk that this could lead to a 'transition to other gas producers, regions where exploiting natural resources corresponds to social and political instability and violation of human rights. Moreover, ECAs support for projects can be damaging, because may indebt recipient countries and thus hindering local development.

Shifting finance out of fossil fuels therefore means not aggravating these situations, as already occurred, for example, in Mozambique or Nigeria, and allowing oil & gas producing countries to embark on their own path to a just, rights-upholding, community needs-oriented and clean energy transition.

To meet its Glasgow Statement commitments, we urge the Italian government to complete the following steps by the end of this year and to regularly report on the progress it is making on this agenda:

- Define the term "unabated" to avoid any misuse or continued support for fossil fuels. The best way to limit emissions is to avoid creating them in the first place. We understand the statement as putting an end to all new upstream and midstream oil and gas finance, without exception. Only fossil fuel-based facilities already equipped with proven Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) or Capture Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) should be classified as "abated" (not CCS/CCUS-ready), and only if these technologies are not combined with Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) or Enhanced Gas Recovery (EGR). Given the limitations, environmental health risks, and high costs associated with equipping power plants with CCS or CCUS, we expect signatories to have virtually ended all new direct overseas support for fossil fuels by the end of next year. Renewable electricity production is already vastly cheaper than fossil fuel electricity production with CCS or CCUS [3]. While some suggest that fossil fuel infrastructure built today can be repurposed for clean fuels later, doing so is costly, risky, and would only delay the energy transition while renewable alternatives are largely available and affordable

- Ensure "limited and clearly defined exceptions" do not allow for gas lock-in. To be aligned with a just 1.5°C trajectory and the Sustainable Development Goals, signatories should exclude any new support to long-lived gas infrastructure, including LNG infrastructure, pipelines, and gas-fired power plants. Ensuring exceptions do not allow for continued gas lock-in is critical given that more than half of quantifiable G20 and multilateral development bank (MDB) public finance for the energy sector now flows to gas projects [4]. Expanding gas infrastructure anywhere in the world is incompatible with keeping global warming to 1.5°C and is an ineffective means to respond to energy access, job, or development needs [5]. Public finance for gas also frequently crowds out renewable energy support and creates systemic stranded assets risks. [6] These impacts are often most severe in the lowest income countries and in frontline communities, and this means loopholes to allow continued gas expansion in low-income countries are not justifiable.

- Support Global South countries to embark on their own path to a just, rights-upholding, community needs-oriented and clean energy transition by financing projects with strict measures in place, in order to ensure local ownership, benefits and a strategy for knowledge and technology transfer.

- Avoid an increase in direct support for fossil fuel projects before the 2022 deadline. This would undermine the effectiveness of the statement.
- Ensure the commitment extends to indirect support for fossil fuels, including policy-based lending, technical assistance, diplomatic support and investments through financial intermediaries (e.g., private equity funds). Indirect finance and policy lending accounts for over 50% of the portfolio of some lending institutions, and this is likely growing [2].
- End proactive lobbying and facilitation of engagement with foreign governments (for example via embassies) if that support promotes the production or use of fossil fuels - including lobbying to grant companies authorisation to explore for, produce or sell fossil fuels.
- Work with fellow signatories to secure a growing number of signatories to the statement. Some of the largest providers of public finance for fossil fuels (Japan, Korea, China, and Australia) and most MDBs have not yet signed the statement, though signatories together account for a significant share of the votes at the MDBs.
- Cement the commitments made in the statement in existing international policy processes including at the MDBs, in the G7, G20 and the OECD.
- Extend this commitment to the finance the Italian government provides domestically to fossil fuels operations through SACE, especially since the agency has been entitled to the role of implementing the Italian Green New Deal.
- Shifting public finance for energy out of all fossil fuels and towards clean energy is an urgent task. The statement has created high expectations and now needs to be implemented effectively.

We are looking forward to receiving your response to this letter and would be interested to set up a meeting to discuss your implementation efforts and these recommendations.

Signed,

ReCommon
Climate Action Network Europe
Swedwatch
350 Silicon Valley
350.org
AbibiNsroma Foundation ANF
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
Africa Institute for Energy Governance
Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities
Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities
Arab Watch Coalition
Arab Watch Coalition
Asociacion Ambiente y Sociedad
AtEdible
BankTrack

Barranquilla+20
Both ENDS
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management-CECIC
CESTA Friends of the Earth El Salvador
Church Women United in New York State
Climate Emergency Institute
Climate Finance Group for Latin America and the Caribbean
Climate Justice Edmonton
ClimateFast
Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB)
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Community for Sustainable Energy
Earth Action, Inc.
Ecoevoluciona
Environmental Defence Canada
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
Fast For the Climate
Friends of the Earth US
Friends of the Earth, Sweden /Jordens Vänner
GFLAC
Global Witness
Gower St
Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet GASP
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Green House Collaboration Center
GreenFaith
Hub de Finanzas Sostenibles de Panamá
Hub Finanzas Sostenibles El Salvador
Indivisible Ambassadors
Innovea Development Foundation
Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group
Jubilee Australia Research Centre
Just Earth
Justice Institute Guyana Inc.
Les Amis de la Terre France / Friends of the Earth France
Littleton Business Alliance
Maan ystävät / Friends of the Earth Finland
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries

milieudefensie
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association
Nonviolence International Canada
North Range Concerned Citizens
Oil Change International
Rainforest Action Network
RapidShift Network
RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs)
Reclame Fossielvrij (Fossil Free Advertising)
Recourse
Sacred Earth Solar
Save EPA
Small Business Alliance
Social Tipping Point Coalitie
Solutions For Our Climate
Southwest Organization for Sustainability
Spirit of the Sun
Stand.earth
Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)
System Change Not Climate Change
The Climate Reality Project Latin America
The Council of Canadians
The Greens Movement of Georgia/FoE Georgia
Transnational Institute
Unite Metro North Denver
urgewald
VOY EN BICI Argentina
Wall of Women
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
Womxn from the Mountain
Working for Racial Equity
Concerned Citizens of Saint John
Jóvenes Parlamentarios de la región ucayali

[1] This figure is based on the annual average fossil fuel support from signatories' international public finance institutions for 2018 to 2020 as collated by Oil Change International in the Shift the Subsidies database — last detailed in this press release.
[2] See IEA Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector and IPCC AR6 Climate Change 2021 Summary for Policymakers.
[3] Comparative net energy analysis of renewable electricity and carbon capture and storage in *Nature Energy*.

[4] 51% of G20 and MDB public finance for energy, or USD $32 billion a year, flowed to gas in 2018-2020. See Past Last Call: G20 public finance institutions are still bankrolling fossil fuels from Friends of the Earth US and Oil Change International.

[5] See Africa's Fossil-Fuel Trap, Sky's Limit Africa, and Locked Out of a Just Transition.

[6] Step Off the Gas: International public finance, natural gas and clean alternatives in the Global South

[7] See Past Last Call: G20 public finance institutions are still bankrolling fossil fuels from Friends of the Earth US and Oil Change International.