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# FROM CREATION TO DELIVERY

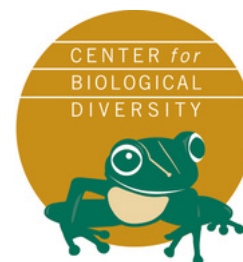
HOW THE BEYOND OIL AND GAS ALLIANCE  
AND ITS MEMBERS CAN CATALYZE CLIMATE  
ACTION IN AN ERA OF ENERGY UPHEAVAL  
AND ESCALATING CLIMATE IMPACTS



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## ENDORSEMENTS



Destination Zero





## INTRODUCTION

### *Why BOGA must urgently deliver on real climate leadership*

The launch of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA)<sup>1</sup> was one of the most significant commitments made by countries during COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. It marked the first time governments formed a diplomatic alliance explicitly aimed at keeping oil and gas in the ground. It demonstrated a growing recognition among national and subnational governments that policies to phase out the production of all fossil fuels are essential to meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This alliance of first movers was designed with the aim to “elevate the issue of oil and gas production phase-out in international climate dialogues, mobilize action and commitments, and create an international community of practice on this issue”. After decades of international climate policy focused almost entirely on regulating demand for fossil fuels, **the creation of BOGA signaled that a more comprehensive approach to tackling carbon lock-in was urgently needed and gaining traction.** It is now imperative that BOGA members turn these aspirations into bold and ambitious action.

BOGA currently includes 14 national and subnational governments and three tiers of membership: Full members have committed to end new oil and gas exploration and adopt policies to phase out their production on a Paris-compatible timeline. Associate members have adopted measures to restrict oil and gas production but do not yet meet the requirements of full membership. Friends of BOGA is a loose category of membership for entities aligned with the objectives of the Alliance<sup>2</sup>. Denmark and Costa Rica co-lead this initiative.

A few months after the coalition was launched, the geopolitical context was upended by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the resulting Western sanctions against Russia’s energy sector. Faced with mounting energy prices and restricted supplies, European countries considering closing down fossil fuel production assets quickly shifted to opening new domestic production capacity<sup>3</sup> and drastically ramping up their ability to import liquefied natural gas (LNG). As a result of this new dash for gas, the global conversation shifted from a growing recognition of the role of continued fossil fuel expansion in driving the climate crisis to a focus on energy security narrowly defined as the availability of fossil fuels.

As the global energy landscape continues its transformation and large parts of the world face escalating devastating climate impacts, **there is more than ever an urgent need for BOGA to deliver on its mission** to mainstream policies to keep fossil fuels in the ground and to remind countries that accelerating the transition to a fossil-free, clean energy economy is the only rational solution to a crisis born out of our continued addiction to fossil fuels.

**This paper outlines priorities for BOGA and its members that were identified by civil society groups to turn what has remained a largely aspirational diplomatic initiative into a force for increased climate action in line with equity, justice, and science.**

1 For more information on the alliance and its members, see [www.beyondoilandgasalliance.com](http://www.beyondoilandgasalliance.com)

2 Full members: Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Greenland, Ireland, Québec, Sweden and Wales. Associate members: California, New Zealand, Portugal. Friends of BOGA: Italy, Finland, Luxembourg.

3 For instance, the Netherlands and Germany approved a new joint gas field in the North Sea in June 2022 <https://www.dw.com/en/netherlands-greenlights-north-sea-gas-production-with-germany/a-62010992>

## SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Core members should implement their existing commitments in full and go further: To be fully aligned with limiting warming to 1.5°C, **governments must stop approving any new or planned oil and gas projects, including in already licensed areas**, and Global North countries must accelerate phase-out timelines.
2. BOGA should **establish a clear timeline after which Associate Members will need to meet the requirements of full membership or no longer be members**. This will ensure BOGA does not allow greenwashing of inadequate commitments.
3. **Put an end to the Friends of BOGA category of membership for jurisdictions that have authority over licensing policies** and are not actively developing policy aligned with BOGA's objectives.
4. **Work with oil and gas producing countries in the Global South** to design pilot projects to explore how to jointly develop transition pathways and packages through technical assistance, experience sharing, and new funding instruments.
5. **Tax the profits of oil and gas companies to fund domestic transition packages** and an international BOGA Just Transition Fund.
6. **Include members' policies restricting fossil fuel supply in their respective governments' updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** and Long-term Strategies under the Paris Agreement.
7. Push members to **build coherence between their domestic oil and gas phase out commitments** and their energy diplomacy strategy.
8. **Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** and take leadership in ending the Energy Charter Treaty
9. Build BOGA's **public research and messaging around the economic and climate risks of further carbon lock-in**, including lock-in through Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and the **benefits of phasing out oil and gas production**. Ensure members push a coherent message throughout key diplomatic meetings.
10. Balance the alliance's membership drive between larger producing countries and easier targets with lower production to **maintain a balance between momentum building and credibility**. Aim to develop a diverse membership, with a particular focus on Global South countries.
11. **Include civil society in the governance of the initiative** and maintain a transparent dialogue with civil society organizations, which have played a key role in generating support for the initiative.





## FIRST PRIORITY: TURNING BOGA INTO AN ENGINE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

*Full implementation of pledges made by full and associate members and aligning policy with science*

BOGA is a voluntary initiative of countries and jurisdictions that have committed to ending new oil and gas exploration and to adopting policies to phase out their production of fossil fuels on a timeline that is compatible with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The impact and credibility of the Alliance is contingent on its full and associate members delivering on their promises with integrity. **Civil society will be vigilant that BOGA members do not introduce loopholes in their supply-side climate policies or backtrack on their policy commitments, such as by temporarily re-opening new oil and gas exploration** in response to volatile global energy markets and geopolitics or by promoting and investing in Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies that would only provide a lifeline for the industry and do nothing to reduce emissions<sup>4</sup>. Thus far, full BOGA members have upheld bans on new licensing or leasing of oil and gas production. Any backsliding would do nothing to assuage short-term energy tensions and would potentially lock-in decades of oil and gas CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are incompatible with the objectives of BOGA and the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, BOGA members need to explicitly acknowledge that BOGA's core commitment to end new oil and gas exploration, though comparatively ambitious, is insufficient to limit warming to 1.5°C. The core BOGA commitment is a necessary first step but the global carbon budget has shrunk to such an extent over recent years that **all new extraction projects are incompatible with that limit, according to the International Energy Agency<sup>5</sup>. This also means that already producing projects<sup>6</sup> will need to be retired before the end of their planned lifetime<sup>7</sup>**. The BOGA Declaration, signed by all its members, acknowledges this reality<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Confronting-the-Myth-of-Carbon-Free-Fossil-Fuels.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

<sup>6</sup> <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac6228>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_Full_Report.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance Declaration <https://drive.google.com/file/d/176fTn0z5aNr-vhUecAsLOD8Jg110dOMF/view>

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but falls short of committing the members of the Alliance to aligning their policies with science. **As a diplomatic initiative of jurisdictions leading by example, BOGA members must establish a pathway to increase their own ambition by committing to never approve any new fossil fuel projects, including in already licensed areas.**

*Global North members need to do their fair share of the global effort to phase out fossil fuel production by adopting faster timelines for ending oil and gas production*

The BOGA declaration acknowledges that the transition away from fossil fuel production and towards a clean energy system must be just and equitable, which implies that “industrialized countries should lead the way” in ending their production of fossil fuels. While the notion of an equitable phase out trajectory for fossil fuel production is coming under increased examination in the civil society<sup>9</sup> and academic<sup>10</sup> spaces, governments have yet to initiate an international conversation on how to equitably allocate the remaining fossil fuel production space that is compatible with limiting warming to 1.5°C. BOGA members have the opportunity and responsibility to spearhead that conversation in a way that reflects their commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement, their historical responsibility, and the technical and financial capacity of Global North countries to phase out fossil fuel production first and fastest. **BOGA should commission research and convene multistakeholder conversations, including producing countries from the Global South and North, trade unions, civil society organizations, and researchers to move towards a set of principles and differentiated dates for a global phase out of fossil fuel production.**

For wealthy countries with low levels of economic dependency on fossil fuel revenues to contribute their fair share of global efforts to phase out oil and gas production in a way that is consistent with the 1.5°C, they must end their production first. Current BOGA members fall under this category. A recent analysis<sup>11</sup> shows that in the context of a rapidly dwindling carbon budget, limiting warming to 1.5°C would entail global fossil fuel production to be fully phased out by 2050 at the latest; and for wealthy, economically diversified countries to end their domestic production between 2031 (for a 67% chance not to pass the 1.5°C threshold) and 2034 (for a 50% chance). This would entail that several BOGA members need to move up their phase out date by between one and two decades<sup>12</sup>.

*Second and third tier members need to graduate to a full ban on exploration and commit to a phase out date aligned with limiting warming to 1.5°C*

As the core BOGA commitment itself is insufficient to limit warming to 1.5°C, the less ambitious ones made by both the Associate Members and the Friends of BOGA fall far short of aligning with the level of climate ambition that BOGA aims to help achieve. **The credibility of BOGA as an ambition-raising initiative will in part depend on its ability to engage its second and third tier members to progressively align with the requirements of full membership and, beyond, with science.**

For instance, to demonstrate credibility and commitment, Associate Member California should graduate to full membership of the initiative by ending all new permits for fossil fuel extraction and announcing an end to extraction before and no later than 2035. New Zealand should move beyond its 2018 ban on offshore oil and gas exploration to a full ban including onshore gas exploration licenses in Taranaki that the government has been issuing and supporting in court<sup>13</sup>.

9 Civil Society Equity Review 2021 <https://www.equityreview.org/>

10 [https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/213256008/Tyndall\\_Production\\_Phaseout\\_Report\\_final\\_text\\_3\\_.pdf](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/213256008/Tyndall_Production_Phaseout_Report_final_text_3_.pdf)

11 [https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/213256008/Tyndall\\_Production\\_Phaseout\\_Report\\_final\\_text\\_3\\_.pdf](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/213256008/Tyndall_Production_Phaseout_Report_final_text_3_.pdf)

12 This is for instance the case for California (current phase out target: 2045), France (2040), Denmark (2050).

13 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/129396935/climate-crisis-of-insufficient-weight-to-stop-oil-and-gas-search--government>

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Beyond the specific cases outlined above, **BOGA will only become a driver of ambition if it can create a clear timeline and process for all its members to align with the requirements of full membership.** In the absence of such a process, BOGA risks rewarding policies that are far from sufficient to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and becoming a greenwashing initiative. For BOGA to catalyze increased ambition, it would need to:

- **Implement a clear timeline after which Associate Members will need to meet the requirements of full membership or no longer be BOGA members.** This will ensure BOGA does not allow greenwashing of inadequate commitments.
- **Put an end to the Friends of BOGA category of membership for jurisdictions that have authority over licensing policies and are not actively developing policy aligned with BOGA's objectives.**

### *Catalyzing support for a globally just and equitable transition*

Historically, fossil fuel production has not been a reliable vehicle for development in the Global South due to poor contract terms, industry-friendly subsidy and royalty frameworks, debt traps, corruption, and the outsized ownership of fossil resources by multinational corporations<sup>14</sup>. It has also negatively impacted marginalized frontline communities in the Global North who are facing pollution and environmental injustices from oil, gas, and petrochemical production<sup>15</sup>. Beyond the systemic barriers to oil and gas profits supporting equitable economic growth or pro-public government spending, the sector has also consistently under-delivered on promises on energy access, job creation, and environmental clean up. As fossil fuel production faces increasing systemic financial risks, the possibility that it ever could promote just development has faded<sup>16</sup>. **Governments anywhere in the world choosing to pursue new oil, gas, and coal extraction now risk locking themselves out of a transition to renewable energy and other green sectors.**

**Identifying the necessary conditions to make clean development pathways more attractive is critical** for analytical, diplomatic and movement engagement strategies for a just energy transition. BOGA can catalyze this research and engagement alongside civil society, multilateral institutions, research organizations and impacted communities.

**For Global North BOGA countries to do their fair share in implementing a phase out of fossil fuel production, they will also need to support middle to low income producing countries** in driving economic diversification policies and reduce their reliance on fossil fuel revenues while meeting their development and energy access needs<sup>17</sup>. This is on top of the climate finance and payment for loss and damage these countries owe. Wealthy BOGA members urgently need to pay their fair share of international climate finance and it is incumbent upon BOGA to serve as a catalyst for exploring how to help meet the specific financial and technical needs of countries which require support in order to transition away from oil and gas production. While new financial instruments such as the Just Energy Transition Partnerships<sup>18</sup> are being primarily discussed for coal dependent countries, having a broader diversity of oil and gas producing countries commit to policies to phase out oil and gas exploration will require schemes targeted at oil and gas revenues dependent countries. Over recent years, a number of producing countries in Africa (for instance, Gabon<sup>19</sup>) and Latin America (Colombia<sup>20</sup>) have expressed their willingness to diversify their economy away from fossil fuel production and explore how to switch to a clean energy model. **BOGA and its members have an opportunity**

14 <https://priceofoil.org/2021/10/14/the-skys-limit-africa/>

15 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2022-02-17/africas-fossil-fuel-trap>

16 <https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Plastic-and-Health-The-Hidden-Costs-of-a-Plastic-Planet-February-2019.pdf>

17 [civilsocietyreview.org/report2021](https://civilsocietyreview.org/report2021)

18 <https://ukcop26.org/six-month-update-on-progress-in-advancing-the-just-energy-transition-partnership-jetp/>

19 <https://www.ft.com/content/4f0579ac-409f-41d2-bf40-410d5a2ee46b>

20 <https://time.com/6189763/colombia-oil-gustavo-petro/>

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**to design pilot projects with a small number of interested producing countries to explore technical assistance, experience sharing around phasing out fossil fuels, and funding instruments to support these countries on their transition pathway.** Such collaboration could not only open the door to a more comprehensive set of approaches that could be replicated internationally to support oil and gas dependent countries, but it could also attract a broader range of countries to join the Alliance, thus demonstrating its added value.

The current energy prices and resulting windfall profits of the oil and gas industry highlight that while the climate continues to deteriorate from billions of humans, a handful of companies are profiting from the economic, environmental and social crises spurred by our reliance on fossil fuels. **If BOGA members want to be true leaders in disentangling their economies from fossil fuels and in pushing forward a global just transition, they have a responsibility to reduce the power of the oil and gas industry, a first step towards which would be to tax the immense profits these companies have been making as a result of the war in Ukraine.** Several countries have already either adopted or discussed such schemes, and BOGA members could demonstrate their commitment to leading the way on oil and gas by adopting similar fiscal measures. The proceeds could be used to support vulnerable households in coping with high energy bills, fund a domestic just transition that leaves no worker and community behind as well as support low to middle income countries in designing their own transition pathways. **One idea could be to use part of these proceeds to fund a BOGA Just Transition Fund to fund pilot projects to support just energy transition packages in target countries.** Such a fund would need to be grant-based, so as to not further increase the debt levels of countries which are already owed reparations by Global North countries that have created the climate crisis, and additional to existing climate finance commitments. The Fund should be demand-driven and work in close conjunction with existing multilateral climate finance initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund.

**Finally, BOGA members must take the lead in ending the Energy Charter Treaty,** which has consistently protected fossil fuel interests around the world and has emerged as a strong obstacle to an accelerated phase out of oil and gas production<sup>21</sup>. BOGA members must also ensure that other investment agreements and measures they have signed on to do not prevent a rapid fossil fuel phase-out.

### *Inclusion of BOGA pledges in members' Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategies and supply-side policies in the Global Stocktake*

One of the key objectives of BOGA should be to normalize countries and jurisdictions making measures to constrain the supply of fossil fuels central to their domestic climate plans. This implies that supply-side measures should be accounted for in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC. While a growing number of countries mention policies to address fossil fuel production in their updated NDCs<sup>22</sup> Costa Rica is the only full BOGA member whose most recent NDC mentions its 2050 moratorium on oil and gas exploration. **A coordinated decision from BOGA members to include a reference to their supply-side climate policies in their NDCs and their 2050 decarbonization pathways under article 4.19 of the Paris Agreement would send a powerful political signal that such policies need to be considered by all nations.** Subnational members should engage their governments to ensure they adopt policies to end new oil and gas exploration on a 1.5°C consistent timeline and that such policies are reflected in NDCs and long-term strategies.

The Global Stocktake (GST) is intended to assess parties' progress toward delivering on the commitments of the Paris Agreement, and inform future revisions and enhancements of NDCs. As fossil-dependent energy systems are a main barrier to implementation of the goals of the Paris Agreement, efforts to accelerate energy transitions away from fossil fuel production and

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.ciel.org/the-new-energy-charter-treaty-in-light-of-the-climate-emergency/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.sei.org/publications/ndcs-leds-fossil-fuel-production/>



consumption should be assessed as part of the GST while avoiding any reliance on unproven technologies that prolong dependence on fossil fuels and bring an unacceptable risk of harm to communities, such as Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCS). In addition to including their supply-side policies in their NDCs, **it would serve the interests of BOGA members to advocate for the GST to include guidance for parties on assessing managed phase-outs of fossil fuel production and transitions to climate-safe energy systems.**

## SECOND PRIORITY: A GEO-POLITICAL FORCE FOR GOOD

*BOGA members should align their diplomacy with the need to phase out fossil fuels everywhere*

The remit of the BOGA commitment is limiting the domestic production of fossil fuels, but it is clear that the real fossil fuel footprints of some of the current members is substantially higher internationally than domestically. This is particularly true of European members, some of which host oil and gas supermajors and all of which, either bilaterally or through the European Union, have been seeking to diversify oil and gas supply as a response to Putin's war against Ukraine.

Despite assurances from top European officials<sup>23</sup> that they are “not in any way promoting a global renaissance of fossil fuels”, the EU has signed a large number of agreements with existing and potential oil and gas producers to incentivize additional production and exploration<sup>24</sup>. Additionally, some BOGA member countries<sup>25</sup> have been actively considering building additional LNG import capacity, which incentivizes increased production and infrastructure build up in exporting countries.

While BOGA is not an EU initiative, 4 of BOGA's 8 full members are EU countries and so are 4 out of 6 Associate members and Friends. Moreover, the new EU-led dash for fossil fuels is threatening to undermine BOGA's mission to normalize ending fossil fuel exploration in countries' climate policies by downgrading climate commitments and reducing energy security to the availability of fossil fuels. **Phasing out domestic production of oil and gas is a necessary first step but it does not provide a justification for condoning expansion abroad.**

BOGA must act to engage with the EU's energy diplomacy strategy, highlighting the continued and urgent need to promote a rapid and equitable phase out of oil and gas production, and to ramp up alternatives in Europe and abroad. EU BOGA members should engage the European Commission to ensure the short-term need to diversify energy sources is met with a clear commitment against supporting or

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/europe%E2%80%99s-energy-balancing-act\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/europe%E2%80%99s-energy-balancing-act_en)

<sup>24</sup> For instance, the European Union signed a deal with Norway that explicitly states that “the EU supports Norway's continued exploration and investments to bring oil and gas to the European market”, which is incompatible with the EU's and its members' commitment to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C under the Paris Agreement [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_22\\_3975](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_22_3975)

<sup>25</sup> For instance, France [https://www.gem.wiki/Le\\_Havre\\_FSRU](https://www.gem.wiki/Le_Havre_FSRU)



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enabling fossil fuel expansion abroad, which would lock-in decades of additional emissions at odds with limiting warming to 1.5°C and make producing countries in the Global South increasingly vulnerable to stranded assets and fossil fuel volatility.

BOGA has a responsibility to provide political and diplomatic support to governments expressing their desire to pursue a phase out of fossil fuel production. In this regard, BOGA's failure to provide public support to the just transition policies being discussed by the newly elected government of Colombia was a wasted opportunity for the Alliance to shape the global conversation and to incentivize others to join.

Other opportunities for BOGA countries to demonstrate diplomatic leadership include:

- Ending support of oil and gas companies' expansion plans internationally through economic diplomacy, development finance and export credit support
- Implement the Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition (Glasgow Statement) for those members that are signatories<sup>26</sup>
- Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty<sup>27</sup>, which would complement the Paris Agreement by establishing an international mechanism to manage a fair and rapid phase out of coal, oil and gas that enables countries to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, support workers and communities, transition rapidly to renewable energy, and build more diverse economies
- Supporting increased accountability and transparency of oil and gas production plans from all countries, one way to do so would be to support the uptake of the [Global Registry of Fossil Fuels](#) within the multilateral system.

*BOGA needs to be more vocal in highlighting the benefits of phasing out oil and gas and the risks of further lock-in*

BOGA was primarily conceived as a norm-setting initiative, aiming to redefine climate leadership as encompassing measures to restrict the production of oil and gas. Since its launch, BOGA has been silent on this issue, and their commitment, despite mounting climate impacts and an unprecedented energy upheaval caused by Russia's war. While this is largely due to delays in setting up a permanent Secretariat, this absence of communications comes at a time when the international discourse shifted rapidly from the public recognition that oil, gas, and coal production need to be phased out to meet the world's climate targets, to a focus on energy security limited to a narrative of the short-term availability of fossil fuels.

**In this context, it is urgent that BOGA and its members publicly call for countries not to backslide on their climate ambition.** BOGA should urge countries to adopt policies to end the expansion of global fossil fuel production, and highlight that greenlighting new exploration projects that will take years if not decades to start producing will not solve the short-term energy crunch, but will lock in decades of additional oil and gas CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and create stranded assets in producing countries. In a narrative and political landscape dominated by oil and gas industry talking points about security of supply, BOGA has a responsibility to highlight the climate and economic risks associated with the current dash for fossil fuels. BOGA must respond by stressing that doubling down on our collective dependence on fossil fuels is not the solution to a fossil fuel-driven energy crisis. This will involve defining the benefits of and pathways towards a clean energy transition for countries exploring restricting their supply of fossil fuels and designing mechanisms to support countries in this transition.

**It will be essential for BOGA to articulate a longer-term vision of what a just transition pathway looks like for producing countries, or countries currently aspiring to become producers.** While BOGA's core mission is to facilitate an end to the expansion of fossil fuel

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.iisd.org/articles/press-release/glasgow-statement-could-shift-annual-28-billion-to-clean>

<sup>27</sup> <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>

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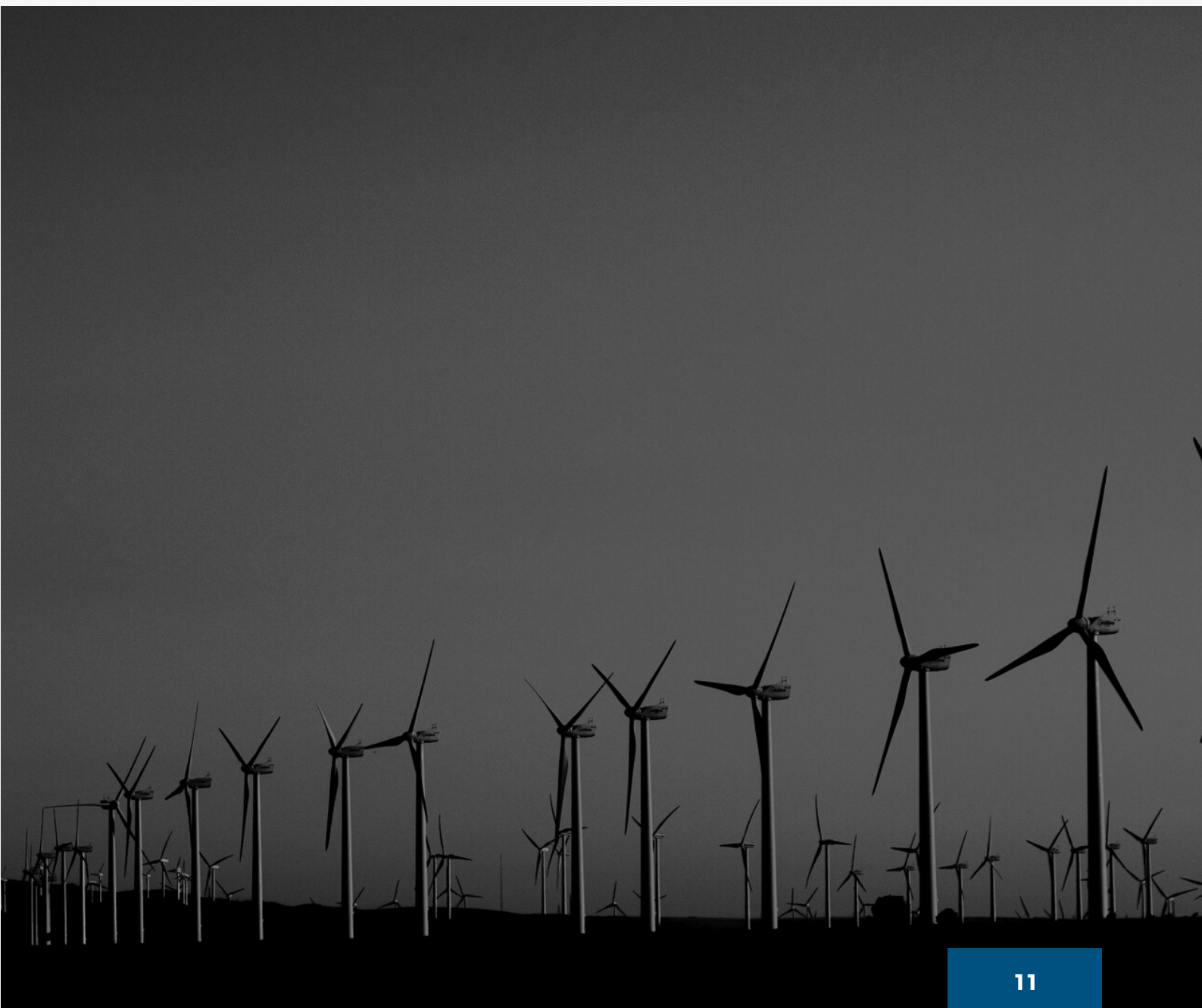
production, doing so will involve taking into account the energy access and industrialization needs of fossil fuel endowed countries, especially on the African continent, and showing why fossil fuel extraction is not a solution to these vital considerations<sup>28</sup>.

Concretely, BOGA and its members should make use of high profile international climate and diplomatic moments and dialogues to publicly articulate the need for the world to plan a coordinated exit from fossil fuel production and gather support for this approach. BOGA could also organize its own events, focused on giving visibility to and creating political support for policies to transition away from fossil fuel extraction.

**BOGA should also seek to amplify the voices of thought and moral leaders in the climate space who are pushing for a global phase out of fossil fuels. In particular, amplifying and publicly supporting UN Secretary General Guterres' repeated calls for ending oil and gas exploration<sup>29</sup>** would provide high level political support to his efforts to raise global climate ambition and also provide an incentive to other global figures to take the stage in defense of BOGA's objectives.

<sup>28</sup> <https://dont-gas-africa.org/>

<sup>29</sup> See for instance <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-03-21/secretary-generals-remarks-economist-sustainability-summit>





## THIRD PRIORITY: GROWING THE ALLIANCE AND MOMENTUM BUILDING

Maintaining BOGA's momentum - and indeed momentum on supply-side climate action more generally - necessitates a regular pattern of countries and jurisdictions committing to address production of fossil fuels as a core component of climate ambition. As a first movers coalition, BOGA will inevitably bring together, at least initially, countries with low levels of oil and gas dependency before ultimately attracting larger producing countries.

BOGA co-chairs and members will have their own priorities for new member recruitment. civil society organizations are aligned on the following principles:

- While BOGA needs to allocate significant resources towards diplomatic engagement for recruiting an increasing number of jurisdictions with significant levels of production, this should not come at the expense of initially recruiting members that have demonstrated voluntary action, thought leadership, and interest in BOGA, having already done much of the groundwork to qualify for membership. Missing the opportunity to add willing members with low levels of oil and gas production is to the detriment of BOGA and to the wider goal of aligning fossil fuel production with the goals of the Paris Agreement, especially while the current membership of the alliance is still fairly small.
- **BOGA should expend significant diplomatic capital building an offer to a wider range of geographies, with a particular focus on Global South jurisdictions** that signal their support for a transition away from fossil fuels. A diverse membership facing a wide range of challenges and opportunities in their clean energy transition, but united in their desire to diversify their economies away from fossil fuels would add to the alliance's credibility.
- **BOGA should empower members to act as “ambassadors” and assist in member recruitment.** This should include regional or jurisdictional ambassadors tasked with outreach to neighbor regions and jurisdictions. For instance, subnational members such as Québec and California could be tasked with recruiting more subnational members of the Alliance through their own relationships or existing networks such as the Under 2 Coalition.
- While cities / municipalities do not always have control over licensing for exploration and production, some still have significant influence on the ability to extract oil and gas in a particular jurisdiction. BOGA might consider a membership category for cities and municipalities as commitments mount from these actors to cap oil and gas expansion. Alternatively, BOGA could seek to create a partnership with the SAFE cities network<sup>30</sup> to bolster the number of cities committing to phase out fossil fuels.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.stand.earth/page/fossil-fuel-free/what-are-safe-cities>



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## FOURTH PRIORITY: BUILDING A ROBUST GOVERNANCE THAT INCLUDES STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

Civil society has been a driving force and key asset in the visioning and launch phases of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.

From frontline, grassroots mobilization to high-touch influencer and decision-maker diplomacy, civil society organizations intervene across an impressive suite of access points and tactics. Part of the strength and value of civil society engagement rests in this flexible skill set and in the wide geographical range that climate justice organizations can cover.

**A healthy working dynamic with engaged civil society has been and will continue to be critical to BOGA's success.** The Secretariat and co-chairs can institutionalize this relationship within BOGA's governance framework in the following ways:

- **A dedicated CSO liaison seat on the BOGA steering committee:**

CSO expertise has so far been welcomed on issue-specific calls. As working groups are more formally established to address issues of interest to members of the Alliance, welcoming formal participation from trusted CSO thematic experts would enrich the work of the BOGA secretariat and its members, strengthen relationships between BOGA and the CSO community, and institutionalize a cooperative rather than extractive knowledge exchange dynamic between BOGA and civil society.

- **Inclusion of CSO experts on BOGA thematic working groups:**

CSO expertise has so far been welcomed on issue-specific calls. As working groups are more formally established to address issues of interest to members of the Alliance, welcoming formal participation from trusted CSO thematic experts would enrich the work of the BOGA secretariat and its members, strengthen relationships between BOGA and the CSO community, and institutionalize a cooperative rather than extractive knowledge exchange dynamic between BOGA and civil society.

- **Regular/ semi-annual dialogues between CSO engagement group and BOGA secretariat, co-chairs, and members convened by the CSO liaison:**

This kind of regular exchange builds trust and transparent interchange fostered by the scoping group conversations that contributed to the launch of the Alliance, and honors the relationships established throughout that process.



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## CONCLUSION



The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance has the potential to become an important initiative in the global effort to transition away from our collective dependence on fossil fuels. In a global political and economic context marked by the resurgence of a global dash for fossil fuels that may put the 1.5°C limit out of reach, BOGA's twin missions of convincing a growing number of jurisdictions to align their production of oil and gas with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and to shape the global narrative around the urgency of phasing out oil and gas is more urgent than ever. BOGA will also need to ask, and try to answer, some of the hard questions that governments are facing: how to make the transition equitable? How can fossil fuel dependent countries be supported throughout the transition? How to make domestic policies coherent with international ones? If BOGA can generate research, dialogue and engagement on these questions, it will have contributed to solving some of the thorniest debates that international climate policy will face in the next decades.

There are hundreds of voluntary climate initiatives such as BOGA in the international climate space, including many with weak or non-existent accountability mechanisms and no plan for delivery. For BOGA to distinguish itself from these initiatives, its work will need to be an engine for real climate action, holding its members to their promises and encouraging them to do more, while deploying its diplomatic resources to convince others to adopt similar policies. It will be crucial that BOGA members not only deliver on their commitments but also use the alliance as a platform to continue promoting the need to phase out fossil fuel production on the global stage. **Civil society groups have been supportive of the creation of BOGA and will remain supportive insofar as the alliance becomes a vehicle for more climate action** and will remain vigilant that it does not turn into a greenwashing platform for inadequate commitments.