



[By email to Minister.Ryan@decc.gov.ie]

Minister Eamon Ryan, TD
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
29-31 Adelaide Rd,
Dublin D02 X285

Friends of the Earth
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Dublin 2

19 August 2024

RE: INCLUSION OF FOSSIL FUEL PHASE-OUT IN THE UN PACT FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Minister Ryan,

I am writing on behalf of Friends of the Earth Ireland to urge you to advocate for including a fossil fuel phase-out and a just transition in the Pact for the Future, which will be presented at the upcoming UN Summit of the Future (SOTF). The Summit, billed as a 'once in a generation' opportunity to reshape multilateralism, must explicitly address the critical issue of fossil fuels, which are the primary drivers of the climate crisis. We are also calling on the Government to build on the Summit by endorsing the development of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

International cooperation is critical to addressing significant threats to humanity's future — particularly the extraction and burning of fossil fuels, the primary cause of the climate crisis and responsible for 86% of carbon emissions in the past decade. The extraction and burning of coal, oil, and gas also undermine all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including jeopardising public health, fuelling conflict, exacerbating social inequalities, and threatening biodiverse ecosystems.

In this context, we are gravely concerned that the latest Pact to the Future revision does not mention fossil fuels. The Summit's intention to "deliver a better present and safeguard the future" cannot be achieved without addressing the threat of fossil fuels.

The Pact of the Future (Pact) is the overarching negotiated outcome that heads of state will present at the SOTF. It will be composed of a chapeau and five chapters: (1) Sustainable development and financing for development; (2) International peace and security; (3) Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; (4) Youth and future generations; (5) Transforming global governance. Climate and environment is in Chapter 1.

In its current draft, the Pact for the Future needs to improve in addressing fossil fuel phase-out. The first two revisions of the Zero Draft, released earlier this year, glaringly omit any mention of fossil fuels or the need for a just transition. This omission is particularly alarming given the urgent need to phase out fossil fuel production in line with the 1.5°C temperature goal and to

ensure a managed decline that supports the most vulnerable communities and countries dependent on fossil fuels.

We see a significant risk that the Summit will fail to establish necessary reforms, particularly concerning global fossil fuel governance. The language in the current drafts suggests a concerning trend of backsliding from existing commitments. For instance, the Zero Draft initially drew on language from the COP28 Global Stocktake decision text, which highlighted the need for transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just and equitable manner. However, subsequent revisions have watered down these commitments, leaving a glaring gap in the global governance of fossil fuel production. We consider this backsliding to be particularly problematic given your leadership at COP28 on this very issue as part of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.

The Stockholm+50 Summit held in June 2022 concluded with a globally negotiated, non-binding outcome, and like the Summit of the Future, it was held under a mandate from the UN General Assembly. The language from Stockholm+50 is appropriately ambitious and holistic, aligning with the SoTF's goal of reforming multilateralism. Thus it is appropriate to also look at repeating this language from Stockholm+50 in the Pact. Stockholm+50's key recommendations contained the following language:

“Adopt system wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet, through defining and adopting new measures of progress and human well-being, supported by economic and fiscal policies that account for the value of the environment; investing in infrastructure, developing effective policy and encouraging a global dialogue to promote sustainable consumption and production; and promoting phase out of fossil fuels while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for financial and technical support towards a just transition.”

COP28 conclusions called on Parties to “contribute to the following global efforts” by:

“Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science,” and “Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible”.

We believe the Pact for the Future must include the following commitments, and we are working with international colleagues to ensure that it truly addresses the challenges of the 21st century:

- End expansion of new fossil fuel extraction, agree an equitable phase out of existing production in line with the 1.5C temperature goal, and develop and resource a plan for a global just transition for fossil fuel dependent countries and communities;
- Take action to phasing out fossil fuel extraction on the basis of equity, taking into account each country's capacity to transition, level of dependence on fossil fuel production, and historical responsibility for climate change and ecological crises;

- Provide finance and technology to countries with high dependence on fossil fuels and limited capacity to transition to i) increase access to renewable energy, ii) diversify their economies and iii) ensure a just transition for workers and communities;
- Immediately ban on fossil fuel extraction in ecologically sensitive areas, with support for developing countries to pursue alternative economic opportunities in exchange for not exploiting their fossil fuel resources in these areas;
- Recognise the need for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to act as a mechanism for international cooperation on fossil fuel production.

We urge you to take a firm stance in ensuring that the Pact for the Future includes the necessary commitments to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition, safeguarding future generations' well-being. We also call on you to use the Summit as an opportunity to endorse the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, as previously raised with you. We would welcome a chance to meet with you along with our international partners in the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative to outline why Ireland should endorse the development of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We trust you will act with the urgency and ambition that the climate crisis demands.

Yours sincerely,

David Rossiter,

Fossil Free Campaigner,

Friends of the Earth