



**PARLIAMENTARIANS' CALL
FOR A FOSSIL FUEL FREE FUTURE**

PRESS RELEASE

Parliamentarians from the Global South Urge Peers to Act for a Fossil Fuel Free Future

Dozens of nationally-elected Parliamentarians of the Global South urgently call on elected peers to take decisive climate action to build a fossil fuel free world.

17 September – Today, a group of nationally elected officials in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific are calling on other parliamentarians worldwide to speak as one in calling for decisive action on a global transition away from coal, oil and gas – the source of 80% of carbon dioxide emissions since the industrial revolution.

Launched today for other officials to sign-on, the [Parliamentarians' Call for a Fossil Fuel Free Future](#) intends to bring together nationally-elected leaders from every continent before the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow in a joint demand for *“new international commitments and treaties, complementing the Paris Agreement, to address the urgency of a swift and just transition away from fossil fuel energy.”*

Initiated by more than 20 parliamentarians from the Global South, and in this initial stage already supported by elected officials from 27 countries, the *Parliamentarians' Call* builds on recent reports from the International Energy Agency and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that clearly state that there is no room for fossil fuel expansion if the world is to remain below 1.5°C of warming.

The Call speaks out on the urgency of tackling oil, gas and coal and acknowledge both their responsibility and power to take decisive action towards a fossil fuel free world: *“As nationally elected representatives serving millions of people across multiple countries, communities, continents, and reflecting a range of political visions, we come together to speak with one voice and alert our fellow representatives and partners in government of the need for deeper and far-reaching cooperation and ambition on our global approach to fossil fuels.”*

Charles Santiago, Member of the Malaysian Parliament and one of the main initiators of the call, explains why he invited his peers to join the initiative: *“The goal is to join the voices of climate-concerned parliamentarians in persuading governments, public institutions and businesses to take more decisive climate action, in particular to move away from fossil fuels and accelerate the development of renewable and clean energy systems.”*

Now, with only 45 days until the UN climate negotiations begin in Glasgow, they are calling on members of parliaments to join their call for a fossil fuel free future. Already a number of elected-officials have accepted their request including MPs, Senators and Congresspeople from every continent.

Loren Legarda, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines said *"We call on world leaders and our fellow Parliamentarians to work together in a spirit of international cooperation to end new expansion of oil, gas and coal production. Let us build a fossil fuel free future for this generation and generations to come."*

Risa Hontiveros, Senator of the Philippines said *"I am calling on my fellow Parliamentarians around the world to work with us on a better, fossil fuel free future for all. The time to act is now."*

The Parliamentarians' Call sets out key demands, calling for new levels of international cooperation, as well as commitments and treaties complementing the Paris Agreement which would:

1. **End new expansion of oil, gas and coal production** in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Program;
2. **Phase out existing oil, gas and coal in a manner that is fair and equitable**, taking into account the responsibilities of countries for climate change and their respective capacity to transition;
3. **Commit to and pursue transformational policies and plans to ensure 100% access to renewable energy globally**, support economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable people and communities across the globe to flourish through a just global transition;
4. **Enact national budgets and fiscal policies that will support this swift and just transition nationally and globally**; Ensure the timely and adequate delivery of public, additional and non-debt creating climate finance as part of the obligations of rich, industrialized countries to address climate change.

The Parliamentarians' demands align with those of a growing number of voices calling for a fossil fuel free world. Just this week, [2,185 academics from 81 countries delivered a letter with similar demands](#) to world leaders meeting at the UN General Assembly. This follows moves earlier this year by the [Dalai Lama and 100 other Nobel Laureates](#) calling on world leaders to end fossil fuel expansion.

Parliamentarians' Call for a Fossil Fuel Free Future is initiated by:

- Loren Legarda, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, the Philippines
- Charles Santiago, Member of Parliament of Malaysia
- Saber H Chowdhury, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh
- Juanita Goebertus Estrada, Member of the House of Representatives of Colombia
- Congresswoman Paola Vega of Costa Rica
- Mercy Barends, Member of the People's Representative Council of Indonesia
- Diah Pitaloka, Member of the People's Representative Council of Indonesia
- Willy Aditya, Member of the People's Representative Council of Indonesia
- Riaz Fatyana, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan

- Argel Cabatbat, House of Representatives of the Philippines
- France Castro, House of Representatives of the Philippines
- Risa Honiveros, Senator of the Philippines
- Sarah Elago, House of Representatives of the Philippines
- Jose Christopher “Kit” Belmonte, House of Representatives of the Philippines
- Frank Habineza, Member of Parliament of Rwanda
- Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, Member of the National Assembly of South Africa
- Stevenson Jakey Kuartei, Senator, National Congress of Palau
- Abel da Silva, Member of Parliament of Timor-Leste

Many of these initiators are available for interviews.

An up-to-date list of signatories, and the full text of their Call is available at fossilfuelfreefuture.org

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