

## **Press release: Decarbonisation Day - No time for false attempts at solutions in a fossil fuel crisis**

***There will be no just energy transition unless governments phase out fossil fuel extraction***

**Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 11 November 2022** - Today on "Decarbonisation Day", with US President Biden in town, COP27 is awash with governments and industry plotting to develop new fossil fuel projects under a bizarre and unachievable pretense that they can somehow make it "clean gas" through Carbon Capture and Storage, Blue Hydrogen and Offsets. USA, Egypt, Japan, Australia are all caught up in the contraction, making an impossible, desperate effort to square the circle of stopping emissions without stopping the cause of the emissions.

This is in complete contrast to the UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities which made it very clear that there is no role for new fossil fuel projects in the Net Zero Energy transition. It is also a dangerous co-option of the concept of "just transition", which isn't about using one particular energy fuel or another, but is about protecting people and communities through social dialogue, labour rights, and social protections.

While Biden touts "unprecedented momentum" towards climate goals through the Inflation Reduction Act. However, the climate law includes mandates for more federal oil and gas lease sales and his administration continues to push climate-killing and health-harming gas exports.

Japan is taking the same wrong turn, spending an average of USD 10.6 billion of public finance on fossil fuel projects per year and pursuing multiple CCS projects.

Australia, the world's 3rd largest exporter of fossil fuels, committed US\$2.6 billion billions into CCS trying to justify continued exports of gas and coal to Asia but it's not working. For example, a government supported Chevron project has failed dismally - and after 6 years has yet to reach full operation. The Australian people, and governments and civil society here at COP are demanding Australia to join 39 countries and end public finance for oil and gas and stop their support for failing CCS projects. This is what they want from the perspective COP31 host.

Egypt has hosted multiple events today on 'oil industry and gas decarbonisation', dishonestly backing companies that are fueling the climate crisis. For example, the COP27 presidency saw nothing wrong with celebrating Technip, a company that boasts of being involved in designing or building 20% of the world's LNG production plants, and that doesn't even bother to account for its supply chain emissions.

As climate disasters intensity and global south countries plea for Loss and Damage funding, it is a tragedy that pro-industry governments and the host president allow themselves to be so

distracted from the simple truth: phasing out fossil fuels, and achieving 100% renewable energy as soon as possible is the only sure pathway to limiting temperature to 1.5C.

*Quotes from press conference:*

**Elida Castillo, Chispa**

“We must stop the lie. We cannot transition to cleaner energy by continuing to put our trust and investment in the fossil fuel industry. Our communities are being sacrificed for the benefit of these polluters, contrary to Biden’s commitment to environmental justice.

**Ayumi Fukukasha, activist from Friends of the Earth Japan**

“The Japanese government must end their financing for fossil fuels. They are protecting business interests over profit and the planet and promoting false solutions when we could be phasing out fossil fuels.”

**Richie Marzien, from the Institute of Australia**

“Fake solutions only delay climate action and put 1.5 further out of reach. The Australian government is under new management, and cannot continue to invest in false solutions. This week is an opportunity for the government to sign up to The Clean Energy Transition Partnership to demonstrate it is changing and will be on the right side of history.”

**John Beard, Port Arthur Community Action**

You cannot put carbon into the atmosphere, and claim to capture it all, without doing severe damage to people all over the world. Decarbonisation is a cruel trick to play on people to make people believe that putting money into fossils is worthwhile. Biden needs to call a climate emergency and use his powers to enable the country to transition to clean green renewable energy transition. We have to decarbonise by not putting more fossil fuels into the atmosphere. Keep it in the ground and turn it around.

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Note to editors

Please see the following resources

- [High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions](#)
- [Factsheet: Gas, net zero & COP27](#)
- [Media Briefing: CCUS for Gas Unnecessary, Uncompetitive, Unhelpful](#)
- [Briefing: Japan’s Dirty Secret.](#)
- [Explainer: What the COP26 and G7 promises to stop funding fossils in 2022 mean for climate and communities](#)

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