



NON-PARTY SUBMISSION OF VIEWS ON ROAD MAP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

August 1, 2016

H.E. Minister Delegate Hakima El Haite and H.E. Ambassador Laurence Tubiana
High-Level Champions of Global Climate Action
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Via email: secretariat@unfccc.int

RE: Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground Essential to Success of Paris Agreement

Dear Minister Delegate El Haite and Ambassador Tubiana:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on the Road Map for Global Climate Action (“Road Map”). The InterAmerican Clean Energy Institute is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working with an international alliance of NGOs and Indigenous organizations to promote a rapid and just transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy.

Analyses by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Energy Agency, and others have found that 67-86% of known fossil fuels reserves must remain in the ground and unburned for the world to stay below the two-degree Celsius (2°C) limit,¹ and even more to stay within the safer 1.5°C limit. Therefore, it is clear that the goals of the Paris Agreement cannot be achieved without keeping the vast majority of fossil fuels in the ground. In this context, we offer the following inputs to the Road Map and responses to the questions in the *Call for Submissions*.

(a) We recommend that the Road Map acknowledge the growing number of NGO- and Indigenous-led initiatives in developed and developing countries to keep fossil fuels in the ground, including initiatives to:

- **Phase-out fossil fuel subsidies;**
- **Halt new fossil fuel leasing on public lands and waters;**
- **Divest from fossil fuel companies;**
- **Protect Indigenous lands from fossil fuel development and uphold the internationally recognized rights of Indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent;**
- **Stop new fossil fuel-based infrastructure that would lock-in decades of future greenhouse gas emissions; and**
- **Promote a rapid and just transition to 100% clean renewable energy for all.**

If information on specific initiatives to keep fossil fuels in the ground would be of interest to you, we would be pleased to coordinate with colleague organizations in the international alliance to provide a list and brief descriptions of initiatives taking place around the world.

¹ IPCC, *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report: Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Geneva: IPCC, 2014), 63-64. International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook 2012 Executive Summary* (Paris: OECD/IEA, 2012), 3.

(b) We wish to bring to your attention the attached [Declaration](#) in support of keeping fossil fuels in the ground, which is signed by more than 160 NGOs and Indigenous/community organizations from 28 countries. The Declaration calls for, *inter alia*, an immediate end to public funding and other subsidization of fossil fuel exploration, extraction and infrastructure, and investment of the resources necessary to enact a just transition to a clean and renewable energy economy for all, prioritizing frontline communities. Released at COP21, the Declaration is also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

(c) Regarding the specific questions in the *Call for Submissions*:

1. ***The current situation:*** We agree with your assessment that “Pre-2020 action is a key element for the implementation and success of the Paris Agreement,” and submit that initiatives to keep fossil fuels in the ground are essential to accelerating Pre-2020 action and avoiding carbon lock-in of fossil-fuel based energy systems and infrastructure.
2. ***The role of the high-level champions:*** We urge the champions to support initiatives focused on keeping fossil fuels in the ground. Suggested initial steps would be to acknowledge these initiatives in the Road Map and to create a forum for dialogue with leaders of these initiatives at COP22.
3. ***Transparency and tracking:*** Regarding a potential process for tracking implementation of the commitments to climate action by non-State actors such as companies, investors, and cities, it may be useful to refer to the UN Global Compact, through which business- and non-business entities commit to meeting certain human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption standards. Participants are required to produce an annual Communication on Progress which outlines their efforts and is published on the UN Global Compact website. Analogously, communications regarding progress on climate commitments could be shared through NAZCA.
4. ***High-level event:*** We suggest that the high-level event at COP 22 acknowledge efforts to keep fossil fuels in the ground as essential to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. We agree that it would be beneficial to organize a Climate Action Summit in the summer of 2018 to highlight the results of non-State actor initiatives and to call for further action by States and non-States in advance of COP24. To support these high-level events, we could (i) provide a list and brief descriptions of specific initiatives to keep fossil fuels in the ground; and (ii) help organize a forum for dialogue between the High-Level Champions and leaders of these initiatives.
5. ***The role of the TEMS:*** We agree that the technical expert meetings (TEMs) have an important role to play in providing analysis of climate solutions. There are a number of technical research questions related to keeping fossil fuels in the ground as a key opportunity for climate change mitigation. We would be happy to help connect TEMs experts with researchers in the academic and NGO communities who are working on these questions.

Thank you for your consideration of these inputs.

Sincerely, 

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Enclosure: *Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground: A Declaration for the Health of Mother Earth*

December 2015

***Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground:
A Declaration for the Health of Mother Earth***

We come together, recognizing the rights of nature and our interdependent and spiritual relationship with Mother Earth.

We honor Indigenous peoples' spiritual and sacred understanding of Mother Earth and their relationship with her. We respect their leadership in restoring humanity's sacred and healthy relationship with the natural world.

We recognize that the extraction, transportation, and consumption of fossil fuels has caused serious harm to the land, air, water, atmosphere and all forms of life, and is a major contributor to our climate crisis and mass extinction. These harms are disproportionately borne by those who do not profit from the economic and political systems that have caused them, bear no responsibility for the crisis, and lack adequate resources to adapt to our changing climate. This includes communities directly injured by the extraction and use of fossil fuels and those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

We recognize that to avoid exacerbating the climate crisis and to return to a healthy relationship with Mother Earth, the vast majority of the world's fossil fuels must remain in the ground. Governments must put the needs of people and communities above corporate profits by taking bold and immediate action to end fossil fuel extraction because the natural world can no longer wait. International forums such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris provide important opportunities for world leaders to strengthen community energy by making ambitious progress towards keeping fossil fuels in the ground.

We strive for a world in which all people and our governments and institutions:

- Respect the rights of nature, Indigenous peoples, immigrated communities and communities forced to migrate, women, frontline communities and future generations, including the internationally recognized rights of Indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent and their right to say "no" to extractive activities on their traditional lands;
- Repair the damage caused by centuries of colonialism, racism, environmental genocide, and extractive economies;
- Promote an economy that is based on interdependence with and responsibility towards Mother Earth, remains within ecological limits, and redefines wealth away from financial accumulation and towards sufficiency and well-being; and
- Make a just transition to democratized, equitable, clean and 100% renewable energy for all.

To achieve this vision we demand:

- Full recognition and support - including adequate and direct funding - of the rights of Indigenous, impacted and frontline communities, and their informed and effective leadership and participation in developing and implementing this vision;
- Fossil fuels be kept in the ground by ending exploration and new extraction to protect Mother Earth and remain well in line with Indigenous knowledge and scientifically based climate limits;
- An immediate end to public funding and other subsidization of fossil fuel exploration, extraction and infrastructure, and investment of the resources necessary to enact a just transition to a clean and renewable energy economy for all, prioritizing frontline communities;
- An end to the fossil fuel industry's stranglehold on our political and governance systems at all levels to ensure that energy policies follow climate policies based on equity and science, so that the real interests of all are protected. To start, the undue influence of the fossil fuel industry in international and domestic policymaking must end, and industry must not be permitted to participate in international climate negotiations;
- Rejection of false solutions that perpetuate or justify the extraction and use of fossil fuels, or that continue or create new harms to our air, water, lands, communities and climate;
- Rejection of all market based mechanisms that increase inequality, violate human rights, expedite the destruction of ecosystems or allow polluters to avoid cutting pollution at the source;
- Provision of adequate financial and other support to ensure that those individuals and communities most vulnerable to Mother Earth's changing climate are able to adapt;
- Divestment from activities that support the continued extraction of fossil fuels and the oppression of Indigenous and frontline communities, and investment in activities that empower communities to take control of their energy future; and
- An immediate transition to a decentralized and democratized clean energy future powered 100 percent by renewable and sustainable energy sources.

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