

Join Fossilfuel Treaty against the proliferation of fossil fuels

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Three years ago the Fossil Treaty project was born for an international non-proliferation treaty to complement the 2015 Paris climate agreement. A fine article by Andrea Di Turi 'On the climate crisis or this way or that way' in Avvenire of 18 October, traces what he calls the 'betrayal of hypocritical states'. He recalls that back in 2009, the G20 of the world's most industrialised countries stated that fossil fuel subsidies should be eliminated, six years before the Paris Agreement. But the 'betrayal' has worn thin over the years: by 2023 nothing concrete has been done.

On the contrary, according to a recent study by the International Monetary Fund, quoted in Di Turi's article and which you can find here (<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2023/08/22/IMF-Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies-Data-2023-Update-537281>), subsidies to fossil fuels were, in 2022, equal to 7 trillion dollars, over 7% of world GDP, "an enormity of public financial resources".

We have already talked about it, with a snapshot of the Italian situation, on 20 April in "The world finance that supports fossil fuels", here (<https://www.climateaid.it/2023/04/20/la-finanza-mondiale-che-sostiene-il-fossile/>), and even earlier, on 28 December 2022, in "We explain how the state pays (with our money) polluters", here (<https://www.climateaid.it/2022/12/28/vi-spieghiamo-come-lo-stato-paga-con-i-nostri-soldi-chi-inquina/>).

Today we joined the Fossil Treaty project. We have joined the 8 initial states (Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Niue, Timor-Leste, Antigua and Barbuda); the European Parliament, the Vatican, the World Health Organisation, the 89 cities and regional governments (in Italy, ANCI, Pontassieve, Turin and, lately, Rome), the 3,000 scientists and academics, the 101 Nobel Prize winners, the 2,250 civil society organisations and numerous religious organisations, the 623,178 individual citizens. And we too have joined to make a contribution to the call for a no-further-proliferation treaty on fossil fuels also in the perspective of the forthcoming Cop28 in Dubai.

The initiators write: 'It is time to leave behind the pollution, economic, climate and security risks caused by coal, oil and gas. There is enough affordable renewable energy capacity in every region of the world to power people's lives and communities. Fossil fuel companies have held back progress and continue to grow the problem by expanding production. The time is over. Governments, organisations and individuals around the world are calling for action by endorsing the call for a fossil fuel treaty.'

We invite everyone to join the appeal as an individual or as an organisation or group, just go to the Fossil Treaty website, which you can find at the bottom of this page in "The Best from the Web", and click on "Endorse as an Organisation/Individual".

Health and environmental protection are what the world needs and it is possible to get there, but the era of coal, oil and gas must be ended.