

Key Messages about the Port Vila Call to Action for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific

Topline

- Fossil fuels are the primary cause of the climate crisis.
- Emissions will not go down if production goes up. We cannot meet the goals of the Paris Agreement without international cooperation to explicitly tackle all fossil fuels head on.
- Pacific nations have identified in the Port Vila Call to Action, real, effective and tangible solutions towards a fossil fuel free Pacific and the just and equitable transition we required to take us there.
- In March 2023 a bloc of 6 Pacific countries made an ambitious call for a global phase out of fossil fuels, and a just transition from fossil fuels in the Pacific in the Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific.
- Papua New Guinea endorsed the Port Vila Call on 24 August as the 7th endorsee.
- Only through working together as a sub-region, as the Blue Pacific, and as the global community, can we fast track a global just transition to clean energy that leaves no country, community or worker behind.

The climate crisis

- The world is already enduring deadly floods, fires and droughts due to our addiction to coal, oil and gas.
- In the Pacific we regularly witness how climate change is increasing the destructive power of tropical cyclones, storm surges, changing precipitation patterns, ocean acidification, extreme droughts and more.
- This is no longer a scientific prediction on paper and in models of what will happen – it is a harsh reality, not least for the people of the Pacific Islands.

The consequences of Fossil Fuel expansion

- Science is clear that the primary cause of this destructive shift in our atmosphere is fossil fuels, which are responsible for 86% of all carbon dioxide emissions in the past decade.
- Burning the world's fossil fuel reserves would result in seven times more climate pollution than what is needed to keep warming below 1.5°C, according to the Global Registry of Fossil Fuels. Despite this, many governments are still approving new coal, oil and gas projects.
- Fossil fuel addiction subverts every single sustainable development goal, as today's most pressing crises - from poverty, world hunger, to health and conflict - are all made increasingly difficult in a warming world.

Renewable Energy is the Pacific Future

- We have more than enough renewable energy potential to give everyone power
- The world has enough renewable energy potential to comfortably make the transition away from fossil fuels while also expanding energy access for all in every region of the globe.
- Despite the huge potential of this transition to strengthen economies, protect our climate, improve public health and livelihoods globally, the fossil fuel industry has held sway over world leaders for decades – pushing for new oil and gas fields and receiving a record \$1 trillion in subsidies globally in 2022 and despite already making windfall profits. They are raking in billions while the rest of us suffer the consequences.
- We must leave this pathway of destruction behind and forge a brighter, safer future together.

Pacific Leadership for a Just and Equitable Transition

- Ending the expansion of fossil fuels and planning a just transition away from coal, oil and gas is the bar for climate leadership.
- There is no excuse – world leaders must pick a side: they can capitulate to the lobbying of the oil and gas industry or they can join the Pacific in working towards a just and equitable transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific
- Pacific countries which are of the world's most impacted by climate change, are least responsible for this crisis and do not have the capacity to phase out fossil fuels on our own.
- Because wealthy nations have used up most of the carbon budget in order to develop their economies they have left us in a difficult position where we must transition quickly.
- For this to be both feasible and also equitable we need greater global governance to manage a fossil fuel phase out, in line with the capacity countries have to transition their economies as well as their historic responsibility for emissions.
- Importantly, the Pacific requires international mechanisms to finance a just transition where we cannot afford to end the scourge of fossil fuels on our own despite the destruction facing our communities.