



**Joint Civil
Society
Statement
Calling on
Ireland to
Support the
Fossil Fuel
Non-
Proliferation
Treaty at
COP28**

We, the undersigned civil society organisations and groups, call on the Irish Government to endorse the development of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.¹

The UN Emissions Gap Report recently concluded that we are headed for a disastrous temperature rise of almost 3°C based on current state pledges and that the window to bring global emissions to 1.5°C is closing rapidly.²

The only way to adhere to the Paris Agreement and ensure a liveable climate is to substantially and equitably reduce the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels both in Ireland and globally. The IPCC, UN and IEA are all clear that further fossil fuel extraction and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure are not compatible with the 1.5°C limit.³

The 2015 Paris Agreement set a benchmark for global climate action through its temperature goal. However, despite fossil fuels being the main driver of the climate crisis, they are not mentioned in the world's leading climate agreement.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty represents a crucial instrument in tackling the climate crisis. It is intended to complement the Paris Agreement. It aims to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to clean energy for everyone by ending the expansion of gas, oil and coal. The Treaty outlines a framework for cooperation, encouraging signatory nations to collectively reduce fossil fuel production, limit exploration, and invest in zero-carbon solutions.

The call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, now supported by a bloc of 11 Pacific, Caribbean, Latin American and South Asian countries, as well as the World Health Organization, the European Parliament and close to 100 cities and sub-national governments around the world, is gaining momentum.

1. <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>

2. <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022>

3. Leon Clarke et al, "Energy Systems," In Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022, P.R. Shukla et al (eds), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA; UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2023; IEA Net Zero Roadmap: A Global Pathway to Keep the 1.5 °C Goal in Reach, 2023 IEA, Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Energy Sector, 2021

By endorsing the development of this Treaty, Ireland would demonstrate its commitment to the international community and future generations in fostering a cleaner and healthier planet. As a developed state with high per capita emissions, Ireland holds greater responsibility for the climate crisis. We and other developed nations must do our fair share by leading a global just transition.

Ireland has already positioned itself as a 'first-mover'. In July 2021, the Government legislated to prevent new oil and gas exploration licenses in Irish waters. In May 2021, the government produced a policy statement that introduced a moratorium on fracked gas imports and the development of liquefied natural gas import terminals. Ireland has also taken a firm stance in terms of foreign policy by joining the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance⁴ at COP26 in 2021. Most recently, Irish MEPs from all of the main political groups supported the European Parliament's COP28 position, including its call for states to work to develop the Treaty.⁵

Ireland is ideally placed to start getting the proposed treaty initiative on the diplomatic and UN agenda, given its support for small-island states, many of whom are now calling on Ireland's support in seeking a negotiating mandate at the UN for this new treaty. Our Department of Foreign Affairs also has significant expertise and a proud tradition of leading the international agenda on other non-proliferation treaties related to nuclear weapons and disarmament.

We simply do not have time to dither or delay further. New fossil fuel projects are still being approved, threatening survival limits set down in the Paris Agreement. Voluntary declarations are not enough. We need a binding, coherent and equitable approach to phasing out fossil fuels while delivering a global, just energy transition.

We call on the Irish Government to signal its commitment to a sustainable, resilient, and zero-carbon future at COP28 by endorsing the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and joining the bloc of states seeking a negotiating mandate.

4. <https://beyondoilandgasalliance.org/>

5. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2023-0458_EN.html?redirect

signatories



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An Taisce
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development

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Environmental Pillar
Working for a sustainable future

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