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PARTNERS COMMUNICATION PACK

The Vanuatu Government has become the first nation-state to call for a Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty.

The President of Vanuatu His Excellency Nikenike Vurobaravu called on the UN General Assembly to develop a Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty to stop the expansion of new fossil fuel projects, and manage a global fair transition away from coal, oil and gas.

In Vanuatu's address to the UN General Assembly on September 23, they called for nations to use *all* legal pathways to protect human rights from the devastation caused by coal, oil and gas production.

The President will take this historic first call to the main stage of the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park on September 24.

Vanuatu needs support from around the world to amplify this call and for movements and leaders globally to urge other nation states to join them.

We welcome anyone to use this communication pack to amplify Vanuatu's call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In case useful, talking points and social media content are included that can be used or tailored for your region.

Click here for quick access:

- Overview and Key Messages
- Content for social media
- Graphics in English – Graphics in French – Graphics in Spanish
- Press release in English – PR in French – PR in Spanish
- Quotes (partners can add reaction quotes relevant for media in your region)

Overview

Today at the UN General Assembly, Vanuatu called on other nations to join them in establishing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

They are the first **nation-state to call for an international mechanism** to stop new oil, gas and coal projects and create new negotiations on how to manage a global just transition away from fossil fuels.

Vanuatu aims to tackle the primary cause of the climate crisis: fossil fuels. According to the latest IPCC report, coal, oil and gas are responsible for 86 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions in the past decade.

While the UN Secretary General, International Energy Agency, World Health Organization and IPCC have all signalled that new fossil fuel projects are inconsistent with our climate targets, governments and corporations plan to produce more than double the fossil fuels in 2030 than is consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Today marks a pivotal moment in the journey towards greater global governance of fossil fuel production. For the past two years, the proposed Fossil Fuel Treaty has gained support from thousands of civil society organisations, major cities, hundreds of Parliamentarians, Nobel Laureates, Indigenous peoples, trade unions, faith leaders, youth activists and health professionals. Now the proposal has been made by Vanuatu within the international policy arena. Similar political moments were pivotal in the pathway towards treaties to manage nuclear weapons, landmines and chlorofluorocarbons.

This historic call comes at a critical moment of global climate loss and damage, upending livelihoods and costing human lives. **His Excellency President Nikenike Vurobaravu invited members of the UN General Assembly to join Vanuatu in developing a Fossil Fuel Treaty on the global stage.**

Vanuatu's call for a Fossil Fuel Treaty continues to build on their leadership in global climate policy. Vanuatu has recently launched efforts to secure an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the human rights impacts of climate change. The advisory opinion would inform lawsuits around the world and strengthen vulnerable countries' position in international negotiations. This initiative was recently backed by Pacific leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum.

Earlier this month, Vanuatu also submitted a groundbreaking update to its commitments under the Paris Agreement to include phasing out fossil fuels and a costing of tackling destruction caused by rising seas and wild weather. The enhanced action plan is one of the first to comprehensively address loss and damage from climate impacts at a country level.

This multi-pronged approach to seeking greater climate policy through multiple multilateral forums – within the UNFCCC, the International Court of Justice and now through a Treaty on fossil fuels – **paves the way for a new era of international climate policy focused on equity and justice and addressing the biggest drivers of the climate crisis - coal, oil, and gas.**

Key Messages

- **Vanuatu has become the first nation-state to call for the establishment of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** His Excellency President Nikenike Vurobaravu invited members of the UN General Assembly to join Vanuatu in developing a Fossil Fuel Treaty on the global stage.

- **This call doubles down on Vanuatu's commitment to climate justice.** Vanuatu has also recently launched efforts to secure an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the impacts of climate change on human rights. Earlier this month, Vanuatu also submitted a groundbreaking update to its commitments under the Paris Agreement to include phasing out fossil fuels and a costing of tackling destruction caused by rising seas and wild weather. The enhanced action plan is one of the first to comprehensively address loss and damage from climate impacts at a country level.

- This multi-pronged approach to seeking greater climate policy through multiple multilateral forums – within the UNFCCC, the International Court of Justice and now through a Treaty on fossil fuels – **paves the way for a new era of international climate policy focused on equity and justice.**

- **Pacific leadership has been essential to the international response to the climate crisis for decades**. Pacific nations have been champions of international agreements on climate change in general and on the specific and useful mechanisms within them from the UN Framework Convention, its Kyoto Protocol, and the more recent Paris Agreement. Vanuatu continues this leadership today through their call for a Fossil Fuel Treaty.

- Despite consistent warnings from climate scientists and civil society that emissions must fall dramatically, **even without any fossil fuel expansion there is currently enough coal, oil and gas under production to take global heating well beyond our global climate target of 1.5°C**. The most recent estimates are that, for even a 50% probability of staying below 1.5°C, expansion of fossil fuels must end and approximately 40% of developed reserves must remain in the ground.

- Current international climate agreements primarily focus on emissions reductions and make no explicit mention of fossil fuels. **The Paris Agreement** sets the benchmark for global climate action through its global temperature goal but **can be complemented by a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty with three clear pillars:** 1) end expansion of fossil fuel production, 2) phase down existing production in line with 1.5°C, and 3) enable a global just transition for every worker, community and country.

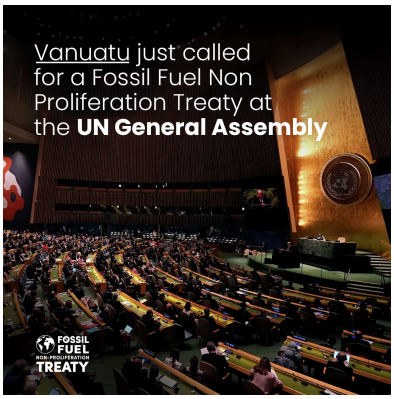
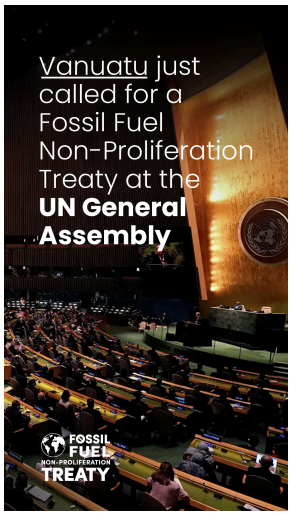
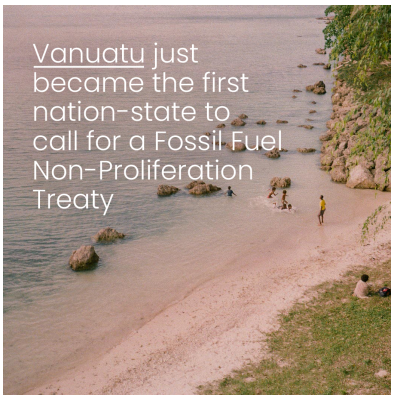
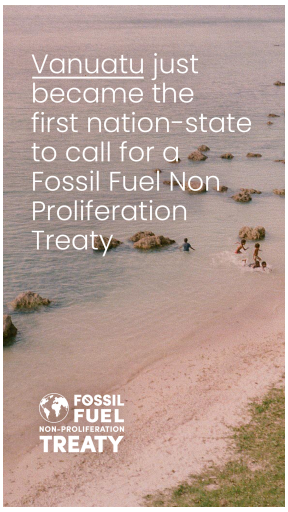
- **The push for a Treaty to manage a global just transition draws significant lessons from other treaties to manage global threats**, such as nuclear weapons, landmines and chlorofluorocarbons. Pacific policy leadership was critical to securing many of these mechanisms and now we are seeing them also lead the push for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

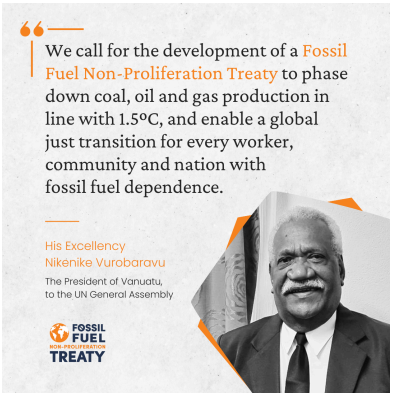
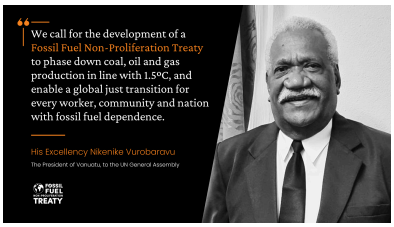
Press Release

View the press release in English here. Translated versions in Spanish and French coming soon. Feel free to adapt this to a version specific to your region. View in French or Spanish.

Content for social media

For social media, please use the **hashtags #FossilFuelTreaty** as well as **#ICJAO** for referencing Vanuatu's push for an International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on climate justice.
Social media graphics (in English, French and Spanish) about Vanuatu's call for a Treaty here.

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Draft Copy for Twitter

Huge news! Vanuatu just became the 1st nation-state to call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Vanuatu's UNGA call accelerates the journey towards a #FossilFuelTreaty to manage a global just transition. Find out more at fossilfueltreaty.org/vanuatu

We need an international framework that manages a global just transition away from coal, oil & gas.

Vanuatu is paving the way as the first nation-state to call for a #FossilFuelTreaty fossilfueltreaty.org/vanuatu

Vanuatu is bringing the heat (in a good way!) when it comes to climate leadership:
📩 Sent an extensive UN climate target centered on justice
⚖️ Leading #ICJAO campaign for world's highest court to issue opinion on climate
🖊️ Called for a #FossilFuelTreaty

fossilfueltreaty.org/vanuatu

This is the kind of leadership we need more of!

Vanuatu is doubling down on their commitment to climate action by calling for a #FossilFuelTreaty in addition to their #ICJAO initiative & ambitious NDC announcement: fossilfueltreaty.org/vanuatu

Draft Copy for Facebook

Vanuatu is the first nation-state to call for a #FossilFuelTreaty!

With this historic call for a treaty to phase out fossil fuels, Vanuatu doubles down on the country's commitment to climate action, following their submission earlier this month of one of the world's most ambitious climate policies. The submission included committing to 100% renewable energy in electricity generation by 2030 and ambitious targets on loss and damage. Vanuatu has also been leading a campaign to have the international court of justice issue an opinion on climate change, which would have huge legal ramifications for climate justice.

Pacific Island leadership has been, is, and will be essential to a global approach that delivers climate justice.

Pacific nations have been champions of international agreements on climate change in general and on the specific and useful mechanisms within them from the UN Framework Convention, its Kyoto Protocol, and the more recent Paris Agreement.

Vanuatu's President Nikenike Vurobaravu, said: "We call for the development of a #FossilFuelTreaty to phase down coal, oil and gas production in line with 1.5°C, and enable a global #JustTransition for every worker, community and nation with fossil fuel dependence."

Read more about the historic call: https://fossilfueltreaty.org/vanuatu

Draft Copy for Instagram

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Read more about the historic call of the Treaty proposal from Vanuatu: fossilfueltreaty.org/vanuatu

#FossilFuels #JustTransition #RenewableEnergy #ClimateChange #ClimateCrisis #Equity #InternationalCooperation #KeepItInTheGround #KIITG #ClimateJustice #EnergyAccessForAll

Quotes

PACIFIC – for use globally

“Every day we are experiencing more debilitating consequences of the climate crisis. Fundamental human rights are being violated, and we are measuring climate change not in degrees of Celsius or tons of carbon, but in human lives. This emergency is of our own making. Our youth are terrified of the future world we are handing to them through expanding fossil fuel dependency, compromising intergenerational trust and equity. We call for the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to phase down coal, oil and gas production in line with 1.5°C, and enable a global just transition for every worker, community and nation with fossil fuel dependence” **– President of Vanuatu His Excellency Nikenike Vurobaravu**

"Fossil fuels did this, and if we continue to burn them, we will see more islands in the Pacific, islands like my home of Tonga disappear. We need countries to be bold, because we have run out of time. The future scares me - we need to phase out fossil fuels, we need countries to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and we need them to do so now." – **Kalo Afeaki, Pacific Climate Warrior, Kingdom of Tonga**

“Vanuatu’s call today is a vital investment in our future. They’ve heard the call from our youth that there’s no future for us in fossil fuels and listened. It’s time for other world leaders to do the same” **– Brianna Fruean, Pacific Climate Warrior and 2022 Global Citizen Prize Winner**

“By calling for a Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty, Vanuatu has once again showed the world the Pacific’s climate leadership. The treaty will be a way forward and will complement the goals of Paris to limit emissions by cutting off supply and accelerating the Just Transition. There is no other way to 1.5 - the world must now respond.” **– Mary Gafaomalietoa Sapati Moeono-Kolio, New Zealand Climate Action Network Board**

AUSTRALIA & NZ

Independent Senator David Pocock said:

"It’s great to see Vanuatu display this leadership, spearheading the push for a faster and better coordinated global transition away from fossil fuels.

"For many of our Pacific Island neighbours, climate change is an existential threat. Australia needs to step up and show leadership in the region by taking swift and decisive action.

"I am proud to represent the Australian Capital Territory, which supports the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and I call on global leaders to get on the right side of history and give it their backing too.

"The world dealt with the hole in the ozone created by CFCs with the Montreal Protocol, a coordinated and concerted global effort. We can do the same with greenhouse gas emissions."

Greens Leader Adam Bandt MP said:

"If Labor wants to be a serious player on climate and host international negotiations it needs to stop new coal and gas. Australia should join its Pacific neighbour Vanuatu in the push for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Independent Member for Clark, Andrew Wilkie said

"I support the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Coal, oil and gas have no place in the future if we're fair dinkum about dealing with climate change. A good first step to achieving that is to get the community of nations to sign up to a treaty pledging to end their use."

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said:

"The Government should send a clear message about Australia's commitment to climate action and our Pacific neighbours by joining the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty," Lord Mayor Clover Moore said.

"Sydney is proud to have been one of the first cities to endorse the Treaty, which will see fossil fuels phased out faster, fairly and forever. We need to listen to the calls of the people on the front line of climate change and we need to get out of coal, oil and gas as quickly as possible."

NORTH AMERICA

“Canada has played a leading role in sparking several other global agreements to address intransigent problems. In this case they are dragging their feet and instead claiming to be climate leaders while still growing the problem by green light even more oil drilling and fracking. It’s frankly embarrassing. The world needs a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and having the first country call for this on the floor of the UN General Assembly is a very exciting moment.” – **Tzeporah Berman, Chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative**

“Pacific nations have been essential in the international response to the climate crisis and are leading the push back against false solutions. Indigenous Climate Action stands in solidarity with President Nikenike Vurobaravu and the people of Vanuatu as they call on the UN General Assembly to end fossil fuel production in their nation and work towards a just transition.” **said Eriel Deranger, Executive Director, Indigenous Climate Action**

“The President of Vanuatu calling for a Fossil Fuel Treaty on the floor of the UN General Assembly is a huge moment of hope for communities across the world living through the impacts of the climate emergency. And it should be a huge call to action for national governments like Canada. Local governments are stepping up. But we need national and international action that addresses the Climate Emergency at the scale and speed required. Canada should support Vanuatu and endorse a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.” **- Christine Boyle, Vancouver City Councillor**

“This is a historic call to action by Vanuatu and as health professionals concerned about the public health impacts of global climate change and fossil-fuel related pollution, we urge the world's leaders to follow suit. For our planet’s health and our own, we must eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels.” - **Vishnu Laalitha Surapaneni, MD, MPH, national board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility**

"Fossil fuels are causing the climate emergency. We must rapidly wind down their production in order to ensure a livable planet. Around the world, other governments are showing leadership. But Canada – despite being a wealthy and innovative nation – lags behind. We need our leaders to be bold and honest - and start planning for an equitable carbon-free future." **Julia Levin, National Climate Program Manager, Environmental Defence Canada**

“President Vurobaravu's call for the United Nations to develop a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is inspiring and humbling. Vanuatu is one of the nations most at risk from the fossil fuel crisis and least at fault for causing it. Like our City of Angels, Vanuatu is also working to phase out its own fossil fuel use. Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission approved the City Council’s proposed ban on neighborhood oil drilling and we expect a vote within the next month,” **said Paul Koretz, Los Angeles City Councilmember, author of LA’s resolution supporting the Treaty and of the Council’s initial oil drilling legislation.** “From Los Angeles, the first US city to endorse the Treaty, we send a message of gratitude to President Vurobaravu, the nation of Vanuatu, and all those advancing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we remain committed with you to both the Treaty and our city's own efforts to phase out fossil fuels.”

LATIN AMERICA

AFRICA

ASIA

“Climate change threatens the very existence of the tiny island nation of Vanuatu, whose very name ironically means ‘Our Land Forever’. Vanuatu is among many Pacific region island states who have contributed the very least to climate change, yet have shown enormous courage and resilience to fight for climate justice. On behalf of the civil society of South Asia, I congratulate the Republic of Vanuatu for being the first nation to support the call for a global fossil fuel nonproliferation treaty and hope more countries in South Asia will endorse this important global initiative.” —**Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)**

GLOBAL

Fionna Smyth, Head of Global Advocacy and Policy at Christian Aid, said: “When the world realised that nuclear weapons posed a threat to the survival of the human race it created the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty in 1968. We now know that the continuous burning of coal, oil and gas also has the power to cause untold damage to our planet, so it makes sense to take the same approach to fossil fuels. A fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty would help protect our common home and be a giant step towards ending the harm caused by our addiction to dirty energy.”

“Change is happening. Realisation of what we need to do to preserve our planet starts slowly, with the moves of the brave and the visionary. War depends on fossil fuel, fossil fuel extraction and profits from the slaughter. Militarism is needed to preserve the system of that profit. Where Vanuatu has gone first others will follow. A first step but inspiring of hope.” **Madeleine Rees, Secretary-General, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)**

As a key driver of climate change and air pollution, fossil fuels affect vulnerable populations who suffer from higher exposure. Vanuatu’s call for Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is a demonstration of climate leadership and a decision we hope will be emulated by other countries to protect our health and our future., **Diana Picon Manyari, International Climate Director at Health Care Without Harm**

"Anyone who recognizes that our common future depends on keeping fossil fuels in the ground should appreciate Vanuatu’s call at the UN General Assembly for a treaty to end the use of these major polluters of the planet. Saving the planet depends on bold moves now. Thank you, Vanuatu.” **Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1997**

"Vanuatu's call today to develop a Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty to stop the expansion of new fossil fuel projects, and manage a global fair transition away from coal, oil and gas is truly the move of a climate champion. We know the root cause of the climate crisis is fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are driving this climate crisis and causing losses and damages which are largely being shouldered by communities in the global south and small island states. We need rich polluter nations to do their fair share on climate action and immediately stop investing in the expansion of fossil fuels and support a binding treaty to end all new fossil fuels." **Tasneem Essop, Executive Director, Climate Action Network International**

“Fossil fuels have devastating consequences for people’s health, from the impacts of extraction on through to being a major contributor to the seven million premature deaths per year from air pollution, not to mention the massive and increasing toll that climate change is taking on public health around the world”, said Jeni Miller, Executive Direction of the Global Climate and Health Alliance. “As the first nation-state to call for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty, Vanuatu’s bold leadership should spur other countries to move rapidly to end our addiction to fossil fuels. Access to energy is a health issue for people everywhere, but with clean energy solutions already available and ready to be scaled up, they should not have to pay for energy with their health and wellbeing, due to exposure to fossil fuel related pollution. World leaders must come together to create a fossil fuel treaty that can drive a just, global phase out of fossil fuels, and support the transition to clean energy that will protect people’s health from climate change.” **Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance**