New York City considers Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty endorsement

*New York City leads the call for a bold new global framework to manage a just transition away from coal, oil and gas.*

NEW YORK CITY – Today, Council Member Costa Constantinides brought a motion to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to the New York City Council. If passed, the motion would support the Treaty aimed at stopping expansion of oil, gas and coal while increasing international cooperation to advance an equitable transition to clean energy and low-carbon solutions.

The motion was announced alongside the expansion of the Climate Mobilization Act, one of the world’s most ambitious municipal climate action plans. If New York City votes to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, it will build on this leadership by making New York City the first city in the United States to call for a global phase out of fossil fuels and acceleration of a fair energy transition.

In light of the second presidential debate, and Former Vice President Joe Biden’s statement to “transition away from the oil industry,” the Treaty is the next big step in addressing the climate emergency. Senator Kamala Harris’ “Climate Plan for the People” platform during her Presidential campaign also highlighted the need for an international framework to manage the transition away from fossil fuel production.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative publicly launched via an event at NYC Climate Week in late September, gaining it’s inaugural city endorsement from Vancouver a mere month later, passed unanimously. New York City now joins Vancouver as well as hundreds of organizations and individuals who have endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty concept including Naomi Klein, Bill McKibben, Global Witness, 350.org, World Future Council, Stand.Earth, Friends of the Earth and more.

New York City Council Member Constantinides said, “Climate change is a global crisis we need to face. As the number one accelerator for global warming, fossil fuels
cannot be allowed to continue on as they have been. New York City will take a strong stance against the climate emergency with a treaty to phase out fossil fuels.”

“By introducing a resolution in support of a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, New York City is sending a strong message to governments around the world that now is the time for international cooperation to end the expansion of oil, gas and coal and fast track a fair global energy transition. No city, state, country or corporation can do this alone and we cannot rely on markets to do this quickly or fairly. This builds on New York’s track record of adopting strong municipal policies to cut carbon pollution including the executive order signed in February to block new fossil fuel infrastructure.” said Tzeporah Berman, Chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Campaign Director at Stand.Earth.

“Today, New York City took a powerful stand on behalf of the people of New York and people around the world who know we can have a livable planet or we can have fossil fuels, but we can’t have both. In endorsing Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation, the City sent a clear message to the fossil fuel industry and those who finance it: the end is not just near; it’s here.” said Caroll Muffett, President, Center for International Environmental Law.

Bill McKibben, Author and Founder 350.org said, “In the same way that towns and cities once backed a nuclear freeze and turned it into a potent international effort, now the localities with the most to lose from climate change are backing this new effort for climate sanity.”

The Fossil Fuel Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would hold governments and the fossil fuel industry accountable for emissions from the production of fossil fuels. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, national governments plan to expand fossil fuels at levels that would result in 120 percent more emissions than what is in keeping with the limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming. However, there is no mechanism in place within the Paris Agreement to limit fossil fuel expansion. The United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change and Paris Agreement do not even mention the main source of emissions: oil, gas or coal.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would foster international cooperation to ensure governments start to phase out these main sources of emissions and advance an equitable energy transition. Drawing lessons from global efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and ban asbestos, ozone depleting chemicals, landmines and other threats to humanity, the Treaty will advance action under three pillars:

WWW.FOSSILFUELTREATY.ORG
Non-Proliferation – Don’t Add to the Problem
An immediate end to the expansion into new reserves of coal, oil and natural gas would limit the globe’s production of carbon emissions (which if left alone would create more than twice over the limit set by the United Nations and other organizations).

Global Disarmament – Get Rid of the Existing Threat
Since existing oil and gas fields and coal mines contain enough carbon on their own, phasing out those current stockpiles is a much needed step to keep the world under the Paris Agreement’s temperature limits.

Peaceful Transition – Accelerate an Equitable Transition
Every worker, community, and country must be taken into the deepest consideration on the way to fast-tracking all solutions. Only a proactive plan to enable economic diversification, implement renewable energy and other reliable, cost-effective low-carbon solutions will be able to meet the needs of a sustainable future.

For more information on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, please visit the website and introduction video.

Media contacts:

Cara Pike, Executive Director, Climate Access
cara@climateaccess.org
1+250 709 1861

Brenna Two Bears, Communications Associate, Climate Access
brenna@climateaccess.org
1+812 345 3139