BRIEFING NOTE:
STOCKHOLM+50 AND FOSSIL FUEL SUPPLY
This note serves as a background brief for partners and allies of the campaign for a Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty on the network’s strategy and approach to the Stockholm+50 Summit, to be held in Sweden on June 2-3 2022.

The Stockholm+50 Summit will be a major mile marker for the Treaty campaign in 2022 as we work towards securing a negotiating mandate for the Fossil Fuel Treaty in the UN system.

We are undertaking this effort as the signs of climate breakdown continue to escalate as a result of global heating, impacting millions of people around the globe.

Yet despite these impacts, the latest Production Gap Report highlights that current plans for fossil fuel extraction are more than twice what would be compatible with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C temperature goal.

Until now, the international system and very few governments have focused on the role of the production of fossil fuels in driving the climate crisis, even though oil, gas and coal are responsible for over 86% of all additional CO2 in the atmosphere in the last decade.

With the conservative IEA finding that there should be no new fossil fuel infrastructure investments for a 1.5C pathway (even with a 50% probability rate!), and the UN Secretary General declaring the latest IPCC report a ‘death knell’ for coal, oil and gas - 2022 must be the year that governments and the international system respond urgently to the need to address fossil fuel supply.

The Stockholm+50 Conference, an historic convening reflecting on the successes and shortcomings of international environmental governance over the last half-century, is the perfect venue to begin to address the elephant in the room: fossil fuel supply.

WHAT IS STOCKHOLM+50?


That conference launched the Stockholm Declaration, and the United Nations Environment Programme, pivotal pieces of international law and cooperation on sustainable development and to address the risks of environmental degradation and harm.

To record the 50th anniversary of that historic meeting the UN has called for a commemorative summit "as a contribution to the environmental dimension of sustainable development to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, including a sustainable recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic."

The meeting will be co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya with the UNEP acting as secretariat.

Input to the meeting will be provided through UNEA, as well as other consultations, and a preparatory meeting in New York in March 2022.

Stakeholders have been invited to contribute to discussions, with particular reference in the documents being made to: women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and local communities.

The meeting will be structured around three “leadership dialogues”:

Reflecting on the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all;
Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;
Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

The outcome of the meeting will be a summary report prepared by the Presidency (Sweden, Kenya and the UNEP).

OUR OBJECTIVES:

1. Secure major step-change in political support for international action on fossil fuel supply.
   Build diplomatic support for international cooperation on fossil fuel supply centering equity and the need for a just transition

2. Ensure that stopping fossil fuel expansion and addressing fossil fuel production and the need for a just transition is prominent in the agenda, narrative and outcome of the Stockholm summit.
   Build support for the three pillar demands of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty campaign

3. Engage new and diverse voices in calling for international action on fossil fuel supply.
The Stockholm+50 Conference outcome will not be a negotiated declaration but an input into the UN system of environmental governance.

We believe it is important and feasible to use this moment to get the issue of fossil fuel supply into the UN system, as an outstanding issue for international governance for sustainable development.

Stockholm+50 can mark a new historic turning point in the push for greater international cooperation on fossil fuel supply — by calling for a special UN report, a Global Commission on Fossil Fuels, and recognising the need for global cooperation on fossil fuels, supported by UN-wide efforts to accelerate the a global just transition to low-emissions energy systems. Stockholm+50 is a critical moment and test for real action to address the primary cause of the planetary crisis: fossil fuels.

In order to do this we will:

- **Work with advocacy partners to directly make submissions and calls into the Stockholm+50 process** highlighting these issues. Materials are under preparation, partners have already been registered.

- **Work with advocacy partners to prepare governments to make submissions and statements** to highlight this issue and to give ample ground for the Chair’s conclusions to refer to it.

- **Work with the Presidency** via our partner organisations in Sweden and Kenya to prepare consideration of these issues, including via formal and informal side-events and convengings (e.g. we are actively discussing a focussed meeting on the topic on the margins of the event).

- **Work with Swedish civil society to collaborate globally in any mobilisation or public communications** to elevate the stakes of the meeting and demonstrate widespread concern and attention on the issues.

Following from this our current priorities are:

- **Ensuring registration and participation from a broad cross-section of civil society**;

- **Preparing materials for advocacy and submissions** to the process and governments;

- **Collaborating with civil society coalitions and networks on frameworks for public mobilisation and communications**.

**OUR MESSAGE ABOUT STOCKHOLM+50 IN SHORT:**

Fifty years ago the world gathered at the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. This historic meeting marked a turning point and placed human’s relationship with nature on the international agenda.

It created the Stockholm Declaration, an Action Plan for Human Environment, and launched the UN Environment Programme. It set in motion a process that would lead to the 1992 Rio Conference, the UN Climate and Biodiversity Conventions, and many other international agreements.

Despite important steps over the last 50 years, the world remains dangerously off track to achieve a safe future. We are facing a planetary climate, extinction and pollution crises, while inequality deepens and our democratic institutions are under threat.

At the centre of the crisis are the wealthiest and most polluting corporations. They continue to profit by extracting dangerous substances from the earth and spewing them into the biosphere and atmosphere.

The fossil fuel and petrochemical industries — which produce coal, oil and gas and the polluting products derived from them, caused 86% of CO2 pollution in the past decade, they are flooding our bodies and the remotest parts of the earth with plastics, and are driving the extinction crisis.

For Stockholm+50 to be a success, it must address this existential threat head on. We need to leave fossil fuels in the ground, where they can’t destabilise the atmosphere, poison the air we breathe, pollute the land and water, undermine human health, or degrade ecosystems and nature.

While we know that the climate crisis is having differential impacts on women, Indigenous peoples, people living in poverty, and other marginalised communities, we also believe that a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty provides a framework to fast-track solutions that advance peace, gender equality and human security. Stockholm+50 is the place to connect the dots in a bold new solution: the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The world needs a new global agenda to:

- **end expansion** of new oil, gas and coal production
- **phase out existing production** in a way that is fair
- **enable a globally just transition** from the fossil fuel system and its polluting products

Stockholm+50 is a unique opportunity for the global community to advance global governance of our environmental challenges - any serious reflection will find the question of fossil fuel production has been intentionally ignored for too long, this year we can change that.
FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY CAMPAIGN TALKING POINTS STOCKHOLM+50

The 1972 Stockholm Conference was the first global conference to cast a spotlight on the environment. It launched a global environmental agenda, started the UN environment program and spurred multiple international agreements. But 50 years later, the global climate crisis is ever urgent, largely thanks to fossil fuels.

Stockholm+50 must address fossil fuels as a major driver of the planetary climate, extinction and pollution crisis. Fossil fuels account for over 86% of CO2 emissions in the last decade, fuelling the extinction crisis by pushing extraction into many of the world’s most remote and vulnerable areas. They feed the plastics that now contaminate everything from the bodies of unborn children to the remotest parts of the earth.

2021 has marked the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era - First the International Energy Agency made clear that the expansion of any new coal, oil or gas production is incompatible with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C target. Then, the most recent IPCC report was heralded as a "death knell" for the fossil fuel industry by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. The COP26 "Glasgow Pact" noted the need to phase-down fossil fuels and transition to low-emission energy systems.

But the conclusion to the fossil fuel era could come too slowly and be inequitable if left unmanaged. - The question is whether the transition will be chaotic and unmanaged, with companies focused on their own profit, or orderly and managed by governments working together to facilitate an equitable transition that ensures no worker, community or country is left behind.

Stockholm+50 can mark a new historic turning point — by calling for a special UN report, a Global Commission on Fossil Fuels, and recognising the need for global cooperation on fossil fuels, supported by UN-wide efforts to accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels and a global just transition to low-emissions energy systems. Stockholm+50 is a critical moment and test for real action to address the primary cause of the planetary crisis: fossil fuels.

Despite claims of commitment to climate action, governments expected to surge past 1.5°C with their expected fossil fuel production. Many countries continue with business as usual. In 2030, governments’ production plans and projections would lead to around 240% more coal, 57% more oil, and 71% more gas than would be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Fossil fuels are the elephant in the room of international climate negotiations and most national climate plans. While coal, oil and gas are responsible for 86% of all carbon dioxide emissions in the past decade, the Paris Agreement does not even mention fossil fuels once. The Glasgow COP26 language is a start but is inadequate. Not only do most ‘net zero’ plans fail to address fossil fuels, they often rely on false or unproven solutions to allow for the continued and expanded use of coal, oil and gas.

Big problems require big solutions and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty provides that framework to address the climate crisis in an equitable way. Stockholm+50 governments must therefore finally begin to treat the climate crisis with the urgency it demands, listen to the science and answer over a decade of demands from frontline communities, especially from the Global South and Indigenous People’s, calling for a just transition away from fossil fuels.

The energy transition is possible today with existing technologies that are already cost-competitive. - The good news is that a rapid global exit from coal, oil and gas is possible. The world has more than enough renewable energy resources to meet the energy demands of every person on earth and there is a surplus of fossil fuels already in production to burn past our climate goals.

A global just transition away from fossil fuels requires international cooperation with wealthy countries fulfilling their legal commitments to provide finance and technology to less wealthy countries. This is why momentum is building globally behind the proposal for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, a framework that can complement the Paris Agreement by facilitating an equitable phase out of coal, oil and gas in line with a 1.5°C target, with climate justice and the interests of developing countries at the core. Stockholm+50 is a key opportunity to initiate it.

We can do it. Just as the world gathered to ban landmines and nuclear weapons, we can agree to phase out fossil fuels. The technology and budgets exist, all that is required is the political will and international mechanisms to manage the transition. Military expenditure has risen to nearly $2 trillion — shifting even a fraction of these military budgets together with existing resources, skills and technology could sufficiently manage a global transition away from coal, oil and gas.
FOSSIL FUEL SUPPLY & THE SDGS:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will also be a major focus of Stockholm+50. Communications on the fact that the fossil fuel industry undermines the majority of the SDGs may also create useful diplomatic traction. In summary, addressing fossil fuel supply can support the SDGs specifically:

Goal 1 on poverty – by reducing the resource curse and associated economic and political corruption;

Goal 3 on good health – by reducing air, water and land pollution;

Goal 5 on gender equality – by reducing greater impacts on women & girls, various forms of related violence and changing power structures;

Goal 6 on clean water – by reducing excessive water use and pollution;

Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy – by shifting from dirty coal, oil and gas power to clean renewable energy;

Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth – by shifting to renewables, providing cleaner, safer and more abundant jobs and economic opportunities than continued investment in fossil fuels, which threatens to strand assets, communities and economies;

Goal 10 on reduced inequalities – a just transition to decentralised renewable energy systems and diversified economies is more likely to decentralise economic wealth and political power;

Goal 11 on sustainable cities – by cities taking action to phase out fossil fuels within their jurisdictions and calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

Goal 12 on sustainable production and consumption – continued production and consumption of fossil fuels and derived products is a major cause of the triple climate, ecological and pollution crisis;

Goal 13 on climate action – fossil fuels are the greatest threat to a stable climate with current plans to produce more than double the fossil fuels consistent with 1.5°C by 2030, during the Decade of Action;

Goal 14 on life below water – continued offshore oil and gas exploration is a major threat to marine ecosystems, and climate change and ocean acidification threatens ocean ecosystems world-wide;

Goal 15 on life on the land – the fossil fuel industry is fuelling the extinction crisis, both via climate change as a major driver of ecological decline, and via continued expansion into some of the world’s most socially and ecologically sensitive regions such as the Amazon, Arctic and Antarctic;

Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions – on the basis that conflicts over fossil fuels has fuelled regional and international conflict, displacement of communities and increased migration seeking refuge, a concentration of military power, and is actively financing extremist and anti-democratic political actors – including in established democracies.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

1. Ensure your participation in relevant stakeholder meetings and consultations to raise these issues and make submissions to the process.

   Organize within a recognised UN major group to see them advance this issue;

   Consider attending and engaging at UNEA 5 and the March 28th preparatory meeting in NYC.

2. Set a meeting with your local or national government to brief them on Stockholm+50 and the need for it to consider and discuss fossil fuel supply

   Consider asking them to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty

3. Respond to Swedish civil society’s call for solidarity and action around Stockholm+50 (public demand forthcoming)