

# Letter to World Bank President and Executive Directors calling for more action on climate change

**18 October 2019**

**Mr. David Malpass, President, World Bank  
Group, 1818 H St., NW Washington, DC 20433**

Dear President Malpass:

The signs of the unfolding climate emergency are evident: record-breaking forest fires in the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado biomes; ice-melt in the Arctic; devastating flooding in Mozambique and South Asia; and unprecedented and deadly heatwaves across Europe in just the past year.

World leaders and institutions have a responsibility to act now to stop the climate catastrophe. Instead of helping countries make the transition out of fossil fuels, the World Bank Group (WBG), from 2014 to 2018 alone, has facilitated fossil fuel development in 45 countries, either through project finance or development policy finance and technical assistance according to data gathered by environmental group, urgewald, from the World Bank website.

During this period, the WBG provided over \$12 billion in project finance for 88 fossil fuel projects in 38 countries. In addition, the WBG assisted the development of fossil fuels through policy programs in at least 28 countries, including the development of coal in six countries.

Given this reality, plus the fundamental threat that climate change poses to the Bank's mission, **we call on the World Bank to play a leading role among MDBs by committing to end all support for fossil fuels by the end of 2020, and signal the immediate shift to a carbonneutral world that is necessary to stabilize the global climate.** This shift should be accompanied by increased investments in renewable energy access, particularly in SubSaharan Africa and South Asia, where access rates to electricity and clean cooking remain low.

**Specifically, we call on the World Bank to:**

- **Phase out lending for all fossil fuels after 2020,**

including lending for 'associated facilities' for fossil fuel projects.

- **Require all IFC financial intermediaries to divest from all fossil fuels, not just coal**, through adopting a robust final version of the IFC's proposed Green Equity Approach which ends all fossil fuel investments as soon as possible.

- **Devote at least 40% of finance to climate by 2020**, to match or exceed targets set by peer institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

- **Develop a strategy roadmap to mainstream off-grid renewable energy into its energy portfolio**, and significantly ramp up public and private finance and policy and technical support for this, to meet demand and achieve energy access for all by 2030.

- **Support calls for an automatic funding mechanism, including debt relief**, through the UNFCCC to assist countries confronted with loss and damage because of climate disasters.

- **Adhere to the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, specifically pertaining to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The World Bank must respect and listen to the voices of communities affected by development projects and programs that the Bank is financing.

- **Prioritize recycling, re-use, substitution, energy efficiency, reduced consumption and a circular economy over facilitation of new mineral mining.**

- **Prepare a strategy for all multilateral institutions to fund activities that reduce global warming and increase biodiversity.**

The World Bank Group has been a major supporter of fossil fuel projects since its establishment. As it marks its 75th anniversary, the Bank has a responsibility to respond to the climate emergency by unequivocally ending support for fossil fuel-based development. The World Bank must also encourage other public finance institutions, the private sector, and markets to take steps immediately to halt global warming and replenish biodiversity.

We look forward to your prompt action to demonstrate the Bank's leadership in confronting this epochal threat to life on Earth.

**Sincerely,**

14 Poles Productions Inc.

350 Spokane

350.org

Abibiman Foundation

ActionAid International

African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access

ACSEA

Amazon Watch

Anthropocene Alliance

Arab Watch Regional Coalition

Association Des 3 Herissons

Association for the protection of the environment and sustainable development of Bizerte (APEDDUB) Tunisia

Bank Information Center  
Bank Information Center Europe  
BankTrack  
Bayansharga NGO  
Bayarsaikhan Namsrai  
Bio Vision Africa  
Both ENDS  
Bretton Woods Project, UK  
BRICS Feminist Watch  
CAN International  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
Centre for Human Rights and Development  
Christian Aid  
Citizens' Climate Lobby  
CLEAN (Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action  
Network)  
Climate and Health Alliance  
Climate Change Network Nigeria  
CliMates  
CODEPINK  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Detroitters Working for Environmental Justice  
Divest Invest Protect  
Durable (PNASC-CED) du Mali  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
EcoEquity  
Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO)  
Ecumenical Advocacy Network on the Philippines  
Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health  
Organization (EEECHO)

Elders Climate Action  
Environmental Protection Society Malaysia  
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria.  
Foundation for Environmental Management and  
Campaign Against Poverty  
Freedom From Debt Coalition  
Fridays For Future  
Fridays For Future USA  
Friends of the Earth Japan  
Friends of the Earth US  
Fundeps  
Gemeingut in Bürgerinnenhand (GiB) e.V.  
Gender Action  
Global Rights  
Government Citizen Partnership NGO  
Greenpeace  
Health Care Without Harm  
Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah  
Heinrich Böll Stiftung Washington, DC  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Hivos  
Incomindios  
Institute for Policy Studies- Global Economy Project  
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense  
(AIDA)  
International Rivers  
Jail and Prison Rehabilitation Information Community  
Outreach Program  
Jamaa Resource Initiatives  
Kwataniza Wimen Farmers Group  
LGBT Centre

Lumiere Synergie pour le Developpement  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light  
Nadi Ghati Morcha-India  
National Center Against Violence  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NGO Forum on ADB  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service (anti-nuclear  
NGO)  
Occupy Bergen County (NJ)  
Oil Change International  
Oyu Tolgoi Watch  
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)  
Partnership for Earth Spirituality  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness  
Progressive Democrats Of America  
Progressive Democrats Of America- California  
Rachel Carson Council  
Save Lamu  
Sierra Leone Consortium for Climate Change and  
Sustainable Development (SLeCCSuD)  
South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light  
Sri Lanka Nature Group  
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network  
SustainUS  
Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact  
The Climate Mobilization  
The Imani Group  
The Oakland Institute  
The People's Justice Council (The PJC)  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
urgewald (Germany)  
Utah Moms for Clean Air  
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment  
War on Want  
We Women Lanka  
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)  
Youth For Environment Education And Development  
Foundation (YFEED Foundation)  
Zo Indigenous Forum

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**Cc: World Bank Executive Directors**

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