



BANKING ON Renewables

Statement to the multilateral development banks

Criteria for public investments in 100% renewable energy for climate, for people, for the planet

In response to the urgent need for global climate action, the COP28 climate negotiations set a target to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, demanding a significant transfer of public finance towards the expansion of clean energy systems.

The Banking on Renewables campaign, supported by the undersigned civil society organisations, asserts that all public climate finance for renewable energy must be used to deliver a just and inclusive energy transition, while delivering universal energy access.

This is in line with the mandate¹ for multilateral development banks (MDBs) set by the G20 to eliminate extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity, and contribute to global public goods including the health of the planet. It also supports the call in the United Nations Pact for the Future² for reform of the international financial architecture so that it can meet the urgent challenge of climate change and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Banking on Renewables campaign calls for all public climate finance for renewable energy to uphold the following criteria:

Criteria 1: Finance a transition towards a new 100% renewable future



Public investments in renewable energy must actively support the phase out of fossil fuels by establishing a fully sustainable and 100% renewable energy system, avoiding false solutions and the lock-in of carbon intensive infrastructure.

Criteria 2: Ensure a democratic energy system for all



Projects should stop prioritising private profit as the main objective of renewable energy investments, and instead prioritise benefits for women, Indigenous Peoples and other marginalised groups, youth, farmers, and local businesses. Public finance should focus on creating more diverse energy systems with increased local ownership and more decentralised energy systems.

Criteria 3: Put people and nature at the heart of energy transition



All investments must centre the role of civil society and communities, including women, Indigenous Peoples and youth, as active stakeholders in decision making, respecting the right of Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, while minimising harmful social, environmental and human rights impacts of the energy system.

The campaign will assess all MDB energy related policies and projects against these criteria. Public climate finance for renewable energy must deliver a just energy transition and enhance outcomes for sustainable development. We propose the following action plan for MDBs to adopt immediately.

Ten point action plan for public finance institutions

In consultation with civil society and project-affected communities, public finance institutions should act now to:

1. **Support countries to produce and implement ambitious just and inclusive energy transition plans**, to fully phase out fossil fuels while enhancing shared economic development through building diverse, efficient renewable energy systems.
2. **Adopt a renewables-only energy taxonomy** that promotes sustainable and inclusive renewable energy technologies but excludes all finance and policy advice for fossil fuel dependent projects and known damaging technologies such as large scale hydro-power, waste to energy and industrial biofuels.
3. **Remove all false solutions**, including CCUS, hydrogen ready fossil gas infrastructure, and carbon markets that extend fossil fuel use and encourage low-income countries to adopt risky technologies that are technologically and economically unproven.
4. **Provide grant-based climate finance for renewable energy** so as not to aggravate already high debt stress in many countries.
5. **Develop and implement just and inclusive transition indicators so that all energy projects are accountable for development benefit**, including for women, youth, decent work, agriculture, local business and small-medium enterprise, health and education.
6. **Make it mandatory to involve affected communities** in making decisions about, developing, implementing and monitoring renewable energy project delivery.
7. **Ensure finance is accessible at the local level** for delivery of diverse and decentralised energy systems that make clean energy accessible and affordable.
8. **Promote renewable energy technology and knowledge transfer** to people who need it and empower national capacities to build and maintain energy needs for the future.
9. **Strengthen safeguards and enhance social and environmental accountability of all public money**, including from the MDBs, and through MDB-financed financial intermediaries. Ensure communities have recourse to remedy when harm is done.
10. **Adopt the guidance from the United Nations Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals**,³ and adhere to its principles that call for due care for human rights, biodiversity, equity and Indigenous rights, and for value addition for mineral-rich countries.

¹ Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks: The Triple Agenda Report of the G20 Independent Experts Group, 1 September 2023. <https://www.github.org/resources/publications/strengthening-multilateral-development-banks-the-triple-agenda-report-of-the-g20-independent-experts-group/>

² The Pact for the Future, United Nations General Assembly, 20 September 2024 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/252/89/pdf/n2425289.pdf>

³ UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals unveils Actions and Principles for Justice and Equity, 11 September 2024 https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/un-panel-critical-energy-transition-minerals-unveils-actions-and-principles-justice-and-equity-2024-09-11_en

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Supporting organisations

The Banking on Renewables criteria for public investments in 100% renewable energy for climate, for people, for planet are supported by:



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