

Colombia leads Latin America in the call for the non-proliferation of fossil fuels

STORY:

Dubai, United Arab Emirates December 2, 2023 @MinAmbienteCol President Gustavo Petro in an official event together with the governments of Vanuatu and Tuvalu, announced to the world Colombia's official support to the call for a Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty, thus becoming the first Latin American country to lead this proposal, with which it seeks to influence the COP28 negotiations and advance international cooperation to move away from fossil fuel dependence.

Colombia's support for this proposal demonstrates the political will of the Government of Change with the climate commitments to phase out oil and gas, which implies, along the way, a serious economic plan for the development of a just transition that responds to the call made by science to address the effects of the climate crisis.

"It is a paradox that here at this table, where the front line of the peoples that could disappear due to the climate crisis is present, is a country like the one I represent, because we also live from oil and coal, and because in my country the simple fact that I am sitting at this table requesting to sign a treaty of non-proliferation of fossil fuels in the world, which implies zero new exploration, which even implies zero new exploitation projects in the world, given that the current deposits already found, if exploited, will take us to a temperature of three degrees Celsius, that is, to the brink of vital collapse on the planet" commented Petro.

Key Points:

- Colombia is the first Latin American country to support the global call for a treaty to phase out the world's dependence on fossil fuels.
- This initiative is based on three fundamental pillars: the first is to promote the prohibition of all new extraction projects; the second is a progressive phase-out of fuel production projects; and the third is a just global transition for countries, workers and communities, allowing access to renewable energies and diversifying the economy, with differentiated responsibility for the richest countries, those most responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases.
- In September 2020, the global campaign backed by a diplomatic initiative in favor of a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty was launched and has since

received the support of institutions, opinion leaders and governments from all walks of life.

- By promoting this treaty, Colombia is part of a pioneering group leading a regional and global diplomatic effort in favor of climate action.

The Treaty proposal seeks, among other things, to respond to the social call for unity to prohibit the accelerated expansion of new exploration projects, thus opening a window of opportunity for a progressive and fair exit to the current production of fossil fuels. This call made by the country is intended to inspire other governments in the region and the world to take joint steps to achieve a negotiating mandate for a Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Colombia would be the ninth country on four continents to support this initiative, which has already been recognized by Vanuatu; Tuvalu; Fiji; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Niue; Timor-Leste and Antigua and Barbuda. It has also been supported by the European Parliament, 101 Nobel laureates, the World Health Organization, more than 3,000 scientists and academics, 2,000 civil society organizations, thousands of young activists, 100 cities including Quibdo, Lima, Los Angeles, Calcutta, Vancouver, London and Warsaw, and more than 600 parliamentarians from around the world, among others.