Re: Japan Must Commit to Ending All Fossil Fuel Financing

Dear Mr. Abe, Mr. Aso, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Kishida, Mr. Hayashi, Mr. Kitaoka, and Mr. Bando:

The undersigned groups urge Japan to announce a commitment at the G7 meeting to stop fossil fuel financing. Such a commitment should provide a clear mandate to Japanese government agencies to immediately begin phasing out financing for new fossil fuel and nuclear projects by no later than 2017 – the year at which scientists say no new fossil fuel power plants can be built to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.¹ This is essential to demonstrate to the world that Japan’s endorsement of the Paris Agreement is more than words and that Japan is willing to do its fair share² of climate action.

Japan must immediately begin to shift financing away from fossil fuels and nuclear power towards clean, sustainable renewable energy, such as wind and solar, based on the local community’s Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Domestically, Japan has a wealth of renewable resources that it should use to transition away from fossil fuels, and its own studies have shown that Japan has 1,900 GW of wind energy resources alone.³ Japan is falling behind other countries, such as China, that have greatly increased their renewable capacity.

Internationally, Japan has a history of encouraging continued dependence on fossil fuels, even as the climate science and deadly climate impacts have shown the urgent need to keep fossil fuels in the ground. This includes Japanese financing of liquefied natural gas projects throughout the world, including the United States and Indonesia.⁴ In addition, while the United States and France have placed limitations on their financing of coal projects abroad, Japan has provided


² The Civil Society Equity Review of the INDCs provides a framework for judging fair shares of countries such as Japan. Available at: http://civilsocietyreview.org/


over US$20 billion in coal financing abroad between 2007 and 2014, making Japan the world’s number one financier of overseas coal. It is time for Japan to support strong implementation and improvement of the OECD restrictions on coal financing, as well as advocate for restrictions on other fossil fuels and greater support for cutting edge, clean and sustainable energy alternatives.

As the President of the G7, Japan has an obligation to be a leader, not a laggard on climate. First, Japan must stop subsidizing fossil fuels overseas. Prime Minister Abe’s government should reject support for dangerous fossil fuel projects, including the Yamal LNG, which would devastate this sensitive area and take land from nomadic herders; and for the Batang coal-fired power plant in Central Java, Indonesia, and the Darlipali coal-fired power project in Odisha, India, which are both rife with human rights abuses. On the home front, it is time for Japan to reject the fossil fuel and nuclear technologies of last century and instead embrace the clean and sustainable energy future that will reestablish Japan as a global technology leader. Initiating new fossil fuel projects in 2016 risks locking in damaging carbon pollution for decades. As Japan gets ready to host this year’s G7 summit, the world is watching. It is time for Japan to lead or at least take responsibility for its emissions.

Sincerely,

Argentina
Amigos de la Tierra Argentina

Australia
Friends of the Earth Brisbane Co-op Ltd
Market Forces
Sustainable Population Australia

Belgium
11.11.11 Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Center for Environment/FoE BiH
SEE Change Net

Bulgaria
Za Zemiata/Friends of the Earth Bulgaria

Cameroon
Centre for Environment and Development

Canada
Above Ground

Friends of the Earth Canada

Czech Republic
CEE Bankwatch Network

Denmark
NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark

El Salvador
CESTA Friends of the Earth El Salvador

France
Les Amis de la Terre
Climate Action Network France/ Réseau Action Climat France

Germany
Urgewald

Hungary
National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary
**Iceland**
Iceland Nature Conservation Association

**India**
Beyond Copenhagen Collective
Environics
Global Human Rights Communications
Nonviolence Again

**Indonesia**
Aksi!for gender, social and ecological justice
Greenpeace Indonesia
TKPT
WALHI - Friends of the Earth Indonesia

**International/Regional**
CAN Europe
Friends of the Earth International
Greenpeace International
Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)

**Japan**
350.org Japan
Friends of the Earth Japan
Fukuoka NGO forum on ADB
Greenpeace Japan
Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN)
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
Kiko Network
Mekong Watch
No Nuks! Noniyuku-kai

**Malaysia**
Friends of the Earth Malaysia

**Mozambique**
JA!Justica Ambiental/FOEMozambique

**Myanmar**
Association of Advancing Life and Regenerating Motherland (ALARM)

**Nepal**
Digo Bikas Institute

**Netherlands**
Both ENDS

**Nigeria**
Climate Change Network Nigeria
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria

**Peru**
TierrActiv Peru

**Philippines**
Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance Against Mining-Philippines)
Ecological Society of the Philippines

**Poland**
Polski Klub Ekologiczny-FoE Poland

**Russia**
Russian Social-Eological Union / FoE Russia

**Sierra Leone**
Friends of the Earth Sierra Leone

**Spain**
Amigos de la Tierra
Ecologistas en Acción

**Sri Lanka**
Centre for Environmental Justice/FoE Sri Lanka

**Switzerland**
Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth Switzerland

**Taiwan**
Taiwan Environmental Protection Union
**The Gambia**
Worldview-The Gambia

**Timor-Leste (East Timor)**
Haburas Foundation/ Friends of the Earth Timor-Leste

**Togo**
Les Amis de la Terre - Togo

**United Kingdom**
E3G
Elders Climate Action
Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Friends of the Earth Scotland

**United States**
350.org
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Earth Day Network
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Greenpeace USA
KyotoUSA
Liology Institute
Oil Change International
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network, International (WECAN)

**Vietnam**
GreenID