

May 19, 2016

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister  
Mr. Taro Aso, Minister of Finance  
Mr. Hiroshi Watanabe, Governor, CEO, Japan Bank for International Cooperation  
Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Motoo Hayashi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry  
Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Mr. Kazuhiko Bando, Chairman and CEO, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance

**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.<sup>1</sup> 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 share<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> In addition, while the United States and France have placed limitations on their financing of coal projects abroad, Japan has provided

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander Pfeiffer et al., *The '2°C Capital Stock' for Electricity Generation: Committed Cumulative Carbon Emissions from the Electricity Generation Sector and the Transition to a Green Economy*, ENERGY APPLIED (2016), <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306261916302495>. Therefore, even the G7 goal of phasing out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025 is too late. See G7 Kitakyushu Energy Ministerial Meeting, Kitakyushu Initiative on Energy Security for Global Growth Joint Statement, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan, May 2, 2016, <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/energy/160502-statement.html>.

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

<sup>3</sup> MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT (MOE), STUDY OF POTENTIAL FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY (2011), [https://www.env.go.jp/earth/report/h23-03/summary\\_en.pdf](https://www.env.go.jp/earth/report/h23-03/summary_en.pdf) (English summary).

<sup>4</sup> Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Energy and Natural Resources Finance Group, <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/about/surrounding/energy>.

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 Nukes! 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**

TierraActiva Peru

### **Philippines**

Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance Against  
Mining-Philippines)

Ecological Society of the Philippines

### **Poland**

Polski Klub Ekologiczny-FoE Poland

### **Russia**

Russian Social-Ecological 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