



COP27 Briefing Document



Produced by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition

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Introduction

Stop Climate Chaos is a coalition of civil society organizations campaigning to ensure Ireland does its fair share to tackle the causes and consequences of the climate crisis. Members include development, environmental, youth and faith based organisations. Stop Climate Chaos has been campaigning for a rapid and just transition to a carbon-free future since 2007.

COP27 takes place at a time of global compounding crises all linked to the climate emergency: from the COVID-19 pandemic, to the effects of Russia's abhorrent invasion of Ukraine, food and energy prices, to biodiversity loss, to ever increasing climate impacts, there has never been a more important time for international cooperation and leadership.

This year climate chaos brought historic levels of rain, heat, drought, fires and storms impacting almost every part of the world. Flooding in Pakistan killed more than 1,500 people and displaced 10's of millions. In the Horn of Africa millions are starving due to an extreme drought. Europe experienced its worst drought in 500 years. All of this in the space of the last 9 months. These are not random events but are clearly attributable to the climate crisis, and fully in line with repeated warnings from scientific experts.

Summary of Recommendations from the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition

COP27 must close the ambition gap

- COP27 must deliver **strengthened climate policies** if we are to have any chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C. Global GHG emissions must **peak immediately (or by 2025 at the latest), reduce by about half by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050.**¹
- COP27 Governments must make substantial progress in **ramping up the ambition of NDCs, set ambitious 2030 targets, and provide clarity on what limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C means** for the remaining carbon budget, emission reductions and fossil fuel phase-out targets.
- It is expected that there will be considerable negotiation around the "Mitigation Work Programme" at COP27 which will aim to scale up mitigation ambition. A mark of success will be whether COP27 **defines and delivers an ambitious and equitable Mitigation Work Programme.**

Ramp up climate finance for mitigation and adaptation

- COP27 must ensure the **urgent implementation of the \$100 billion Climate Finance Delivery Plan** which was agreed at COP26.
- 3 things are important on this front:
 1. Climate finance must be **targeted** (i.e. it reaches the communities that need it most), **additional** (i.e. new and additional to overseas development aid), and **fit for purpose** (i.e. grants rather than loans, and transparent regular reporting). CAN Europe are also calling for the **timebound**

tracking of adaptation finance as a key outcome of COP27 with its own delivery plan.²

2. It must include **concrete numbers and clear country-specific plans** on how adaptation finance goals will be achieved.
 3. Adaptation finance must be **guided by the needs of the recipient countries**, should be **locally led**, and **grant based** funding should be substantially increased.
 4. COP27 must establish a clear roadmap to ensure that **at least 50% of total climate finance goes to adaptation** and ensure that **adaptation is addressed comprehensively in the post-2025 climate finance regime**. It must equally ensure the quality of this climate finance and ensure transparent accountability processes for it.
- Countries need to make **progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** in Egypt. Established under Art. 7.1 of the Paris Agreement, the GGA focuses on building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Create a financing mechanism for Loss and Damage

- Rich emitting countries must commit to addressing loss and damage in those countries experiencing the worst impacts of the climate crisis by providing **new and additional funding for loss and damage** based on the polluter pays principle.
- **Ireland should follow the lead of Denmark** and pledge new and additional Loss and Damage finance, and work at COP27 for the **formal establishment of the UN Loss and Damage Funding Facility**.
- The **Santiago Network on Loss and Damage needs to be fully operationalised**, catalysing reliable action and support to countries and communities most at risk of loss and damage.
- Loss and Damage needs to be a **permanent, standalone agenda item** at future COPs to ensure political traction.
- As recommended by Secretary General Antonio Guterres,³ governments should **effectively tax the windfall profits of fossil fuels to fund a loss and damage finance facility**.

Ireland must submit its “Long Term Strategy” and prioritise bold, fast climate action

- For Ireland to take a leadership role at COP27 the Government must deliver on its EU commitments and **submit the national Long Term Strategy to the European Commission before COP**.
- It is now essential that Ireland **prioritises immediate bold, fast, and substantive measures** which support a phase out of polluting emissions across all sectors, while meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable and improving their quality life.

Fossil fuel phase out - the importance of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

- At COP27 Ireland should **endorse the civil-society proposal for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** to manage a fair and rapid phase out of fossil fuels, support workers and communities and transition rapidly to renewable energy.⁴
- Ireland has an opportunity at COP27 to demonstrate climate leadership by **calling on other wealthy countries to join BOGA**.

- Support calls at EU level to cease any deals to expand gas production and infrastructure in Africa, reaffirm the COP26 Glasgow Statement to halt investment in new gas and oil, and apply it to projects not yet developed.

COP 27 – What is it? Why is it important?

The COP or the “Conference of the Parties” is the annual summit of all states under the UN’s main climate treaty, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This year marks 30 years since the UNFCCC was established and 6 years since the Paris Agreement entered into force. COP is hosted by a different government every year - the first COP (COP1) took place in Berlin in 1995 and the most recent (COP26) took place in Glasgow last year. The 27th COP meeting will take place from Sunday 6th November to Friday 18th of November in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt.

The annual COP meetings are the main international forum for collective action on the climate crisis. The COP is essentially a series of meetings where all state representatives come together and seek to reach agreement on common actions to reduce polluting emissions and deal with climate impacts. It is not just world leaders that attend; ministers, negotiators, businesses, civil society, international organisations and the media all take part.

COPs are vast and complicated affairs with dozens of interlinked negotiations running in parallel. Several of these relate to the implementation of various elements of the Paris Agreement signed in 2015. Some of these negotiations are sensitive in terms of who must do what and by when, while others are highly technical. Although everything now rests on the scale and speed of action, the COP negotiations often make progress at a very slow pace, and unpacking the various negotiation outcomes and translating these into action by states remains highly problematic.

Stop Climate Chaos Coalition Recommendations

We see COP27 as a key moment to drive forward emission reductions and to place climate justice at the heart of international climate policy. Now is the time to put pressure on Governments to take climate justice seriously. Climate justice demands that wealthy, high-emitting countries who are responsible for the climate crisis do their fair share to reduce emissions. It also demands that they provide financing to poorer countries both in order to support emissions reductions and adaptation measures in these countries, as well as to compensate these countries for irreversible losses and damages (known as ‘Loss and Damage’ finance) already being suffered by frontline communities.

The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition is calling for the principle of climate justice to be respected at COP27 in the following five areas:

1: COP27 must close the ambition gap and go beyond the rhetoric of “striving for 1.5”

COP26 in 2021 aimed to secure agreement between all states which signed the Paris Agreement on how they would set their national climate pledges to reduce emissions (known as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs⁵). While there were some successes at COP26 such as a more transparent framework for reporting emissions and common timeframes for emissions reductions targets, there were criticisms that one of the main outcomes of COP26, the Glasgow Climate Pact⁶, did not deliver crucial climate finance for mitigation or adaptation and did not deliver Loss and Damage finance for countries in the Global South, and failed to fully address the complexity and urgency of phasing out fossil fuels.

The emissions cuts that were pledged in states NDCs prior to Glasgow were insufficient to limit warming to the Paris Agreement objectives. COP26 ended with a call for countries to submit improved (or “ratcheted up”) NDCs before COP27 recognising that we are now in very dangerous territory. Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide all reached new record highs in 2021.⁷

Time is not on our side and faster and deeper emission cuts are needed. So far, only a handful of high emitting countries (e.g. Australia, Brazil) have submitted their updated pledge ahead of COP27 covering just 15% of global emissions.⁸ Ireland forms part of the EU’s new pledge which is for “at least 55% net emission reductions by 2030”. Although ambitious, this target should be at least 65% in order to be in line with the 1.5°C goal.⁹

The world has already warmed by 1.2 degrees.¹⁰ Globally, existing pledges with no further action would put the world at 2.8°C of warming by 2100 which would be devastating for natural and human systems.¹¹ As stated by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the 1.5 target is on “life support”¹² and overshooting 1.5 degrees of warming, even temporarily, will bring irreversible and devastating impacts.¹³ The risks both for ecosystems and human systems are significantly higher at 2°C than at 1.5°C.¹⁴ For example, there are dramatic differences in extreme heat, extreme weather events, summer ice in the Arctic, and food yield loss - many of these impacts are 2 to 10 times worse at 2°C.¹⁵

COP27 will see the publication of the 2022 NDC update report, as well as a new report on the UNFCCC Long Term Low Emission Development Strategies. These reports will feed into a new Mitigation Work Programme. We are concerned that these may be used as an opportunity to promote net zero plans, carbon offsets, and shifting mitigation responsibilities to the Global South.¹⁶

COP27 should also see further discussions on the question of whether emission avoidance activities (including REDD/+) can be allowed as offset credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Last year at COP26 in Glasgow, countries agreed on Article 6 rules, opening the floodgates for the deployment and expansion of global carbon markets that will further undermine already inadequate climate action and harm communities greatly.

An often-overlooked threat associated with carbon markets and offsets is the vast amounts of agricultural land, forests and other ecosystems that would be needed to fulfil the demand for offset

credits. So-called 'nature based solutions' (NBS) are the idea of promoting large-scale projects and initiatives which supposedly contribute to the protection and preservation of ecosystems as carbon offsets. However, these can simply provide cover for continued high levels of emissions.¹⁷

Recommendations:

- COP27 must deliver **strengthened climate policies** if we are to have any chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C. Global GHG emissions must peak immediately (or by 2025 at the latest), reduce by about half by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050.¹⁸
- COP27 Governments must make substantial progress in **ramping up the ambition of NDCs, set ambitious 2030 targets, and provide clarity on what limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C means** for the remaining carbon budget, emission reductions and fossil fuel phase-out targets.
- It is expected that there will be considerable negotiation around the "Mitigation Work Programme" at COP27 which will aim to scale up mitigation ambition. The details of this programme will be negotiated in Egypt. According to the recent IPCC report, net global GHG emissions must fall by at least 43% by 2030 as compared to 2019 levels to have a more than 50% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot.¹⁹ A mark of success will be whether COP27 **defines and delivers an ambitious and equitable Mitigation Work Programme.**

2: What is Ireland's responsibility?

This is the critical decade for international climate action and Ireland must do its fair share of the global effort to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, specifically limiting temperature increase to "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C".²⁰ Globally, we need more than three times as much mitigation as is currently planned for a 1.5°C pathway by 2030.²¹ The effort to ramp up global action by more than 3-fold must be fast and countries must contribute their fair share to the global effort taking historical responsibility and capacity to act into account.

As illustrated by the recent Civil Society Equity Review,²² which is endorsed by over 200 civil society organisations, responsibility does not lie with countries "in aggregate" as both the responsibility for climate breakdown and the resources needed to tackle it are not equally shared. Some countries bear greater responsibility for the emissions that have caused the climate crisis but those same countries also have greater capacity to act due to wealth and access to technologies, for example. According to the basic principles of climate justice and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities in the UN Convention on Climate Change (which Ireland has signed up to), wealthy, high-emitting countries like Ireland, its partner Member States in the EU, as well as the US and others, must cut emissions more steeply and quickly, reach net zero as quickly as possible and before 2050, and secure a system-wide, transformational decline in the use of fossil fuels.

In terms of domestic policy, Ireland has committed to net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. This Act is also not Paris-aligned but established an improved climate governance regime through the introduction of 5-yearly carbon budgets and the development of annual Climate Action Plans which must align with the 2030 and 2050 objectives. The first two carbon budgets (2021-2025, 2026-2030) were approved in April 2022 and the sectoral emission ceilings were set

for each sector of the Irish economy in July 2022. The two carbon budgets to 2030, while challenging, are still well short of our fair share of the effort required to fulfil the Paris Agreement. Ireland will continue to use up an oversized portion of the remaining global carbon budget for the rest of this decade. **The focus of the Government must now shift to urgently progressing actions in the Climate Action Plan in order to hold emissions well within the limits set by the carbon budgets.** The Government is due to produce a new Climate Action Plan in November 2022.

Turning to EU requirements - in order to be a credible player at the COP, Ireland must submit the national "Long Term Strategy"²³ to the European Commission. Ireland is among a handful of countries²⁴ who have not yet done so. Under EU law, the Government is obliged to set out a Long Term Strategy which sets out the steps Ireland must take to achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest, keeping in mind 2050 is the legal backstop deadline with Ireland expected to make even earlier progress as a leading Member State. It is an important mechanism in ensuring the EU achieves its collective net zero goal. In recent weeks, the European Commission has given Ireland a formal notice²⁵ for failing to comply with a key element of EU climate law. This Strategy, together with the forthcoming Climate Action Plan, will set out the big and bold actions needed to get to net zero as soon as possible so Ireland does its fair share, cuts polluting emissions, and protects vulnerable communities.

Recommendations

- For Ireland to take a leadership role at COP27 the Government must deliver on its EU commitments and submit the national **Long Term Strategy** before COP.
- It is now essential that **Ireland prioritises immediate bold, fast, and substantive measures which support a phase out of polluting emissions across all sectors, while meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable and improving their quality life.**

3. Ramp up climate finance for mitigation and adaptation

The other big issue at COP 27 is the need to scale up financing for climate mitigation and adaptation.

In 2009 rich countries agreed to deliver \$100 billion per year by 2020 in climate finance to fund both climate mitigation and adaptation for developing countries. In 2015, the goal was formalised and extended through Article 9 of the Paris Agreement which states that "developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation".²⁶ Every COP since 2009 has reiterated the 100 bn/year goal, but over time the language has been watered down and the 100 bn/year goal has not been delivered.²⁷ While the \$100billion figure may appear to be extremely large, this amount was the product of political negotiations and was not based on real needs, which are much greater. Recent analysis estimates that developing countries would require almost USD 6 trillion up to 2030²⁸ in order to be able to deliver less than 50% of their conditionally pledged climate action plans under the Paris Agreement.²⁹

Latest OECD figures show that USD 83.3bn was provided by developed countries for climate action in developing countries in 2020.³⁰ While increasing by 4% from 2019, this was USD 16.7bn short of the USD 100 billion per year by 2020 goal, and mitigation finance still represented the majority (58%) in 2020, despite a USD 2.8bn drop compared to 2019.³¹ ³²Adaptation finance grew, in both absolute (USD 8.3bn increase compared to 2019) and relative terms (34% in 2020 compared to 25% in 2019).³³ However, recent Oxfam analysis argues that these figures are significantly overstated.³⁴ Further, ODI analysis shows

that the US, Canada, and Australia continue to “fall massively short” on climate finance, with “the US overwhelmingly responsible for the climate finance gap having provided just 5% of its fair share in 2020”.³⁵ In fact, only 7 countries provided their fair share in 2020, and pledged the full amount up to 2025.³⁶

Funding for adaptation for the poorest countries is urgently needed. Adaptation refers to how countries plan and prepare for the current and future impacts of climate change with a goal of reducing the risks associated with more intense storms, flooding, droughts etc.

Poorer countries in the Global South who have done least to cause the problem and who have the least capacity to respond are being hit the hardest and first, while wealthy countries are not doing their fair share to reduce emissions, address impacts and provide funding. While many countries have developed adaptation plans, most countries in the Global South are unable³⁷ to make the necessary changes without more funding. In addition, the costs of adaptation have been severely underestimated and as the impacts of climate change pick up pace and severity adaptation costs in developing countries will continue to grow, and are “estimated to be five to ten times greater than current international public adaptation finance flows”.³⁸ By 2030, it is estimated that approx. 300bn per year will be needed for adaptation, growing to 500bn a year by 2050.³⁹ At COP26 developed countries made a pledge to double financing for adaptation (taking the annual figure to approx. USD 40bn⁴⁰); however, this is still far less than what is needed right now by those on the frontlines of climate change.

Ireland is part of the [Adaptation Finance Champions Group](#) which pledges to improve the quantity and quality of adaptation finance flowing to developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Ireland focuses most of its international development cooperation and climate action in Least Developed

Countries (LDCs). While Ireland stands out for the grant-based and adaptation-oriented nature of its funding for international development and humanitarian assistance, recent analysis by Trócaire and Christian Aid⁴¹ and ODI⁴² has shown that climate finance should be increased from €225m a year by 2025 to €520m. It is also important to note that Ireland contributed around €88m in actual climate finance contributions in 2020, €5m less than in 2019.⁴³ ODI analysis shows that Ireland only met 37% of its fair share of climate finance in 2020, and was in the lower half of Annex II countries.⁴⁴ There must also be continued and increased focus on the quality, accountability and value of Ireland’s climate finance,⁴⁵ both in bilateral programmes and in the increasing use of multilateral banks, bodies, processes and institutions. Right now, Ireland is letting down the small island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific who voted for Ireland to be given a temporary UN security council seat, believing that Ireland would support climate resilience.

Recommendations:

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Europe are also calling for the **timebound tracking of adaptation finance** as a key outcome of COP27 with its own delivery plan.⁴⁶

2. It must include **concrete numbers and clear country-specific plans** on how adaptation finance goals will be achieved.
 3. Adaptation finance must be **guided by the needs of the recipient countries**, should be **locally led**, and **grant based** funding should be substantially increased.
- COP27 must establish a clear roadmap to ensure that **at least 50% of total climate finance goes to adaptation** and ensure that **adaptation is addressed comprehensively in the post-2025 climate finance regime**. It must equally ensure the quality of this climate finance and ensure transparent accountability processes for it in response to grave concerns raised by international 'shadow climate finance' reports.⁴⁷
 - Finally, countries need to make **progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** in Egypt. Established under Art. 7.1 of the Paris Agreement, the GGA focuses on building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts.

4. Create a financing mechanism for Loss and Damage

Loss and damage relates to a range of climate impacts that can no longer be avoided or adapted to – such as loss of life, access to territory, harm to human health, loss of indigenous knowledge, and damage to biodiversity and habitats. Severe climate impacts are already affecting millions across the Global South such as the drought being experienced in the Horn of Africa or the “monster monsoon” flooding that devastated Pakistan in recent weeks. Loss and Damage is a fundamental question of climate justice; the 54 countries in Africa combined account for 15% of the world’s population but are responsible for less than 4% of global GHG emissions as compared to approximately 23% by China, 19% by the US, and 13% from the European Union.⁴⁸

Loss and Damage is not a standing agenda item for COP27 despite the urgency and importance of fair and targeted financing. Group 77 (which includes almost all developing countries) and China have requested that Loss and Damage financing is added to the agenda and it is likely that this will be discussed and decided on the first days of the talks.

Climate vulnerable countries pushed for the creation of a new loss and damage funding facility at COP26, but their proposal was rejected by wealthy countries. Instead, the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage, which has no structure or mandated outcome, was established to discuss arrangements for loss and damage funding. At the Bonn negotiations in June 2022, several developing countries made clear that the talks must lead to a new finance facility as quickly as possible. This was countered by developed countries who argued that there are already mechanisms in place to channel funding for Loss and Damage such as the Green Climate Fund, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Shield, and that these should be strengthened rather than creating a new facility. However, this is not good enough since existing finance is wholly inadequate, and Loss and Damage finance needs are additional and distinct from those related to adaptation, development, and humanitarian assistance.

According to a recent report by Oxfam, Loss and Damage costs are estimated to reach between USD 290-580bn by 2030, and rising to the trillions by 2050.⁴⁹ Few wealthy countries have shown support for Loss and Damage finance, with Scotland pledging GBP 1m at COP26⁵⁰, New Zealand showing support for a funding facility at the Bonn talks⁵¹, and Denmark becoming the first European country to pledge USD 13m for loss and damage⁵². The Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) have launched a crowd sourcing loss and damage funding campaign to work towards elevating Loss and Damage at COP27.⁵³ Finally, little progress has been made on the advancement of the Santiago Network which aims to “catalyse technical assistance” to at-risk developing countries on loss and damage.

Recommendations:

- Rich emitting countries must commit to addressing loss and damage in those countries experiencing the worst impacts of the climate crisis by providing **new and additional funding for loss and damage based on the polluter pays principle**.
- **Ireland should follow the lead of Denmark** and pledge new and additional Loss and Damage finance, and work at COP27 for the **formal establishment of the UN Loss and Damage Funding Facility**.
- **The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage needs to be fully operationalised**, catalysing reliable action and support to countries and communities most at risk of loss and damage.
- Loss and Damage needs to be a **permanent, standalone agenda item** at future COPs to ensure political traction.
- As recommended by Secretary General Antonio Guterres,⁵⁴ governments should **effectively tax the windfall profits of fossil fuels to fund a loss and damage finance facility**.

5. Fossil fuel phase out - the importance of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

We need to keep fossil fuels in the ground through a dedicated international treaty. This means binding obligations to ensure no new fossil fuel investments and infrastructure at home or abroad, along with the phase-out of existing fossil fuel production. To fulfill the aims of the Paris Agreement, both domestic and international action and cooperation is needed to kick start the global phase-out of fossil fuel production to enable countries, support workers and communities, transition rapidly to renewable energy, and build more diverse economies.

A recent study published in *Nature* finds that at the very least 60% of oil and fossil methane gas, and 90% of coal need to stay in the ground unburned to have a 50% chance of keeping global heating to less than the Paris goal of 1.5C.⁵⁵ The authors warn that they “probably present an underestimate of the production changes required, because a greater than 50 per cent probability of limiting warming to 1.5 °C requires more carbon to stay in the ground and because of uncertainties around the timely deployment of negative emission technologies at scale”.⁵⁶ The International Energy Agency in their recent analysis of achieving net zero emissions globally by 2050 concluded that “beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there are no new oil and gas fields approved for development...Net zero means a huge decline in the use of fossil fuel”.⁵⁷

We are calling for the development of a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#)⁵⁸ in order to ensure an immediate end to exploration and expansion into new reserves to prevent the extraction of unnecessary

and unburnable fossil fuels along with a phase-out of existing fossil fuel production, to protect workers, communities and investments from becoming stranded, and to avoid locking the world into further warming.⁵⁹ Vanuatu and more than 65 cities and subnational governments around the world have endorsed the Treaty. The Vatican has followed suit, and most recently almost 200 health organisations joined the WHO in supporting a call for the Treaty to be ratified. In October 2022, the European Parliament passed a landmark resolution calling on Member States to ‘work on developing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty’.⁶⁰

In recent years Ireland has taken some positive steps with laws to prevent new licenses for oil and gas exploration in Irish waters (2021), to ban fracking (2017), and to make the state investment fund pull its money out of fossil fuels (2019). However, there is a long way to go.

Research has shown that Governments still plan to produce more than twice the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.⁶¹ European Governments projected to spend approximately 50 billion USD over the next months on new and expanded fossil fuel supplies and infrastructure.⁶² In Ireland, fossil fuels still accounted for 86% of all the energy used in 2020, Ireland’s fossil fuel subsidies were estimated at €2.4billion in 2019⁶³, the mandates of relevant public bodies are not aligned with climate commitments, and the risk of fossil fuel lock-in, particularly due to data centre development, remains very real.

In 2021 Ireland joined the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance⁶⁴ at COP26. BOGA is a diplomatic initiative to bring together states that have ended licensing for new oil and gas exploration and production and committed to a phase out of existing oil and gas production. It is the first such initiative to recognise the need for governments to manage the phase out of fossil fuel production in order to respond to the climate emergency and align with Paris Agreement commitments. BOGA will seek to address a clear process to phase out oil and gas production for both developed and developing countries. Crucially the BOGA provides a forum in which to progress negotiations among likeminded states for a Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty.⁶⁵

The call for the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty also draws on lessons from other treaties to manage global threats, such as nuclear weapons. For decades Ireland, thanks to the dedication of successive Ministers and officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs, have led the way on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation at UN level. Ireland should resource the development of a treaty on fossil fuels as an essential element of international peace and security, in the same way as it has supported the nuclear non-proliferation agenda.

There are also major concerns with fossil fuel expansion in Europe as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, including the gas crisis and associated cost of living crisis. Europe’s response to this crisis must not be to promote new oil and gas extraction and export infrastructure, particularly in Africa. It risks undermining African development, saddling countries with debts for export-oriented gas production for which there will be fewer and fewer customers as demand drops, leaving African people on the hook to cover the costs of these stranded assets. It is important that Ireland supports calls at EU level to cease any deals to expand gas production and infrastructure in Africa, reaffirm the COP26 Glasgow Statement to halt investment in new gas and oil, and apply it to projects not yet developed. EU Member States must instead prioritise gas demand reduction measures in Europe itself.⁶⁶

It is also important that the energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables avoids simply displacing injustice and exploitation onto other areas. Without new obligations on relevant industries, increased demand for renewables, metals and minerals for the renewable industry may lead to land grabs, pollution, exploitation. The sectors that supply these materials can often be poorly paid, have poor working conditions, limited labour protections and workers' rights, and can be associated with a range of negative health impacts for workers, social breakdown, pollution of local air, water, and soil.

Recommendations:

- At COP27 Ireland should endorse the civil-society proposal for a **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** to manage a fair and rapid phase out of fossil fuels, support workers and communities and transition rapidly to renewable energy.⁶⁷
- Ireland has an opportunity at COP27 to demonstrate climate leadership by calling on other wealthy countries to join **BOGA**.
- Support calls at EU level to cease any deals to expand gas production and infrastructure in Africa, reaffirm the COP26 Glasgow Statement to halt investment in new gas and oil, and apply it to projects not yet developed.

How can I get involved in the Irish Climate Movement?

Joining a local climate campaign group is a great way to get involved in the climate movement. **One Future**⁶⁸ is the network of local climate campaign groups supported by Stop Climate Chaos among others. It is the network to join if you want to take the next step in your climate campaigning after emailing your TDs. It connects you to other people in your area concerned about climate change and gives you the chance to work together to do something about it. Join the [One Future mailing list](#) here to be connected with your local group and to receive emails about opportunities to take climate action.

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