



Open Letter - Santa Marta Conference

We welcome the First Conference on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels; an event focused on generating understanding to accelerate a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. As organizations and actors committed to climate justice, we consider it essential that this conference explicitly incorporates international legal responsibility and reparations for climate damage to our human right to a healthy climate—dimensions that are not clearly reflected in the concept note.

The advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have made clear that there is still a long way to go to meet existing legal obligations and protect our right to a healthy climate. We agree that fossil fuel production generates legal and state responsibilities. For that very reason, we are deeply concerned that the conference's concept note does not explicitly incorporate international responsibility and climate-damage reparations. Consequently, we consider it essential that the work agenda includes a dedicated space to discuss international responsibility, climate debt, and reparation mechanisms as an integral part of the transition.

Fossil fuel-based economies are the fundamental cause of climate change and the persistent reason why carbon emissions have not stabilized. Decades of sustained increases in extraction and the uncontrolled use of fossil fuels have led to climate impacts that exceed the adaptive capacity of our ecosystems. Speculation on fossil fuels by the private sector and by some states has caused widespread damage to our climate and human rights. Remedying these unlawful acts is intertwined with actions to eliminate fossil fuel dependence.

We must follow the path of accountability and reparations to phase out fossil fuels and foster well-being and dignity in our societies and economies. Wealthy nations and billionaire investors who have profited from oil exploitation must be held accountable.



We bring to this conference our experience in the struggle over loss and damage, expecting reparations to be part of a just transition. Reparations cannot be understood as an add-on, but rather as a structural pillar of a truly just transition.

The transition must not overlook its responsibilities regarding loss and damage. This must be a guiding principle of the conference, as it will address the negative externalities that the fossil fuel industry has ignored in pursuit of profit and will respond to existing climate debt. Otherwise, there is a risk that the costs of damage will continue to be socialized while historic profits remain privatized.

The conference promotes the controlled phase-out of the fossil fuel industry to stimulate investment and gains in other economic activities. If responsibility and damage are not addressed in the discussion, will this transition simply leave communities to bear the cost of the harm? A transition without responsibility risks becoming a redistribution of investments that does not guarantee climate justice.

We place our hope in a transition that is not merely a transactional pathway toward new investments, but one oriented toward responsibility in the use of natural resources and the protection of the climate. Santa Marta offers a breath of fresh air after decades of slow and tedious evasion of responsibilities and the lack of tangible results in UNFCCC negotiations. We value the importance of a conference centered on implementation.

We urge the organizers to explicitly incorporate in the agenda and outcomes of the conference the debate on international responsibility, climate reparations, and historical debt. Including these elements in the conference agenda and outcomes will be crucial to ensuring that the transition away from fossil fuels is consistent with climate justice and international law.

20/02/2026





Signatures:





Organizations

- AbibiNsroma Foundation
- Acción ecológica
- African Coalition on Green Growth
- African Futures Lab
- Alianza Americas
- Alianza Regional Centroamericana para el agua y el ambiente
- Allen+
- Asociación Proyecto Camino Verde
- Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos
- Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
- AQOCI - Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale
- Azul
- Bangladesh Krishok Federation
- Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation-BGF
- Barranquilla+20
- CADTM AYNA
- CADTM
- Calm and Mindful LLC
- CAN Zimbabwe
- Canadian Association for the Club of Rome
- Canadian Association of the Club of Rome
- Care About Climate
- Caribbean Youth Climate Council
- Carmelite NGO
- Censat Agua Viva - Amigos de la tierra Colombia
- Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)
- Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
- Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales CDES
- Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental A.C
- Centroamérica Hub Finanzas Sostenibles
- Centroamérica Hub Finanzas Sostenibles
- Centroamérica Hubs Finanzas Sostenibles y Juventudes
- CESTA
- Child Rights International Network (CRIN)



- Clima de Política
- Clima21
- Climate Action Network América Latina (CANLA)
- CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK TANZANIA
- Climate Action Network Zimbabwe
- Climate and Community Institute
- Climate Justice Flotilla
- Climate Rangers NTB
- Climate Refugees
- Coalición de Movimientos y Organizaciones Sociales de Colombia - COMOSOC
- Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement, CVPD
- Colectivo Voces Ecológicas COVEC
- Comité Permanente por los Derechos de la Mujer Trabajadora de Chimborarazo
- Comité Ambienta en Defensa de la Vida
- Conectas Direitos Humanos
- COPAL (Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina)
- Corambiente
- Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica - CIASE
- Cosmopolíticas
- Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal
- Development Initiative for Community Impact
- Disability Peoples Forum Uganda
- Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast
- DYVOPAasbl
- [earth]
- El Puente
- Emmaus International
- Emonyoyefwe International
- Equal Right
- Equal Rights
- Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
- EXTINCTION REBELLION GRABEN-RDC
- Extinction Rebellion Deutschland (Germany)
- Fastenaktion (Swiss Lenten Fund)
- Fight Inequality Alliance (FIA) / Alianza contra la Desigualdad



- For the Oceans Foundation
- Forum des Engages pour le Developpement Durable (FORED-ONG)
- Fridays for Future Brasil
- Fundación Argentina 1.5
- FUNDACION CHILE SUSTENTABLE
- Fundación Hábitat Verde
- Fundación Heinrich Boell Centroamérica
- Fundación Laberinto
- Fundación Pachamama
- Fundación Reparemos
- Fundación ReVerdes
- Global Energy Embargo for Palestine
- Green Planet Initiative International
- Grupo de Trabajo Sobre Impactos de los Hidrocarburos (GTIH)
- GTA - Rede de Trabalho Amazonico
- Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)
- IDdecoCR/LAC
- Indigenous Environmental Network
- Instituto para el desarrollo sostenible de la mujer lenca de Honduras IDESMULH
- Instituto para el Futuro Común Amerindio IFCA
- INSTITUTO TERRAMAR
- Instituto Terramar
- Kolektiv Z
- Life of Pachamama
- Maasai Buffalo Dance group
- Medio Alternativo digital PA' Contarte Podcast
- Mesa Ecuménica por la Paz - MEP
- Nature Pulse Latam
- Observatori del Deute en la Globalització
- Oil Change International
- Oxfam International
- Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum



- Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático
- Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED)
- Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua (FANCA)
- Red de Profesionales de Cotopaxi
- Red Dominicana de Estudios y Empoderamiento Afrodescendiente-RedAfros
- RED-CFAL
- RESAMA - Red Sudamericana para las Migraciones Ambientales
- Research and Degrowth International
- Resilient40
- Ritmos Climáticos
- Rivers & Rights
- Sepia Alianzas Sostenibles
- Shambala
- Shujaa-Initiative
- Signal Research and Resilience Initiative Sierra Leone RSquare
- Soluciones Estratégicas Sustentables
- SOMO - the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations
- Southern Africa Climate Change Network
- Spire
- Sustentabilidad Sin Fronteras
- Taproot Earth
- Terra40
- The Climate Reality Project Brasil
- TIPPING POINT NORTH SOUTH
- TRAFFED -RDC Asbl
- Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development / East African Suswatch Network
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- United for Climate Justice
- Vanuatu Climate Action Network
- War on Want
- Watoto Rights
- World's Youth for Climate Justice
- Youth Council The Primavera - Vichada



- ZERO Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável
- ZERO Association for the Earth Sustainability
- Zero Hour Philippines
- Zimbabwe Climate Change Coalition

Individuals:

- Ahmed Abdullahi Ali
- Ana María Garrigós Cea
- Anderson Barahona
- Astrid Milena Bernal Rubio
- Aura Vasquez
- Belinda Ramírez
- Britton Schwartz
- Denisse Vélez
- Ericka Carolina Murillo Rodríguez
- Gemma Carolina Gutiérrez
- Grettel Amalia Salazar Chacon
- Inmanuel Chayan Biswas
- Jenniffer Esperanza Rincón Galindo
- José Ignacio Leguina
- José Luis Ricapa Ninanya
- Julie Jamis
- Kakha NADIRADZE
- Kathryn Russell
- Laura Martín Diaz
- Léo Ruesche Neggia
- Lupo Canterac Troya
- Mahmuda Akter
- Mariana Sofía Parra Avendaño
- Megan Devoe
- Moses Amagbor Johnson
- Pilar
- Ruth Jeanneth Pérez Vallejo
- Dr. SARAVANAN THANGARAJAN
- Verónica Carrillo Ortega