

042 Addressing the climate and biodiversity crises through fossil fuel supply-side measures and a just transition

EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN that fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – are the primary cause of climate change and that governments plan to extract more than double the amount of fossil fuels compatible with the 1.5°C temperature limit by 2030;

FURTHER CONCERNED that fossil fuel extraction and use undermine all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with significant impacts on nature and people, and that the extraction of fossil fuels has historically been associated with armed conflict, significant breaches of human rights and the well-being of Indigenous peoples and Local communities;

RECOGNISING that many States are dependent on fossil fuels for economic revenues, particularly highly indebted developing States that rely on such revenues to meet interest repayments;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of IUCN Members and constituents in recognising the importance of phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and consumption, as well as associated impacts on biodiversity, including Resolution 7.033 *Promoting biodiversity preservation through environmentally friendly energy transformation measures* (Marseille, 2020);

NOTING that current international agreements and IUCN Resolutions primarily focus on the consumption of fossil fuels, emissions or resulting impacts and that there is a legal gap in the governance of the extraction and supply of fossil fuels and the management of a just transition of the workforce and communities;

RECOGNISING ALSO that, without adequate international governance of the just transitions, many developing States will continue to be locked into a cycle of fossil-fuel dependence, undermining efforts to implement other complementary international legal instruments, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

RECOGNISING the importance of the Global Stocktake¹ and the decision to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner accelerating action in this critical decade so as to achieve net-zero by 2050 and keeping with the science, and with goals for tripling renewable power capacity and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements; and

FURTHER RECOGNISING that fossil fuel extraction and use has caused reduction and degradation of important carbon sinks worldwide, such as rainforest ecosystems, and that this action is further aggravating climate change, including in the Amazon;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and the World Commission on Environmental Law to develop an analysis and assessment of governance gaps in existing international frameworks related to fossil fuel supply and just transitions as well as the relevance, importance, and complementarity of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative and present the findings to the IUCN Members for their consideration;

2. FURTHER REQUESTS the IUCN Commissions, especially the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and the Climate Crisis Commission, to provide guidance to accelerate just transition pathways for fossil-fuel dependent developing States, taking into account impacts on nature, biodiversity, climate and health, by enabling finance, technology and capacity building for just

¹ [According to the UNFCCC](#), “Global Stocktake is a five-year assessment process under the Paris Agreement to evaluate collective global progress on climate action. It reviews efforts on emissions reduction, adaptation, and climate finance to identify gaps and inform countries on how to strengthen their next round of climate action plans (NDCs) to achieve the agreement's goals. The first stocktake concluded at COP28 in 2023”.

transitions, recognising the need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways;

3. CALLS ON States to continue to address the gap in the international governance of the fossil fuels supply, considering the analysis and assessment proposed in paragraph 1, through a variety of international instruments, including a potential Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to:

- a. support implementation of the Paris Agreements and other existing international legal instruments;
- b. create a pathway to an equitable transition away from (with a view to phase-out) coal, oil and gas in line with the 1.5°C temperature limit and biodiversity goals;
- c. end new fossil fuel projects;
- d. enable finance, technology and capacity building for a just transition of the workforce and communities in consumer and producer States through alternative, nature-positive energy and development pathways; and
- e. increase transparency on fossil fuel extraction and financing, including subsidies; and

4. ENCOURAGES Amazonian States and Members to declare a 'fossil fuel non-proliferation zone' prohibiting fossil fuel exploration and extraction while ensuring participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, setting an example for zones to be declared in other biodiversity hotspots .