

Press release – Embargoed until 22nd April 2024 - 8 am CET

Fossil Fuels are responsible for 86% of global CO2 emissions (IPCC)

Seventeen banks from the Global Alliance for Banking on Values join global call for binding Treaty to end use of fossil fuels

- The Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty aims to meet the Paris Agreement goals by explicitly tackling the largest driver of the climate crisis: fossil fuel production
- Banks can play a leading role and drive meaningful change by aligning financial practices with sustainability goals and supporting the Treaty
- Values - based banks are frontrunners in endorsing a Fossil Fuel Non - Proliferation Treaty and call on the financial industry to follow their example

Global, 22 April 2024 - A group of seventeen leading banks from the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) have endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative. They are at the forefront of a growing number of financial institutions joining the call for the Treaty and taking a significant step forward in a global effort to address the root cause of the climate crisis - the production and use of oil, gas and coal.

The GABV is a network of the world's most socially and environmentally responsible banks. The GABV members to endorse the Treaty proposal include Triodos Bank, the [first bank in the world](#) to sign up. Banks to endorse the Fossil Fuel Treaty initiative are:

1. Amalgamated Bank (United States)
2. Banca Etica (Italy, Spain)
3. BancoSol (Bolivia)
4. Beneficial State Bank (United States)
5. Centenary Bank (Uganda)
6. Clearwater Credit Union (United States)
7. Climate First Bank (United States)
8. Ekobanken (Sweden)

9. Finca DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
10. Merkur Cooperative Bank (Denmark)
11. NMB Bank (Nepal)
12. Summit Credit Union (United States)
13. Sunrise Banks (United States)
14. Triodos Bank (Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Spain, Germany)
15. Unity Trust Bank (United Kingdom)
16. Vancity (Canada)
17. vdk bank (Belgium)

A global campaign to phase out fossil fuels

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to renewable energy for everyone, end the expansion of coal, oil and gas, and ultimately equitably phase out existing production. The Treaty reflects what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis.

The proposal has gained traction globally. Support from various sectors recognizes the urgent need for action to stop the proliferation of, and start to phase out, the use of coal, oil, and gas – the primary drivers of the fast accelerating climate emergency and rising inequality. These banks join other relevant stakeholders like the [World Health Organisation](#), the [European Parliament](#) and a growing block of 12 nation-states already calling for a new international treaty to transition away from oil, gas and coal.

While the Paris Agreement set a crucial global climate target, many governments continue to approve new coal, oil and gas projects. The [UNEP Production Gap Report 2023](#) warned that fossil fuel extraction plans undermine the world's chances of meeting our global climate targets. The report revealed that, despite their climate pledges, governments still plan to produce around 110% more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.

The role of the banking sector

According to the [Banking on Climate Chaos](#) report released in 2023, since the Paris Agreement was signed, the world's banks have pumped \$5.5 trillion into fossil fuels. A [recent report by Topo Finance](#) found that if the largest banks and asset managers in the U.S. were a country, they would be the third-largest emitting country in the world, behind China and the U.S.

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, major western banks pledged to reduce their carbon footprint and invest in green initiatives, aiming to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Despite commitments, the ratio of bank financing for low-carbon energy projects to fossil fuels falls short of targets, as [research from Bloomberg NEF](#) reveals. Moreover, banks with net zero targets have provided substantial loans to oil, gas, and coal companies that [expand their fossil fuel-related activities](#).

David Reiling, Chair of the GABV and CEO of Sunrise Banks, explains that the global financial sector needs to play a pivotal role by bringing the business community together and pushing to transition away from fossil fuel production. "The Fossil Fuel Treaty is a binding agreement, signaling that businesses are ready and willing to make this commitment. By signing onto this Treaty, we are leveling the playing field and driving a global and equitable transition to meet our 2050 Net Zero Commitment. I applaud these seventeen GABV members for leading the way. I expect more values-based banks and businesses to sign the Treaty and join the growing initiative to move to a cleaner, more sustainable future."

Ali Sheridan, Director of Major Partnerships at The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative, emphasised the importance of the financial and business sectors joining the call for a Fossil Fuel Treaty: "The collective support from these banks is a testament to the growing recognition within the financial sector, particularly among its most progressive banks, of the critical role it plays in addressing the climate crisis. Businesses have a significant opportunity to spearhead the creation of an equitable and sustainable future, but it is crucial that this is done in a credible way that ensures no one is left behind. By aligning financial practices with sustainability goals and supporting initiatives like the Fossil Fuel Treaty, banks can play a leading role and drive meaningful change, as well as contribute significantly to fostering the global, multi-stakeholder cooperation necessary for a just transition away from fossil fuels, and to secure a cleaner, greener and fairer future for all."

Over 3,000 scientists and academics, 101 Nobel laureates, hundreds of health professionals, thousands of religious institutions, a growing number of Indigenous organisations and youth activists, over 100 cities and subnational governments, more than 600 Parliamentarians across the world, and a growing number of businesses are already calling for a Treaty to phase out fossil fuels and fast-track a fair energy transition.

About the GABV

The Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) is a network of independent banks using finance to deliver sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Their

collective goal is to change the banking system so that it is more transparent, supports economic, social and environmental sustainability, and serves the real economy. The GABV has 70+ members and operates in 45 countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, North America and Europe. Collectively they serve more than 60 million customers, employ 80,000 co-workers and hold over USD 210 billion of combined assets under management. gabv.org

About the Fossil Fuel Non - Proliferation Treaty Initiative

The Fossil Fuel Non - Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global effort to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement by fostering international cooperation to accelerate a transition to clean energy for everyone, end the expansion of fossil fuels and phase out existing production. This needs to be done in a manner that is fast, fair and financed so that no worker, community or country is left behind, and in keeping with what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis. fossilfueltreaty.org

Note to Editors:

- Endorsing quotes from GABV banks: https://www.gabv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GABV_Endorsing-Quotes.pdf
- Photos, videos and other media resources: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/media-center>

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