
ENDORSEMENTS FOR OXFAM'S BRIEFING PAPER

'Let Them Eat Coal: Why the G7 must stop burning coal to tackle climate change and fight hunger'

The Oxfam briefing paper is available at www.oxfam.org

PROF OLIVIER DE SCHUTTER

Co-Chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food); Former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2008–14); and Oxfam International Honorary Adviser

'Climate disruptions are already affecting many poor communities in the global South, and coal-fired power stations are contributing, every day, to make this worse: they increasingly look like weapons of destruction aimed at those who suffer the impacts of changing rainfall patterns as well as of extreme weather events. Coal provides the world 40 percent of its electricity, but it is responsible for 73 percent of emissions from the energy sector. This timely report shows why getting rid of our addiction to coal is both possible and necessary: there is simply no justification for pursuing a path that leads straight into the wall.'

SHARAN BURROW

General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

'Climate change is serious. It is already destroying lives and livelihoods. All governments and all industries need a plan for a transition to decarbonise with clean technologies and energy is the key. But we need a "just" transition. This means dialogue with all parties and workers and their unions must be involved, their contribution to today's prosperity recognised and respected and their future and that of their families and communities secured. This means a time-bound plan for an energy transition that secures:

- *a defined timespan with wage safeguards and job security for workers involved*
- *pension funds for older workers beyond the time span*
- *skills development and redeployment with decent work alternatives for younger workers*
- *investment in community renewal and new jobs including the construction and services associated with renewable energy.*

This is the most significant challenge the world will face in the next 30 years but we must start now or we will lose the war on climate change with horrendous consequences for all working people and their communities. Governments and responsible industries must heed the call for a just transition with a transparent and ambitious plan that puts working families and their communities at its heart.'



NICK MOLHO

Executive Director, Aldersgate Group

'This report provides an important contribution to the debates the international community needs to have in the run-up to Paris. G7 countries still rely heavily on coal but with the average coal plant in the US and EU being 40 and 37 years old respectively, most of these coal plants are old and have already made their return on investment. A clear programme to close these old coal plants in G7 countries is therefore a cost-effective first step to reducing the G7's carbon emissions and is an absolute necessity if the rest of the world is to follow suit and increasingly invest in low-carbon forms of energy generation.'

DR SALEEMUL HUQ

Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Bangladesh

'Oxfam's new report "Let Them Eat Coal" makes clear the responsibility rich countries in the G7 have to urgently phase out coal use. Every tonne of coal that is burnt adds to the climate change burden on Bangladesh and other vulnerable nations – stealing land with sea level rise and making food harder to grow. The G7 can afford to end coal and shift to 100% renewables, and must put in place a plan to do so urgently. This report is a timely call to action ahead of G7 leaders meeting in Schloss Elmau.'

DR MICHAEL GRUBB

Professor of International Energy and Climate Change Policy at University College London; editor-in-chief of the journal Climate Policy; and Senior Advisor on Sustainable Energy Policy to the UK Energy Regulator Ofgem

'Oxfam's report sets out in stark terms the scale of the inequity of coal – the statistic that coal power plants in the G7 emit almost twice as much CO₂ as the whole of Africa is startling. Yet the extraordinary irony is that study after study is showing coal is bad for the G7 economies. The damages associated with extracting and burning coal outweigh any apparent economic value – before even considering its impact on climate change. Collectively, we would be better off without coal. As this report emphasises, the time is apposite in the run-up to the Paris climate conference, for the G7 to stop hiding behind the claim that developing countries are not acting. The G7 can strongly influence how much action the rest of the world takes by matching its words with hard action. Most of the G7 have succeeded in stabilising their per-capita emissions, but we need to go way beyond that; rapidly phasing down coal would be the most tangible and potent indication of that commitment.'

MS DESSIMA WILLIAMS

Former Ambassador of Grenada to the United Nations; Former Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (2009–11); and Strategic Adviser to Oxfam on climate change

'Calls for climate justice are an integral element of climate action. 'Let them eat coal' issues a just and reasonable call to the G7 to lead the way in decarbonisation by phasing out the use of coal. This report is particularly valuable since it maps out how this can be done. Useful too, is the call for financing for developing countries whose food production is threatened by climate impacts associated with the use of coal. Oxfam International has gotten it right and the report should be heeded. Phasing out coal must commence now.'

MR WAEL HMAIDAN

International Director, Climate Action Network (CAN)

'The science is clear – to keep the climate safe we need to reduce carbon pollution from the power sector to zero by the middle of the century. The first step in making that happen is for the richest countries, like those in the G7, to form a credible plan to phase out dirty coal power. This is no longer just a moral necessity, it also makes economic sense. Renewable energy is now cheaper and creates more jobs than new coal power in six out of the G7 countries and in all by the end of 2015.'

FARHANA YAMIN

Founder & CEO, Track 0

'All countries must pledge themselves to a zero carbon pathway, but as this timely Oxfam report makes clear, the G7 have the responsibility and the capacity to lead the way.'

STEVE HOWARD

Chief Sustainability Officer, IKEA Group

'This Oxfam report provides more evidence that the prosperity of communities everywhere depends on a rapid transition to a low carbon economy and a move away from fossil fuels. At IKEA Group, we're committed to going 100% renewable, and by 2020 we aim to produce as much renewable energy as all the energy we use.'