Defossilization

Climate change negatively impacts all human rights. Phasing out fossil fuels is essential to mitiate climate change and the many other negative impacts of fossil fuels on human rights and the environment: defossilization is a legal obligation for States and a resposibility for businesses.

Impacts of fossil fuels

coal,oil and gas



Human rights obligations

- Consider the negative impacts of the whole life cycle of fossil fuels on human rights (life, health, food, water, culture)
- Prevent discrimination and ensure inter-generational equity
- Ensure the protection of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, peasants, women, children and workers

Challenges for defossilization

- Move beyond “the carbon tunnel vision”to consider and prevent all negative impacts on human rights
- Phase out subsidies and tackle illicit financial transactions.
- Address the “playbook” of climate obstruction, including disinformation, greenwashing and the use of SLAPPs against environmental human rights defenders

Recommendations

States

- Adopt binding laws and plans to defossilize the whole economy
- Prohibit new exploration, fracking and gas flaring
- Ensure the protection of workers and environmental human rights defenders

Businesses and funders

- Develop defossilization plans in a participatory manner, including responsible closing of fossil fuel operations and remedies to human rights and environmental harm
- Abstain from exercising undue commercial influence on public policy, to delay the energy transition

Defossilizing our economies is indispensible to protect human rights and ensure a dignified life for present and future generations

All States should start inclusive public debates on defossilization and the protection of human rights



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