

3rd November 2023.

Statement of demand by civil society.

Acknowledging the climate crisis, a crisis that threatens to impoverish Africa, bringing untold suffering to millions, an [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report](#) that was released in March 2023 clearly states that climate change has impacted humans and natural ecosystems globally resulting in countries that have contributed least to climate change facing the consequences of climate change. Marine heatwaves have doubled since the 1980s and human activity is the main factor that has contributed to most of them since 2006. The [International Energy Agency](#) has also emphasized that *“the world is at the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era.”*

Claire Nouvian, founder of French NGO Bloom, said: *“Each announcement of record profits by TotalEnergies only serves to accelerate climate chaos and the destruction of nature. Every dividend paid to TotalEnergies’ shareholders has a corollary in the destruction of the natural world, destroying the very conditions that make life possible on our planet. It is more necessary than ever to legislate and stop the growth and lies of the oil and gas majors.”*

“The biggest risk now is that it is increasingly a disorderly transition - a transition with no clear plan which preserves or worsens inequality in terms of energy access and who holds power over energy generation. This will ruin the chances of creating a more equitable energy system and society when people are already facing compounding inequalities, gang violence and lack of police visibility. Our leaders need to wake up and understand this. They need to provide and implement a plan for a just transition that provides power, both literal and figurative, to the people. We need to power up a clean, just and renewable energy future while addressing the many pressing needs of the most impacted South Africans.” Says, environmental groups.

We stand in solidarity with those facing oppressive and extractive practices, particularly against international oil companies such as Total Energies and Shell – whose actions could threaten our oceans and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. We reject international corporations right to profit from fossil fuels particularly oil and gas that accelerate climate change. We are in support of the [350.Org](#) Power Up global movement, calling on governments to end the era of fossil fuel destruction and reclaim the excessive profits of the fossil fuels industry.

We call on government to stop all divisive rhetoric and promote unity in public interest and call a halt to new oil and gas exploration. We also call on the president of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa to take our demands into account as we approach COP 28. World leaders have been speaking for the past 28 years at climate conferences with little action about ways to mitigate climate change. We need to see implementation and change not more fossil fuels being pushed down the throats of ordinary citizens. There should be no new investments in the fossil fuel industry.

We call on minister Barbara Creecy to ensure the Constitutional right to a healthy environment is upheld as section 24 emphasizes that everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being. We need an Environmental minister that will refuse to authorise fossil fuel projects that lead to catastrophic climate change. We need to act now to protect future generations from the climate bomb caused by global north countries who want to continue with the exploitative process instead of paying reparations to developing countries to undertake a just energy transition to help build economically viable jobs in the just energy space.

We, the people gathered here today add our voices to the demands below. ([see attached](#) previous statement from 7 June 2023).

Nothing about us and our natural environment without us. To be clear, nothing about us and our land without us, and nothing about us and our ocean without us.

We are now coming together with fishers, traditional healers, and communities along the coastline to stand against oil and gas in the oceans.

We say NO to Oil and Gas because we have seen the devastating history of extractive industries on our land and our people.

We say NO to Oil and Gas because we must protect our species and ecosystems, community livelihoods, food security and spiritual connections with nature that are fundamental to our belief systems.

We say NO to Oil and Gas because we must protect our future generations and ensure that they do not suffer worse hardships than we are facing today!

We are not anti-development. We want environmentally sustainable development that is people-driven and supports local economies that safeguards our respect for nature over international companies' profits.

We respect nature and live in harmony with the ocean and the land that feeds and sustain us and our ecosystems.

We are calling on the National Government to stop this divisive rhetoric that pits people against each other.

We are calling on National Government to place a moratorium on all new Oil and Gas developments.

We can no longer accept Profit over People. We are standing together now to ensure that we find solutions to our economic, climate and energy crisis in ways that commit to a dignified and just transition away from burning fossil fuels, and towards participatory energy planning for sustainable futures.

We are custodians of the ocean, we are ocean defenders.

Engage us, and respect us.

Signed By;

The Green Connection

African Climate Alliance

350Africa.org

Extinction Rebellion Cape Town

Project90By2030