

The case for moving beyond oil and gas has never been clearer

The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA) is a global coalition of governments working to facilitate the managed phase-out of oil and gas production, in line with the Paris Agreement. We launched BOGA at COP26 with the aim of redefining climate leadership, by making the phase-out of oil and gas production an issue in international climate dialogues, and by supporting those governments willing to join us in this mission.

We recognise that since then, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended global politics and markets. This is, first and foremost, a humanitarian tragedy, with profound impacts on the price and security of energy and food globally. High and volatile oil and gas prices are now driving inflation and cost of living crises around the world, and are exposing the true cost of our dependence on oil and gas as never before.

Governments have a responsibility to ensure reliable and affordable energy services for their populations and economies. We know that the fastest way to deliver this – while creating jobs and lowering the long-term cost of energy – is to massively increase investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and in the resilience and flexibility of our energy systems.

BOGA stands firmly for climate and energy security. We are not for governments 'turning off the taps' overnight, and we accept that limited increases in production from existing oil and gas capacity may be necessary in the current context. But issuing new oil and gas licenses for fields that will take years to come online will do nothing to solve the current crisis. On the contrary, such decisions carry long-term investments with an evergrowing risk of stranded assets and carbon lock-in.

Multiple crises have now demonstrated the risks associated with our dependence on oil and gas. Our direction of travel must continue to be away from oil and gas dependency, and it must accelerate. BOGA's objectives and membership commitments are crucial next steps towards a climate and energy secure future.

Leadership on the managed phase-out of oil and gas production, and on our vision of a world beyond oil and gas, is urgently needed. Ahead of COP27, developed countries with greater financial and technical capacity must lead the way, and support developing countries in their transitions. In the words of the UN Secretary-General, now is "the time to turn a crisis into an opportunity. We must work towards progressively phasing-out coal and other fossil fuels".

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