

Quotes for World Bank Climate Protest Oct 18, 2019

The climate crisis is causing untold destruction across the world. The organizations calling on the Bank to correct course include those based, representing, or operating in parts of the world where millions of people have been hit by and are vulnerable to climate disasters.

“Beyond the greenhouse gas emissions of fossil fuel business lays the heavy health, social and cultural burdens that local communities carry on their backs. The World Bank cannot afford to continue to invest in a sector that negatively impacts the lives of these communities either directly or indirectly!” said **Augustine Njamnshi**, Coordinator of the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access

“We are calling for the World Bank to stop financing fossil fuels—now is the time to show real climate leadership and dedication to ecological sustainability, and human and Indigenous rights, as we face the unprecedented dangers of a world plunging into climate chaos. The World Bank has invested billions of dollars into the fossil fuel industry since the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement. Business as usual cannot continue. Now is the time for investments in renewable, regenerative energy for all.” said (Ms.) **Osprey Orielle Lake**, Executive Director of the Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN).

“Deep water drilling for oil in Guyana's ocean is illegal and it is madness. The climate emergency and biodiversity collapse already threaten life on earth. The World Bank must immediately stop supporting oil related activities in Guyana,” said **Melinda Janki**, international lawyer and attorney-at-law in Guyana.

“Finance without fossils must be the policy of the World Bank Group. The business model based on coal, oil and gas has led the world into the climate crisis. We call on the shareholders to end any support for fossils,” demands (Ms.) **Ute Koczy**, Director IFI Program, urgewald (Germany).

“As a public Bank, the World Bank has a legal mandate to use its funds to end long term poverty, and a moral obligation not to fund climate change which perpetuates poverty for those most affected and left behind. The World Bank should therefore lead on solutions that end poverty, especially for the most vulnerable. The Bank should be focusing on the type of renewable energy that will bring sustainable, affordable energy to people around the world who don’t yet have energy access. Investing in energy for the future is the way to lift people out of poverty, not locking countries into dirty fossil fuels of the past.” said **Amanda Mukwashi, CEO, Christian Aid.**

“Right now, Catholic bishops from around the world are gathering in Rome to respond to the social and environmental costs of fossil fuel extraction and climate change in the Amazon. But these challenges are also global, affecting communities everywhere. The World Bank must provide moral leadership and divest from fossil fuel projects today.” **Chloe Noël**, Faith Economy Ecology Program Manager for the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

“As one of the major funders of fossil fuel projects, the World Bank must take responsibility for its part in bankrolling the climate crisis. That means a swift and deliberate halt to funding all fossil fuel infrastructure and projects. Not a single new mine, not another pipeline, not one more compressor station or power plant can be built. Instead, the World Bank must heed the call of the millions of people who took part in the global climate strikes and commit to equitably funding projects that will accelerate transition to a liveable future and habitable climate.” **Tamara Toles O’Laughlin**, North America Director for 350.org

“Case after case demonstrates World Bank fossil fuel-generating projects fail to consider intersectional gendered and environmental impacts. In the Bank’s low-income target countries where women compose the vast majority of farmers – eg women produce about 80 percent of crops in Africa -- fossil-fuel generating projects expose them to handling polluted water and soil in the production, collection, processing and preparation of food stuffs and fish. Then entire populations consume toxic-laden crops and fish. The Bank must stop violating rights to access clean natural resources and livelihoods which fossil-fuel generating projects destroy.” **Elaine Zuckerman, President, Gender Action**

“The World Bank and the IMF have been spectacularly slow to wake up to the reality of climate change. The Bank continues to fund destructive oil and mining projects in the Global South, that not only fuel the climate crisis and escalate inequality, but rob women and indigenous people of their lands and livelihoods. Meanwhile, the IMF prolongs debt and financial crises with its austerity policies, which leave countries unable to invest in the public services needed to achieve the sustainable development goals and less able to recover from climate disasters. Despite its rosy rhetoric on gender, the Bank’s policies exploit women’s unpaid labour, making their lives harder and leaving too many unable to access decent work.” **(Ms.) Wangari Kinoti, policy advisor - women’s rights, ActionAid International.**

“World Bank resources are helping states in northeast Brazil to legalize land takeovers by large companies that are also engaged in deforestation, misuse of pesticides, depletion of water sources, and forced evictions. Their agents are evicting communities from their territories, using death threats against indigenous and traditional rural communities that are fighting for their right to exist.” **Altamiran Ribeiro** represents the Pastoral Land Commission of the Catholic Church in the state of Piauí, Brazil

“The Caribbean lives in fear during hurricane season. Those storms, so much stronger and more frequent now, not only kill people and destroy homes and businesses and infrastructure — they set us back years economically. We end up saddled with new debts on top of old ones, and then there are cuts in social programs in order to pay them off, putting us in a poverty spiral. The World Bank and IMF must support a UN fund that provides funds and debt relief automatically to countries following a climate disaster.” **(Ms.) Heron Belfon,** Project Coordinator, Jubilee Caribbean,

“The Bank has been bankrolling the climate crisis. In the face of a climate emergency, there is no longer a place for the World Bank operating as it had for decades resulting in the poverty of millions, environmental plunder, displacement of communities, systematic violations of human rights and climate change. Not only has the Bank been a detriment to countries like the Philippines, it remains a hazard to humanity’s survival by continuing to finance climate-change inducing projects like coal plants. We must not allow the Bank to reduce our future to a mere business proposition in favor of fossil fuels. The World Bank should stay out of climate and our future!” - **Aaron Pedrosa, Secretary-General, Sanlakas-Philippines**