

FOSSIL OF THE DAY AWARD

Media Release



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Contact:
Wael Hmaidan
whmaidan@climatenetwork.org
Lebanese mobile: +961 3 506313
Rio mobile: +55 (21) 7932 0537

Fossil of the Day awards for ALL governments for agreeing a future we DON'T want

Rio de Janeiro - In an unprecedented move, the Fossil of the Day award was today given to ALL governments attending the Rio+20 summit. NGOs reacted to the adoption of a shockingly weak outcome text applauded by all governments in the plenary this morning, pointing out that - contrary to the document's title - the agreement did NOT reflect the future they want.

The text of today's Fossil award reads as follows:

"For the first time ever, yesterday, we awarded Big Oil a Fossil of the day - and the Fossil itself became the target of a protest by some angry billionaire CEO's.

Today, we faced a monumental task deciding just who to award the fossil to. Obviously the perpetual podium contenders came up, Canada for tarring Rio+20 by cutting out funding, commitments and so much more. The United States and Japan, for wielding the literal and metaphorical delete button, cutting up the text like a ribbon, and the other Big Oil states for weakening language on subsidies and trying their best to cut the climate out of Rio. But for some reason we just didn't feel like that was doing it justice, too many people were getting off the hook.

The outcome so far in Rio is an epic failure. Yet all governments have applauded it, as if selling out the planet and people were a grand success.

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This is NOT the future we want, if anything this is the future that big polluters have bought.

With this text Rio+20 is turning back the clock on sustainable development. As nations hide behind economic uncertainty, they continue to give upwards of trillion dollars a year to the fossil fuel industry - yet here in Rio they've all come up with empty pockets. The first step is to turn that trillion green and make it work for the people and the planet, and like I said, that's just the first step. There is still miles to go on oceans, the sustainable development goals, or even having the ambition to build a pathway to just, sustainable future.

Because every country has applauded this document, and no country has had the guts to step up and be a champion for the people and the planet, this fossil is for every single nation here, and for all the world leaders beginning to arrive for what has become a glorified photo op to sign a declaration of destruction and a plan for pollution.

There are 3 days left here in Rio, and without a change this summit will go down in history as more than simply a failure, and those leaders who sign off on its demise will be known as the architects of destruction. So as we hand out this, the biggest fossil yet, Heads of State and their representatives need to remember one thing: the whole world is watching, the planet is burning, and they are holding matches."

About CAN: *The Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of over 700 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. www.climatenetwork.org*

About the Fossils: *The Fossil of the Day awards were first presented at the climate talks in 1999, in Bonn, initiated by the German NGO Forum. During United Nations climate change negotiations (www.unfccc.int), members of the Climate Action Network (CAN), vote for countries judged to have done their 'best' to block progress in the negotiations in the last days of talks. This tradition now continues at the Rio+20 Summit.*

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