



FIRST CONFERENCE TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Santa Marta, Colombia
24 – 29 April 2026

Content

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Background
- 3** First Conference on the
Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels
- 4** Oxfam Delegation in Santa Marta
- 5** Oxfam Denmark in Santa Marta

Introduction



Oxfam Delegation at People's March for a Fossil Fuel Free Future, April 27, Santa Marta, Colombia.

This briefing note was produced by *Oxfam Denmark* to document our engagement at the *First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels*, held in Santa Marta, Colombia from 24–29 April 2026. It provides an overview of this landmark moment in global climate diplomacy as the first intergovernmental conference dedicated specifically to planning a managed phase-out of fossil fuels. The briefing outlines the conference structure and key outcomes, while also highlighting the significant gaps that remain, particularly the failure of wealthy nations to make concrete public finance commitments for a just energy transition in the Global South. It further details how Oxfam, partners and movements advocated on the ground for a transition rooted in social justice and equality, amplifying the voices of frontline communities, youth activists, and indigenous peoples throughout the proceedings. Ultimately, this briefing serves as both a record of the progress achieved and a call to action to build momentum towards a just, equitable, and rights-based global energy transition.

Background

In the last three decades, global climate negotiations have focused on managing the symptoms of the climate crisis — greenhouse gas emissions — while ignoring one root cause: the unchecked proliferation of coal, oil, and gas. While COP28 in 2023 established a landmark agreement to a "transition away from fossil fuels" in a "just, orderly and equitable manner," there is still not a concrete roadmap, binding timeline, or detailed implementation plan.

During the COP30 in 2025, government projections showed fossil fuel production will exceed Paris-aligned levels by more than 120% in 2030, and by 2050 production is expected to be 4.5 times higher than what a 1.5°C pathway allows, highlighting the urgency of a coordinated global effort to phase out fossil fuels.

Oxfam's report [*Unjust Transition: Reclaiming the energy future from climate colonialism*](#) exposed that energy transition is not only an environmental concern, but a profound social justice one. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is more than replacing one energy source with another. It requires economic transformation to overcome structural dependencies, debt constraints, and expand reliable energy access. This transition must be planned with workers and local communities for ensuring to be just, rights-based, and delivering tangible benefits for marginalized groups.



Civil society organizations at the People's March for a Fossil Fuel Free Future, April 27, Santa Marta, Colombia.

First Conference on the Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

The First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, co-hosted by the governments of Colombia and the Netherlands, was the first global diplomatic conference dedicated specifically to planning a managed phase-out of fossil fuels. The convening took place from 24-29 April at Santa Marta, Colombia, gathering stakeholders of 57 countries which included government representatives, civil society, grassroots movements and academia.

The Santa Marta Conference was structured under three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Reducing economic dependence on fossil fuels
- Pillar 2: Transforming fossil fuel supply and demand
- Pillar 3: Strengthening international cooperation and climate diplomacy

The development of the Conference was organized across six days divided into distinct segments:

- A Science Pre-Conference was held from 24 to 26 April, convening academic experts to produce evidence-based recommendations on fossil fuel transition pathways, fiscal policy, debt, methane reduction, and supply-side governance.
- A People's Assembly was held on 27 April, dedicated to civil society and other stakeholders convened by the Colombian Government.
- The high-level segment took place on 28 and 29 April, structured around ministerial plenary sessions, break-out roundtables, and bilateral meetings, where also civil society representatives had a voice.

The People's Summit for a Fossil Free Future, was organised parallel to the governmental proceedings and brought together frontline communities, social movements, indigenous peoples' organisations, trade unions, and environmental justice advocates from across the world. The People's Summit sought to amplify voices that are systematically marginalised in formal intergovernmental processes and to articulate an alternative vision of transition rooted in community sovereignty and ecological regeneration under one declaration of demands.



Climate activists attending to the People's March for a Fossil Fuel Free Future, April 27, Santa Marta Colombia

A People's March for a Fossil Fuel Free Future happened on 27 April, gathering together more than 300 grassroots movements on Santa Marta streets, raising their voices demanding for a bottom up just energy transition.

Key Conference Outcomes



Government representatives at the High Level segment of the Santa Marta Conference, April 28, Santa Marta, Colombia

- The co-hosts published a set of [takeaways](#) affirming the collective commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- Tuvalu and Ireland will co-host a Second Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels Conference at Tuvalu in 2027.
- The co-hosts also announced the establishment of three “workstreams” on issues to bring forward to the second summit:
 - i. Developing **national and regional roadmaps** away from fossil fuels.
 - ii. Changing the **financial system** to better facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels.
 - iii. Addressing **fossil-fuel-intensive trade**, with the aim of “advancing progress towards a fossil fuel-free trade system.”
- However, the takeaways did not include concrete public finance commitments from the richest countries for a just energy transition in the Global South.

Oxfam Delegation in Santa Marta

Oxfam's engagement in Santa Marta pushed for bold and transformative climate action by influencing the global debate on the fossil fuel phase-out roadmap and supporting impacted communities advocating for fair solutions.

The three main objectives of the delegation at the Santa Marta Conference were:

- 1. Shifting Policies and Practices:** By influencing the global debate on the fossil fuel phase-out roadmap, to address the current injustices in the Global Energy Transition and generating proposals and ideas that address the current key injustices for consideration and adoption in the Santa Marta Conference, supporting impacted and frontline communities particularly in the Global South to advocate for fair solutions.
- 1. Shifting and Sharing Power:** Oxfam aimed to strengthen the Global Climate Movement at Santa Marta through providing a platform to amplify voices and demands of frontline and impacted communities, supporting youth climate activists, connecting with other movements and working with partners and allies to mobilise at scale, share their stories and advocate for fair solutions for the fossil fuel phase-out.
- 1. Shifting the Terms of Debate on Climate Inequality:** Embed the inequality narrative at the heart of all advocacy efforts and public debate, incorporating the realities and connections of all communities and emphasising that it is the richest countries and individuals who must be held accountable for their disproportionate role in the climate crisis.



Oxfam Delegation at the People's March for a Fossil Fuel Free Future, April 27, Santa Marta, Colombia

Oxfam Delegation in Santa Marta

Support to Oxfam International Campaigning



Social Media Image of Oxfam International Campaign Make Rich Polluters Pay

Oxfam's key message in Santa Marta was that inequality is the greatest barrier to transitioning away from fossil fuels and inequality can be addressed through tax justice. Therefore, in partnership with [#MakeRichPollutersPay](#) International Alliance, planned a joint media stunt that focused on the soaring profits of big oil corporations in the context of a global energy crisis.

Oxfam Delegation participated in a diversity of activities during the days of the People's Summit for a Fossil Fuel Free Future including:

- [Press Conference](#) on pathways to resolve the debt crisis and advance a just energy transition.
- Development of a [Fossil Free Future Toolkit](#) to build collective power.
- Lead the global action [#VoicesToSantaMarta](#) that gathered a selection of more than 130 postcards from youth and activists around the world calling politicians worldwide to stand up for a just energy transition.
- Participation at the People's March for a Fossil Fuels Free Future developing banners, placards and carrying posters of messages from the Voices to Santa Marta Global Action.



Voices to Santa Marta cover page

Oxfam Denmark in Santa Marta

Support to Social Movements Engagement

For the **youth engagement** at the Conference, ODK supported the participation of:

1) Alliance of Non-Governmental Radical Youth (ANGRY)

Is a global coalition of grassroots youth organisations and climate justice activists formed in 2023 to strengthen youth participation in climate policy spaces. They position themselves as a collective youth voice for systemic climate justice and social transformation, grounded in principles of:

- Equity
- Decolonisation
- Accountability.

ANGRY's participation at the Santa Marta Conference

- Promoted **Regional Youth Consultation** series before the Conference to work on the [Youth Statement on Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels](#) reaching **115 youth people across 5 regions**.
- Organized the **Youth Assembly** within the larger People's Summit, where **52 young people** attended to share reflections, create collective alignment and create common statements to be discussed at the People's Assembly with other stakeholders.
- Participated in workshops, activities and the mobilization **People's March for the End of Fossil Fuels** bringing youth voices and perspectives for a just energy transition.
- Supported the project [La Chiva Climática](#), led by **25 Colombian youth** that seeks to strengthen, make visible and weave community processes focused on the construction of alternatives for life in harmony with the Earth.
- Implemented the social media campaign **#TheEnergyIsOurs** to influence the Conference narrative towards a Just Energy Transition with a youth perspective aimed to reach **1,000 people worldwide**.



Youth activists from La Chiva Climática

"Our communities and countries have been deeply damaged by the fossil fuel industry. Youth are organising to face an inherited climate crisis that we did not create. We walked into this Conference with a sense of hope and expect high commitment from governments in return."
- Daniel Valdovinos, ANGRY.



ANGRY's Press Conference presenting the Youth Statement on Just Transition

Oxfam Denmark in Santa Marta

Support to Social Movements Engagement

2) Uno punto Cinco

Is a youth led CSO that promotes climate action and energy transition by communicating evidence-based information in simple terms, with the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Its work focuses on three pillars:

- Education through training and empowerment processes.
- Advocacy through research, dissemination, and participation in the climate policy agenda.
- Community by connecting organizations and climate change agents with an intergenerational approach.

Uno punto Cinco´s participation at the Santa Marta Conference

- Participated at the academic panel on **Just Energy Transition at University of Magdalena** reaching **400 attendees**.
- Participated at the People´s Summit for a Fossil Fuel Free Future at the two day workshop organized by **Transforma**, where **20 NGOs** worked together on a roadmap to be presented during the high level segment. Uno Punto Cinco was the only youth led organization in this event.
- Organized the event **Fossil Fuels to the Museum**, where more than **100 people attended** to exchange experiences, alternatives and network along with cultural activities.

"Youth commitment to a proactive just energy transition linked to well-being resonated as a different voice in the Conference. Youth have great agency to build international networks and bring innovative solutions to face the climate crisis."
-Benjamin Carvajal, Uno Punto Cinco



Uno punto Cinco delegation at Santa Marta



Inauguration of the event Fossil Fuels to the Museum



Youth activists at the People´s March

Oxfam Denmark in Santa Marta

Support to Social Movements Engagement

For the **civil society engagement** at the Conference, ODK supported the participation of:

1) Association of Communities for the Development and Defense of the Territory (ACODET).

Is a community grassroots movement that brings together **37 Q'eqchi' Maya indigenous communities**, which have been fighting for over 15 years to defend their territory, resisting the construction of the Xalalá Hydroelectric and an oil bidding process in the municipalities of Ixcán, Uspantán, and Cobán. Besides their advocacy work, the organization is actively working in JET projects at community level like the construction and installation of small scale energy projects.



Indigenous Peoples Working Group

"For a just energy transition we need more public investment in small scale energy projects to ensure that energy is for the peoples and no for the big companies. Indigenous peoples rights must be respected, otherwise, energy transition will be extractivism".
-José Gómez, ACODET



ACODET's representative at the event From Courts to Action

ACODET's participation at the Santa Marta Conference

- Participated at the side event **From Courts to Action: Operationalizing Legal Obligations for a Just Transition** bringing their experience resisting through legal actions to social protests against extractivist energy projects.
- Participated at **Indigenous Peoples Working Group** sharing experiences about community led energy projects.



ACODET's representative at Santa Marta Conference

Oxfam Denmark in Santa Marta

Support to Policy and Advocacy Work

ODK supported Oxfam policy and advocacy work by building public pressure on governments for developing proposals for a Just Energy Transition at the Conference. Oxfam is mainly calling for:

- **Scale up public climate finance.** Tax the corporations and the super-rich profiting from fossil fuels and the cost-of-living crisis, including through a Rich Polluter Profit Tax on fossil fuel corporations and an Excess Profit Tax across all sectors.
- **Put justice at the heart of the energy transition.** States and fossil fuel corporations must address the environmental damage.
- **Implement an equity-based roadmap** to end fossil fuels that reflects the historical responsibility and financial capacity

In the Danish context, ODK met with the Climate Ministry delegation going to Santa Marta and lobbied political parties to make the Santa Marta Conference a priority for the new government.



Report Cover Page

ODK, in collaboration with INKA, produced the report [Tracking Climate Finance Flows to Latin America](#), which was presented during the Santa Marta Conference in a side event organised by POLEN. This study stands that climate finance is essential for Latin American countries to support a just transition. However, between 2015 and 2023, international public climate finance to eighteen Latin American countries, primarily driven by the multilateral development banks (MDBs), arrived as loans rather than grants. Climate finance must be scaled up and must be allocated in ways that reach the most vulnerable people who are facing the climate impacts that did not cause in the first place.



Oxfam participation at the side event Energy Transition in LAC presenting the main insights of the report