

To stick to 1.5°C, there cannot be **any** new fossil fuel investments



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● When we talk about 1.5°C, it's not a political statement—this is what science demands of us as a minimum. Who will join us in acting on the basis of science?

Even 1.5°C does not represent a comfort zone, as at 1.1°C increase, we are already witnessing what the Secretary-General describes as “the highway to climate hell.” It is a lived reality for Bangladesh, every day. It is not something that may or may not happen in the future—it was yesterday, it is today, it will be tomorrow.

One in every seven people in Bangladesh, a country of 170 million, will face climate-related displacement by 2050. Dhaka, our capital city, already receives thousands of new climate migrants every day. Food security, water stress, biodiversity loss, and the increased frequency and intensity of natural hazards are additional challenges, which demand further resources for poverty alleviation, health, education, and infrastructure.

Climate change is a problem that needs to be solved faster than we are creating it. This is where keeping coal in the ground comes in. The science on this is as conclusive as it has ever been: **to stick to 1.5°C, there cannot be any new fossil fuel investments.**

Unlike many developed countries, Bangladesh has taken the moral high ground and walked the talk. We have cancelled the development of ten coal-based power plants, which had \$12 billion in foreign investment, even though

we contribute only 0.4% of global emissions. Although we are amongst the most impacted and least culpable, our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspires us to see Bangladeshis as leaders and champions in global thought and action, rather than victims.

The biggest obstacle to global solidarity today is the trust deficit—not the funding or emissions gap, but the trust gap. When pledges are repeatedly not honoured, there is growing mistrust amongst member states and the UNFCCC process is unable to deliver. **There cannot be solidarity without trust, and there cannot be multilateralism without solidarity.** We need to address this trust deficit and Bangladesh will robustly play its due role in this regard.

Climate change is an existential challenge and a planetary emergency. It is about how we live today and what sort of planet we live on, if at all, tomorrow. Bangladesh is one of 53 ‘climate vulnerable’ countries and it is a question of when, not if, all other countries will also be regarded as vulnerable. We must act as a global community now, with urgency and ambition, or what we do in the future will be too little, too late. ■