

Divest from fossil fuels, plead faith leaders

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World faith leaders make their plea for sovereign wealth and pension funds to pull out from fossil fuel investments in an interfaith statement, released in Marrakesh on the sidelines of UN talks tasked with implementing a landmark climate treaty

Faith group leaders, supported by Nobel Peace Prize laureates Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, called Thursday on sovereign wealth and pension funds to pull out from fossil fuel investments.

They made their plea in an interfaith statement, released in Marrakesh on the sidelines of UN talks tasked with implementing a landmark

climate treaty.

Signatories also included Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences; Olav Fykse Tveit, head of the World Council of Churches; and more than 200 other faith leaders.

National and private investment funds have placed trillions of dollars in fossil fuel energy and related sectors.

The Paris Agreement, inked in the French capital last December, seeks to beat back the threat of global warming, caused mainly by the burning of coal, oil and gas.

The 196-nation pact calls for the rapid decarbonisation of the world economy—essentially a switch from carbon-intensive to clean energy, especially solar and wind.

The appeal was led by a pledge from the Islamic Society of North America, an umbrella group, to divest from [fossil fuels](#) and encourage sister organisations to do the same.

"According to Islam's most basic and fundamental teachings, human beings have been uniquely charged with the great responsibility of being Guardians of the Earth," said Azha Razee, President of the Society.

"It goes against the mission of the ISNA to invest in [fossil fuel companies](#) whose operations and products cause such great harm to humanity and creation."

The statement was supported by more than 30 organisations across the full spectrum of world religions.

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