

Larry Fink
CEO of BlackRock
Tuesday 9 April 2024

Subject: Call to commit not to support TotalEnergies' bonds

Dear Larry Fink,

We are writing on behalf of 58 organizations to urge BlackRock to commit to stop providing new debt financing to TotalEnergies' fossil fuel expansion strategy by investing in its toxic bonds.

Indeed, **BlackRock** is TotalEnergies' most important bondholder in the United States,¹ holding at least 40 TotalEnergies bonds.²

Several of TotalEnergies' bonds are arriving at maturity in 2024:

- A US\$1.25 billion bond that will arrive at maturity on April 10th,
- A CHF0.8 billion bond that will arrive at maturity on August 29th,
- A €0.5 billion bond that will arrive at maturity on October 4th,
- A GBP0.25 billion bond that will arrive at maturity on December 16th.

Companies involved in fossil fuel expansion raised more than €1 trillion from the global bond markets since the Paris climate agreement.³ The overall importance of bonds in the funding strategies of fossil fuel companies is growing, with bonds representing more than 52% of the funding sources for energy companies in 2020, compared to only 26% in 2010.⁴

TotalEnergies currently has 45 active bonds, issued between November 2013 and April 2024, amounting to close to US\$48.9 billion.⁵ The company issued its most recent bond, worth US\$4.25 billion, a few days before the release of this letter.⁶ With four bonds reaching maturity in 2024, and six more bonds reaching maturity in 2025, TotalEnergies will likely want to raise more of its capital through bonds in the coming months. These new bonds could be used to free up some funding for its oil and gas expansion strategy.

¹ Urgewald, [Investing in Climate Chaos](#), 2023.

² Bloomberg terminal, as of 06/03/2024.

³ [How banks helped the fossil fuel industry raise more than a trillion euros](#), an investigation led by Follow the Money and Investico, in collaboration with ten international media, including The Guardian and Le Monde, September 26th, 2023

⁴ Fossil fuel fundraising across asset classes. Source: Cojoianu et al. (2022) and Cojoianu, T.F. et al., (2021). Regional Studies. [The city never sleeps: but when will investment banks wake up to the climate crisis?](#)

⁵ Source : Bloomberg terminal, as of 05/04/2024.

⁶ On April 5th, 2024, TotalEnergies Capital SA issued a US\$4.25 billion debt offering, for general corporate purposes. Participating banks included: BofA Securities, Deutsche Bank Securities, Morgan Stanley, MUFG Securities Americas, Natixis Securities North America, SMBC Nikko Securities America and Standard Chartered Bank. Source : Bloomberg terminal.

TotalEnergies is not in transition

The Net zero by 2050 scenario (NZE) of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which aims at keeping global warming under 1.5°C, requires reducing global oil and gas production by respectively 21% and 18% by 2030 compared with 2022 levels.⁷ Yet, TotalEnergies announced in September 2023 that it intends to increase its fossil production by 2 to 3% per year until 2028,⁸ relying on massive investments dedicated to new oil and gas projects in the coming decade.⁹ In 2030, TotalEnergy will thus produce more oil and gas than in 2021, and these will still account for 80% of its energy mix, compared with 95% in 2021.

With TotalEnergies' current oil and gas production targets, its production will exceed by more than 40% the level required to align with the NZE scenario. Moreover, TotalEnergies' targeted carbon intensity in 2030 is 20% higher than in the NZE scenario.¹⁰ Thus, TotalEnergies will produce too much oil and gas with too much emission per barrel. This runs counter to the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb global warming.

TotalEnergies' expansion is driving new countries into fossil fuel dependency

From offshore exploration in South Africa and Suriname to shale gas in Argentina and the United States, TotalEnergies is exploring or developing new oil and gas resources in 53 countries, making it by far the oil and gas developer expanding in the highest number of countries¹¹. Almost one-third of the countries where TotalEnergies is exploring and developing new oil and gas resources are frontier countries - which currently have little or no oil and gas production - such as Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania or Uganda. Instead of transitioning, TotalEnergies is thus driving new countries into fossil fuel dependency.

In Mozambique, TotalEnergies is currently looking to restart *Mozambique LNG*, a massive carbon bomb which could emit between 3.3 and 4.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent over its lifetime.¹² The project, which was being developed in the Cabo Delgado region, was suspended in April 2021, following several armed attacks in the region. TotalEnergies claims that the security situation is "under control" in Cabo Delgado. However, massacres, kidnappings and forced displacements still happen monthly, and have led to the displacement of 112 894 people between 22nd December 2023 and 3rd March 2024.¹³ Restarting the *Mozambique LNG* project would seem unwise and irresponsible if it means operating in such an unstable context.

⁷ International Energy Agency, [World Energy Outlook](#), 2023

⁸ TotalEnergies, [2023 Strategy & Outlook](#), 2023

⁹ TotalEnergies plans to allocate 30% of its net investments to new oil and gas projects, more than one third to existing oil and gas assets and one third to "low carbon energies" that include gas power, [2023 Strategy & Outlook](#), 2023

¹⁰ Reclaim Finance, [Assessment of Totalenergies' climate strategy](#), 2023

¹¹ Urgewald, [The 2023 Global Oil & Gas Exit List: Building a Bridge to Climate Chaos](#), 2023.

¹² Friends of the Earth, [Tip of the iceberg: The future of fossil fuel extraction](#), 2021

¹³ International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Movement Alert Report - 103 \(08 Feb - 03 MAR 2024\)](#), 2024

In Papua New Guinea, TotalEnergies' *Papua LNG* project would lead to the emission of over 220 million tonnes of CO₂e.¹⁴ In a country where climate change and rising sea levels have already led to the forced relocation of entire villages, and could rapidly lead to the relocation of tens of thousands of people,¹⁵ the *Papua LNG* project poses the significant risk of human rights violations for the 12 700 people living in the 39 villages in the project area of influence.¹⁶ The country's first LNG infrastructure, *PNG LNG*, developed by ExxonMobil, has a serious record of human rights violations.¹⁷ The *Papua LNG* project also lacks the transparency that could ensure the Free, Prior and Informed consent of these affected communities.¹⁸

In Tanzania and Uganda, TotalEnergies is persisting in developing the *EACOP* and *Tilenga* projects which will affect the livelihoods of more than 100 000 people.¹⁹ The *EACOP* project poses significant risks to water resources and wetlands in both Uganda and Tanzania – including the Lake Victoria basin, which over 40 million people rely upon for drinking water and food production.²⁰ In addition, the *EACOP* project would generate 379 million tons of CO₂ emissions during its 25-year project lifetime²¹. Recent reports have documented serious human rights violations associated with the project, including TotalEnergies' implication in the repression of land and environmental defenders²² and in the extensive mistreatment and disrespect of local graves.²³

BlackRock, can push TotalEnergies to stop its oil and gas expansion

These examples show that providing financial support to TotalEnergies by holding its toxic bonds runs counter to the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and exposes BlackRock, to the risks that its projects pose. We strongly urge you to deny new debt to TotalEnergies, starting with any new bond that would be issued this year and including hybrid bonds.

With existing shareholdings,²⁴ we call on you to strongly escalate your engagement with TotalEnergies to push it to stop its oil and gas expansion. This requires obstructing the

¹⁴ IEEFA, [Papua LNG Project - Financiers taking the risk](#), 2023.

¹⁵ CELCOR and Jubilee Australia, [Building on What Works](#), 2023

¹⁶ The Danish Institute for Human Rights, [Papua LNG Human Rights Impact Assessment. Focus on Gender, Security and Conflict](#), 2019.

¹⁷ See Jubilee Australia Research Network, [On Shaky Ground](#), 2018; The Nation, [ExxonMobil's New Guinea Nightmare](#), 2014; Colin Filer, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University [Methods in the madness: The 'landowner problem' in the PNG LNG project](#), 2019

¹⁸ Banktrack, [Papua LNG Dodgy Deal](#), 2023

¹⁹ AFIEGO, [A research report on the socio-economic impact of EACOP resettlement activities on the project-affected persons](#), 2023; Human Rights Watch, ["Our Trust is Broken", Loss of Land and Livelihoods for Oil Development in Uganda](#), 2023

²⁰ Friends of the Earth and Survie, [EACOP, A disaster in the making](#), 2022

²¹ Climate Accountability Institute, [EACOP lifetime emissions from pipeline construction and operations, and crude oil shipping, refining, and end use](#), 2022

²² Global Witness, [Climate of Fear, TotalEnergies implicated in repression of land and environmental defenders in East Africa](#), 2023

²³ Greenfaith, [As If Nothing Is Sacred](#), 2023

²⁴ Urgewald, [Investing in Climate Chaos](#), 2023.

company's climate-wreaking strategy through opposition to management-proposed votes that have the greatest influence on corporate governance and strategy.²⁵

Furthermore, we urge you to publicly commit to halt any new bond investments funding to all companies involved in new oil & gas projects and contributing to runaway climate change.

We would very much appreciate your response by Friday 26 April in relation to your decision on investment in TotalEnergies, especially new bonds. We will publish the responses and lack thereof. We will also monitor and communicate on TotalEnergies' future bonds (refinancing or new issue).

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,

Reclaim Finance (International)

350.org (International)

350US (USA)

Action non-violente COP21 (France)

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO, Uganda)

Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ, Nigeria)

Alternatiba (France)

Amazon Watch (International)

AnsvarligFremtid (Denmark)

Attac France

BankTrack (the Netherlands)

BLOOM (France)

Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC, Uganda)

Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR, Papua New Guinea)

Collectif BreakFree Suisse (Switzerland)

Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws, International)

Community Transformation Foundation Network (COTFONE, Uganda)

Corporate Europe Observatory (European Union)

Earthlife Africa (South Africa)

Earthworks (International)

Ekō (International)

Extinction Rebellion (International)

FairFin (Belgium)

Forum des Engagés pour le Développement Durable (FORED, Democratic Republic of Congo)

Fridays For Future Uganda

GreenFaith (International)

GreenFaith Africa Region

²⁵ The most strategic votes include reelection of directors, approval of remuneration, and approval of financial statements.

Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES, Japan)
Jordens Vänner / Friends of the Earth Sweden
Jubilee Australia Research Centre (Australia)
Justiça Ambiental (Mozambique)
Laudato Si' Movement (International)
Les Amis de la Terre France
Liveable Arlington (USA)
Lutte et Contemplation (France)
Make My Money Matter (United Kingdom)
Market Forces (International)
Money Rebellion (United Kingdom)
Nordic Center for Sustainable Finance (International)
Notre Affaire À Tous (France)
Oil Change International (International)
Organization for Community Engagement (OCE, Tanzania)
Rainforest Action Network (International)
ReCommon (Italy)
Recourse (International)
Sierra Club (USA)
Society for Women and Youths Affairs (SWAYA, Nigeria)
Solutions for Our Climate (South Korea)
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (South Africa)
South Texas Environmental Justice Network(USA)
Stand.earth (International)
StopTotal (France)
Switch It Green (United Kingdom)
Texas Campaign for the Environment (USA)
The Green Connection (South Africa)
Toxic Bonds Network (International)
Uganda Diaspora USA
urgewald (Germany)

