



global witness

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Simon Emmanuel Kervin Stiell
UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn

11th November 2022

Dear Mr. Stiell,

We very much appreciate the United Nations' continued efforts to unite the international community at a pivotal juncture in human history in support of the obligations of the Paris Climate Agreement.

[Global Witness](#) is an investigations-driven campaigns organisation that has spent over 25 years tracing the flow of dirty money and corrupt influence in the world's financial and political systems.

Following a data investigation into the UNFCCC's provision list of participants last year, we reported that there were [more fossil fuel lobbyists at COP26](#) than any single country delegation.

Unfortunately [this year we found that over 600](#) are registered to attend in Egypt. That's a jump of over 25% from last year, and is more than the combined delegations from the 10 most climate-impacted countries. Despite being the "African COP", there are also more fossil fuel lobbyists registered than any national delegation from the African continent. This is extremely disappointing.

At a time when renewable energy is now cheap and more accessible than ever, COP27 is sadly providing oil and gas companies with a platform to greenwash their image and try to influence climate policy in ways which further their business interests. A prime example of this being [Shell, whose climate envoy](#) boasted in 2018 that he, together with International Emissions Trading Association, had a hand in inserting measures into the Paris Agreement that allow companies to offset rather than reduce their own emissions – a move that has been heavily criticised as severely weakening the global climate response.

This year, the BBC has already reported that BP's CEO Bernard Looney and four senior colleagues are registered to attend COP as members of the national delegation of Mauritania, where BP is developing a [new gas field](#) with a 30-year production potential. Looney is one of several executives at major oil and gas companies that are currently free to walk the halls of COP27.

The question has to be posed – at a time when the world is on the “[highway to climate hell](#),” how can COP27 succeed while those responsible for this crisis are in the room?

There are important global precedents for insulating COPs from fossil fuel influence, not least of which is the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which imposed controls on tobacco industry interference. Civil society has put forward a comprehensive [framework for the UNFCCC](#) that builds on this and other precedents.

We therefore strongly recommend that you take measures to guarantee that all participants at future COPs are serious about advancing the climate agenda, and do what organisations across the globe are calling for and [exclude major polluters](#) from climate negotiations.

I look forward to hearing your response in due course.

Best wishes,

Mike Davis
CEO, Global Witness