

*Ahead of the G20 Ministerial Sessions on Environment, Climate and Energy held in Naples on 22-23 July 2021, this letter has been sent to all G20 Heads of State.*

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19 July 2021

## **An open letter from the wind energy industry to G20 and world leaders: It's time to get serious about renewables**

We recognise the efforts of the G20 countries to address the climate emergency and welcome the increased urgency and commitment to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement, expressed on the occasion of the Venice International Conference on Climate.

But our message as the [Global Wind Energy Coalition for COP26](#) is clear: Action to tackle climate change is lagging, and time is running out. Even under the net zero pledges recently made by G20 members, the world is spinning towards a [2.4°C global warming pathway](#) this century. The choices made in this year and in this decade are mission-critical to preserving our planet and avoiding climate catastrophe.

As the international group representing most of the world's population and more than 80% of global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, **the G20 holds the power and public duty to strengthen its collective political will and get serious about mitigating climate change.**

To do this, the recent net zero roadmaps published by the [IEA](#) and [IRENA](#) ascribe increased responsibility to the wind energy sector. In these reports, wind energy becomes the primary source of global electricity generation by 2050, and along with solar PV plays a central role in wider energy system decarbonisation. This paradigm shift is based on the nearly unlimited onshore and offshore wind resource available in every region of the world, its increasing cost-competitiveness and its rapid scalability using existing technology.

In the next decade, annual wind deployment must quadruple from the 93GW installed last year. Our industry can meet this challenge in collaboration with governments and other stakeholders. In the last 20 years, wind energy has proven its ability to ramp up production exponentially, create millions of skilled jobs and catalyse large-scale infrastructure renewal and investment.

However, we also point out in the strongest possible terms that these ambitions are unrealistic under the present "business as usual" conditions, and unachievable without decisive and urgent policy change across the G20 countries.

Current [growth forecasts](#) show that wind energy installations trail far below the rapid growth needed. **Should this pace of growth persist, we will fall short of the wind capacity required for carbon neutrality by 2050 by 43%, and effectively be condemned to fail in our collective climate goals.**

The G20 holds tremendous firepower to mitigate emissions in the form of wind resource. There is 56,000 GW of [fixed and floating offshore wind technical potential](#) across G20 countries today, the vast majority of which remains untapped. Studies show that just a fraction of G20 members, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa and the US, are home to at least 296,000 GW of [onshore wind potential](#).

Realising this wind power potential and ramping up renewables is critical to the successful decarbonisation of global economies. But many regions are underperforming, and by the end of 2020, no G20 countries were [deemed](#) to have 1.5°C-compatible renewable energy targets.

**Wind power must become the engine of G20 economies in a 1.5°C world, and can already begin fuelling a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.** But the industry faces critical policy and regulatory bottlenecks (see [Annex](#)) which are preventing project deployment and blocking the flow of much-needed investment. To resolve these issues, we ask G20 and world leaders to:

- i. **Raise ambition for wind power at national level** through updated NDC targets and national climate strategies, which reflect higher capacity targets for wind and renewable energy and ban new coal build/investment. These targets should be reinforced among national carbon-intensive sectors through enhanced public-private partnerships, renewable energy incentives, corporate disclosure schemes and other mechanisms.
- ii. **Implement effective policy and regulatory frameworks for procurement and delivery of renewable energy**, including sensible and streamlined permitting schemes to lower wind project attrition rates, prioritised renewables-based generation and environmentally sound development.
- iii. **Commit to rapid build-out of clean energy infrastructure including grids and transmission**, through pooled expertise and increased dialogue among system operators, regulators and utilities to address system bottlenecks and the forward-planning required to integrate large-scale renewable energy.
- iv. **Agree effective and credible carbon pricing mechanisms** which recognise the societal costs of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, and can send market signals to non-state actors beyond the power sector.
- v. **Align national and regional finance flows with benchmarks for a net 1.5°C-compliant pathway**, including orienting public funding to the energy transition and mainstreaming climate finance among financial and banking systems.
- vi. **Develop cohesive and inclusive policies which dedicate public resource to the shift to a net zero economy**, including re-skilling and labour transition schemes which can identify alternative employment opportunities in clean energy for workers in fossil fuels-based sunset industries.

Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial stimulus measures and flagship packages like Fit for 55 in the EU, show that governments can act decisively to address systemic threats to society and economies. We believe that all the above challenges could be resolved within

the necessary time window. However, we need to act fast and with the collective force of government, investors, industry and communities.

We, the undersigned representatives of the global wind industry, stand ready to work with the G20 countries and wider Parties to the COP and signatories of the Paris Agreement, the COP26 President Designate, the leading international energy institutions and major multilateral development banks to establish enhanced ambition and concrete solutions to accelerate wind energy deployment in this crucial decade.

### Signatories

1. **Tove Roskaft**, Chief Operating Officer, Aker Offshore Wind
2. **Thomas Leurent**, Chief Executive Officer, Akselos
3. **Bernhard Zangerl**, Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Bachmann Electronic GmbH
4. **Matthias Taft**, Chief Executive Officer, BayWa r.e. AG
5. **Ditlev Engel**, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Systems, DNV
6. **Miguel Stilwell d'Andrade**, Chief Executive Officer, EDP and EDPR
7. **Joost Bergsma**, Chief Executive Officer, Glennmont Partners, a Nuveen Company
8. **Mary Quaney**, Group Chief Executive Officer, Mainstream Renewable Power
9. **Mads Nipper**, Chief Executive Officer, Ørsted
10. **Ivor Catto**, Chief Executive Officer, RES
11. **Anja-Isabel Dotzenrath**, Chief Executive Officer, RWE Renewables GmbH
12. **Andreas Nauen**, Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy
13. **Alistair Phillips-Davies**, Chief Executive Officer, SSE
14. **Henrik Andersen**, Group President & Chief Executive Officer, Vestas Wind Systems A/S
15. **Sarath Ratanavadi**, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Energy Development Public Company Limited
16. **Aaron Smith**, Chief Commercial Officer, Principle Power
17. **Elbia Gannoum**, Chief Executive Officer, ABEEólica - Associação Brasileira de Energia Eólica

18. **Leopoldo Alberto Rodríguez Olivé**, President, AMDEE - Asociación Mexicana de Energía Eólica
19. **René Vaca Guzmán**, President, CEA - Cámara Eólica Argentina
20. **Qin Haiyan**, Secretary General, CWEA - Chinese Wind Energy Association
21. **Ben Backwell**, Chief Executive Officer, Global Wind Energy Council
22. **Dan McGrail**, Chief Executive, RenewableUK
23. **Ntombifuthi Ntuli**, Chief Executive Officer, SAWEA - South African Wind Energy Association
24. **Germán Corredor Avella**, Chief Executive Officer, SER Colombia
25. **Giles Dickson**, Chief Executive Officer, WindEurope

Where a Chief Executive Officer is not appointed or in transition, a C-suite representative serves as signatory.

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*COP26 President Designate*

*UN Secretary General*

*UNFCCC Executive Secretary*

*SE4All CEO*

*IRENA Director General*

*IEA Executive Director*

*The presidents of the Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, World Bank Group, Inter-American Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank*

*All members of the COP26 Energy Transition Council*

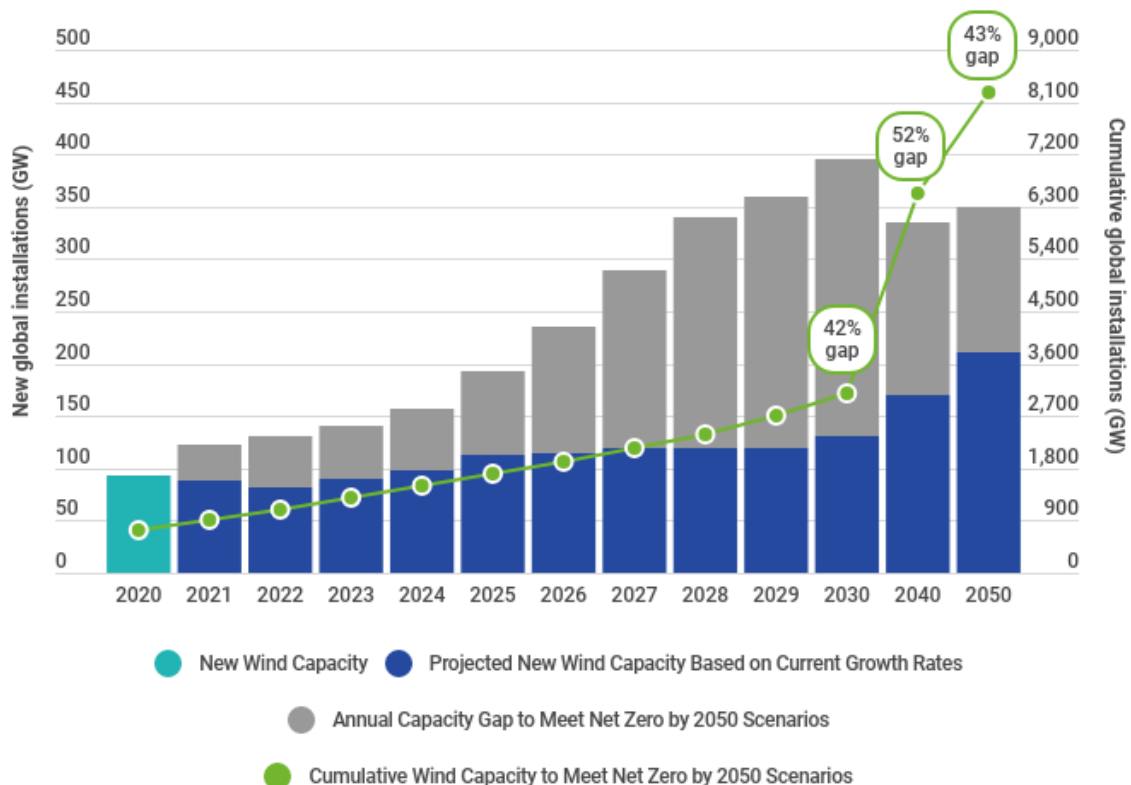
*WEF Executive Chairman*

## Annex

The chief areas which need to be urgently addressed to accelerate renewable energy deployment include:

- Inadequate planning and permitting regimes which lead to high levels of project attrition, investor risk and sluggish lead times for projects several years long.
- Market design which does not provide sufficient “push” factors to remove polluting fossil fuel generation from power systems or even halt construction/investment in new coal-fired plants, nor strong “pull” factors to incentivise investment in renewable energy.
- Inadequate investment in power transmission and distribution infrastructure which will be needed to enable widescale electrification and renewables rollout.
- Insufficient finance and support for low-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, which face serious challenges around energy access, affordability and a just transition from sunset energy industries to renewables.

### Lagging growth in this decade will lead to large shortfalls of wind energy by 2030 and 2050



Gap Between Projected Cumulative Capacity and Cumulative Capacity to Meet Net Zero by 2050 Scenarios

Source: GWEC Market Intelligence; IEA Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap (2021); projected new wind capacity from 2026-2050 assumes a ~4% CAGR over each decade, based on GWEC's projected CAGR from 2021-2025; capacity gap figures are estimations based on the IEA Roadmap milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050. Cumulative global installations by 2050 for wind energy are roughly in alignment with the IRENA World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway (2021). This data represents new and cumulative capacity and does not account for decommissioned projects.