



Press release – for immediate release

Olafur Eliasson becomes a champion of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, urging Iceland to lead in a Just Transition

27 February 2025, Reykjavík, Iceland – Reykjavík, Iceland – Renowned Icelandic–Danish artist Olafur Eliasson just officially joined the growing movement for a just transition away from fossil fuels by becoming a champion of the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). His endorsement adds to the momentum of this bold global initiative which seeks to stop the expansion of fossil fuels production by phasing them out in a planned and equitable manner, in order to ensure a just transition, especially for the most vulnerable regions and communities.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is already backed by 16 pioneering nations, the European Parliament, the WHO, thousands of scientists, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, 10 indigenous nations, and 1 million individuals. Treaties have been used in the past to put an end to global threats like nuclear weapons and environmental hazards like ozone depletion. The world now needs a similar binding international agreement to tackle one of the major threats of our time: oil, gas and coal production – the primary driver of the climate crisis.

Olafur Eliasson's artistic practice is deeply intertwined with environmental awareness, particularly the urgent issue of climate change. His large-scale public installations – such as *The New York City Waterfalls* (2008) and *Ice Watch* (2014–2018) – or his photography projects like *The glacier melt series 1999/2019*, highlight humanity's impact on natural ecosystems, making the invisible consequences of global warming tangible to the public, urging audiences to reconsider their relationship with the planet and take action.

Olafur Eliasson said: *"The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is not just an environmental necessity; it represents a cultural shift—a much-needed wake-up call to how we coexist with both human and non-human entities on this planet. Wealthy nations in the Global North have long built economies, cities, and even identities around fossil fuel extraction, creating an unsustainable cycle that threatens our climate and our future. I support the call for a Treaty because it aligns with what art has often taught me: our world is not one, but many—shaped by diverse perspectives, cultures, and ways of being."*

Iceland has the opportunity to make history as the first European and Global North country to endorse the treaty, following the leadership of the 16 pioneering Global South nations already showing the way. These countries have taken bold action—now, the Global North must step up and take responsibility.

Kumi Naidoo, President of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty said: *"In today's climate politics, bold new alliances are more crucial than ever. Small nations have the power to disrupt the status quo and push the global agenda—without waiting on major polluters like the U.S. and Russia, The Fossil Fuel Treaty proposal represents the bold and cooperative action the world urgently needs, and Iceland has an opportunity to play to lead the change. As a leader in renewable energy, Iceland is well-positioned to move beyond domestic success to drive global change. Supporting a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would send a powerful signal: the Global North must take the lead and responsibility in phasing out fossil fuels first and driving a just energy transition. If Iceland steps up, it won't just be making history—it will be setting the standard for Europe's high-income nations to follow."*

About the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is spurring international cooperation to end new development of fossil fuels, phase out existing production within the agreed climate limit of 1.5°C and develop plans to support workers, communities and countries dependent on fossil fuels to create secure and healthy livelihoods. For more information on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative and proposal, access [here](#).

About Olafur Eliasson

The works of Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967) explore the relevance of art in the world at large. Since 1997, his wide-ranging solo shows – featuring installations, paintings, sculptures, photography, and film – have appeared in major museums around the globe. Eliasson is internationally-renowned for his public installations that challenge the way we perceive and co-create our environments. His art is driven by his interests in perception, movement, embodied experience, and feelings of self and community. In 2019, Eliasson was named UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for climate action and the sustainable development goals, in part due to his work as co-founder of the solar-light business Little Sun. In 2023, he received the Praemium Imperiale from the Japanese imperial family for outstanding contributions to the development, promotion, and progress of the arts.

Media Contact

Catriona Collins

Studio Olafur Eliasson

Catriona.collins@olafureliasson.net