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**CONFERENCE TODAY Friday 11th December from 7.30 to 8.00 PM IST**

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**Why is General Electric still involved in coal development five years after the Paris Agreement?**

***Kenya, Vietnam, India, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Indonesia are among the 14 countries GE is still interested in putting up [15 coal power stations](#).***

deCOALonize | DECEMBER 11, 2020 – deCOALonize campaign together with Natural Resources, Save Lamu from Kenya, WALHI West Java from Indonesia, Ekologia from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Environics from India are concerned that five years since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015 to deal with climate change, General Electric (GE) is still mentioned to be involved in coal plants in 14 different countries like Kenya, India, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina among others.

GE has continued to use vague language in its statements concerning their move from coal. For instance, on 21st September 2020, GE [announced](#) its intention to move out of the new-build coal power market, it was however unclear whether this applied to all the [15 coal power stations](#) and what the “subject to applicable consultation requirements” really meant.

GE got a lot of good publicity when they released this statement on moving away from new-build coal power market while not unequivocally stating if this applies to the 15 different coal plants that affect communities from 14 different countries.

“While we are not opposed to development and welcome sustainable projects to our land. We are opposed to a coal plant in Lamu, Kenya which will adversely affect our livelihoods of fishing, farming and tourism and cause health impacts that will result in the premature death of 1900 people. We call for responsible investments that aim to better our lives and not suppress them.”, said Mohamed Athman, the chair of the Save Lamu organization in Kenya.

These plants, once operational, will inject up to 12 GW of coal power online. Therefore, GE’s involvement in these coal power stations will be catastrophic to the ongoing efforts in fighting climate change and cause significant environmental, economic and livelihood impacts to the innocent communities living near these proposed plants.

“We asked GE in September to disclose which future projects GE will exit, and GE has not responded. Communities and investors demand clarity on what dirty, high-risk projects are still being pursued. We need to know GE’s exit plan for all coal projects that were in the old pipeline.”, said Han Chen, the manager of international energy policy at the New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council, a non-profit international environmental advocacy group

Coal is responsible for about [46% of carbon dioxide emissions](#) worldwide and if plans by GE to continue its involvement in these 15 coal plants are realized, it would put the world in a path towards a climate crisis which will affect every life on earth.

“GE has a rare opportunity, that most financiers didn’t have, to quit coal while they are ahead. Unless they want to be left with stranded assets, due to the economic nonviability of coal, it would be wise for them to consider investing in the alternative - Renewable Energy - which is now after all the factors are considered, cheaper than coal.”, said Omar Elmawi, the campaign coordinator of deCOALonize campaign in Kenya, a coal resistance movement.



With [over a hundred financial institutions and insurers](#) withdrawing and restricting thermal coal funding by announcing divestment from coal plants and/or mining. These institutions like African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, JPMorgan Chase and Company, World Bank among others have, in one way or another, committed to divesting from coal. The question then is why GE is reluctant to sever its ties with coal and divest into renewables where they are already strategically positioned to play a huge role, especially on wind plants as they already supply the wind turbines.

“GE is slated to provide the turbines for the world's most controversial coal power plant in India. Adani Group is building this on the lands of Santhali Indigenous Groups. We, therefore, demand that GE ceases and desists any collaboration in this destructive project affecting indigenous people and GE to become a role model by informing and dissuading other corporates from the implementation of this plant and assure the local communities that their moving out of such projects is real.”, Said Sreedhar Ramamurthi of Environics from India.

Tomorrow, 12th December 2020, there will be a landmark global event to mark the 5th anniversary of Paris climate agreement. GE are now at a crossroads with a choice to make; whether they want to continue their involvement in coal development which will significantly impact and hinder any chances of dealing with the climate crisis and the consequences that follow or divest from this impending disaster and move to cleaner energy options.

“Community members in Cirebon regency of West Java Indonesia had been miserable by Tanjung Jati A/Jawa 3 ( 2 x 660 MW ) which GE is committed to installing the turbine. We are already seeing immense impacts on different livelihoods like salt makers and farmers who will be more affected due to land-use change into the coal-fired power plant. We, thus, ask that GE stops its support of dirty coal and its involvement in the coal plants in Indonesia by righting this climate crime.”, said

Meiki Paendong from WALHI West Java from Indonesia.

“General Electric, being an American conglomerate, should not deviate from the US government’s support for Bosnia and Herzegovina on its path toward full integration into the European Union. We request GE to affirm its decision to exit the new-build coal power market and confirm that they are not interested in supplying the equipment for the new Tuzla 7 coal-fired TPP.”, said Denis Zisko, the energy and climate change coordinator at Center for ecology and energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Environics Trust is a not-for-profit research and community development organisation and an enabling institution. Environics conducts participatory research on issues of environmental and human behavior and uses these outcomes for innovative community development programmes. Environics anchors several networks and partnerships. It is currently the Secretariat for the Indian Ban Asbestos Network and the emerging Publish What You Pay Coalition. Environics is a co-founder and promoter of the mines minerals and PEOPLE alliance (mm&P), the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), the EIA Resource and Response Centre (eRc), Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India (OEHNI). Environics provides research and evaluatory services to International, National, State and Local Institutions and directly works with marginalised communities such as those in the mountain regions, tribals and communities adversely affected by mining and industrialisation. Environics is a member of the International Coal Network, Asian Peoples Movement for Debt and Development, Tax and Fiscal Justice Asia (TAFJA), NGO Forum on ADB and the Indo-Nepal Joint Action Forum.

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