



Cop: Colombia demands conditions to end oil output

Published date: 08 December 2023 **Colombia called on the international community to make up for the cost of President Gustavo Petro's decision to move its economy away from coal and oil towards renewable energy.**

"Ambition cannot be punished," the country's representatives said at the Cop 28 UN climate change conference today in Dubai. "Instead of having incentives to move forward with this political will, our access to capital is becoming more expensive."

The country has been threatened with a credit downgrade and being "strangled with debt," a topic that it says the parties to the 2015 Paris climate agreement should address at this conference.

Petro ordered an end to new hydrocarbon exploration and production contracts soon after taking office in August 2022 despite the country's economic dependency on the sector. The change in policy led Moody's Investors Service to downgrade state-controlled oil company [Ecopetrol's](#) baseline credit assessment in August 2022. Fitch Ratings on Thursday affirmed a stable rating for the country's credit at BB+.

Colombia is Latin America's third-largest oil producer with about 735,000 b/d of output. Mining, hydrocarbons and traditional refining accounted for 12pc of the country's GDP.

But a rapid ramp-up of renewable capacity has not accompanied the decision as [community opposition and regulatory hurdles have delayed development.](#)

Oil industry groups warn that this unaligned transition will threaten energy security and the country's economy in the short-term.

Colombia's call echoes that of many developing countries. They want more funding to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change as well as secure access to [the loss and damage fund](#), which is meant to compensate companies for the unavoidable and irreversible effects of climate change. Brazil's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has tried to unite efforts on the topic, despite disparate positions in the region. Growing Latin American oil producers such as Brazil and Guyana have proposed balancing an increase in development with environmental responsibility, in contrast to Colombia's position [that supports language to phase out fossil fuels](#) at Cop 28.

Financing pledges did soar in the opening days of the conference, removing a stumbling block that had held up talks at last year's conference. But [Colombia and other developing countries](#) have called for more.

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The difficulty of the economic transition away from fossil fuels for many developing countries is the "elephant in the room," at the event, the Colombia delegation said. "It is an unprecedented change and we need the right economic conditions."

By Carla Bass

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The UK has joined the US in condemning Venezuela's plan to seize Guyana's disputed resource-rich Essequibo province, as Caracas increased its military presence on the border with the former British colony. "The UK is concerned by the recent steps taken by Venezuela, with respect to the Essequibo re

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Venezuela says it has made arrests in connection with an alleged effort to sabotage a vote to annex part of neighboring Guyana, including a US citizen and an activist close to the opposition presidential candidate. Savoi Jandon Brown, from California, and Venezuelan Roberto Abdul are in custody, ac

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US backs Guyana over Venezuela dispute: Update

The US administration is reemphasizing its support for Guyana as Venezuela escalates threats to annex its neighbor's oil rich border state. US secretary of state Tony Blinken in a phone call with Guyana's president Irfaan Ali late Wednesday reaffirmed "the US' unwavering support for Guyana's sovere

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