

# spotlight



We and our allies mobilized hundreds of organizations and thousands of members to reject Big Polluter interference at the U.N. climate talks. Photo credit: Keltie Vance, Corporate Accountability

## Mobilizing for climate justice

Together we're kicking Big Polluters out once and for all

**“2023 will not be a year when people will let corporate greed go unchallenged.”**

RACHEL ROSE JACKSON | DIRECTOR:  
CLIMATE RESEARCH AND POLICY

### Take action!

Sign the global demand to kick Big Polluters out:  
[KickBigPollutersOut.org](https://KickBigPollutersOut.org)

### Support this work:

[CorporateAccountability.org/  
Spotlight](https://CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight)

Thanks to the members of the campaign to Kick Big Polluters Out, it's getting increasingly harder for Big Polluters to continue polluting and influencing climate policy without being challenged.

So in January 2023, when Sultan Al-Jaber, an executive of one of the largest oil producers, was outrageously appointed as president of the next U.N. climate treaty talks, we saw this for what it was—an aggressive attempt by Big Polluters to keep their upper hand in the face of growing pressure for them to be kicked out.

Shortly after this announcement, we and our Kick Big Polluters Out allies responded with global organizing to

pressure governments to refuse to accept a fossil fuel president. Together, we rallied more than 500 organizations, representing millions of people, into action and secured hard-hitting global media coverage of our response.

And we're already starting to see these demands have an impact. In a statement released in February, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres issued his strongest condemnation of the fossil fuel industry yet, echoing our and our allies' demands of ending Big Polluters' stranglehold over climate action.

There's no doubt that, together, we are turning the tide on climate action. And we're inspired to be on this path with you. Thank you for all you do!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Challenge corporations from the belly of the beast

## Dear friend,

Many of our members—perhaps you!—have been with Corporate Accountability since the Nestlé boycott. We were Infact back then, a scrappy and audacious operation run out of a church basement in Minneapolis with volunteer-led chapters around the country.

A lot has changed, but our focus on the global scope of corporate abuse hasn't wavered.

The activists who launched the boycott recognized that while Nestlé was harming babies and parents in the Global South, it was supported by policies and customers in Europe and North America. They had the ability, and felt the responsibility, to rally power in the Global North behind the work of activists and medical professionals in the Global South. And so they organized members like you to spread the word about the boycott, show up to marches, and donate financially. All of this put enormous pressure on Nestlé and brought about international policies designed to curb its abusive marketing.

Nearly 50 years later, corporations have developed ever more sophisticated methods to get away with putting millions of people's lives and the entire future of the planet at risk. And so we also keep evolving to be more powerful in our impact and approach. For example, we now have organizers on the Latin American and African continents who are from those regions. As they campaign with allies on the front lines of the climate crisis toward making Big Polluters pay, they prioritize building deep, meaningful, and reciprocal relationships with these communities.

We know this is how we will succeed in our mission—by leveraging our power and resources behind the vision of those most directly impacted by corporate abuse. And members like you, in the belly of the beast, continue to show up in so many ways to hold corporations to account. I'm honored to do this work in partnership with you. Thank you for your global vision and steadfast support.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patti Lynn".

**Patti Lynn**  
Executive Director

**P.S.** To read more about our partnerships with allies in the Global South, check out Field Notes for Transformation: [CorporateAccountability.org/FieldNotes2023](https://CorporateAccountability.org/FieldNotes2023)

## Our water, our right

How we're exposing the truth behind water privatization

**"We're making sure that people know the truth behind the insidious threat of water privatization."**

UCHENNA NWAGBO | SENIOR WATER ORGANIZER

Water privatization continues to be a crucial issue in Africa, with corporations pushing projects in countries like Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and more.

But communities are pushing back against the private water industry and demanding an end to these dangerous schemes. And we and our allies are ensuring that the disastrous ways that water injustice, including water privatization, have affected people's lives, health, and well-being are exposed.

Together with our partners in the Our Water, Our Right Africa Coalition, we held a journalist training through which we equipped journalists in the region with the resources and connection to experts they need to report on water privatization and other threats in their countries.

These journalists developed hard-hitting media coverage on how people's lives are impacted when their human right to water is violated—from unpredictable access to water, to unaffordable water rates, to public health problems and food scarcity.

Your partnership supports deep, long-term organizing that builds power from the ground up. Thank you!

### Read more!

Dig into the coverage of water privatization in Africa:  
[CorporateAccountability.org/WaterPrivatizationCoverage](https://CorporateAccountability.org/WaterPrivatizationCoverage)

# Q&A

**The recent victory against Philip Morris International (PMI) regarding the COVID-19 vaccine is extremely exciting—congratulations! Why was it important for Corporate Accountability and our allies to make sure that PMI was removed from this venture?**

Transnational corporations like PMI use corporate social responsibility tactics to clean their image all the time—and this venture was no different. It's not the vaccine itself that we were against but, rather, the fact that PMI—a major Big Tobacco corporation—was involved in developing this vaccine when its own products kill millions of people a year and worsen COVID-19 symptoms in people with comorbidities associated with smoking.

## Goodbye, PMI!

**We succeed in keeping Big Tobacco out of public health**



When an industry knows that it's running out of options to continue exploiting the public for profits, it typically resorts to "healthwashing" its image by positioning itself as a socially responsible entity. Meanwhile, it's misleading people about the reality behind its products and practices.

## Team spotlight: Daniel Dorado

**Daniel is the director of policy organizing for the tobacco campaign at Corporate Accountability.**



And just as importantly, PMI's involvement with this vaccine was a violation of the global tobacco treaty. So we and our allies at Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Canada, supported by more than 100 tobacco control organizations worldwide, organized to stop the vaccine's approval as long as PMI was involved in and benefiting from it—thus delegitimizing Big Tobacco as a public health partner.

**What is Corporate Accountability's role in the broader movement for justice?**

There are plenty! But I'll say that one of our biggest roles is how we strategically challenge corporate targets. The work we've done on the tobacco campaign is setting precedents for how we approach

corporations in other industries. Our expertise is being valued by the climate justice movement, the food justice movement, and many other movements for justice. We are helping to challenge transnational corporations as a whole—demonstrating how cooperation among people and between governments can lead to tremendous victories and that our vision for a better world is fundamentally achievable.

### Read more!

Don't miss an extended interview with Daniel: [CorporateAccountability.org/DanielSpotlight](https://CorporateAccountability.org/DanielSpotlight)

## "Our global advocacy clearly shows that civil society can hold governments and tobacco companies to account. This is huge!"

DANIEL DORADO | TOBACCO CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

That's exactly what Philip Morris International (PMI) tried to do when it invested in the Canadian government's planned COVID-19 vaccine—a move that was loudly condemned by public health professionals and governments alike.

We knew that this was yet another attempt by Big Tobacco to align itself with lifesaving health care efforts and gain access to the spaces from which it has been blocked. So we sprang into action.

Working closely with Action on Smoking and Health Canada (ASH Canada), we prompted the World Health Organization (WHO) to publicly reject this investment and mobilized hundreds of organizations to demand the Canadian government sever its ties with PMI. And we succeeded: After more than 2 years of organizing,

the Canadian government announced in January that PMI would no longer be included as an investor in this vaccine.

This victory sends a clear message to Big Tobacco that it has no place in public health initiatives and that corporations like PMI should not be allowed to use the health sector to rehabilitate their image. And we and our allies could not be more thrilled at this outcome!

Together, we'll keep organizing until we make Big Tobacco pay for its abuses. Thank you for making this win possible!

### Sign the global call!

Make Big Tobacco pay: [CorporateAccountability.org/MBTP](https://CorporateAccountability.org/MBTP)

# Building power for water justice

We and our allies mobilize thousands of people for World Water Day

**“We are building a world in which water systems are public, well-funded, and accountable to the people they serve.”**

NEIL GUPTA | WATER CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

This year, on World Water Day, we and our allies mobilized to challenge water privatization, support frontline partners, and raise the visibility of public water solutions in the U.S. and globally.

Thousands of members like you supported the Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition as it continues demanding critical protections from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency against the ongoing water crisis in Jackson.

Across the African continent, our partners in the Our Water, Our Right Africa Coalition mobilized communities and the media to expose and challenge the threat of privatization from corporations like Veolia and Suez.

And with the reintroduction of the WATER Act in both chambers of the U.S. Congress we are uplifting public solutions to water crises and safeguarding public funding for water systems across the U.S. The bill was introduced with over 70 original co-sponsors across both chambers, a sign of the growing momentum behind this visionary legislation.

With your support, we are organizing toward a world in which everyone has access to safe water, no matter where we live, what's in our wallets, or what we look like. Thank you!



For years, the people of Jackson, Mississippi, have been living through a water crisis. Pictured: One Voice Mississippi executive director Nsombi Lambright-Haynes speaks with reporters after calling on the EPA to ensure reliable access to safe drinking water at a community hearing. Photo credit: Makani Themba

## Take action!

Call on your member of Congress to support the WATER Act!  
[CorporateAccountability.org/SupportWATERAct](http://CorporateAccountability.org/SupportWATERAct)

## Plan for a legacy gift

Sustain this work to protect human rights, people's lives, and the planet.

**Contact** Marcia Whitehead, managing director, at 617.695.2525.

**Visit** our website at [CorporateAccountability.org/LegacyGiving](http://CorporateAccountability.org/LegacyGiving)

**Send** in the enclosed envelope.

## Why legacy giving?

By leaving a legacy gift to Corporate Accountability, you can feel confident that your values and commitment to social change will carry on, and you provide the organization with a secure source of income. That helps us be more fearless and strategic in our work to challenge corporate power.

Thank you for your partnership!



**“I don't think corporations have the ethics or standards we need to make serious progress on important issues like environmental protections and climate sustainability. And having lived conscientiously all my life, I am supportive of organizations whose work aligns with my values. I am proud to leave behind part of my legacy with Corporate Accountability and continue making positive strides towards transformative change globally!”**

MARTY DODGE | CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY MEMBER



**CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY**  
10 Milk Street, Suite 610 • Boston, MA 02108  
617.695.2525 • [CorporateAccountability.org](http://CorporateAccountability.org)



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