

COP28 started convene in the UAE in November 2023. COP28 UAE brings the world together at a critical moment for global transformative climate action.

The Opening Day of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) ended with a good news: a climate disaster fund was approved to help vulnerable nations cope with the impact of climate change. Commitments must be met with actions however, as the Global Stocktake shows that current efforts fall short of what is required to meet the 1.5°C target.

For more information: International Renewable Energy Agency

World Leaders gathered for the second day now for the COP28's World Climate Action Summit to keep 1.5°C within reach.

The United Nations' Secretary-General António Guterres in his opening remarks urged leaders to "accelerate a just, equitable transition to renewables." Painting a worrisome picture of ongoing climate chaos, the UN chief said global heating is busting budgets, ballooning food prices, upending energy markets, and feeding a cost-of-living crisis. In the summit, about 150 presidents, prime ministers, royals and other leaders have announced plans to reduce heat-causing emissions and generally emphasized that the world need solidarity to avert the climate catastrophe.

For more information: United Nations



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World Leaders gathered for the third day now for the COP28's World Climate Action Summit to tackling health impacts of climate change

Health, relief, recovery and peace were the main themes of the third day of the COP28. These themes aim to boost policies and investments that protect lives and livelihoods and support community resilience and stability. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the new declaration, which aims to help accelerate actions to protect people from growing climate impacts, including by strengthening collaboration to reduce emissions and by increasing finance for climate and health solutions. According to these, 123 countries signed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health. This declaration addresses the health impacts of climate change and commits to tackle them.

For more information: United Nations



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On the fourth day of COP28, the world came together to discuss and take action on the fossil fuel industry and the impacts of climate change on public health.

As the fourth day of this year's UN climate conference (COP28) got underway, the UN chief stated: "The fossil fuel industry is finally starting to wake up, but the promises made clearly fall short of what is required. Science is clear: we need to phase out fossil fuels within a timeframe compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5 Celsius." he reiterated, referring to one of the keystone targets set by the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement. Other theme of the day was health has made it onto the agenda of a UN climate conference. This first-ever dedicated 'Health Day' at a COP is highlighted several key events, including on public-private partnerships for healthcare climate action and on unlocking relevant financial and political commitments. Ministers of health, health activists and other related sectors gathered at the Al Waha auditorium in Dubai's Expo City to consider actions to address the impact of climate change on human health.

For more information: United Nations



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On the fifth day of the COP28, the theme was "Trade Day" with WTO co-leading. Global leaders addressed how to work together to promote a roadmap of trade policy options for a just and ambitious response to climate change.

"Trade is about people, a tool for improving their lives and their livelihoods, and for promoting sustainable development as enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement that set up the World Trade Organization," noted DG Okonjo-Iweala in her opening remarks. She referred to the 10-point set of "Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action", the new WTO publication launched on 2 December that explores how integrating trade policy options, such as reviewing import tariffs on low-carbon solutions, into national strategies can help economies mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its consequences. For the first time, trade was featured as a specific theme at COP. Throughout the Conference, a Trade House is hosting in-depth discussions on how trade and trade policies can help address different aspects of the climate challenge. The pavilion is hosted by the WTO, ICC, UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

For more information: World Trade Organization



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On the sixth day of the COP28, the themes were Energy, Industry, Just Transition and Indigenous People

The day's focus was on levers and pathways for rapid decarbonization, job growth, economic opportunity, and just transition across the entire energy and industrial value chains, while accelerating economic opportunity and job growth by taking a holistic view of the just transition and socioeconomic considerations across all sectors, including energy. The key to ensuring that communities – especially the most vulnerable – can leave fossil-fuel based economies behind, is to create space for a just transition to a green economy, clean energy advocates and representatives of indigenous groups argued on sixth day of the COP28. The protestors' call, albeit subdued compared to other COPs, has echoed with phrases such as "1.5-degree goal", "NDCs", "Net-Zero" and "Just Transition", which is on Tuesday's agenda for discussion.

For more information: United Nations



On the seventh day of the COP28, the themes were Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment

During COP28, IRENA unveiled a report on the progress of renewable energy in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, highlighting their potential to leverage resources for innovative renewable solutions. The report emphasizes the role of renewables in climate mitigation, economic diversification, job creation, and reducing environmental impacts, providing a valuable resource for policymakers, businesses, and civil society in the region. IRENA Director General Francesco La Camera notes the GCC's opportunity to maintain a leading role in the global energy market as the region pursues ambitious renewable and hydrogen strategies alongside net-zero commitments.

In addition, more than 30 countries, including the United States, have launched the COP28 Declaration of Intent on the Mutual Recognition of Certification Schemes for Renewable and Low-Carbon Hydrogen, aiming to facilitate a global market for clean hydrogen. The United States emphasizes the need for robust scientific assessments in certification schemes, highlighting its commitment to working with international partners for mutual recognition and adherence to high standards based on the best available science.

For more information: International Renewable Energy Agency, Energy.gov

On the tenth day of the COP28, the themes were Nature, Land Use, and Oceans

Nearly \$7 trillion of public and private finance each year supports activities that directly harm nature – some 30 times the amount spent on nature-based solutions annually, according to an UN report launched on Saturday at COP28 in Dubai. Saturday's report launch comes as negotiations on the conference's outcome text are shifting into high gear and against the backdrop of the largest on-site action yet for climate justice. Calls for ending the world's dependence on fossil fuels and demanding reparations for 'Loss and Damage' can be heard ringing out at Dubai's iconic Expo City venue.

This year's State of Finance for Nature report is the first such survey to focus on what is known as "nature-negative finance flows" and underscores the urgency to address the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. The report, launched to coincide with a day set aside at the latest UN climate conference for discussions on nature and land use, also highlighted the fact that these investments dwarfed the annual amount being invested in nature-based solutions, which totaled roughly \$200 billion last year.

A staggering \$5 billion of these nature-negative finance flows come from the private sector, which is 140 times larger than private investments in nature-based solutions, and almost half of that stems from only 5 industries: construction, electric utilities, real estate, oil and gas, and food and tobacco.

For more information: United Nations



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On the eleventh day of the COP28, the themes were Food, Agriculture, and Water

As COP28 heads into its final working days in Dubai, the UN's agriculture wing launched on Sunday a ground-breaking plan that looks to transform the world's agrifood systems from a net emitter to a carbon sink by 2050. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has identified 10 priority areas – such as livestock, soil and water, crops, diets and fisheries – where following the roadmap can help push the world closer to achieving 'Zero Hunger', the second of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim is to transform agrifood systems – which encompass how the food we eat is farmed or raised, how it is transported, and how and where we dispose of it – growing harvesting from net emitters to into a carbon sink by 2050, capturing 1.5 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. Also, the goal is to help to eliminate world hunger without driving the planet past the 1.5 degree limit for global warming as set by the Paris Agreement. In a message to the high-level event, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said the Declaration is a “powerful statement of political will to drive the transitions we need” as the deadline to achieve the 2030 Agenda fast approaches.

“With seven years remaining to achieve our sustainable development and climate goals, we need to urgently strengthen our collective efforts using food systems as a lever to accelerate implementation.”

Ms. Mohammed added that any path to fully realizing the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement must include agriculture and food systems, from which over one third of emissions emanate.

For more information: United Nations

On the twelfth day of the COP28, final negotiations has been started

As COP28 entered its final 24 hours, the UN chief delivered a clear message to government negotiators: “We must conclude the conference with an ambitious outcome that demonstrates decisive action and a credible plan to keep 1.5-degree goal alive, protecting those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.” Negotiators are engaged in intense negotiations to hammer out a deal on key agenda items including the future of the use of fossil fuels, ramping up renewable energy, building resilience to climate change and ensuring financial support for vulnerable countries.

Urging countries to go into “overdrive to negotiate in good faith and rise to the challenge”, the Secretary-General also cautioned that any “compromise for solutions”, must not come at the cost of “compromising on the science or on the need for the highest ambition.” He underscored that in a “fractured and divided world, COP28 can show that multilateralism remains our best hope to tackle global challenges.”

At the first formal meeting of the closing plenary, COP28 President Dr Sultan Al Jaber said the time for discussion on a final document was coming to an end, “We have a text, we need to agree on the text. There is no time for hesitation. The time to decide is now.”

The UAE’s top climate negotiator said the outcome of COP28 must respect science and keep the target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees in reach. Dr Al Jaber said even more flexibility was needed as COP28 approaches the finish line, adding: “I want you to deliver the highest ambition on all items, including on fossil fuel language.”

For more information: United Nations