



United Nations
Climate Change

2023 Highlights



This document is a summary of UN Climate Change's key mandated activities and events in 2023.

Supporting and accelerating actions under the Paris Agreement

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - **UN Climate Change** - is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the cooperation and international response of national governments to the global climate crisis already impacting all of humanity.



UNFCCC was established in 1992 to **strengthen the global response to climate change**



Enables international cooperation for **limiting global heating and building climate resilience**



Convenes UN climate conferences - COPs - every year to advance global climate action and ambition



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Treaties

1992

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

1997

Kyoto Protocol

2015

Paris Agreement reached at the COP21 UN Climate Change Conference



195 Parties



To hold the global temperature increase to 1.5°C this century, boost climate resilience and provide climate finance for vulnerable countries



Commitments from all countries to rapidly cut their emissions, through a just transition, and work together to adapt to climate impacts



Ratchet mechanism for all Parties to periodically boost their climate ambitions and actions

"Without UN-convened international cooperation, global heating would be headed for **levels that most of humanity likely couldn't survive** – up to 5 degrees.

We are now headed for around 2.7 degrees. This is still ruinously high, and there's a long and steep road aheads to get to our shared goal of 1.5 this century. But we should be energized that **we are approaching a halfway point.**

The second half of humanity's climate journey will be even harder, and climate action will need to move at a faster pace, **protecting all peoples**, especially the most vulnerable.

We must **put the climate action machinery to work fully**, and ensure its vast benefits are equitably shared through a just transition."

Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UN Climate Change



Who we are

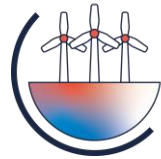
Our mandate also includes a wide range of crucial capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge to help governments **implement their commitments under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.**

Key areas of work



Mitigation

Reducing emissions



Finance, technology and capacity-building

Enabling action



Adaptation

Strengthening resilience



Intergovernmental process

Multilateral negotiations



Transparency

Measuring progress



Engagement and partnerships

Accelerated action on all fronts



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HEADQUARTERS IN BONN, GERMANY

The UNFCCC secretariat operates out of one of the most sustainable buildings in Germany. Constantly seeking to lower its carbon footprint, it uses all its electricity from renewable sources, among other measures.

STAFF (as of end 2023)

429 (58% female, 42% male)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Simon Stiell (as of 2022)

AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR ACTION

The secretariat continues to increase implementation of the recommendations of the UN Board of Auditors:

2023	65% (17 out of 26) implemented
2022	47% (14 out of 30) implemented
2021	28% (6 out of 21) implemented

UN Climate Conference COP28: A turning point



COP28 in Dubai closed with the **UAE Consensus** – a historic agreement that commits almost 200 countries to transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and to strengthening resilience and adaptation measures.

"Whilst we didn't turn the page on the fossil fuel era in Dubai, this outcome is **the beginning of the end**. Now all governments and businesses need to turn these pledges into **real-economy outcomes**, without delay."

Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UN Climate Change



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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT **POLITICO**

COP28 ends with first-ever call to move away from fossil fuels

The nearly 200-nation agreement "has the potential to redefine our economies," summit president Sultan al-Jaber said as the deal drew a standing ovation.

REUTERS® World Business Markets Sustainability Legal Breakingviews

Climate & Energy | Industry Insight

A COP where the world finally faced up to the need to wean itself off fossil fuels

By **Angeli Mehta**
December 15, 2023 6:43 PM GMT+1 · Updated 25 days ago

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ACCUEIL - PLANÈTE - CLIMAT

Energies fossiles : la COP28 s'accorde sur un texte définitif et appelle à engager la « transition »

Est-ce le début de la fin pour le « roi fossile » dans le paysage énergétique ? À la COP28 de Dubaï, le monde s'engage à une transition qui doit commencer dès cette décennie pour prévenir le pire des catastrophes climatiques.

Chief Editor: **Éric Poirier**
12/15/2023 14:18:18 | Tous droits réservés | [1](#) | [2](#)

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El presidente de la COP28 y ministro de Energía y Transición energética de los EAU, Sultan bin Jaber, preside en la sesión plenaria de la Conferencia en Dubai. EFE/EPA/Martin Olivares

Acuerdo histórico en la COP28 para el inicio del fin de la era de los combustibles fósiles

13 diciembre 2023

Dubaï (EFE) - La Cumbre del Clima de Dubaï (COP28) ha acordado iniciar una transición para dejar atrás los combustibles fósiles tras dos semanas de intensas negociaciones en las que cerca de 200 países han debatido la forma de atajar colectivamente la crisis climática.

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NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT | GLOBAL ISSUES

COP28 strike deal to 'transition away' from fossil fuels

Published 12/13/2023 | last updated 12/13/2023

Representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed at the COP28 climate summit to begin reducing global consumption of fossil fuels. DW has the latest.

COP28: Global momentum for action

COP28 marked major progress on justice, resilience and solutions in the global effort to address the climate emergency, embracing innovation while protecting the world's most vulnerable.



New funding on loss and damage

Support for communities and countries on the climate frontlines.



A global goal for strengthened resilience

New targets for measuring progress on adaptation and mobilizing further action.



Joining forces with nature

Harnessing ecosystems, biodiversity and forests as climate allies.



Practical solutions

Partnerships and scaled up action on agriculture, health and methane.



What happens now?

This year

Global push for a **quantum leap in climate finance**, towards a new global climate finance goal agreed at COP29 in Azerbaijan

All countries step up efforts to prepare **new economy-wide national climate plans** (Nationally Determined Contributions) and National Adaptation Plans

Countries **strengthen** their 2030 emissions cuts targets

Countries submit **Biennial Transparency Reports**

Next year

Countries deliver **new national climate plans** from early 2025

By COP30, all plans add up to a **global surge in climate action**

Countries continue work to triple renewables, double energy efficiencies, boost adaptation, including through funding for loss and damage, and translate all pledges into **real economy outcomes**

By 2030

Global emissions must be **halved**

All peoples must be **better protected** from climate impacts

All countries and communities must share in the benefits of a bolder climate action, through a **just transition**



The global stocktake

A roadmap for accelerated action

The first global stocktake was held from 2022 to 2023 and concluded at COP28.



Enabled by
UN Climate Change

364 submissions



Key component of the
Paris Agreement

12 consultations



Held every five years
to assess global **progress**
on climate action

12 high-level meetings



A lever to continuously
ratchet up **ambition**
on climate action

10 global roundtables

7 synthesis reports

2 global workshops

KEY FINDING: PROGRESS MADE
BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH

Countries responded at COP28 by committing to:



Speed up the transition
to clean energy



Advance adaptation efforts



Scale up finance



Develop stronger
climate action plans



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UN Climate Change tasked with supporting all countries on these goals.

A fund to respond to loss and damage

Agreement on operationalization of the fund

At the COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, countries reached a significant breakthrough to establish a Fund for responding to loss and damage in countries particularly vulnerable to climate change.

In 2023, in collaboration with the COP Presidencies and key partners, UN Climate Change supported the process to operationalize the fund. COP28 opened with a historic agreement on operationalization of the fund, approving:



The governing instrument of the fund



Annual high-level dialogues on coordination and complementarity



Establishment of the Fund as a World Bank hosted financial intermediary fund (subject to conditions)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

24

Members (14 from developing countries and 10 from developed countries) constituted the UNFCCC secretariat-supported transitional committee

5

Meetings of the transitional committee to transform words into reality

680

Million USD pledged to the Fund (to date)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

2024

The fund takes shape as an institution

COP29

Approval and operationalization of the Fund's accountability and guidance arrangements

2025

First funds to be disbursed



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Paving the way for enhanced transparency

An evidence base to help countries boost actions

Strong climate reporting provides crucial data and information that help assess global climate progress, help governments make informed decisions, attract climate finance and achieve broader development goals.

Building on more than a decade of experience, new reports and reviews under the Paris Agreement will provide a snapshot of climate action and support, enabling countries to develop more ambitious national climate plans.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)



Established by the Paris Agreement,
first reports
due in 2024



Enabling tool for effective policies and implementation



Data to be shared in publicly available biennial transparency reports (BTRs)*

Preparing for enhanced transparency

3

New ETF reporting tools developed by UN Climate Change to help countries compile data for preparing and submitting their BTRs

900+

Policy and data officials trained by UN Climate Change on using the new reporting tools

1,100

Experts from 150 countries and 5 intergovernmental organizations trained and eligible to conduct technical expert reviews

1,800

National experts from 142 developing countries trained on the enhanced transparency framework



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*The first to be submitted by end 2024

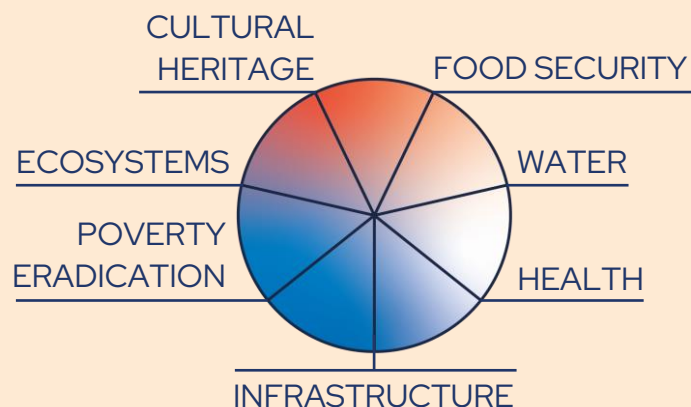
Closing the adaptation gap

Amid rapidly rising temperatures and worsening climate impacts, national efforts to adapt and build resilience remain inconsistent and underfunded.

A framework for the global goal for adaptation was agreed at COP28

The goal aims to assess **global progress on adaptation** and enhance adaptation action and support

Linking climate resilience to sustainable development, COP28 established **adaptation targets**, including:



Landmark agreement facilitated by 8 UN Climate Change-led global workshops in 2022-2023.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



More work in 2024 and 2025 to identify indicators for measuring progress



Build consensus on doubling finance for adaptation



Working with vulnerable countries on National Adaptation Plans



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Inclusive Engagement and Empowerment

The push for climate action is also a fight for more just and equal societies, as vulnerable populations are often hardest hit by climate impacts. Inclusivity is at the heart of the UNFCCC process and helps ensure transparency and an open space for:



Young people



Indigenous Peoples



People with disabilities



Women

The Paris Agreement requires climate action from all sectors of society to build a net-zero, resilient future. To achieve this, the UNFCCC works with:



Cities and regions



Civil society



Business



Investors

How we worked for engagement and empowerment in 2023

140

National gender and climate change focal points were appointed in 108 countries, and UN Climate Change facilitated support to build their skills and capacities

615

New applications approved for observer organizations at COP28, increasing the diversity of voices

170

Seats for non-State actors to participate in Global Stocktake activities

100+

Events facilitated for non-State actors to drive climate ambition



Practical support

Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs)

RCC Caribbean

St. George's, Grenada

Established 2013

Partner: Windward Islands
Research and Education
Foundation

RCC Middle East, North Africa & South Asia

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Established 2019

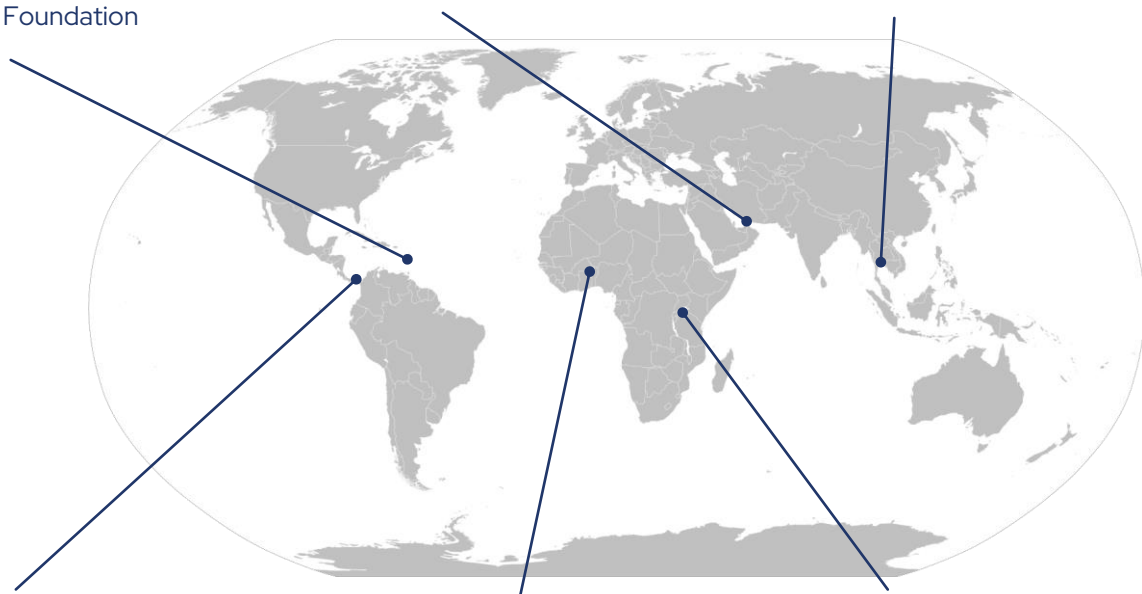
Partner: World Green Economy
Organization

RCC Asia-Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand

Established 2015

Partner: Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies



RCC Latin America

Panama City, Panama

Established 2013 (initially in Colombia)

Partner: The United Nations
Environment Programme

RCC West & Central Africa

Lomé, Togo

Established 2013

Partner: West African
Development Bank

RCC East & Southern Africa

Kampala, Uganda

Established 2013

Partner: East African
Development Bank



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RCC ACHIEVEMENTS, 2023

UN Climate Change is working with regional partners to ensure all countries – particularly the most vulnerable – have access to crucial capacity-building, climate knowledge, technical assistance and networks, through six regional collaboration centres (RCCs). These RCCs engage with governments and other stakeholders on adaptation, mitigation, transparency, climate finance and technology issues to support the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

RCC ACHIEVEMENTS, 2023



Co-organized 235 capacity-building events



Provided technical assistance on the development of national climate plans and long-term strategies



Multiplied efforts for inclusive participation in Article 6 on international carbon markets

Regional outreach, global impact

Multilingual communications in the UN's official languages helped people understand climate impacts and solutions under the Paris Agreement and subsequent COP decisions.

Digital outreach in 2023

316,000,000 people reached on social media in English, French, Spanish and Russian

19,000,000 visits to the UN Climate Change website in English, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian

Media outreach for COP28

44,000

Global news articles on COP28

90+

Journalists trained worldwide on covering climate change

5,352

Global media members accredited by UN Climate Change for COP28



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*Regional Climate Weeks are on pause during 2024 while the UNFCCC secretariat explores enhanced models.

4 REGIONAL CLIMATE WEEKS* TO BOOST COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS

Co-organized with and hosted by governments of Kenya, Malaysia, Panama & Saudi Arabia

26,000 participants

900 sessions to showcase local solutions and approaches

Built regional consensus for strong outcomes at COP28



Delivering COP28

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) was a major operational achievement, bringing together thousands of stakeholders to advance international cooperation on climate action.

In 2023, UN Climate Change supported 15 constituted bodies to progress negotiations, provided legal and procedural support to the outgoing COP27 and incoming COP28 Presidencies, and facilitated over 200 meetings, workshops and capacity-building events (in-person, virtual and hybrid).



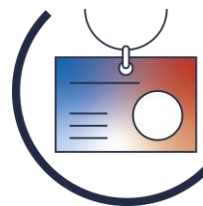
84,000

**Total
participants**



149

**World
leaders**



2,673

**Media participants
on site**

Transparency: for the first time, every single delegate and their affiliation was named on a publicly accessible list.



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UN Climate Change ensures the effective delivery of COP sessions

Supports negotiations and ensures inclusive participation

Manages flow of official documents that facilitates decision-making

Reviews applications and accredits thousands of participants and media

Ensures effective implementation of the host country agreement by assisting host country with all aspects of organization and venue logistics

Provides platforms for showcasing climate action

Communicates news and outcomes to the global public