

Open Dialogue at COP 28
Wednesday, 6 December 2023, 13:00-15:00
Meeting Room 9 (MR9)

International cooperation, social dialogue and multilevel action for the “inevitable and essential” for a just energy transition that is fair, fast, orderly, equitable and responsible

1. Background

The SBI, at its forty-sixth session, “identified opportunities to further enhance the openness, transparency and inclusiveness of the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders, reflecting the proposals and views expressed in the in-session workshop. [...] Encouraging future Presidencies, subject to the availability of resources, to explore ways to enable admitted NGO constituencies to have an open dialogue with Parties, whereby agenda-setting as well as programming of the dialogue are conducted jointly among the admitted NGO constituencies, the Presidency, the Bureau and the secretariat as appropriate, on the understanding that any outcomes of such a dialogue should have persuasive value only, respecting the Party-driven nature of the UNFCCC process [...]”.¹

The first Open Dialogue was organized at COP 23 in 2017 and was well received by Parties and non-Party stakeholders. The SBI, at its forty-eighth session, “[...] acknowledged the success of the first open dialogue held under the Presidency of COP 23. The SBI encouraged future Presidencies, supported by the secretariat as appropriate, to continue organizing and facilitating an open dialogue among Parties and observer organizations [...]”.²

Furthermore, the SBI, at its fiftieth session, “reaffirmed the value of the open dialogue between Parties and admitted observer organization constituencies and reiterated the invitation to future Presidencies to actively engage with relevant stakeholders, including youth, with the support of the secretariat, as appropriate, in the organization and facilitation of the open dialogue, and welcomed the early dialogue between Parties, NGO constituencies and the incoming Presidency.”³

Seeing the experiences of two more Open Dialogues (COP 25 and COP 26) with varying duration and topics, the SBI, at its fifty-second to fifty-fifth session, also encouraged that “future COP Presidencies consider convening intersessional open dialogues virtually in addition to in-person open dialogues during sessions of the COP.”⁴

For COP 28, the NGO Constituencies and the COP Presidency have co-developed the programme as below.

2. Objective

The Open Dialogue offers a unique opportunity for Parties and NGO and Indigenous Peoples Constituencies to directly interact with each other on concrete issues in the UNFCCC negotiation process. It is important to consider, however, that the SBI conclusion states that “any outcomes of such a dialogue should have persuasive value only”.

At COP 28, the aim of the Open Dialogue is to pave the way for new dialogues among Parties and NGO Constituencies, among others, for the next few years, to reflect a new era of climate action.

¹ FCCC/SBI/2017/7, para. 119(b)(i)

² FCCC/SBI/2018/9, para. 143

³ FCCC/SBI/2019/9, para. 138

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2021/16, para. 114(b)(i)



3. Date, time and venue

Date: Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Time: 13:00-15:00

Venue: Meeting Room 9 (MR9)

4. Programme

Topic: International cooperation, social dialogue and multilevel action for the “inevitable and essential” for a just energy transition that is fair, fast, orderly, equitable and responsible

Description: This dialogue provides an opportunity for Parties and NGO and Indigenous Peoples constituencies to share views, experiences, challenges and possibilities for securing a just and responsible transition from fossil fuels to clean energy sources. This topic cuts across a number of agenda items, including the global stocktake, the Just Transition Work Programme, the Mitigation Work Programme and Finance, amongst others. The just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy is a key issue for consideration at COP 28 and requires the inclusive, frank, and robust engagement of Parties, Non-Party stakeholders and all other actors to form the basis for an ambitious outcome. The implementation of an equitable and responsible just transition from fossil fuels will require all stakeholders at multiple levels and across sectors and therefore an inclusive and participatory approach is critical.

Facilitator: Hana AlHashimi, Chief Climate Negotiator, UAE

Indicative timing	Agenda
13:00 – 13:35	Opening
13:00 – 13:10 13:10 – 13:35	Welcome remarks by Hana AlHashimi, Chief Climate Negotiator, UAE / [COP President and the Executive Secretary] Scene-setting Panel <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensuring a just transition that actively engages affected communities, workers, farmers, women, Indigenous Peoples, and Youth in the transition away from fossil fuels - Presentation by Rhoda Boateng, ITUC Africa and Bas van Weegberg, FNV Netherlands2. Multilevel actions for a just transition/energy transition - Presentation by Màiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition, Scotland, United Kingdom3. An equity-based approach to the phase out of fossil fuels - Presentation by Sivan Kartha, Climate Equity Reference Project
13:35 – 14:50	Open Exchange of Views by Parties and Observers



	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The UNEP Production Gap Report⁵ shows that current production plans are far in excess of production pathways consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. How can we ensure that fossil fuel production and supply is consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals in line with CBDR-RC⁶, while expanding energy accessibility, security, affordability, and reliability for all as a priority? How can international cooperation enable the transition efforts of fossil fuel producing developing countries? Do we need to establish a dedicated international mechanism to ensure a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, for example a dedicated energy negotiation track?2. How can a phase-in plan for at least tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling average annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030 support a responsible, just and equitable energy transition?3. What mechanisms can provide a 'meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders' to find sustainable and just solutions to the climate crisis⁷ in the various levels of governance? Do we have any inspiring examples?4. How can we ensure that the concept of just transition is applied inclusively to all sectors and stakeholders, including the agricultural sector, communities in rural areas, farmers, fossil fuel workers, etc.? How can we ensure that these stakeholders, especially in developing countries, have access to the knowledge and financial resources to participate in decision-making and solutions for a just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy?
14:50 – 15:00	Closing by Hana AlHashimi, Chief Climate Negotiator, UAE
	Reflections and closing of dialogue

⁵ Production Gap Report 2023, UNEP, <https://www.unep.org/resources/production-gap-report-2023>

⁶ Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities

⁷ Decision 1/CMA.4, para. 50