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MESSAGE TO PARTIES AND OBSERVERS

UN Climate Change Quarterly Report: Q4 2023

Introduction

Welcome to UN Climate Change's Q4 2023 Quarterly Report, covering the period from 1 October to 31 December. The final months of 2023 culminated with a successful COP 28 that made some genuine strides forward, particularly the delivery of the UAE Consensus, marked by a decision on the first global stocktake. Signalling the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era, Parties committed to tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency, and agreed a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation. The loss and damage fund was operationalized and Parties made an initial down payment.

However, the true test of COP 28 is what happens next in the crucial months and years immediately ahead. By early 2025, countries must deliver new nationally determined contributions (what I'm calling NDCs 3.0). Every single commitment – on finance, adaptation, and mitigation, must bring us in line with a 1.5-degree world. But without far more finance, 2023's climate wins will quickly fizzle away into more empty promises. We need torrents – not trickles – of climate finance.

UN Climate Change will not rest in pushing for the highest ambition, in accordance with the science – working side-by-side with all governments, businesses and community leaders. However, our core budget is currently less than half funded, and so I urge Parties to address the timely and complete funding for mandates, otherwise it will be impossible to fulfil Parties' requirements going forward.

This series of quarterly reports is just one of the ways we are working to usher in a new era of accountability and transparency for our process. My hope is that these reports help enhance the transparency of all ongoing work, so Parties can track activities, particularly those Parties that are not able to engage in every discussion directly. I also hope this helps civil society further engage in and monitor our collective progress. We look forward to continuing these reports in 2024.

Yours sincerely,

(signed by)

Simon Stiell

Distribution: To Parties and observer States through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany, United Nations and related organizations, specialized agencies and observer organizations admitted by the Conference of the Parties.



Supporting Global Efforts to Address Climate Change

Taking Stock of Climate Action and Charting a Better Course Forward

Parties came together at COP 28 with a decision on the first global stocktake to ratchet up climate action before the end of the decade – with the overarching aim to keep the global temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach. This was the result of a two-year process led by the secretariat that included a series of technical dialogues, consultations, reports, high-level meetings, and written submissions to ensure the outcome of the stocktake was as comprehensive and inclusive as possible.

A series of high-level events at COP 28 helped conclude the first global stocktake. During the conference's first week, world leaders shared their views and expectations for the global stocktake's outcome during a [series of roundtables](#). A total of 29 Heads of State and Government, 21 ministers, 10 high-level officials, three United Nations organizations, and eight non-governmental organizations spoke at the events.

Following intense negotiations, the [global stocktake decision](#) was adopted at COP 28. The decision recognizes the science that indicates global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43% by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to limit global warming to 1.5°C. It also notes Parties are off track when it comes to meeting their Paris Agreement goals.

The stocktake decision calls on Parties to take actions towards achieving, at a global scale, a tripling of renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030. The list also includes accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power, phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and other measures that drive the transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, with developed countries continuing to take the lead.

The decision also calls for accelerating efforts to double adaptation finance and advance adaptation plans and efforts. In addition, it calls for fulfilment of the USD 100 billion commitment, support for the new quantified goal on climate finance, reforms for multilateral development banks for simplified access and scaling financing, enhanced capacity-building efforts and the establishment of a new technology implementation programme.

In the short-term, Parties need to prepare their next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by early 2025, which need to be informed by the outcome of the global stocktake. Parties are encouraged to come forward with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and aligned with the 1.5°C limit.

The need for more ambitious NDCs was underscored in the secretariat's 2023 NDC [Synthesis Report](#) published in Q4 – which showed global efforts are falling short to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C and that much more action is needed now to bend the world's emissions trajectory further downward and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

To ensure this important work moves forward, annual global stocktake dialogues will take place starting in 2024. Parties and non-Party stakeholders will also make submissions on the lessons learnt and experiences of the first stocktake.



Delivering a Successful COP 28

Operations

UN Climate Change, in close collaboration with UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), UN Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (UNDGACM) and the Host Country, successfully delivered arrangements for COP 28 in a safe, secure, and inclusive manner, with unprecedented participation and interest.

The record-breaking level of participants, the World Climate Action Summit and an extremely high number of parallel events placed considerable strains on all UN and UNFCCC staff supporting the conference, as well as on all services, such as registration, transportation, accommodation, meetings room management and documents processing. Working closely with the host country, several innovations were implemented such as strengthened host country agreement, ease of visa facilitation, transparency of COP participants, streamlining of pavilions, innovative use of technology and digital platform for greater participation, strengthened code of conduct and facilitating gender sensitivity training for Chairs and Co-Chairs of various committees.

Facilitating negotiations

UN Climate Change organized 68 intense consultations with Groups of Parties and the COP 28 Presidency on the adoption of agendas and the way forward in the lead up to COP 28. In view of the nine agenda proposals received across bodies, from various Groups of Parties or individual Parties, the Presidency, with the guidance and support from the secretariat, convened these bilateral consultations to understand Parties' views and get agreement on a proposed way forward.

UN Climate Change also facilitated more than 533 hours of negotiations and 58 mandated and process-related events at COP 28 while avoiding thematic clashes. The Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress (ISCP) division provided the full schedule for COP 28 negotiations and mandated events, following past practice and the needs and requests of Parties. The negotiations remain the main purpose of the climate conferences and the secretariat excelled at its role of convener once more, bringing more than 85,000 participants and negotiators together to advance climate agreements and decisions.

During COP 28, the division organized 26 Plenaries of the governing and subsidiary bodies, two informal stocktaking meetings, three meetings of heads of delegations and tens of bilateral consultations with groups and Parties that led to the adoption of the UAE Consensus and 47 decisions across COP 28, CMP19 and CMA5, which made the conference in UAE a resounding success.

Helping Countries Strengthen Resilience to the Effects of Climate Change

COP 28 got underway with a historic agreement on the operationalization of [funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage](#), including a new dedicated fund under the UNFCCC – the first time a substantive decision was adopted on the first day of the conference. Pledges made to the fund, which will be operated by the World Bank, are approximately USD 661 million to date. The decision also included the creation of an annual high-level dialogue on the coordination and complementarity of funding arrangements.



In another major step forward at COP 28, Parties agreed on targets for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. This decision sets ambitious targets that link development and climate resilience, including on health, water and food, and increases ambition for the provision of and access to adaptation finance. The work under the GGA will continue with a new two-year work programme, in order to identify and develop indicators.

The [Adaptation Committee](#) concluded its first series of regional workshops, issued its 2023 [annual report](#) and other key deliverables after its [24th meeting in October](#), and will continue to feed into efforts to increase ambition and enhance adaptation action and support.

UN Climate Change convened a high-level event at COP 28 to kick-start discussions on the transformations needed to accelerate support for NAPs. The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) released major [publications](#) on NAPs progress, available sources of finance, and an updated catalogue of adaptation project profiles from the least-developed countries to facilitate the implementation of NAPs. These publications will also help inform the assessment of progress of NAPs to be conducted in 2024.

Q4 began with two Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) gatherings in the Arctic and Pacific regions. Participants identified and addressed the impacts of climate change and brought forward strategies and techniques, anchored in Indigenous values and knowledge systems, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience. Ahead of COP 28, two virtual training workshops were held to advance meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process.

Boosting Finance, Technology and Capacity Building

Finance

Q4 was underlined by successful intergovernmental negotiations and efforts to catalyze climate investments of public and private actors on the ground, with the overall aim to mobilize adequate, predictable and accessible finance for climate action.

In October, the [second workshop](#) under the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement took place in Switzerland. The workshop brought together 245 representatives from Parties and non-Party stakeholders from the financial and civil society sectors. The deliberations are summarized in [the report](#) that was considered at COP 28.

At COP 28, Parties recognized the significant scale of investment needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. They decided to continue to strengthen the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue in 2024 and 2025, which will include at least two workshops per year, a workplan and annual reports for consideration at COP 29 and COP 30 respectively.

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) finalized flagship products contained in the [SCF Annual Report](#) – feeding into climate finance discussions at COP 28. These products include: (1) [Executive summary](#) of the report on the doubling of adaptation finance, (2) [Executive summary](#) of the report on clustering types of climate finance definitions, (3) [Synthesis of views](#) on ways to achieve Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, (4) [Summary](#) of the 2023 Forum of the Standing Committee on



Finance on financing just transitions, (5) the SCF [self-assessment report](#), and (6) Compilation and synthesis of [submissions on draft guidance](#) to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.

The [eighth technical expert dialogue](#) under the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) was held in November to take stock of the work in 2023, including issues that require further deliberations to drive progress toward the setting the NCQG in 2024. The outcomes of the discussions were summarized in an [addendum](#) to the annual report by the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme.

Additionally, the 2023 [high-level ministerial dialogue](#) on the NCQG took place at COP 28 and focused on the approach to the scale of the goal and the mode of work for reaching an agreement in 2024. The summary report of the dialogue on NCQG can be viewed [here](#). In Dubai, Parties decided to transition to a mode of work to enable the development of a draft negotiating text for consideration at COP 29. This includes convening meetings of Parties to engage in developing the substantive framework for a draft negotiating text back-to-back with three technical expert dialogues in 2024, as well as holding the next high-level ministerial dialogue well before COP 29.

Also during Q4, the [Needs-Based Finance Project](#) facilitated 31 project concepts in eight regions. The concepts are being developed further for final consideration at a set of regional investment forums.

Technology

One of the key outcomes of the first global stocktake was the establishment of a technology implementation programme. This new programme is aimed at strengthening support for the implementation of technology priorities identified by developing countries, and to address the challenges identified in the first periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism.

The UNFCCC Technology Mechanism Initiative on [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for Climate Action](#) continued to garner interest. At COP 28, a [high-level event](#) focused on opportunities and challenges of the use of AI for climate action in least developed countries and small island developing States. The event showcased climate solutions powered by AI and launched [the AI Innovation Grand Challenge](#).

The secretariat supported the organization of a [high-level event hosted by the UAE COP 28 Presidency](#) to advance the implementation of the [first joint work programme](#) of the Technology Mechanism through international cooperation on technology and innovation. Moreover, the secretariat held Technology Mechanism events, focused on [collaborative research, development and demonstration](#) and [digital readiness](#), and continued its efforts to mobilize resources for the Technology Mechanism.

As part of efforts to enhance implementation of Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) outcomes, the secretariat convened a dialogue among developing countries, implementers of the Global TNA Project and the Green Climate Fund to discuss TNA implementation and [linkages between TNAs, NDCs and outcomes of the global stocktake](#).

The secretariat continued its support for integrating diversity and inclusion considerations in the work of the Technology Mechanism. The [Gender and Climate Technology Expert Roster](#) was launched at COP 28, and the Technology Executive Committee co-convened a [multi-stakeholder dialogue](#) to highlight Indigenous technologies and technologies from local communities in collaboration with the LCIPP.



Capacity Building

In Q4, the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB) organized three dialogues on building capacities for NAP implementation strategies during three regional climate weeks. These dialogues, which continued the series initiated in Africa with the NAP Global Network, involved speakers from global, regional, and local institutions sharing insights into the capacity needs for NAP formulation and implementation. The dialogues explored how to enhance countries' capacities to formulate and implement effective strategies, emphasizing monitoring, evaluation, and learning to increase the impact of NAPs across the four regions.

The [Youth4Capacity programme](#) launched the “Becoming...” webinar series to equip youth with the knowledge, skills and confidence to become changemakers in diverse fields of climate action, ranging from youth as climate storytellers to champions for children’s rights. As part of the Youth Affiliated Events, the programme hosted capacity-building sessions at regional climate weeks to enhance youth engagement in climate policymaking, just transition and community-led climate action, with other sessions held at COP 28.

The PCCB’s [Fifth Capacity-building Hub](#) at COP 28 brought together 144 partners and nearly 6,000 participants across 56 sessions. These sessions showcased cross-cutting capacity-building efforts in cities, private finance, South-South cooperation, human rights, and adaptation with a focus on enabling more ambitious climate action and fostering partnerships.

An event by the Joint Capacity-building program of the three Rio Conventions secretariats at COP 28 aimed to improve coordination in implementing the conventions and sustainable development goals, strengthening capacities of domestic policymakers and practitioners, while identifying capacity-building needs, and promoting collective implementation across climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation agendas worldwide.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Boosting the Transition

The second [global dialogue](#) and the second investment-focused event under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme were held in October, with a focus on accelerating just energy transition in transport systems.

To facilitate discussions at the global dialogue, the co-chairs of the work programme produced a non-paper on emissions from the transport sector. Following the dialogue, the co-chairs produced a [summary report](#) of the event and the 2023 [annual report](#) of the mitigation work programme.

At COP 28, UN Climate Change and the COP 28 Presidency organized the second high-level ministerial roundtable on [pre-2030 ambition](#). This event was an opportunity to help set the global direction on pre-2030 mitigation ambition and implementation, with discussions focused on how achieve the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, helping to unlock an ambitious COP 28 outcome on mitigation. The roundtable discussions set the stage for the final week of negotiations and helped frame the final decisions on the global stocktake and the guidance for the next round of NDCs in early 2025. A summary report of the event is available [here](#).



Cooperative Implementation

In Q4, work on Article 6.2 advanced with the publication of multiple technical papers and documents.

The Article 6.4 Supervisory Body approved several regulations, standards and procedures in Q4, which are essential for operationalizing the Article 6.4 mechanism in 2024. The Supervisory Body also made recommendations to CMA.4 for methodology requirements and activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism.

Regarding the implementation of the work programme for non-market approaches under Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement, an advanced version of the UNFCCC web-based platform for non-market approaches was presented to Parties in Q4, with the aim to complete the platform by June 2024.

Negotiations on Article 6.2 and 6.4 to finalize the remaining technical elements that were not completed at COP 28 will continue at COP 29.

Response Measures

In Q4, the secretariat organized two in-session events at COP 28: understanding the effects of climate policies and response measures to [support just transition](#); and economic diversification and engagement of the private sector to [facilitate decent work and quality jobs](#) in low greenhouse gas emission sectors.

The secretariat also organised eight events during the regional climate weeks and at COP 28 to execute the communication and engagement strategy of the Katowice Committee of Experts (KCI). These events were designed to engage stakeholders in the KCI's work. They focused on various themes including increasing climate action, achieving socio-economic prosperity through evidence-based policy tools, leveraging emerging technologies for economic diversification, involving the private sector in facilitating a just transition, and integrating just transition policies into NDCs and LT-LEDS.

At COP 28, negotiations were concluded on the mid-term review of the workplan on the impact of the implementation response measures forum and its KCI. Development of case studies and the interface for the modelling tools database, which could not be concluded in 2023, will continue in 2024.

Just Transition

At COP 28, the work programme on just transition was operationalized, with the aim to discuss pathways to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. In addition, the COP 28 Presidency together with UN Climate Change hosted the first annual high-level ministerial roundtable on just transition.

At least two dialogues on the just transition will be held in 2024, with topics based on suggestions from Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders. This will be the first year of operation for the new work programme and a focused global effort to bring attention to just transition pathways to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.



Underpinning Climate Action with Transparent Reporting and Review

Ten reviews of annual submissions of 2023 greenhouse gas inventories by Annex I Parties took place in Q4. In addition, one Party (Australia) submitted its first National Inventory report following the reporting guidelines of the Paris Agreement. The secretariat conducted the first simplified review and published the [review report](#). This provided an opportunity to assess procedures and approaches for the reviews under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) in 2025 and beyond.

Six in-country reviews of National Communications and Biennial Reports of Annex I Parties took place in October and November, which focused on the achievement of 2020 quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets, implementation of mitigation actions and support provided to developing country Parties.

Three rounds of technical analysis of biennial update reports from developing countries were coordinated by the secretariat in October and November for 12 Parties during the regional climate weeks and in Bonn. This process aims to facilitate dialogue between international experts and Parties, to identify capacity-building needs and areas of improvement. The process also enables developing countries to assess their readiness for the ETF.

The secretariat published the compilation and synthesis of the [fifth biennial reports](#) of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, which highlights key findings of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets for 2020 by these Parties as well as the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties.

The training of Parties for the use of the new ETF reporting tools continued until the end of the year resulting in: 257 participants trained in all of the regional climate weeks, 139 participants trained in events organized by the partners and 507 participants (from 116 Parties) trained during COP 28.

The secretariat received Andorra's early submission of its first biennial transparency report (BTR) in October, more than a year ahead of the deadline. This demonstrated political will and firm commitment to meeting the enhanced reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement. Consistent with its mandate, the secretariat initiated its planning for the first in-country technical expert reviews under the Paris Agreement.

The secretariat organized the 10th meeting of the [Consultative Group of Experts](#) (CGE) in October to take stock of its key activities in 2023. Technical documents, including the CGE report on [capacity-building needs assessment](#), and [technical paper on benefits of climate transparency](#), were published in October.

COP 28 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). To date, 60 countries have communicated on their efforts to implement REDD+, covering a forest area of about 1.35 billion hectares – approximately 62% of forest area in developing countries. The secretariat also used the opportunity to publish new information on REDD+ results-based payments and highlight progress at a [side event](#) on REDD+ at COP 28.



Strengthening Collaboration Between Governments and Key Stakeholders

In parallel to the formal negotiations, the [Global Climate Action](#) space at COP 28 provided a platform for governments, cities, regions, businesses, financial institutions, philanthropies, and civil society to collaborate and showcase their real-world climate solutions, with more than 100 events taking place.

The High-Level Champions, together with the [Marrakech Partnership](#) for Global Climate Action, launched their implementation roadmap of [2030 Climate Solutions](#) to support the global stocktake process. These are a set of solutions, with insights from a wide range of non-Party stakeholders on effective measures that need to be scaled up and replicated to halve global emissions, address adaptation gaps and increase resilience by 2030.

UN Climate Change reinstated its [Global Climate Action Awards](#) to highlight innovative climate action by young people around the world. Two awardees were selected from 1,750 applicants from 120 countries: one for youth engaged in the energy transition and another for youth from local or indigenous communities leading on nature and ecosystem-based climate action. The two winners attended COP 28, where they showcased their solutions at an award ceremony organized by UN Climate Change.

The [Sports for Climate Action](#) 2023 Annual General Meeting was held in London. The event brought together 95 sports organisations to discuss what they can do to reduce their environmental impact, how to design effective adaptation strategies and how can they become a stronger unifying tool to drive climate awareness and action among citizens.

Stakeholder Engagement

The secretariat facilitated the engagement of observers across various COP 28 events and activities. This included supporting plenary interventions and participation in high-level events focused on the global stocktake, the mitigation work programme, the new collective quantified goal on climate finance and pre-2030 ambition.

The secretariat also supported the COP 28 Presidency's Open Dialogue, which was co-developed with NGO constituencies, enabling an active dialogue between observers and Parties on a just energy transition away from fossil fuels. Further, the secretariat facilitated nearly 170 advocacy actions to amplify observers' perspectives on various climate topics of importance.

Also at COP 28, the secretariat coordinated more than 370 official side events engaging almost 1,050 Parties and observer organizations and more than 170 exhibits engaging 300 Parties and observers. The topics included, gender and climate change, disability and climate change, as well as the perspectives of the Indigenous Peoples and youth.

The conclusion of the first global stocktake also saw unprecedented participation by non-Party stakeholders, who provided inputs and insights throughout the two-year process. Non-Party stakeholders highlighted opportunities, based on their own leadership experience, on how to cooperate and collaborate to enable an ambitious outcome at COP 28 and subsequent follow-through and response.



Net-Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework Consultation

UN Climate Change's [Global Climate Action Portal](#) (GCAP) team collected and recorded announcements made at COP 28, including pledges, launch of initiatives and declarations, publications and progress of existing initiatives. The team registered around 190 announcements made at COP 28, which is more than double the number collected at COP27. As well as providing a publicly accessible repository of COP outcomes, the portal also provides a platform to track progress on climate commitments.

The Global Climate Action [summary report](#), published by the COP 28 Presidency, UN Climate Change and the High-Level Champions, presents key outcomes on the Global Climate Action Agenda, such as the launch of cooperative climate initiatives.

At COP 28, the tracking and recognition team hosted two technical workshops on improved climate action data and a session specific to adaptation and resilience metrics. The team also collaborated with World Resources Institute and the Carbon Disclosure Project on a public event bringing together two panels of leaders to discuss progress and challenges in implementation.

In Q4, the independent consultation for the secretariat's Recognition and Accountability Framework regarding net-zero pledges from non-State actors concluded its consultation. This first phase of the consultation, which aimed to help identify barriers and solutions to the recognition and transparency of net zero targets and implementation, was carried out from September to December 2023. Several roundtables, bilateral meetings and one global townhall were held under the leadership of the co-chairs and the consultation team. Through these engagements, more than 400 governments, private sector and civil society institutions were consulted.

In addition, more than 100 non-State actors participated in a global survey and several shared written submissions with the secretariat. The co-chairs and secretariat shared initial findings with the Consultation Advisory Group and with stakeholders at COP 28. The co-chairs expect to finalize a report of the findings, to be issued within the first few months of 2024.

Regional Collaboration Centres

The UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) supported several regional dialogues on carbon pricing, Article 6 training and a Designated National Authorities Forum during the four Regional Climate Weeks held in 2023.

RCC Asia-Pacific organised carbon pricing capacity-building for Party and non-Party stakeholders in the region. RCC MENA and South Asia organised a training on Article 6 implementation for the private sector. RCC East and Southern Africa supported a [study](#) on carbon market opportunities and technologies for seven East Africa countries. RCC East and Central Africa produced an [assessment](#) of carbon pricing initiatives in Nigeria.

At COP 28, the RCCs co-organized and participated in 14 [events](#) on nationally determined contributions, innovation, private sector engagement, youth, energy transition, and climate finance.



Regional Climate Weeks

Four [regional climate weeks](#) were held in 2023, with three of them taking place in Q4. UN Climate Change, together with UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, organized Middle East and North Africa Climate Week in early October, which was followed by Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week two weeks later. Asia-Pacific Climate Week took place in November.

Together with Africa Climate Week, which took place in September, the four regional climate weeks in 2023 attracted 26,000 participants in 900 sessions, including 80 mandated UNFCCC events.

UN Climate Change is trying to make better strategic use of the regional climate weeks, including by having mandated events at the climate weeks and linking a common theme each year to support the international negotiation process. The 2023 climate weeks were structured around the global stocktake, with outcomes reported at a dedicated event at COP 28.

Due to lack of funding, UN Climate Change is unable to deliver the regional climate weeks in 2024 and has put them on pause until further notice.

Boosting Empowerment

At COP 28, UN Climate Change's gender team co-organized various events to advance understanding of gender-responsive climate action, as well as to further women's full and equal participation in the UNFCCC process. These events included a two-day Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data, a high-level dialogue on a gender-responsive just transition, a COP 28 Presidency event on gender-responsive just transitions and climate action, as well as training on gender and climate finance for national gender and climate change focal points.

The team further organized a technical dialogue on financing for gender-responsive just transitions and climate action, as well as several informal networking meetings. In addition, the team supported other meetings and events such as the Women Delegate's Night School and a meeting aimed at "championing grassroots gender just climate finance."

In addition to the dynamic and impactful gender events, the Action on Climate Empowerment (ACE) team supported the COP 28 Presidency in delivering an interactive ACE event on empowering a fair, inclusive and just transition and the 2023 Youth-led Climate Forum – eight thematic sessions, from loss and damage to NDCs and cities, over eight days, with a closing session that included the launch of the youth climate stocktake outcomes.

Unfortunately, the lack of sustainable, predictable funding for established work programmes on ACE, youth and gender is putting at risk sustainable staffing, thereby risking the quality and effectiveness of the mandated deliverables.

Communicating COP 28

High-impact communications ahead of and during COP 28 was a key priority of UN Climate Change during Q4. At COP 28, nearly 25 articles published on the UNFCCC Newsroom, including a timely and comprehensive [closing press release](#), helped shape the narrative, highlighting the work of the secretariat and the progress of climate change negotiations. The secretariat's [live blog](#) provided updates to a global



audience about events, livestreams and background information, making COPs more accessible to non-participants, with 91 blog posts in total. More than 5,500 journalists were accredited to COP 28, with a total of 285 press conferences and daily briefings for journalists managed by UN Climate Change.

UN Climate Change had a 32.4 million total reach at COP 28 across all of its social media platforms: Instagram, Youtube, X, Tiktok, LinkedIn and Facebook. Enhanced functionalities to the secretariat's website and app ensured reliable accessibility to relevant information and data. The main website received 4.7 million views, by 1.2 million unique visitors throughout COP 28, with 500,000 views on the main COP 28 page alone.

However, due to lack of funds and shortage of capacity, the communications team did not always have the capacity to fully capitalize on success stories and achievements (for example, the rich work of the UNFCCC's constituted bodies and various agenda items), which could otherwise be used to leverage both the secretariat and UNFCCC process as a driver of global climate action. The lack of funds also led to limitations in the delivery of multilingual content, with almost no Arabic-language content and reduced content in Spanish and French, depriving parts of the global audience of accurate and timely information in their languages about developments at COP 28.

Budget Process for the Biennium 2024–2025

COP 28 approved the core budget of the UNFCCC secretariat for the biennium 2024-2025 amounting to EUR 74.1 million. The approved budget allows for a nominal increase due to cost and statutory increases. However, it neither allows for an increase of staffing nor of non-staff resources.

It is significantly lower than the budget that had been proposed by the Executive Secretary in light of the continued increase in secretariat activities mandated by the governing and subsidiary bodies. Therefore, the share of activities that need to be funded from voluntary and unpredictable contributions keeps growing.

The secretariat is preparing the 2024 supplementary fundraising letter that will include requirements for additional funding to undertake mandated activities not covered by the core budget; and requirements to cover the cost of participation in the sessional meetings of the governing and subsidiary bodies by representatives of Parties eligible for funding, including urgent requirements for the 60th sessions of the subsidiary bodies to be held in June 2024.

Without appropriate and timely funding, the secretariat risks the delivery of mandates in preparation for COP 29 and funding participants from LDC/SIDs and other un/underdeveloped countries in our process. It is imperative for the Parties to consider funding all Party-approved mandates in a timely manner.

What to Expect in 2024

The next two years will be critical. At COP 29, Parties must agree on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, reflecting the scale and urgency of the climate challenge.

Key priorities for this year include securing early political engagement for an ambitious finance goal at COP 29. Whether on slashing emissions or building climate-resilience, finance is the make-or-break factor in the world's climate fight – in quantity, quality, and innovation.



At COP 30, Parties must come prepared with new NDCs that are markedly different from those that went before. Their new pledges must be fully aligned with the 1.5°C temperature limit, covering all greenhouse gases and laying out how each sector of the economy will transition. An interagency meeting took place in March this year to discuss outcomes of the first global stocktake, mandates on NDC submissions, and a common approach to help countries submit NDCs by 2025, aligned with the Paris Agreement.

On accountability, countries will submit their first BTRs this year. They will allow UN Climate Change to track what is being done and what is not. On adaptation, UN Climate Change will support Parties to realize the GGA Framework and encourage many more Parties to develop NAPs.

It will take an innovative and concerted effort over the next two years to put us on track to where we need to be in 2030 and 2050. UN Climate Change will be stepping up to help coordinate the support available for countries to build the capacity needed to deliver NDCs, NAPs, and BTRs, working with all those active in this space.

Bold climate action must be mainstreamed across all functions of government and all aspects of business and investment, with public and private sectors working in concert, together with communities and experts, leaving no one behind.
