Summary of Global Climate Action at COP 28

I. Introduction

1. The importance of engaging non-Party stakeholders (businesses, cities, subnational regions, investors, and civil society) in the multilateral process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been long recognized by Parties; dating back to the Lima-Paris Action Agenda launched at the 20th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 20), the appointment of the High-Level Champions since COP 21, and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action launched by the High-Level Champions at COP 22. The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have led several outcomes on Global Climate Action at COP 27, and Parties welcomed the leadership of the High-Level Champions and encouraged Parties and non-Party stakeholders to engage actively in the Marrakech Partnership.1

2. Building on the progress made at COP 27, non-Party stakeholders actively engaged in global climate action. The snapshot of their work throughout 2023 has been reported through the Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2023, presented by the High-Level Champions at the mandated Global Climate Action High-Level Event (Opening) at COP 28.

3. Throughout the two weeks of COP 28, under the leadership of the COP 28 Presidency, a myriad of progress has been observed under the Global Climate Action Agenda. The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership, also convened over 40 events, including Action Events and Implementation Labs, as well as High-Level Champion Special Events, that showcased the collective momentum from diverse sectors and discussed issues crucial to driving global ambition and action. Announcements, commitments and declarations made, as well as the launch and progress of cooperative climate initiatives, should be well recognized and tracked to ensure such efforts effectively contribute to accelerating the multilateral process towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular, the first Global Stocktake to be concluded at COP 28. With this in mind, as the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC expressed at the opening of COP 28, the UNFCCC secretariat has been tracking announcements and initiatives during COP 28, and, in collaboration with the COP 28 Presidency and the High-Level Champions, hereby publishes this summary report to present key outcomes from the Global Climate Action Agenda.

II. Approach

4. This summary document provides an overview of the key outcomes of global climate action across the four pillars set by the COP 28 Presidency: i) fast-tracking a just, orderly, and equitable energy transition; ii) fixing climate finance; iii) focusing on people, lives and livelihoods; and iv) underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

5. The background information used in analysing the key outcomes is based on several sources. These include but are not limited to: summary documents by the COP 28 Presidency on the thematic days, the World Climate Action Summit, as well as its Midpoint Summary report, daily newsletters (a.k.a. ‘Top of the COP’) published by the High-Level Champions, and the secretariat’s work in collecting announcements made at COP 28 through the Global Climate Action Portal, including the call for announcements to all participants throughout COP 28. The full list of announcements and initiatives tracked can be found on the Portal’s Event Tracking

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1 Decision 1/CP.27, paras. 58 and 59.
### III. Fast-tracking a just, orderly, and equitable energy transition

6. A rapid decarbonization of the energy system is the key to keeping the goal of 1.5 °C within reach. This requires accelerating clean energy transition both from the demand and supply side, while such transformation should be orderly, just and equitable and also account for energy security.

7. To accelerate the energy transition, the COP 28 Presidency took a leading role in launching the [Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge](#). With the endorsement of 130 national governments (as of 11 December, including the European Union (EU)), the Pledge stipulates that signatories commit to work together to triple the world’s installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 GW by 2030 and to collectively double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from around two per cent to over four per cent every year until 2030.

8. The Presidency also led the launch of initiatives focused on collaboration towards reducing sectoral emissions, working with both Parties and non-Party stakeholders. The [Global Cooling Pledge for COP 28](#) includes 66 national government signatories committed to working together with the aim of reducing cooling-related emissions across all sectors by at least 68 per cent globally relative to 2022 levels by 2050. The 37 national government participants of the [Mutual Recognition of Certification Schemes for Renewable and Low-Carbon Hydrogen and Hydrogen Derivatives](#) will seek to work towards mutual recognition of their respective certification schemes on low-carbon hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives. The 52 signatories of the [Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter](#) commit to net-zero operations by 2050 at the latest and ending routine flaring by 2030 and near-zero upstream methane emissions. The Industrial Transition Accelerator, with the endorsement of 35 companies, will [catalyse](#) decarbonization across heavy-emitting sectors, including energy, industry, and transportation.

9. In addition to the work led by the COP 28 Presidency, there were announcements across the global climate action agenda on energy transitions, showcasing multi-stakeholder collaboration. The [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#) announced the addition of new national and subnational governments into the Alliance, working to advance the transition from unabated coal power generation to clean energy. Coinciding with this progress, France, together with countries and organizations, launched the [Coal Transition Accelerator](#), which aims to share expertise, design new policies through best practices and lessons learned, and unlock new sources of public and private financing to facilitate just transitions from coal to clean energy.

10. Also, the newly-launched [Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy](#) which raises a goal of tripling nuclear energy capacity globally by 2050 and inviting shareholders of international financial institutions to encourage the inclusion of nuclear energy in energy lending policies, was endorsed by 22 national governments.

11. The High-Level Champions have also actively engaged in the work of the Presidency and taken the leadership in accelerating energy transition. Working with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), they launched the Utilities for Zero Alliance, having 31 partners, including 25 global utilities and power companies, united for a joint commitment to advance electrification, renewables-ready grids, and clean energy deployment in line with the goals of the [2030 Breakthroughs](#), whereas they also launched new 2030 Breakthroughs on methane reduction in the oil and gas sector, and on electrification.

12. The High-Level Champions have also contributed to the expansion of the Breakthrough Agenda launched at COP 26. The Cement and Concrete Breakthrough, launched by Canada and the United Arab Emirates, aims to focus the industry on speeding up decarbonization by sharing
best practices, working on policy and standards, and supporting new innovation in emerging areas like carbon capture and storage or utilization, or circular economy.

Moreover, they have presented the progress of existing initiatives. The 2023 Progress Report of the Race to Zero Campaign states that more than 13,500 non-Party stakeholders are now engaged in the campaign, almost doubling in membership size since COP 26.

Announcements focused on shipping include 10 companies joining the Cargo Owners for Zero Emission Vessels, the collaborative platform announced during COP 28, bringing the total to over 35 freight buyers working to drive ambition and action toward zero-emissions ocean transport. Additionally, Green Maritime Africa Coalition (GMAC) promoted the supply and use of zero-emission fuels in Africa’s maritime sector, in line with the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) 2050 decarbonization plan. By convening maritime stakeholders, including governments, policymakers, shipping companies, charterers, port operators, banks and universities, GMAC seeks to strengthen Africa’s voice in global efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

Countries involved in the Latin American and Caribbean Renewables Hub have raised the target for renewable energy in total electricity generation to 80 per cent by 2030, from 70 per cent, and aim to reach a share of renewable energy in the total energy supply of at least 36 per cent by 2030.

**IV. Fixing climate finance**

16. While significant mobilization of public and private finance is crucial, the importance of addressing the indebtedness of developing countries and reforming international financial architecture has also been acknowledged at COP 27.\(^2\)

17. Throughout COP 28, a number of national governments and organizations announced commitments to climate finance to areas including but not limited to the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, and Special Climate Change Fund.

18. Under the leadership of the COP 28 Presidency, 13 national governments endorsed the UAE Leaders’ Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework. The Framework will work to unlock the investment opportunity of climate finance through collective action, opportunity for all, and delivering at scale. It is also planned to report back against the delivery of this framework immediately following COP 28.

19. The High-Level Champions presented multiple outcomes on their collaborative work on climate finance. First, as an outcome of the ‘Regional Platforms for Climate Projects’ held throughout the year with the UN Regional Commissions and the COP 27 and COP 28 Presidencies, they published the Assets to Flows II, which points out that regardless of the progress being made, a significant push is still required to meaningfully improve the scale, quality and pace of investment and finance for projects supporting the climate change agenda, particularly in developing countries. Also, the Independent High-Level Expert Group in Climate Finance, which published a report before COP 27, published a summary of its second report working in collaboration with the High-Level Champions. Its messages include that multilateral development banks are key to both unlocking investment opportunities and mobilizing finance, through own lending and catalysing private finance.

20. In responding to the above-mentioned needs regarding the reform of international financial architecture, under the leadership of the High-Level Champions, multilateral development banks and international organizations such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility endorsed the Joint Declaration and Task Force on Credit Enhancement of Sustainability-Linked Sovereign Financing for Nature and Climate. The Declaration and its subsequent establishment of a Task Force aims to respond to the needs of developing countries.

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\(^2\) Decision 1.CP/27, paras. 35 and 40.
by providing long-term fiscal solutions, avoiding short-term debt relief that relies solely on international development assistance.

21. A Call for Collaboration on Enhancing the enabling environment to accelerate the mobilization of private finance for adaptation and resilience was issued at COP 28, was developed by private sector stakeholders and a number of Parties and supported by High-Level Champions with the joint objective to mobilize private finance for adaptation.

22. In addition, the Global Capacity Building Coalition, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and with the engagement of organizations including the UN, World Bank and other multilateral development banks, International Monetary Fund, International Sustainability Standards Board, Network for Greening the Financial System, Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), and UN Principles for Responsible Investment, aims to significantly increase the availability and effectiveness of climate finance technical assistance programs for financial institutions in emerging markets and developing economies.

23. GFANZ, constituting a part of this above Coalition, has been working to develop the tools and methodologies needed to turn financial institutions’ net-zero commitments into action. They have published its 2023 Progress Report on transition finance, showing progress made on transition planning, and mobilizing capital in emerging and developing economies.

24. Supported by GFANZ, eight export credit agencies, in partnership with the Innovation and Knowledge Hub at the University of Oxford, Future of Climate Cooperation, and the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) launched the UN-convened Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance (NZECA). With being confirmed to become a partner of the Race to Zero campaign, NZECA will help decarbonize global trade and facilitate joint action from public and private finance.

25. There were several actions regarding finance for nature. Serving as a companion to the reports of the above-mentioned Independent High-Level Expert Group and as a follow-up to the High-Level Champions’ previously launched report on mobilizing private capital for nature, the newly launched report by the Center for Global Commons at the University of Tokyo, emphasizes the need to mobilize capital for nature conservation by transforming the policy environment, proving viable business models, and harnessing financial innovation.

26. One of the examples by multilateral development banks and international financial institutions on this topic is the launch of the Nature Solutions Hub for Asia and the Pacific by the Asia Development Bank, to proactively scale up the flow of public and private finance into conserving nature and biodiversity loss in Asia and the Pacific.

V. Focusing on people, lives and livelihoods

27. The record-breaking temperature and climate-induced disasters represent the ever-growing requirement for all actors to increase action to adapt and build resilience, especially in vulnerable communities. The Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA), launched and welcomed by Parties at COP 27, has been accelerating this action with stakeholders across systems throughout the year. This critical Agenda presents over 30 global adaptation outcome targets urgently needed by 2030 to increase the resilience of four billion people. The thematic task forces corresponding to the impact systems, as well as a Steering Committee, were established this year.

28. The first implementation report released at COP28 looks at the progress made and the challenges ahead to close adaptation gaps and build resilience between now and 2030. Health, food and agriculture, and nature have been a part of the focuses of the SAA, and the High-Level Champions have shown progress on the Agenda throughout COP 28.

3 Decision 1/CP.27, para 63.
29. Among its several findings and messages, it is noteworthy that the report highlights the introduction of four new Adaptation Outcomes on health around finance, surveillance systems, heat resilience and health infrastructure and facilities. Also, on food and agriculture, it emphasizes the opportunity to accelerate the implementation and integration of plans with other sectoral or local plans and investments. Moreover, on nature, it points out that positive developments exist in terms of standards and guidance, such as the recognition and universal definition of the term nature-based solutions and more advanced standards for private entities on how to set targets and disclose risks related to nature. The report shows a growing number of insurers, banks and investors recognize the risks of inaction and the emerging opportunities related to adaptation and resilience.

30. This pillar represented a case of a smooth transition from negotiation to implementation at COP 28. With the operationalization of the fund and its funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage being agreed upon on the opening day of COP 28, a number of national governments and organizations announced financial commitments to this topic.

31. To strengthen collective action to build climate resilience at the scale and speed required in highly vulnerable countries and communities, under the leadership of the COP 28 Presidency, 78 national governments (including the EU) and 40 organizations endorsed the **COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery and Peace**. Signatories commit to enhancing financial support for climate adaptation and resilience, understanding and improving good practice and programming, and strengthening coordination, collaboration, and partnerships. They will reconvene at COP 29 to review progress and initiate potential additional action.

32. In addition, with the recognition of the need for sectoral interconnections, the COP 28 Presidency convened the first-ever health day to strengthen the interconnections between health and climate in the action agenda, which is a key part of people-focused resilience building. A total of 141 national governments joined the **COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health** (including the EU), which commits to the advancement of climate-resilient development, the strengthening of health systems, and the building of resilient and thriving communities, for the benefit of present and future generations.

33. Also, building a resilient food system that adapts to climate change impacts is vital for people to secure their livelihoods. In this regard, the COP 28 Presidency also launched the **UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action**. The 153 national government (including the EU) signatories commit to several actions, including scaling up adaptation and resilience to reduce the vulnerability of all farmers, fisherfolk, and other food producers to the impacts of climate change, and promoting food security and nutrition by increasing efforts to support vulnerable people. They will review their collective progress at COP 29. Non-Party stakeholders contributed to this effort, bringing more than 200 leading organizations that signed the Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate.

34. With the aim of eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition without exceeding the temperature rise of 1.5 °C, the global roadmap presented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) identifies 120 actions and key milestones within ten domains, supported by evidence gathered by FAO over several years.

35. A strengthened interconnection between nature and climate change can not only foster emissions reductions but can also strengthen climate resilience and the livelihoods of people. The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have been placing nature as one of the key focus, and, during the nature day, the COP 28 High-Level Champion announced the launch of the **COP 28 Joint Statement for Climate, Nature and People**. With 18 national governments, – including two signatory presidencies, namely, China and the United Arab Emirates – and with voluntary partnerships, initiatives and coalitions, the Joint Statement commits to collaborate on integrated action for climate and nature. They will meet regularly to
review their collective progress. This will be nourished by the Action of more than 150 non-Party stakeholders that joined the Nature Positive for Climate Action Call.

36. The efforts to bring commitments and action were shown by countries and stakeholders which came together in support of nature-based climate action, bringing nature-climate finance toward forests, mangroves and oceans by endorsing their action toward global alliances and breakthroughs.

37. Forestry is also a key area of climate change closely linked to livelihood. At COP 28, countries and organizations celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, with a status update of 60 developing countries actively implementing REDD+ activities. Leaders from governments, civil society, and the business sectors also convened at the Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership COP28 Ministerial with renewed ambition for resolutely acting in accordance with the 2021 Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use. Looking ahead, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Papua New Guinea announced national packages for forest, climate, and nature backed by finance from public, private, and civil society partners.

38. The Race to Resilience campaign has been working closely with the SAA, mobilizing non-Party stakeholders towards human-focused resilience-building for around two years. The progress report published under the leadership of the High-Level Champions shows that robust pledges set by the Race to Resilience campaign’s partners would now enhance the resilience of 3.17 billion people by 2030, with action already underway to boost the resilience of 1.87 billion people.

39. In terms of progress on adaptation and resilience action, under the Early Warning for All initiative – an initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) at COP 27, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization published its progress report which finds that Africa has doubled the quality of early warning systems coverage but still falls below the global average.

40. While the above paragraphs are related to adaptation and resilience, people, lives, and livelihoods also require multilevel action. In this regard, the COP 28 Presidency, with Bloomberg Philanthropies, held a first-of-a-kind Local Climate Action Summit, which brought together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance global action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level. Through the Summit, the COP 28 Presidency, with the support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, launched the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP) for Climate Action. A total of 65 national governments signed CHAMP commitments to enhance cooperation, where applicable and appropriate, with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies. It plans to meet, amongst the endorsers, and with representative subnational leaders, at a global High Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action in the lead-up to both COP 29 and COP 30 to share good practices and lessons learned in implementing the CHAMP commitments.

41. As touched upon above, one of the key areas of progress made with the engagement of High-Level Champions is the launch of new Breakthroughs. The Buildings Breakthrough, launched with the Governments of France and Morocco, together with UNEP, aims to make near-zero emissions and climate-resilient buildings the new normal by 2030 under the wider Breakthrough Agenda. The UNEP/GlobalABC secretariat, the International Energy Agency and IRENA, together with the High-level Champions, will undertake an annual assessment of global progress in the sector.

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4 REDD+ is defined in Decision 1/CP.16 as reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
VI. Underpinning everything with full inclusivity

42. As mentioned throughout this document, climate change impacts communities and societies, particularly vulnerable communities and underrepresented groups. As such, ensuring representation of all voices around the world is key to the process held under the values of the UN. In this regard, prior to COP 28, the COP 28 Presidency and the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC announced a joint statement committing to work together to make COP 28 the most inclusive UN Climate Change Conference to date.

43. Another early action by the COP 28 Presidency is the appointment of the Youth Climate Champion. The role was created by the Presidency, building on the foundations of the COP27 Youth Envoy.

44. The COP 28 Presidency, the Youth Climate Champion and YOUNGO – official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC – convened the Dubai Youth Dialogue, and YOUNGO, with the support of the Youth Climate Champion, launched the outcome of the Youth Stocktake – a process launched at the 58th Subsidiary Bodies Sessions to collect the progress of youth inclusion and policy implementation.

45. Gender equity is also a key part of inclusivity. The COP 28 Presidency and the COP 28 High-Level Champion took a leading role in launching the COP 28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership. The 78 national governments that signed the Partnership commit to working collaboratively to support just and inclusive transitions that advance gender equality and the goals of the enhanced Lima Work Program on Gender and its Gender Action Plan and to reconvene for dialogue at COP 32 to report on the implementation of the commitments of the Partnership.

46. In addition, the Global Call to Action to world leaders, policy-makers and key actors in the data system to produce and use gender-environment data to drive progress on gender-responsive climate and environment commitments was issued as an outcome of the convenings by UN Women together with the COP 28 Presidency, COP 28 High-Level Champion, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Women’s Environment and Development Organization, and the UNFCCC secretariat.

47. Moreover, COP 28 showcased actions to drive the participation, inclusion, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples. With the engagement of the High-Level Champion of COP 28, IUCN, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and the IUCN Indigenous Peoples Organisations members, they launched the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative. The initiative will provide funding directly to Indigenous Peoples, ensuring no less than 85 per cent of funds reach Indigenous territories and communities.

48. Technology and capacity building are also enablers for inclusion. The 5th Capacity-building Hub provided an inclusive and engaging platform for a variety of capacity-building actors, especially its ‘Capacities for Rights-based Climate Action Day.’ This day explored the integration of rights-based participatory approaches into climate action and mobilized grassroots organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth, children, gender advocates, and people with disabilities to enhance their capacity to participate constructively in the climate change process. Private finance was also explored as an enabler for inclusion during the ‘Private Finance Capacities Day’ in uniting private, public, and philanthropic institutions, on building capacity to unlock private capital to a wide array of actors.

49. The Technology Executive Committee, together with Enterprise Neurosystem – a non-profit open-source artificial intelligence (AI) community – has launched the AI Innovation Grand Challenge during the High-level Event on Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action to identify and support the development of AI-powered solutions for climate action in developing countries, in particular the SIDS and LDCs. This Grand Challenge is part of the #AI4ClimateAction Initiative by the Technology Mechanism.
50. Finally, with the need for a whole society and whole-of-economy approach, sectors like sport, fashion, entertainment and culture had a presence at COP 28 to showcase initiatives aiming to bring all levels of society into the climate conversation. In particular, the Sports For Climate Action initiative presented its strategy to enhance sport’s collective role in climate action through fan and community engagement. The Global Climate Action Awards announced the winners of this year, which showcased innovative climate action that young people around the world are undertaking to ensure their communities are more sustainable, resilient, and equitable places to live.

VII. Conclusion

51. Although the outcomes presented throughout the document represent key and major progress made across the four pillars, they are not an exclusive nor entire list of outcomes of the global climate action agenda throughout the two weeks. As mentioned above, the Global Climate Action Portal, on its Events Tracking page, has captured over 170 announcements made at COP 28, ranging across pledges and declarations, publications and reports, new initiatives, and progress and updates. This number is more than double that of COP 27.

52. In a time of implementation, pledges, declarations, and commitments need to be delivered, initiatives launched need to be operationalized, and progress made under pledges, declarations, commitments, and initiatives should be reported and expanded towards their goals.

53. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the UNSG commissioned a meeting discussing the implementation of the recommendations by the UNSG’s High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities, and the Taskforce on Net Zero Policy was launched to establish a collaborative space that encourages the sharing of knowledge, practices, and insights among policymakers and regulators in advancing net zero aligned policy. Also, the COP 28 Presidency launched the Net-Zero Transition Charter: Accountability Mobilization for the Private Sector, encouraging organizations to make public net-zero emissions pledges and targets, underpinned by high integrity and quality, produce credible and transparent transition plans, and publish periodic, accurate, complete, and transparent reporting on their progress.

54. Accountability is integral to all actors and all types of global climate action. In this regard, as seen throughout this document, it is encouraging that some of the initiatives launched at COP 28 have already committed to reconvene at future COPs to discuss their progress and implementation. A number of existing initiatives have published progress reports to present their achievements and challenges, representing a growing momentum on this topic as well as supporting greater accountability.

55. Transparency is a means towards accountability. The UNFCCC secretariat will work with the COP 28 Presidency, as appropriate, to bring transparency to the initiatives launched during COP 28 through the Global Climate Action Portal. As well as providing a platform to publicly communicate their goals and functions, the Portal will provide a basis to track their progress through the annual disclosure to the UNFCCC secretariat of information and updates.

56. With the first Global Stocktake to be concluded at the end of COP 28, the new five-year cycle on climate action will begin under the Paris Agreement. With this in mind, the High-Level Champions, the Marrakech Partnership and other partners have compiled the ‘2030 Climate Solutions: an Implementation Roadmap’, a set of solutions framed in specific actions, with insights from a wide range of non-Party stakeholders on effective measures being undertaken that need to be scaled up and replicated as well as current gaps that need to be bridged to halve global emissions, address adaptation gaps and increase the resilience of four billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks by 2030.

5 See https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Events/COP28.
57. The accountable implementation of the myriad of actions showcased, involving the collaboration between multiple actors across the global climate action agenda, could significantly contribute towards correcting the course and achieving climate action targets in this decisive decade.