

Non Traditional Security Digest

COP 28 Key Outcomes

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Introduction

The 28th session of the [Conference of the Parties \(COP28\)](#) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held from 30 November to 12 December 2023 at Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). At COP 28, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties came together in Dubai with a decision on the world's first 'global stocktake' to ratchet up climate action before the end of the decade with an overarching aim to keep the global temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach.

Key Outcomes

Global Stocktake

The [global stocktake](#) is considered the central outcome of COP28 as it contains every element that was under negotiation and can now be used by countries to develop stronger climate action plans due by 2025. The global stocktake is a process for countries and stakeholders to see where they're collectively making progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and where they're not. The [stocktake](#) 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 noted that the Parties

are off track when it comes to meeting their Paris Agreement goals. The [stocktake](#) 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.

Agreement on loss and damage fund at COP 28 meet

Parties at the [COP 28 adopted a decision](#) on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a Fund, for responding to loss and damage. The [decision was adopted](#) by consensus by all Parties. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced its commitment of [USD 100 million](#) to the loss and damage Fund. Other countries making notable pledges included United Kingdom committed [GBP 40 million](#) for the Fund and GBP 20 million for other funding arrangements, [Japan committed USD 10 million](#), United States of America committed USD 17.5 million and European Union (including Germany) committed 225 million euros. The [purpose of the Fund](#) is to assist developing countries

that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.

Decision on Santiago network

The [Santiago Network](#), established at COP 25, plays a crucial role in addressing climate change impacts in developing countries. It focuses on catalyzing technical assistance from various organizations, bodies, networks, and experts. It aims to support developing countries in averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage caused by climate change. Its mandate includes facilitating access to knowledge, resources, and technical assistance needed to address climate risks comprehensively. At COP 28, [the joint consortium](#) of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Office for Project Services have been selected as the host of the Santiago network secretariat [for an initial term of five years](#), with five-year renewal periods. Countries including Canada, Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America have announced their financial contributions to the work of the Santiago network.

Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action

The COP28 Presidency placed food systems transformation on the global climate agenda. This [‘COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action’](#) received endorsement of more than 130 world leaders. [The declaration](#), addressing both global emissions and the well-being of farmers on the front lines of climate change, was announced during the World Climate Action Summit. Around \$2.5 billion has been mobilized by the global community to support the food-climate agenda.

COP28 ends with call to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels

COP 28 witnessed fierce emphasis on [“transitioning away from fossil fuels”](#) like oil, gas and coal that are dangerously heating the planet. These proposals though met with intense pushback from several states and major oil exporting countries. In the end, negotiators struck a compromise: The new deal calls on countries to accelerate a global shift away from fossil fuels this decade in a “just, orderly and equitable manner,” and to quit adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere entirely by midcentury. It also calls on nations to

triple the amount of renewable energy, like wind and solar power, installed around the world by 2030 and to slash emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas that is more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. The final [agreement](#), which found consensus on Wednesday, reiterated an [earlier agreement](#) to phase down coal power, but without any mention of avoiding new coal capacity.

UAE commits US\$30 billion for ALTÉRRRA

UAE announced US\$30 billion commitment to the newly launched catalytic climate vehicle, [ALTÉRRRA](#), which will drive forward international efforts to create a fairer climate finance system, with an emphasis on improving access to funding for the Global South. With this US\$30 billion commitment, ALTÉRRRA becomes the world's largest private investment vehicle for climate change action and will aim to mobilize US\$250 billion globally by 2030. It aims to steer private markets towards climate investments and focus on transforming emerging markets and developing economies, where traditional investment has been lacking due to the higher perceived risks across those geographies. The [initiative aims](#) to promptly invest in 6.0 GW of clean energy ventures in India. Collaborating with partners like

BlackRock, Brookfield, and TPG, it intends to use institutional investors to grow climate-focused funds globally, supporting climate resilience and inclusive development. ALTÉRRRA will establish a Climate Impact Framework to guarantee commitment to climate objectives, advancing climate transformation with accountability and transparency.

COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health

The COP28 Presidency, in partnership with the World Health Organization and UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, unveiled the '[COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health](#)' to place health at the heart of climate action and accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable health systems. A set of new finance commitments on climate and health was announced to back up these political commitments, including a USD 300 million commitment by the Global Fund to prepare health systems, USD 100 million by the Rockefeller Foundation to scale up climate and health solutions, and an announcement by the UK Government of up to GBP 54 million. Endorsed by 123 countries, [the Declaration](#) marks a world first in governments acknowledging the growing health impacts of climate change on communities and countries. It also acknowledges the large benefits to people's

health from stronger climate action, including by reducing air pollution and lowering health care costs.

Framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation

While the 2015 Paris Agreement established a goal to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, negotiators had yet to define a framework for understanding this [Global Goal on Adaptation](#), including clear targets or how they would be measured. After two years of discussions, negotiators agreed at COP28 to global time-bound targets for specific themes and sectors (such as water and health) and for the adaptation policy process. However, the targets were not quantified, nor did they include financial and other support for developing countries. The Global Goal on Adaptation framework makes only a cursory reference to the fact that the adaptation finance gap is widening. But the Global Stocktake outcome recognized that financial support needs to significantly scale up beyond the current commitment to double [adaptation finance](#), and that adaptation needs will evolve.

Finance Challenges Deferred to Next Year As New Finance Goal Emerges

The COP28 outcome punted most finance issues to [COP29](#), with the adoption of a

new climate finance goal which is called the [New Collective Qualitative Goal \(NCQG\)](#). This new goal will replace developed countries' current commitment of providing \$100 billion annually in climate finance to developing nations, first agreed to in 2009. The new goal will need to take into account developing countries' needs and priorities, estimated at [\\$5.8 trillion - \\$5.9 trillion](#) up until 2030. Negotiators in Dubai further clarified the process for setting a new goal, rather than hashing out options for elements such as its timeframe, transparency arrangements, sources and structure. The Global Stocktake decision included reflections on finance progress. This included acknowledging that countries failed to meet the \$100 billion goal in 2021, but negotiators did not specify whether or how to make up the shortfall. [The outcome](#) also recognized the need to make all finance flows consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement, as laid out in [Article 2.1c](#). COP28 also brought an additional [\\$3.5 billion](#) in new pledges to the second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, the largest international fund dedicated to supporting developing countries in tackling climate change. The second replenishment now totals \$12.8 billion, 28% more than the first replenishment. The challenge now will be ensuring pledges become actual financial

disbursements to developing countries, with high quality investments that meet countries' needs and leverage private finance.

UAE Commits \$200M to Aid Vulnerable Nations Against Climate Change

UAE pledged USD \$200 million to help climate resilience in [vulnerable countries](#). The announcement, which came during the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS), follows up from a previous pledge of USD \$200 million to support development in low-income countries earlier this year in Marrakech. The commitment came in the form of [Special Drawing Rights](#) (SDRs), pledged to IMF's [Resilience and Sustainability Trust](#) (RST). The RST is a trust held by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and provides long-term concessional funding for climate resilience and pandemic preparedness. The RST supports climate resilience in low- and middle-income economies and countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Strengthening National Climate Commitments

The Global Stocktake outcome calls on countries to [submit new NDCs well ahead of COP30](#) in 2025. With the next round, countries are expected to update their 2030 targets and present new targets for 2035.

The COP28 decision underscores that these new NDCs have to be more ambitious, noting that the IPCC finds that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) requires reducing global greenhouse gas emissions 60% below 2019 levels by 2035. [Complementing revised 2030 emissions targets](#), the COP28 outcome states that the next round of NDCs should enhance current actions to reduce emissions, as well as include plans and priorities for adaptation, just transition efforts, and loss and damage. The outcome also states that NDCs should reflect transformation across multiple sectors, including clean energy, nature conservation, road transport and more.

Cities Elevated As Partners in Climate Action

[Cities and other subnational actors](#) played a larger role at COP28. The first-of-its kind "[Local Climate Action Summit](#)," assembled more than 500 mayors, governors and other subnational leaders to elevate the role of cities in climate action, including through NDCs and financing. Seventy-one countries joined the [Coalition for High Ambition Multi-level Partnerships \(CHAMP\) initiative](#), committing to incorporate robust urban climate actions in their NDCs, as well as enhance cooperation between local and national governments on planning, financing and implementation. UN-Habitat also hosted the second

Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. The final COP28 agreement reflects growing understanding of cities as critical climate battlegrounds and partners for action—a fitting recognition since 70% of carbon dioxide emissions come from urban areas. There is enhanced language on “[multilevel](#)” action, as well as new language around zero-emission vehicles and reducing health impacts in vulnerable communities, which is particularly relevant for cities as hotbeds of [air pollution](#), flooding, [extreme heat](#) and [large numbers of vulnerable people](#).

First Faith Pavilion at COP28

World religious leaders, scientists and global political officials came together for the inauguration of the first-ever [Faith Pavilion](#) at a COP, on the fourth day of COP28, to discuss the role of faith communities and religious institutions in addressing the climate crisis. This was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. The inauguration was attended by His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, representing His Holiness Pope Francis. His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and His Holiness

Pope Francis both addressed the audience virtually via video, wherein they each highlighted the urgency for urgent action against climate change. [The first-of-its-kind](#) the Faith Pavilion, was co-hosted by the COP28 Presidency, the UAE Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, the Holy See, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Muslim Council of Elders, and a coalition of faith partners. This pavilion at COP 28 hosted panels with religious leaders, scientists, and political leaders, and encouraged intergenerational dialogue that involved youth and indigenous representatives.

Pledges and Finance to Curb Methane Emissions

COP28 saw [several developments](#) with regard to address [methane pollution](#), a greenhouse gas 20 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Governments, companies and philanthropies announced over \$1 billion in new grants, which more than triples the funding for projects focused on cutting methane in the oil and gas, waste and agriculture sectors, with the goal of mobilizing billions more. Five more nations Angola, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Romania and Turkmenistan joined the [Global Methane Pledge](#) bringing the total number of signatories to 155. The pledge commits to cut global methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. Meanwhile the [U.S.](#)

unveiled new regulations on methane, and ahead of the negotiations, China committed to include methane in its next NDC. The Global Stocktake outcome also calls on all countries to accelerate their reductions of non-CO2 emissions, including methane, and encourages them to include all greenhouse gases in their next NDCs.

Steps Forward on Forests and Land Use

COP28 demonstrated political will toward the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, where more than 140 world leaders pledged in 2021 to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by the end of the decade. The signatories released the [Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People](#), committing to scale up finance, ensure participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and improve data collection in tackling the climate and nature crises. The Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), which launched at COP27, announced [four country packages](#), providing funds and capacity to help Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Papua New Guinea and Republic of Congo deliver their national plans for conserving and restoring forests. The COP 28 summit also witnessed [numerous announcements](#) on new financing mechanisms, which will be needed to deliver the goals of the Glasgow Declaration. During the World Climate

Action Summit, [\\$2.5 billion was mobilized to protect and restore nature](#), including over \$186 million in new financing. Brazil proposed a global [Tropical Forests Forever](#) fund, which would direct finance toward the protection of tropical forests. And the LEAF Coalition announced agreements with [Costa Rica and Ghana](#) to supply jurisdictional [REDD+](#) credits worth over \$60 million.

India at COP28

India's National Statement at COP28

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav presented India's national statement at COP28 in Dubai. Sri Yadav [in his remarks](#) highlighted that India has been at the forefront of supporting action-oriented steps at the global level in response to climate change. He [mentioned](#) that people and planet are inseparable and human well-being and Nature are intrinsically linked. In his remarks Sri Yadav asserted that Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's Mission LiFE ([Lifestyle for Environment](#)) bears the testimony to India's action-oriented approach.

India at COP28 on 1st December, 2023 India launched the [Green Credit Initiative](#) to create a participatory global platform for exchange of innovative environmental programs and instruments.

Under India's G-20 presidency, the world also witnessed the adoption of the Green Development Pact as a part of the New Delhi Declaration.

In his speech at COP28 Shri Yadav further highlighted that India finalized its Third National Communication based on GHG inventory of 2019 along with Initial Adaptation Communication. In its endeavor to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions, India has successfully reduced the emission intensity vis-à-vis its GDP by 33% between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial NDC target for 2030, 11 years ahead of the scheduled time. He further emphasized that India has also achieved 40% of electric installed capacity through non fossil fuel sources, nine years ahead of the target for 2030. Between 2017 and 2023, India has added around 100 GW of installed electric capacity, of which around 80% is attributed to non-fossil fuel-based resources. India has therefore already revised its NDCs upwards indicating its deep commitment towards enhanced climate action.

Highlighting India's international efforts and contributions towards climate action, Sri Yadav pointed to India's initiatives of International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), creation of LeadIT, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States

(IRIS) and the Big Cat Alliance. He mentioned that the Global Biofuel Alliance, launched at G20 leaders met in New Delhi further seeks to serve as a catalytic platform for fostering global collaboration for advancement and widespread adoption of biofuels. Lastly, Sri Yadav pointed that resource mobilization under New Collective Quantified Goal must be guided by the needs and requirements of the developing countries. He mentioned that India firmly believes that equity and climate justice must be the basis of global climate action. This can be ensured only when the developed countries take the lead in ambitious climate action. Finally, he reiterated India's commitment of working together for the common objective for greener, cleaner and healthier planet as per Indian traditional philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.

PM Narendra Modi's participation in the COP-28 Presidency's Session

India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the COP-28 Presidency's Session on "Transforming Climate Finance" on 1 December 2023 in Dubai. During the session, the leaders adopted the "UAE Declaration on a New Global Climate Finance Framework". The declaration includes elements on, inter alia, delivering on commitments and achieving ambitious outcomes and widening the

sources of concessional finance for climate action. [During his address](#), Prime Minister voiced the concerns of the Global South and reiterated the urgency of making the means of implementation, particularly climate finance, available to the developing countries to achieve their climate ambitions and implement their NDCs. Prime Minister welcomed the operationalisation of Loss and Damage Fund and establishment of the UAE climate Investment Fund at COP-28. Prime Minister called for the COP-28 to deliver on the following issues related to Climate Finance:

- Progress in [New Collective Quantified Goal](#) Goal on Climate Finance
- [Replenishment of Green Climate Fund & Adaptation Fund](#)
- Affordable Finance to be made available by [MDBs for Climate Action](#)
- Developed countries must eliminate their carbon footprint before 2050

India refused to sign COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

India [declined to sign](#) the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, citing the impracticality of immediate greenhouse gas reductions for cooling in the health sector. India's Health Ministry delegation did not participate, despite supporting the

ministerial hosted by COP28 Presidency, the World Health Organization, and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention. India expressed concerns that greenhouse gas reduction for cooling in the health sector could hinder its ability to meet the growing demands for medical services, particularly in remote and underserved areas. India had put emphasis on resilient health in its [G20 declaration](#). The three health priorities of India's G20 presidency were building a resilient healthcare system, creating a platform for improving access to medical countermeasures and creating a platform for sharing digital goods between countries. The COP28 Declaration underscores the importance of addressing the broad spectrum of impacts that climate change has on health.

This includes considerations for mental health and psychosocial well-being, preservation of traditional medicinal knowledge, protection of livelihoods and cultures, and dealing with climate-induced displacement and migration.

India remained Absent from 118-Nation Pledge to Triple Green Energy

During COP28, 118 countries signed a pledge to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, with India and China [notably absent from the list](#). This commitment, first mentioned in the G20 declaration and

aiming for 11,000 GW of renewable energy, lacks legal weight. India, already committed to 500 GW from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

COP29 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan and COP30 in Belem, Brazil

COP29 will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, and COP30 is **confirmed** for Belem, Brazil, forming a 'troika' of Presidencies. This arrangement aims to bring speed and stability to the COP process.

PM Modi pitches for 2028 edition of COP in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address at COP-28, **offered to host the 33rd edition of the annual summit due in 2028 in India**. He said that developed countries ought to be “vacating the carbon space” before 2050 and made a pitch for the world’s countries to join India on its “**Green Credit initiative**” which was a “non-commercial” effort to create a carbon sink. A proposal to host the Conference of the Parties (COP) must be approved by other signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Typically, the venues for future COP are only decided two years in advance

Non-Traditional Security Centre

This digest has been prepared by the Non-Traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.



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