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Authors:

Victor I. Fagorite, PhD

CTH Environment and Climate Action Department (Ginika Okoroafor, Odion Ibadin, Ifechi Anikwe, Ibrahim Wambia, and Emmanuel Ezenwoye)

Doosughun Takur

Ifeoma Malo



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Glossary

COP - Conference of the Parties

CHAMP - Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership

CGIAR - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

EU - European Union

FAO - Food and Agricultural Organisation

GFANZ - Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero

GMAC - Green Maritime Africa Coalition

IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development

IMO - International Marine Organization

IRENA - International Renewable Energy Agency

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

NZECA - Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance

SAA - Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda

UAE - United Arab Emirates

UNEP FI - UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative

UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNSG - UN Secretary General

1. Introduction

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 13 December 2023. It was the most extensive and influential climate summit in history, with a participation of more than 85,000 individuals, including over 150 Heads of State and Government¹. The primary purpose of COP28 was to evaluate the advancements and aspirations of the Paris Agreement, the momentous climate accord ratified in 2015, and to establish a roadmap for significantly decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and safeguarding lives and livelihoods from the consequences of climate change².

COP28 has delivered an agreement of historical significance that signifies the commencement of the ultimate phase of the fossil fuel era³. This agreement has been established on the foundation of a prompt, just, and fair transition, which is supported by substantial reductions in emissions and enhanced financial support. Remarkably, nations have unanimously recognized the necessity to shift away from fossil fuels within their energy systems and have committed to tripling the capacity of renewable energy while doubling the rate of advancements in energy efficiency by the year 2030⁴. Furthermore, this agreement encompasses provisions addressing adaptation, loss and damage, transparency, carbon markets, and global stocktake, among other key areas⁴.

Unfortunately, COP28 has also faced various challenges and controversies. These include concerns related to the role played by the United Arab Emirates, the host country, which serves as a significant producer and exporter of oil. Additional issues involve the disparity between the commitments made by major emitters and their actual actions, as well as the

¹<https://unfccc.int/cop28>

²<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-67143989>

³<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/67543816>

⁴<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop28>

unresolved matters of climate justice and equity. Moreover, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has imposed limitations on the participation and representation of some stakeholders. Despite these difficulties, COP28 has effectively demonstrated the resilience and unity of the global community in confronting the climate crisis and attaining the objectives outlined in the Paris Agreement.

This document aims to present a comprehensive outline of the key results and consequences of COP28, along with the potential and obstacles for the advancement of climate action in the future. Additionally, it includes valuable insights and viewpoints from diverse professionals, practitioners, and advocates who participated in or closely observed the summit. Our intention is for this document to serve as a valuable source and point of reference for anyone seeking to enhance their understanding of COP28 and its significance in the global climate agenda and Africa in particular.

2. Key Outcomes

2.1 Fast-tracking a just, orderly, and equitable energy transition

Fast Tracking Just Transition

IHRB hosted and participated in a [series of engagements at COP28](#) related to the just transition agenda across energy, finance, food systems, and the built environment. Within this agenda, our focus included Just Transition Finance, Just Energy Transition Partnership, Just Energy in the built environment and How the just transitions impact workers, indigenous groups, and communities.

● [Link](#)

COP28 Agreement Signals “Beginning of the End” of the Fossil Fuel Era

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) closed with an agreement that signals the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era by laying the groundwork for a swift, just and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance. 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 by 2025.

● [Link](#)

COP28 is Over—Time to Accelerate a Just and Equitable Transition Away from Fossil Fuels Towards a Healthy Future for Our Planet and Its People

Wildlife Conservation Society article emphasises and highlights the importance and need to accelerate a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels: *“The countries of the world leave COP28 in Dubai with a consensus to transition away from fossil fuels, and in a world full of conflict, that is progress. This consensus may mark the beginning of the end of the road for fossil fuels. But we are gravely concerned that it does not take us far enough or fast enough to adequately address the climate crisis. We cannot and must not let up now. The world must accelerate a just transition away from fossil fuels without any further delay—pedal to the metal.”* –WCS President and CEO Monica Medina

● [Link](#)

COP 28: The Irresistible rise of the just transition

Nick Robins reviewed outcomes from the concluded UN Climate Summit and explored how the just transition emerged as key to achieving net zero and climate resilience.

● [Link](#)

Explainer: COP28 deal on fossil fuels gives impetus to 'just transition'

Megan Rowling for Reuters: *The package of decisions adopted in Dubai noted that a shift away from fossil fuel energy should happen "in a just, orderly, and equitable manner" - and developing countries redoubled their calls for financial support to help them expand renewables. Under the U.N.'s new "Just Transition Work Programme," a plan was approved to outline "just transition pathways" to achieve the Paris Agreement climate goals.*

● [Link](#)

ILO at COP 28: events at the just transition pavilion - Day 7 (afternoon)

This year, at COP28, the ILO worked on advancing ambitious climate action with decent work and a just transition for all. The ILO hosted the Just Transition Pavilion and supported the constituents throughout the negotiations, in particular with regards to the Just Transition Work Programme.

● [Link](#)(IncludesfullvideofromDay7)

COP28: Nigeria and South Africa Pioneer Just Transition through Transparency

Leaders and experts from Nigeria and South Africa shared their vision on how to build a just transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient future, relying on transparency to foster inclusive climate action while ensuring that no one will be left behind.

● [Link](#)

At COP28, Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, But No Deal on a Phase Out

In a surprising and historic deal, [language in the final agreement](#) reached at COP28 in Dubai calls for “transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by

2050” and “phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible.” It also called for additional attention to other greenhouse gases, such as methane, many of which are much more potent than carbon dioxide.

● [Link](#)

COP28: New Path to Transition Away from Fossil Fuels Marred by Lack of Finance and Loopholes

Climate Action in this article, together with civil society across the world, used their collective power to centre the end of fossil fuels through a fair, fast, and fueled just transition at COP28 in Dubai.

● [Link](#)

2.2 Fixing the Climate Finance Architecture

Making Climate Finance Available, Accessible and Affordable

Fixing the climate finance architecture was a key pillar of the COP 28 with the launch of the declaration of leaders for the global climate finance framework. It was developed and endorsed by the leaders of India, China, France, Kenya, Barbados, United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Ghana, Senegal and Columbia.

The framework offers a set of principles for climate finance architecture that can deliver for all. To rebuild trust by delivering past commitments with milestones on agreement made on the loss and damage fund. Over \$720 Billion from MDBs were declared in the pledge plus \$100 million from the UAE’s Green Climate Fund to mobilize capital and equity funds to reach Africa .

Global and African partners launched the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa with over \$175 million pledged to the alliance. AfDB also launched the African Climate Risk Insurance Facility with \$1 billion insurance to countries with high vulnerability to climate change risks.

[Link.](#)

- Debt Pause for Climate Disasters: Five MDB have committed to putting clauses in their agreements and contracts to pause debt repayment in the case of a climate disaster.
- 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](#). To support developing countries achieve their climate objectives, signatories agree to work to provide vastly enhanced support for developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, by delivering on the goal of jointly including by mobilizing \$100bn, and other measures.
- Following a series of initiatives that set the path for climate finance reform this year, the UAE [Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework](#) has brought together over ten parties around a single vision and a roadmap for making climate finance available, accessible, and affordable. The UAE will work with champions to report back against delivery of this framework immediately following COP28.
- The [Joint Declaration and Task Force on Credit Enhancement of Sustainability - Linked Sovereign Financing for Nature and Climate](#) was endorsed by multilateral development banks and international organisations like the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility. The purpose of the Declaration and the subsequent creation of a Task Force is to address the needs of developing nations by offering long-term fiscal solutions rather than short-term debt relief that depends exclusively on international development assistance.

- The [Global Capacity Building Coalition](#) seeks to greatly expand the accessibility and efficacy of climate finance technical assistance programmes for financial institutions in emerging markets and developing economies. It is backed by Bloomberg Philanthropies and involves the UN, World Bank and other multilateral development banks, International Monetary Fund, Network for Greening the Financial System, Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), and UN Principles for Responsible Investment.
- The World Bank Group announced that it will boost its climate target – aiming for 45% of its annual financing to go to climate-related projects in the next fiscal year. That should amount to about \$9 billion more a year than under its previous 35% target. World Bank President Ajay Banga said that those resources would be equally split between climate mitigation and adaptation. [link](#)
- With backing from GFANZ, eight export credit agencies formed the UN-convened [Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance](#) (NZECA), which will aid in decarbonising international trade and facilitating coordinated action from public and private finance. The alliance was launched in collaboration with Future of Climate Cooperation, the Innovation and Knowledge Hub at the University of Oxford, and the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI).
- Finance 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. The [launch](#) of the Asia Development Bank's Nature Solutions Hub for Asia and the Pacific was an effort to proactively increase the flow of public and private funding towards protecting the region's natural resources and halting the loss of biodiversity.

2.3 Focusing on people, lives and livelihoods

Climate change is fueling a global food crisis, pushing levels of hunger and malnutrition to record levels. Many of the 500 million smallholder farmers, who provide a third of the world's food on 83% of the world's farms, live in regions especially affected by climate change, putting their lives and livelihoods at risk. In a world that is 2°C warmer, an additional 189 million people will face hunger. In a 4°C warmer world, an additional 1.8 billion people will go hungry.

At the same time, agriculture and food systems are major contributors to climate change. The global food system is responsible for an estimated third of greenhouse gas emissions—second only to the energy sector.

At COP 28, the [Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research](#) (CGIAR) addressed two of humanity's most urgent challenges—climate change and food security—making the case that the world cannot meet its climate or development goals without transforming food systems. Its programme of events engaged with global experts and leaders accelerating action and investment to transform food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis, including through the involvement of key partners such as youth.

CGIAR also co-hosted the [Food and Agriculture Pavilion](#), along with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Rockefeller Foundation.

[Link](#)

2.4 Underpinning everything with full inclusivity

COP28's Inclusion Efforts Were a Positive Step for Climate

UAE Climate Envoy and COP28 President Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber, who also happens to be the country's top oil executive, drew heavy criticism during the conference when he stated that there is “[no science out there](#)” that supports the phaseout of fossil fuels to achieve the

global goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. He was directly contradicted by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who unequivocally stated that the only way to get to 1.5 degrees is through the complete elimination of burning fossil fuels. The debate over fossil fuels—and what many see as the UAE’s hypocritical role as a major oil producer hosting a climate conference—often overshadowed positive changes at this year’s gathering, including a focus on elevating the voices of youth and women.

● [Link](#)

COP28 Presidency and Unfccc Sign Host Country Agreement and Highlight Inclusivity and Transparency as Key Enablers for Transformative Progress Across the Climate Agenda

A joint statement emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive and transparent platform that fosters solidarity and transformative progress across the climate agenda. The statement also reiterated the COP28 Presidency and UNFCCC's shared vision to ensure that voices from all backgrounds are heard and acknowledged. COP28 President-Designate, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, reiterated that the COP28 plan of action is centered on four key pillars: fast-tracking the energy transition; fixing climate finance; focusing on people, lives and livelihoods; and underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

● [Link](#)

COP28: Inclusivity

An orderly transition to net zero also needs to be equitable and inclusive. Beyond its toll on the planet and its people, climate change exacerbates existing inequalities.

For example, emerging economies face a disproportionate share of the impact of warming temperatures, but have fewer resources to respond. Estimates suggest that [climate change has worsened inequality](#) between developed and developing nations by 25 percent since 1960, and climate change could push an additional [132 million people into poverty](#) by 2030, mostly in emerging economies.

● [Link](#)

On an Inclusive COP28 – Joint Statement by the United Arab Emirates and UN Climate Change.

Statement by the United Arab Emirates and UN Climate Change on an inclusive COP28 UN Climate Change News, 1 August 2023 - At the conclusion of the signing of the Host Country Agreement for COP28, the President-Designate, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell made the following statement:

“As the work to prepare for a successful COP28 gathers momentum, we want to express our commitment to making COP28 an inclusive and safe space for all participants.”

● [Link](#)

The organisers of COP28 want an inclusive summit. But just how diverse is the negotiating table?

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Climate activist Lisa NoBaya sat in a room filled with stakeholders at the United Nations climate summit in Dubai and asked the delegates what inclusivity looks like at COP28: does it mean diverse voices are simply present or actively participating in what the outcome of the talks will look like?

● [Link](#)

Inclusion, Intersectionality and Financing; Reflections from #COP28

COP28 stood out as one of the most accessible events I've experienced. Dubai's location and the United Arab Emirates' overall accessibility made travel easier, particularly for those from the Geopolitical South. The visa process was streamlined, granting official accreditation holders quick access. As someone from Kenya, where obtaining visas for Europe or the US can be challenging, I found this inclusivity encouraging.

● [Link](#)

COP28: Your Guide to the 2023 UN Climate Conference

The world is already facing unprecedented impacts from a warming planet already: record-breaking wildfires, catastrophic floods, and unbearable heat waves. And what's worse, the first ever report card on our climate progress (appropriately named the Global Stocktake) showed exactly how far behind we are in our climate ambitions. We need dramatic actions to benefit our climate, and we need them now. COP28 is the world's chance to level up.

● [Link](#)

Trade Union Demand a labour inclusive just transition work programmes at COP28

● [Link](#)

3. Africa and COP28

Africa has the lowest per capita fossil fuel emissions of any region globally and between 1850-2021 was responsible for only 2.8% of global fossil fuel emissions. Yet according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it faces the most severe challenges due to climate change. The negative effects of climate change on the African continent have become increasingly vivid through disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and drought. Seven out of the ten most vulnerable countries to climate change in 2021 were African. Africa is the world region most affected by droughts and second most affected by floods since 2010. The continent's limited capacity to respond and adapt to ongoing climate disasters is mainly due to lower levels of economic development, which itself is closely linked to historic emissions.

[Link](#)

3.1 Key takeaways for Africa

The UN's annual climate summit (COP28) concluded with a mixed bag of results for Africa. Wins were decisions related to loss and damage, climate finance, adaptation, food, and energy – issues that directly relate to African countries' ability to meet their climate change and development goals. However, this progress is still not enough.

During COP28, a record of more than \$85 billion was mobilized demonstrating the world's commitment to limiting global temperature rise by 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) which would avoid some of the most harmful consequences of climate change. Alongside were declarations to support those ambitions. But what do these commitments mean for Africa? Here, we look at the priorities of African countries – including the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, and progress on adaptation, climate finance, and a just energy transition.

Adaptation

Adaptation is at the heart of Africa's climate action. While the more inclusive framework of the [Global Goal on Adaptation](#) established at COP28 marks substantial advancement, [African parties](#) pointed to the low ambitions and lack of decisions on the means of implementation. The UNEP [Adaptation Finance Gap Report 2023](#) findings show an alarming shortfall of \$194 to \$366 billion annually, which poses a big hurdle in translating plans to concrete actions and investment opportunities.

This leaves African countries that are most vulnerable to climate change at unprecedented risk. Without fair and equitable access to finance, the continent will not act effectively.

Loss and Damage

The agreement on the first day of COP28 to set the [Loss and Damage Fund](#) in motion with \$792 million in pledges was welcomed by developing countries – especially those in Africa

– that bear the brunt of climate change. Africa has experienced [extreme weather events](#) ranging from floods to droughts and heatwaves, leaving a trail of destruction and [fatalities](#).

Africa will require between [\\$290 billion and \\$440 billion](#) between 2020 and 2030 to finance loss and damage needs, which point to the huge gap between what’s been promised and the reality on the ground. Work remains on the Loss and Damage Fund to establish its 26-member board. The evaluation scheduled for 2027 will show progress toward this initiative.

Climate Finance

While the [declaration on climate finance](#) calls for collective efforts on mobilizing resources for developing countries, additional financial and technical support will be required.

For Africa, the focus is on the [New Collective Goal of Climate Finance](#), a post-2025 finance goal that seeks to raise the floor of climate finance from \$100 billion annually. The continent requires up to [\\$250 billion annually until 2030](#) to respond effectively to climate change.

African countries have called for priorities to be based on evolving science-based findings and on mandatory contributions from developed countries while supporting the needs of developing countries. [Africa’s domestic market](#) has the potential to provide additional funding for climate change.

Energy Transition

The outcome to shift away from fossil fuels was a hard-fought issue at this year’s COP28, but this is a complicated subject for Africa where the economics of the continent’s [top 10 oil-producing countries](#) rely heavily on the commodity.

Already, [cuts in subsidies](#) in Nigeria in the midst of economic crises have had negative impacts. [Six-hundred million](#) people still lack electricity in Africa, with [varying rates](#) of access

in different countries. Countries will suffer heavily without any commitments to enable a just transition.

For the continent, decisions on energy access and transition are therefore important.

The COP28 [declaration on renewables and energy efficiency](#) presents an opportunity for energy access and transition for Africa. The continent holds about 30% of the world's critical mineral resources alongside abundant clean energy resources – wind and solar – that can serve as the foundation for clean industries and commodities.

The energy transition will increase the demand for these vital resources and can accelerate investments and create employment opportunities for millions on the continent. On the downside, the continent attracts only [2% of global clean energy spending](#). The push, therefore, should be towards processing on the continent rather than exporting raw materials.

It was argued that [natural gas](#) is a viable option for Africa, however, there is debate on whether this would be in line with efforts to limit global warming. The continent holds about [9% of global natural gas reserves](#), with Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria as leaders in production.

Local Climate Action

Attention to local climate action in Africa is becoming more important especially as the population of Africa's cities is expected to double by 2050, reaching 1.5 billion people. At COP28, for the first time, cities –which produce 70% of the world's greenhouse gases – were featured prominently in discussions.

Twelve African countries signed up for the [Coalition for High Ambition Multi-level Partnerships for Climate Action](#) that will enhance cooperation between national, regional

and local governments on planning, financing and implementing national climate goals. Notably, they will contribute to nationally determined contributions to be updated in 2025. Closely linked to local climate action is the [Declaration on Climate and Health](#), which seeks better integration of health considerations into climate policy processes. Thirty African countries committed to the transformation of health systems to be climate resilient, low carbon, sustainable and equitable, and prepare vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change.

Food Systems

Africa's food systems have been affected by drought and increased costs for farming inputs caused by the Ukraine war. Despite having [25% of the world's arable land](#), Africa produces only 10% of all agricultural output in the world, with [millions of people in the continent still going hungry](#).

For the first time, food was included in the COP28 climate agenda. Recognizing the impact of climate change on agriculture and food production, 159 countries, including 34 from Africa, signed a [declaration](#) to scale up adaptation and resilience, promote food security and nutrition, support livelihoods, strengthen water management in agriculture, and protect and conserve ecosystems and biodiversity.

[Link](#)

4. The Pledges and Deals

Since the 20th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 20), when the High-Level Champions were appointed since COP 21, and when the High-Level Champions launched the

Marrakech Partnership for [Global Climate Action](#) at COP 22, Parties have long recognized the importance of involving 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). At COP 27, the Marrakech Partnership and the High-Level Champions spearheaded a number of achievements on global climate action. The Parties applauded the High-Level Champions leadership and urged both Parties and non-Party stakeholders to actively participate in the Marrakech Partnership.

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.

Under the direction of the COP 28 Presidency, numerous advancements under the Global Climate Action Agenda have been noted over the two weeks of COP 28. Together with the Marrakech Partnership, the High-Level Champions organized over 40 events, such as Implementation Labs, Action Events, and High-Level Champion Special Events, which highlighted the momentum from various sectors and covered topics that are essential to promoting ambition and action on a global scale.

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 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 tracked announcements and initiatives all through COP 28, and in collaboration with the COP 28 Presidency and the HighLevel Champions.

The recognition and monitoring of announcements, commitments, and declarations, along with the initiation and advancement of collaborative climate initiatives, are crucial to guaranteeing that these endeavors efficiently propel the multilateral process toward accomplishing the objectives of the Paris Agreement, specifically the first global stocktake that was concluded at COP 28. In light of this, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary stated during the [opening](#) of COP 28 that the UNFCCC secretariat has been monitoring announcements and efforts throughout the conference, working with the COP 28 Presidency and the High Level Champions.

The primary goals of the global climate action were across the [four pillars](#) established by the Presidency of COP 28 which are : i) expediting the transition to a just, orderly, and equitable energy source; ii) addressing climate financing; iii) emphasizing people, their lives, and their livelihoods; and iv) ensuring that everything is fully inclusive.

Fast-tracking a just, orderly, and equitable energy transition

Maintaining the target of 1.5oC will require swift decarbonization of the energy sector. In order to achieve this, the demand and supply sides of the clean energy transition must move more quickly. However, this transition must be fair, just, and orderly, and it must also take energy security into consideration.

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 percent to over four percent every year until 2030.

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 percent 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.

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.

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.

Along with actively participating in the presidency's activities, the high-level champions have assumed the lead in expediting the energy transition. In collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), they [established](#) the Utilities for Zero Alliance, which consists of 31 partners, including 25 international utilities and power companies. These partners have come together to pledge to jointly advance electrification, renewables-ready grids, and clean energy deployment in line with the 2030 Breakthroughs' objectives. Additionally, they have introduced new 2030 breakthroughs pertaining to electrification and methane reduction in the oil and gas industry.

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 3 best practices, working on policy and standards, and supporting new innovation in emerging areas like carbon capture and storage or utilization, or circular economy. Furthermore, 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.

A total of over 35 freight purchasers are collaborating to promote ambition and action toward zero-emissions maritime transport. Among the announcements centered around shipping are the ten companies that have joined the [Cargo Owners for Zero Emission Vessels](#) collaborative platform, which was introduced during COP 28. Additionally, in accordance with the International Marine Organization's (IMO) 2050 decarbonization strategy, the [Green Maritime Africa Coalition](#) (GMAC) supported the supply and use of zero-emission fuels in Africa's marine sector. The goal of GMAC's gathering of maritime stakeholders is to increase Africa's influence in international efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions by bringing together governments, legislators, shipping firms, charterers, port operators, banks, and academic institutions.

Fixing climate finance

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

Throughout COP 28, several 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. 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.

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 catalyzing private finance.

Under the direction of the High-Level Champions, multilateral development banks and international organizations like the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund

endorsed the [Joint Declaration and Task Force on Credit Enhancement of Sustainability-Linked Sovereign Financing for Nature and Climate](#) in response to the aforementioned needs regarding the reform of the international financial architecture. In order to address the needs of developing nations, the Declaration and the Task Force that was subsequently established seek to provide long-term fiscal solutions rather than temporary debt relief that depends only on foreign development assistance.

The [Global Capacity Building Coalition](#) seeks to dramatically improve the accessibility and efficacy of climate finance technical assistance programs for financial institutions in emerging markets and developing economies. It is backed by Bloomberg Philanthropies and involves the UN, the World Bank and other multilateral development banks, the International Monetary Fund, the Network for Greening the Financial System, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), and UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

GFANZ, constituting a part of the 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. 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.

There were various initiatives about funding for the environment. This new [report](#) from the Center for Global Commons at the University of Tokyo serves as a companion to the reports of the aforementioned Independent High-Level Expert Group and as a follow-up to the

previous [report](#) on mobilizing private capital for nature released by the HighLevel Champions. It highlights the necessity of mobilizing capital for nature conservation through changing the policy environment, demonstrating workable business models, and utilizing financial innovation.

The Asia Development Bank launched the Nature Solutions Hub for Asia and the Pacific to proactively scale up the flow of public and private finance into conserving nature and the loss of biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific. This is just one example of how multilateral development banks and international financial institutions are addressing this issue.

Focusing on people, lives and livelihoods

Record-breaking temperatures and climate-related disasters highlight the increasing need for all stakeholders to step up efforts to adapt and strengthen resilience, particularly in areas that are already at risk. This effort has been accelerated with stakeholders across systems by the [Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#) (SAA), which was introduced and welcomed by Parties at COP 27. The agenda has been in place all year. Over 30 global adaptation outcome targets are presented in this crucial agenda, which is urgently needed by 2030 to boost the resilience of four billion people. This year saw the creation of a steering committee and thematic task forces that correspond to the impact systems.

The first implementation report, which was made public during COP28, examines the steps taken thus far and the obstacles that must be overcome in order to close adaptation gaps and increase resilience by 2030. The SAA has focused on health, food and agriculture, and nature, and throughout COP 28, the high-level champions have demonstrated progress on the agenda.

It is significant that the report emphasizes the introduction of four new Adaptation Outcomes on health, centered around finance, surveillance systems, heat resilience, and health infrastructure and facilities, among its many other findings and messages. Regarding

food and agriculture, it also highlights how plans might be integrated with other sectoral or local investments and plans to expedite their execution. Furthermore, it highlights the advancements in standards and guidelines for nature, including the acknowledgment and common definition of the term "nature-based solutions" and more sophisticated guidelines for private enterprises on target-setting and nature-related risk disclosure. According to the report, an increasing number of banks, investors, and insurers are aware of the dangers of doing nothing and the new opportunities. Seventy-Eight national governments (including the EU) and 40 organizations endorsed the [COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery, and Peace](#) under the direction of the COP 28 Presidency to strengthen collective action to build climate resilience at the scale and speed required in highly vulnerable countries and communities. Signatories pledge to increase funding for resilience and climate adaptation, comprehend and enhance best practices and programming, and fortify relationships, coordination, and teamwork. They will get together again at COP 29 to assess the situation and decide whether to take further action.

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. 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.

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. In addition to encouraging emissions reductions, a closer relationship between nature and climate change can improve human livelihoods and climate resilience. The COP 28 High-Level Champion announced the release of the COP 28 Joint Statement for Climate, Nature, and People during Nature Day. The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have been emphasizing nature as a primary focus. The Joint Statement pledges to work with 18 national governments—including the presidencies of China and the United Arab Emirates—as well as voluntary alliances, coalitions, and partnerships to coordinate integrated action for the environment and climate change. They will get together on a regular basis to assess their group's development. The efforts of more than 150 non-party stakeholders will support this [Nature positive for climate action call](#). 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](#).

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.

The Race to Resilience campaign has been working closely with the SAA, mobilizing nonParty 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. 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.

While the above paragraphs are related to adaptation and resilience, people, lives, and livelihoods also require multi level action. In order to accelerate the energy transition, improve global action, transform climate finance, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level, the COP 28 Presidency organized a groundbreaking Local Climate Action Summit in collaboration with Bloomberg Philanthropies. This event drew together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders. Through the Summit, the [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership \(CHAMP\) for Climate Action](#) was introduced by the COP 28 Presidency, with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies. A total of sixty-five national governments committed to strengthening their cooperation with subnational governments in the areas of planning, financing, implementing, and overseeing climate initiatives by signing the CHAMP pledge. In the run-up to both COP 29 and COP 30, it intends to convene

a global High Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action with endorsers and representative subnational leaders to exchange best practices and lessons learned in carrying out the CHAMP commitments.

As touched upon above, one of the key areas of progress made with the engagement of HighLevel Champions is the launch of new Breakthroughs. Under the larger Breakthrough [Agenda](#), the structures Breakthrough—which was started in collaboration with the governments of France and Morocco and UNEP—aims to establish near-zero emissions and climate-resilient structures as the new standard by 2030. Every year, the High-level Champions, the International Energy Agency, and IRENA, in collaboration with the UNEP/GlobalABC secretariat, will conduct an evaluation of the sector's progress worldwide..

Underpinning everything with full inclusivity

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.

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. 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.

Gender equity is also a key part of inclusivity. The COP 28 Presidency and the COP 28 HighLevel 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.

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. 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 percent of funds reach Indigenous territories and communities.

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.

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.

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.

5. Conclusion

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. 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.

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.