

ROAD TO COP 28: CHARTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

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(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of Parties (COP) 28, is going to be held at Expo City, Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023. The UNFCCC announced Dr. Sultan Ahmad al Jaber as the President-Designate for COP 28 on January 13, 2023.¹ COP 28 will discuss the topics and areas raised by stakeholders on consolidations which include health, trade, relief, recovery, resilience, and peace. COP is an annual United Nations (UN) Conference on Climate Change, and after the Rio Summit in 1993 and the founding of the UNFCCC, member nations have gathered annually at COP to decide on ambition and responsibilities, as well as climate policies. The Paris Agreement 2015, which was a result of COP 21, rallied global cooperation to prevent global temperatures from rising more than 1.5C over pre-industrial levels by the year 2100 and to take measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change.²

¹ "COP28 UAE THEMATIC PROGRAM," September 20, 2023, UN Climate Change, <https://www.cop28.com/en/thematic-program change>

² ibid

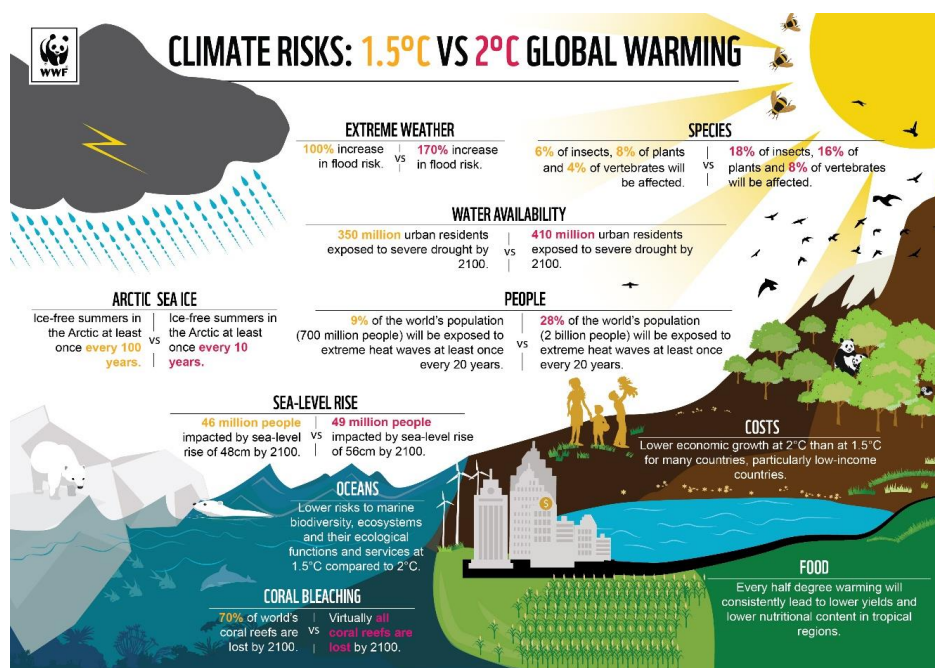


Figure: Climate Risks: 1.5 vs. 2.0 degrees³

Key issues to be discussed at COP28

The following key issues will be addressed at COP 28:

- **Climate finance mobilization:** According to the UNFCCC standing committee on climate finance, US\$60 trillion is needed to fulfil financial needs identified by nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for the period up to 2030.⁴
- **Loss and Damage Fund:** The loss and Damage Fund was established at COP 27, but the methods and operationalization were not finalized. The modalities and operationalization of the fund will be finalized at COP 28 by the Transition Committee.⁵
- **Need for Adaptation Policies:** Funds for adaptation are low because it is assumed that mitigation is cheaper than adaptation by 2030 the cost of climate change could reach \$30 billion per year. COP 28 aims to find new Adaptation policies that will decarbonize all sectors and increase resources to address loss and damage.⁶

³ Orana Velarde, "Climate Risks: 1.5 vs. 2.0 degrees", visme, January 24, 2019, <https://visme.co/blog/climate-change-facts/>

⁴ Mir Sherbaz Khetrar, "Pakistan at COP27", ISSI, December 16, 2022, <https://issi.org.pk/issue-brief-on-pakistan-at-cop27/>

⁵ ibid

⁶ "COP 27: Key issues and challenges", VISSION OF HUMANITY, Accessed September 18, 2023, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/cop-27-key-issues-and-challenges/>

- **Adaptation of Significant Framework:** Adaptation of a significant framework that will monitor and assist in achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). At COP 27, countries were supposed to make progress on defining the GGA. However, after extensive discussion on its components, parties fell short of doing so and instead established a framework to guide its formulation, which will be taken into consideration and adopted at COP 28.⁷
- **Global Stock Take:** Technical inputs to global stock take are already ongoing and will be concluded at COP 28. Each Stock Take is a two-year process that happens every five years to assess the world's combined progress toward achieving its climate goals.⁸
- **Work Program on Mitigation:** COP 27 finalized the "work program" but the cover decision (drafted by presidencies and adopted by COPs) will be a new avenue for COP 28 and will have to produce innovative solutions to ensure a sustainable global community.⁹
- **Ensuring Global Just Transition:** The financial sector will be a key player at COP 28 by taking significant steps to achieve net zero emissions and pushing for ambitious policy changes that will support the goals of the Paris Agreement.¹⁰

Major events that took place between COP 27 and COP 28

These are some of the major events that took place on the road to COP 28:

1. **Synthesis of First Global Stock Take:** Parties to the Paris Agreement must take action to address climate change and make its implementations quicker. Numerous new and adaptable solutions to overcome climate change have been prepared to be implemented, according to the First Global Stock Take report published on September 8, 2023.¹¹
2. **Climate Action Summit 2023:** The UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres organized a Climate Summit at UN headquarters on September 20, 2023, to speed up actions by government, local authorities, civil society, business, and finance to do what. The summit

⁷ Natalia Alayza and all, "COP 27: Key Takeaways and What's Next", WORLD RESOURCE INSTITUTE, December 8, 2022, <https://www.wri.org/insights/cop27-key-outcomes-un-climate-talks-sharm-el-sheikh>

⁸ "2023 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 28)", IISD, Accessed September 24, 2023, <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/2023-un-climate-change-conference-unfccc-cop-28/>

⁹ Mir Sherbaz Khetran, "Pakistan at COP27", ISSI, December 16, 2022, <https://issi.org.pk/issue-brief-on-pakistan-at-cop27/>

¹⁰ "The PRI and COP 28", PRI, August 8, 2023, <https://www.unpri.org/sustainability-issues/climate-change/the-pri-and-cop28>

¹¹ "Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake", UNFCCC, Accessed September 25, 2023 <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake/components-of-the-gst/technical-dialogue-of-the-first-global-stocktake>

achieved a vital political milestone for showing that there is a collective global will to accelerate the tempo and scale of a just transition to an equitable renewable energy-based, climate-resilient international economy.¹²

3. **3rd Meeting of the Transitional Committee:** The 3rd meeting of the Transitional Committee was held in Santiago, Chile from August 29 to September 1st, 2023. This meeting resulted in significant progress towards the mandate given by COP 27. Addressing the participants, President of COP 28 Dr. Jaber asked the participants to remain creative in figuring out funding assets, defining the arrangements, and making their distribution effective.¹³
4. **Climate and SDGs Conference:** The Conference was held on July 16, 2023, at UN Headquarters, in New York City. The conference was co-hosted by the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UND DASA) and the Secretariat of UNFCCC to push for integrated and accelerated climate actions and SDGs.¹⁴
5. **International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan:** The Conference was hosted by Pakistan and the UN for the institutional, financial, and implementation arrangements for post-2022 flood and foreign international support and long-term partnership for Pakistan's adaptation and climate resilience on January 9, 2023, in Geneva. Delegations showed support to the people of Pakistan and announced commitments of US\$ 9 billion. The conference identified an action plan for Pakistan's resilient recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.¹⁵

Pakistan's Road to COP 28

- Pakistan is at the front line of nations vulnerable to impacts of climate change, with rising temperatures, heatwaves, glacial lake outburst floods, forest fires, droughts, heavy monsoon, riverine flooding, and rise in sea level. The 2022 mega flooding affected 33 million people. At the UN SDGs Summit, the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar informed the representatives that Pakistan wants climate justice and financial support at COP 28 and will ask for the fulfilment of the US\$100 billion pledge committed by

¹² "CLIMATE AMBITION SUMMIT 2023", UNCC, September 20, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-ambition-summit>

¹³ "Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage Making Progress at Third Meeting", United Nations Climate Change, September 8, 2023, <https://unfccc.int/news/transitional-committee-on-loss-and-damage-makes-progress-at-third-meeting>

¹⁴ "Global Climate and SDGs SYNERGY CONFERENCE", UN, July 16, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2023/page/global-conference-drives-integrated-action-climate-and-sustainable>

¹⁵ "TRANSITIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE RESILIENT PAKISTAN", UNDP, January 9, 2023, <https://www.undp.org/international-conference-climate-resilient-pakistan>,

developed countries at COP 28. Pakistan will demand half of this climate finance to be for adaptation and will also ask for an urgent set up of a Loss and Damage Fund.¹⁶

- During a visit to Pakistan on July 6, 2023, Dr. Jaber met with former Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, to discuss bilateral issues as well as global and regional issues of mutual concern, with a focus on the fight against climate change. Both parties also signed an MOU outlining a roadmap for investments in Pakistan to tackle climate-related challenges and achieve sustainable growth in Pakistan.¹⁷
- Pakistan's Former Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Ms. Sherry Rahman on July 26, 2023, said that Pakistan needs a re-set of the financial system to gain increasing climate resilience. She encouraged the COP 28 Presidency to leave no one behind in the upcoming Global Stock Take meeting. She also unveiled Pakistan's first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to improve Pakistan's resilience against climate change.¹⁸

Conclusion and Recommendations

COP 28 in Dubai is positioned to play a leading role in the global effort to combat climate change. The conference has the potential to make considerable progress because as it will address urgent issues like climate finance, adaptation, and transition. For that the following steps need to be taken:

- COP 28 will have to come up with innovative solutions to ensure a sustainable world community by encouraging the developed countries to fulfil the commitment of US\$100 billion pledge to support vulnerable countries affected by climate change.
- Prioritize actions to improve climate adaptation and resilience measures considering the growing effects of climate change. This may consist of making investments in infrastructure that is climate resilient and supporting vulnerable countries.
- Encourage the development of a comprehensive strategy, especially for vulnerable nations, to address the loss and damage caused by climate change. This might mean assisting those affected by climate change through aid with the growth of risk assessment and management capabilities.

¹⁶ Anwar Iqbal, "Pakistan to seek climate justice at COP 28: PM Kaker", DAWN, September 27, 2023, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1777019>

¹⁷ "The Visit of President-designate to Pakistan", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 6, 2023, <https://mofa.gov.pk/the-visit-of-president-designate-of-cop-28-to-pakistan>

¹⁸ Zain Ul Abideen, "Pakistan's first-ever climate change plan unveiled" THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, July 26, 2023, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2427999/pakistans-first-ever-climate-change-plan-unveiled>

The developments and activities that took place between COP 27 and COP 28 have emphasized how urgent the climate crisis is. It is vital for developed nations to keep their promises as Pakistan and other vulnerable nations seek assistance and justice. COP 28 must not only present innovative solutions but also give resilience top priority and address the severe effects of climate change. The entire world is looking forward to this important conference, hoping for significant steps to be taken toward a more sustainable future.