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# Society & Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

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08

## 'World Must Unite on Climate Action and Deliver in Dubai'



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Zayed International Foundation For The Environment  
Hosts Director General Of SESRIC



Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment

Together for a green home

## Chairman's Message

As we approach the start of a historic COP28 here in the UAE, the urgency of uniting the global community on climate action has never been more apparent. Even as people and the planet bear witness to the consequences of climate change, with rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and threats to biodiversity, the window to prevent the worst outcomes is rapidly closing. In this time of need, we look up to COP28 as a beacon of hope, a symbol of solidarity, a pillar of stability, and a path to prosperity.

In the lead up to COP28, expectations remain high, and hopes are even higher. Nations must come together, set aside differences, and commit to tangible actions that will lead to the implementation of more ambitious and concrete climate action plans. Despite the daunting challenges, as we take ambitious steps toward a sustainable future, it is crucial that COP28 delivers a clear message of hope, inspiring not just governments but every individual, community, and corporation to be part of the solution.

Climate change is not just an environmental crisis; it is a threat to political



**Prof. Mohammed  
bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

stability, economic security, and social cohesion. The climate crisis knows no borders, and no nation is immune to its impacts. We must recognize that we are all in this together, and global cooperation is not a choice but a necessity.

As we focus on keeping 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach, we must realise that this goal is not just about avoiding the worst climate impacts; it is about safeguarding the future for our children and generations to come. COP28 is an opportunity for the international community to come together, find common ground, and take decisive and urgent action to achieve climate goals.

COP28 is also our moment to shine, to make a difference, and to be the leaders the world needs. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future.

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## Upcoming events

### 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28)

**Dates:** 30 November – 12 December 2023

**Location:** Expo City Dubai, UAE

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held at Expo City, Dubai, UAE.

The COP28 thematic program is designed to unite a diverse range of stakeholders - all levels of governments, youth, business and investors, civil society, frontline communities, indigenous peoples, and others - around specific solutions that must be scaled up this decade to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, build resilience, and mobilize finance at scale. This set of solutions constitutes the response to the Global Stocktake, looking where the world stands on climate action and support, identifying the gaps, and working together to agree on solutions pathways to 2030 and beyond.

#### Plan of Action

The COP28 Presidency has set out a plan of action, focused on matching the highest ambition for negotiated outcomes, with a robust action agenda to implement those ambitions in the real world. The Presidency has called on governments and key climate stakeholders to take action in four areas: Fast-track the energy; Fix climate finance; Focus on nature, people, lives, and livelihoods; Full inclusivity.

#### Themes

Each day’s programming incorporates four cross-cutting themes that underpin effective, interconnected delivery. These are: Technology & Innovation, Inclusion, Frontline Communities and Finance. Programming will explicitly include these themes through both content and speakers.

On the final two days of COP28, there will be no thematic days to avoid extensive programming when the negotiation text is often being closed.

## Zayed International Foundation For The Environment Participates In Podcast Discussion On Ecological Transformation Ahead Of COP28

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ZAYED FOUNDATION



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment recently engaged in a crucial dialogue on ecological transformation, perfectly timed as the UAE prepares to host the pivotal COP28 climate summit. The lively, dynamic discussion hosted by Veolia, a global leader in environmental solutions and the benchmark company for ecological transformation, marked the culmination of the first season of its popular 'Let's Turn the Tide' podcast.

Attended by dozens of youth in Dubai, the engaging session was held as part of a broader summit and workshop under the theme, 'Creating Tomorrow's World: Youth and Climate Action'.

Salma Moustaid, Technical Executive Officer at Zayed International Foundation for the Environment participated in the grand finale of

the first season of Veolia's popular podcast alongside Abdelqader Al Saqqaf, former UAE Youth Delegate to the United Nations, and Habiba Abdulrahman, Sustainable Fashion Advocate and Activist. Hosted by Nadine Zidani, Sustainability & Climate Advocate, the event was live streamed on Veolia Near and Middle East's Instagram handle.

The spirited conversation revolved around the significant findings of Veolia's inaugural Ecological Transformation Barometer. This groundbreaking report has revealed that 67% of the global population believe that the costs associated with the consequences of climate change and pollution will be greater than the investments required for ecological transformation. The panel discussion also highlighted the imperative need for collective action and innovative technologies to address

and mitigate the repercussions of pollution and climate change.

The final episode of 'Let's Turn the Tide' marked the debut of a new Veolia podcast series dedicated to COP28. 'Voices of COP' invites exclusive guests to share their thoughts and hopes for the world's biggest climate gathering scheduled to be held in Dubai from November 30 until December 12 and features the first-ever Global Stocktake assessment since the Paris Agreement of 2015.

The live event, hosted at Warehouse Four in Al Quoz, Dubai, on October 12, included a comprehensive briefing on the key insights from the Ecological Transformation Barometer. It provided an invaluable platform for university students, young activists, and environmental professionals to discuss their action plans for shaping a greener future and their vision for the UAE. The audience had the opportunity to interact with Veolia's environmental experts, engaging in meaningful conversations about pressing environmental issues.

Pascal Grante, CEO of Veolia Near & Middle East, emphasized the commitment to youth engagement in climate action as the UAE prepares to host COP28. He said: "The final episode of our 'Let's Turn the Tide' podcast and the launch of 'Voices of COP' underscore our strategic commitment to support the nation's efforts to enhance youth involvement in climate action.

As revealed by the first edition of Veolia's Ecological Transformation Barometer, we urgently need to scale up ecological solutions and find ways to mitigate the brakes on the pathway to implement these solutions. I was delighted to hear the robust panel discussion and suggestions from young participants to mobilise climate action and develop practical innovation and solutions for the sustainable management of our precious natural resources."

The full recording of the final episode of 'Let's Turn the Tide' podcast is now available on *YouTube* at Veolia Near & Middle East channel, On Spotify.



## COP28 President Says World Must Unite on Climate Action and Deliver in Dubai

COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber addressed a record number of ministers and delegations from around the world at the opening session of Pre-COP, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

He declared that the international community needs to unite on climate action and stated that “we have to come through. We must unite. We



More than 100 delegations and 70 ministers attended the Pre-COP conference in Abu Dhabi conference, which is more than double the normal number of participants for any Pre-COP

must act. And we must deliver in Dubai!”

The two-day Pre-COP held in October is a preparatory meeting of ministers and negotiators ahead of COP28. This year’s event has seen record attendance, with 70 ministers and over 100 delegations coming together in the UAE capital, more than double the normal number of participants for a Pre-COP.

Acknowledging that “there are too many things out there dividing our world at this moment,” the COP28 President declared that “Now more than ever we need to unite on climate and deliver a clear message of hope, solidarity, stability and prosperity. We need to show that the international community can deliver and send a clear signal that keeps 1.5 within reach.”

Al Jaber pointed out that before the Paris

*More than 20 oil and gas companies have answered COP28's call to end methane emissions by 2030*



Agreement, the world was heading for more than four degrees of warming but is now on course for warming of two to three degrees, according to latest reports,

“We are heading in the right direction, but nowhere near fast enough,” he warned.

Parties “must do better” on formulating agreements on issues than they had done at previous conferences, Dr. Al Jaber stated. “We have no time to waste on disunity,” he warned. “We must look beyond short-term thinking, we must end the excuses and delays, and redefine our self-interest as common interest.”

The COP28 President reiterated the need to deliver a robust response to the Global Stocktake, and put the world back on track on delivering the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

He highlighted key areas of focus, including a strong mitigation outcome, a comprehensive adaptation agreement, and “groundbreaking solutions” on finance. “That includes delivering on the fund and funding arrangements for loss and damage,” he added.

“What was promised in Sharm el Sheikh must be delivered in Dubai.”

“We need solid solutions for a 43 percent cut in emissions by 2030 because that is exactly what the science tells us,” Dr. Al Jaber said.

On the issue of fossil fuels, he said, “I know there are strong views about the idea of including language on fossil fuels and renewables in the negotiated text. I need you to work together to come forward with solutions that can achieve alignment, common ground and consensus



between all parties. We must be responsible and pragmatic. And we must leave no-one behind.”

Updating the meeting on policy, the COP28 President said: “More than 20 oil and gas companies have answered COP28’s call to end methane emissions by 2030. And I see positive momentum, as more are joining. And we are engaging with all high-emitting sectors, like heavy transportation, aluminium, steel and cement to lay out credible decarbonization plans.” On finance, Dr. Al Jaber emphasized the importance of ensuring capital flows to where it is most needed, notably the Global South and of rebuilding trust in developing nations.

He further stressed, “Old promises must be kept, like the 100-billion-dollar pledge. I am grateful for the work of Germany and Canada on this, and their reassurances that things are now on track.

But, as I stand here now, I still cannot say with certainty that it has been delivered.”

He also outlined the importance of adaptation, calling for the global goal to be met, and stated that, “We must end deforestation and preserve natural carbon sinks... it is time for every nation to embed nature positive investments in national climate strategies.”

The COP28 President reminded attendees that “the world is watching. Our nations, our communities, our families, our kids, they are all watching. So, let us unite.”

“We have the power, we must accept the responsibility,” he concluded. “This process must not fail. We have to come through. We must deliver in Dubai.”



# Zayed International Foundation For The Environment Hosts Director General Of SESRIC

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment recently hosted a high-level delegation from the Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), at its office to discuss ways of collaboration and cooperation ahead of the upcoming COP28 in Dubai, UAE. SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing cooperation among Organization of the Islamic



Cooperation (OIC) member countries in various socio-economic areas and fields.

The discussions were led by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, who welcomed and received Her Excellency Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of SESRIC, in the presence of key representatives from both organizations.

The bilateral meeting on October 17, was held in the offices of the Zayed Foundation in the presence of Dr. Atilla Karaman, Acting Chief of Cabinet and Director of the Statistics and Information Department at SESRIC.

Key representatives from the Zayed Foundation included Salma Moustaid, Technical Executive Officer and Ibrahim Doka, Environmental Studies Expert.

The Zayed Foundation, a prominent advocate for environmental stewardship, and SESRIC, a leading institution for socioeconomic research and development, have long recognized the importance of cooperation to achieve their common goals. The meeting explored the shared commitment of both organizations to address pressing environmental challenges and to promote sustainable development in the Islamic countries and beyond through knowledge-sharing activities.

Both Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad and Her Excellency Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk expressed their optimism about the potential for working together to drive meaningful progress through joint initiatives, and to address global environmental issues and contribute to the broader global sustainability agenda.

## COP28 Presidency Announces 'The Net-Zero Transition Charter: Accountability Mobilization For The Private Sector'

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COP28



The 'Net-Zero Transition Charter encourages the private sector to take bolder action on climate and commit to greater transparency and integrity in their net-zero emissions pledges

The COP28 Presidency has launched a charter to mobilize and encourage the private sector to take bolder action on climate and commit to greater credibility and accountability in their net-zero emissions pledges.

The 'Net-Zero Transition Charter: Accountability mobilization for the private sector' launch comes just weeks ahead of the COP28 conference, to be held in Dubai between 30 November and 12 December. The Charter follows a technical report from the Global Stocktake on 8 September, which showed that the world is off track to keeping the goals of the Paris Agreement alive.

The Charter recognizes the important role the private sector must play in combatting climate change. The private sector accounts for

*The Charter is designed to enable the private sector to play its full role in the delivery of the Paris Agreement goals*



approximately 80% of global GDP, as well as the bulk of the world's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

COP28 President, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, "The private sector's engagement in COP28 - their resources, expertise, and commitment - is vital in driving real-world action and achieving the ambitious climate goals set forth by the Presidency. For every pillar of our Action Agenda - fast-track the energy transition, fix climate finance, focus on nature, lives, and livelihoods, and full inclusivity - companies can leverage their strengths and resources to advance our collective climate goals and provide us with required solutions."

"The Net-Zero Transition Charter will further enable the private sector to take meaningful action on climate, track progress and be held

accountable. We have strong collaboration with the private sector already in the consultation and development of many of the outcomes of the action agenda - and I encourage all eligible private sector organizations to make this commitment and sign the Charter today."

The COP28 Presidency has called for a collaborative approach to reduce emissions by 43% in the next seven years, with all sorts of capital- public, private and philanthropic sources necessary to help solve the emissions gap more effectively.

Dr. Al Jaber, continued, "Philanthropy equally has a crucial role; they raise awareness on climate issues, they can convene as a neutral partner and bring risk-free capital to fund climate opportunities. More importantly, they can be nimble and help fast-track solutions especially



when partnering with public and private funders. Less than 2% of total philanthropic giving (USD810 billion in 2021) goes to climate and this is miniscule relative to the size of the problem we have. I hope to see many more philanthropists coming to COP28 and playing an active role in supporting climate causes and solutions.”

By joining the Net-Zero Transition Charter, all organizations will commit to:

- Publicly set 1.5°C aligned, science-based, credible, and transparent Net-Zero 2050 and interim emissions’ reduction targets.
- Do this either through: A net-zero aligned national pledge or an internationally recognized net-zero initiative, that holds members to account for their net-zero pledges, or individually following a commensurate scope and level of ambition with public, third-party

validation of their pledge through a generally accepted science-based review process. Those who have already made pledges as outlined above do not need to re-commit.

- Produce a credible net-zero transition plan, within one year of COP28.
- Publicly report annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and progress on their net-zero commitment and transition plan, including through high quality platforms that feed into the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (UNFCCC) Global Climate Action Portal.

The Net-Zero Transition Charter provides a steppingstone to the work currently being carried out by the UNFCCC in the creation of the 'Recognition Accountability Framework for non-Party Stakeholders', which was first announced at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June.

By signing the Charter or committing to a net-zero aligned national pledge, organizations will be acknowledged as signatories in the run up to COP28. To ensure transparency and accountability, a progress report will be issued by December 2024 to verify that signatories have taken the necessary actions outlined in the Charter. Signatories that do not meet the Charter’s requirements, will be delisted from the COP28 website and the COP28 progress report.



# UAE Targets Climate Conscious Catering At COP28

**M**ariam bint Mohammed Almhiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment and the Food Systems Lead at COP28, has called on F&B vendors to deliver 'Climate Conscious Catering' at scale, ahead of the milestone climate conference in the UAE.

Almhiri led a 4-day workshop which was designed to energise, inspire, and motivate the

COP28



adoption of climate-conscious catering, and drive the success of its adoption by F&B vendors at COP28 taking place in the UAE.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and COP28 are actively looking to partner with organisations and individuals who exemplify the sustainability principles of COP28 and stand with the Ministry to drive lasting change not only in the UAE, but also globally.

Almhiri said, "Our vision for COP28 is that it will provide delegates with a 360-degree understanding of the climate challenges the world faces. We know that our food systems are intrinsically linked to the fate of our natural world, and so we have made the progressive decision to ensure that we explore how the catering provided across the event can be responsible and climate-conscious, helping to

echo the emphasis we have placed on the Emirates Declaration."

She continued, "The approach, which is a 'COP first' centres around the Sustainable Catering Strategy developed for COP28 and is intended to demonstrate the benefits and lasting legacy."

The Sustainable Catering Strategy is intended to showcase the potential to deliver sustainable food and beverages at scale. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and COP28 are looking for F&B partners who share that vision. The ambitious strategy, which has not been implemented at a COP before, has a core commitment to deliver a 2/3 plant-based menu, limit the carbon and water intensity of food served, and ensure a focus on nutrition, portion sizes, affordability and minimising waste.

## COP28 President Calls For Improved Adaptation Finance For Vulnerable Nations

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, has called for greater efforts to tackle adaptation finance gaps and prioritise actions to make climate finance more accessible to vulnerable nations.

His remarks came during the third Climate and Development Ministerial, which was convened at



The UAE co-chaired this year's Climate and Development Ministerial in partnership with the UK, Malawi, and Vanuatu, held during Pre-COP events in Abu Dhabi

Pre-COP, and co-hosted by the United Kingdom, Vanuatu and Malawi.

"People and the planet lie at the heart of the climate process, which is focused on protecting lives, livelihoods and nature," Dr. Sultan said.

He elaborated, "To guarantee an inclusive and equitable transition to low-carbon and resilient growth, the voices of emerging and developing countries must not go unheard. COP28 must leverage an adequate response to the Global Stocktake and set out a pathway to fill the financing gaps and address shortcomings in the global climate finance architecture."

As co-hosts, the UK stressed the need to support the most vulnerable. Graham Stuart, UK Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, said, "The UK is determined to deliver on its ambitious

*The Ministerial, an important milestone ahead of COP28, focused on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of adaptation finance*



climate commitments while supporting those most at risk from the impacts of climate change – represented by our USD2 billion contribution to the Green Climate Fund earlier this year.”

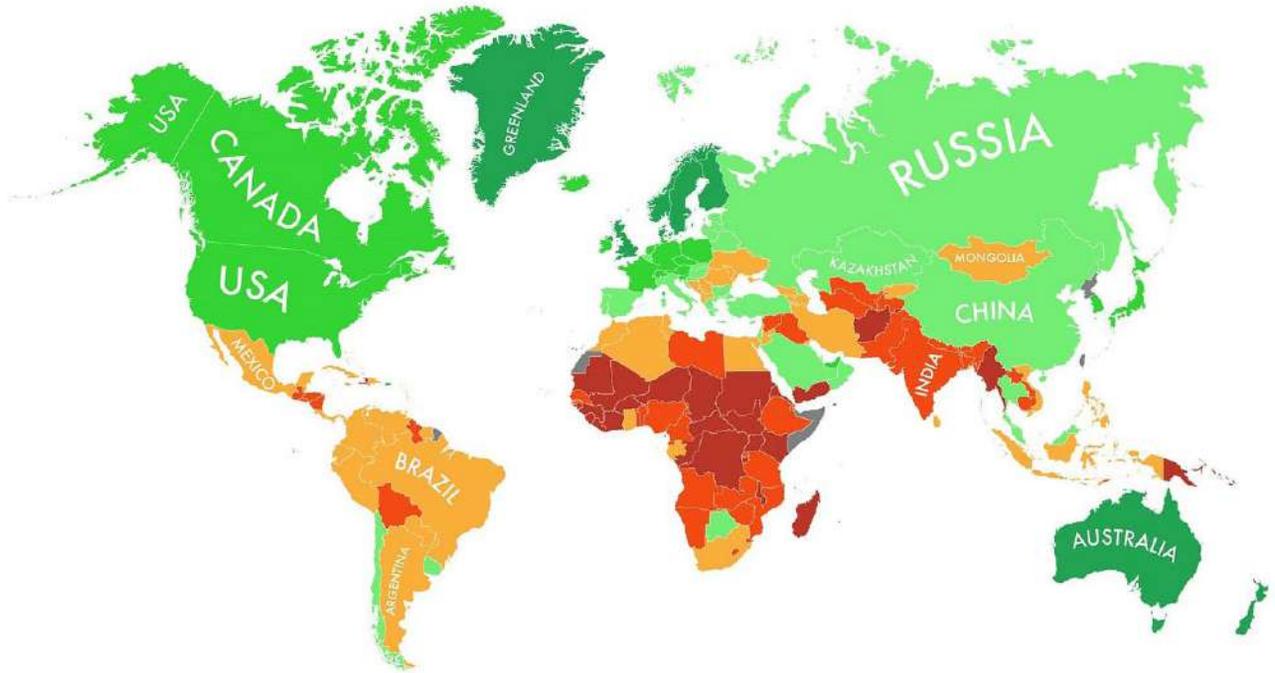
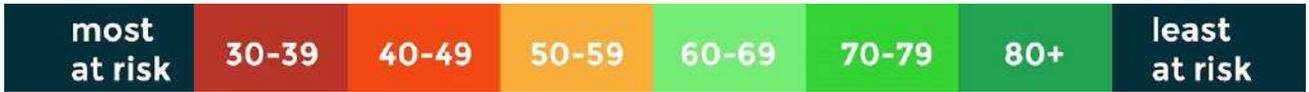
The importance of the Ministerial was highlighted by the Vanuatu Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Energy, Environment, Meteorology, Geohazards and Disasters Management, Hon. Ralph Regenvanu. He said, “As we gather today, the people of Vanuatu are right now facing a landscape destroyed by Cyclone Lola that hit just days ago. Climate impacts are growing daily in the Pacific Islands as the cause of the crisis continues unabated.”

“Adaptation and resilience initiatives are a last line of defence, literally saving lives in Vanuatu, by minimising the impacts of the worsening climate crisis. Yet, Small Island Developing States

struggle to access the funding we need to support the adaptation plans and programs that are so desperately required in our island communities.”

This view was backed up by the Malawi Minister for Natural Resources and Climate Change, Hon. Dr. Michael Usi. He said, “For years we have been calling for improved access and delivery of climate finance, and more at the local level. This will enable local communities and countries to adapt to climate change and build resilience. We are proud to co-host the Climate and Development Ministerial process this year to drive forward the transformational shift we need in the delivery of the climate finance.”

At the Ministerial, started in 2021 to unite and lend support to climate vulnerable countries – Dr. Al Jaber emphasised that dealing with adaptation finance is a fundamental aspect of climate



finance reform. It is also one of the four pillars of the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda.

The COP28 Presidency is actively supporting several initiatives and actions, which include:

- The urgent delivery of the long-overdue USD100 billion annual funding commitment by developed countries to help developing countries;
- Substantial replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, emphasising a balance between mitigation and adaptation;
- New adaptation finance pledges towards doubling adaptation finance by 2025;
- Successful replenishment of the Adaptation Fund, the only dedicated multilateral fund for adaptation; and
- Timely operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, a crucial element in the discussion on adaptation.

The UAE will also host the Adaptation Fund Contributor Dialogue during the first week of COP28. The Contributor Dialogue will be a pledging conference to support vulnerable nations in the fight against climate change.

Dr. Al Jaber said the COP28 Presidency is also working on improving conditions for the most vulnerable countries by reallocating and channelling Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), a financial instrument allocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to the Resilience and Sustainability Trust to address debt sustainability and create fiscal space for resilience investment.



## COP28 President-Designate Meets Pope Francis At Vatican

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-designate, met with His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church, to discuss the crucial role of faith leaders in advancing the climate agenda at COP28.

COP28 Presidency has collaborated with the Vatican and the Muslim Council of Elders to



ensure inclusivity in the COP process by integrating faith organisations into climate discussions.

Inclusivity is a core pillar of the COP28 Presidency, and it aims to provide a platform where all voices are heard, including faith organisations. A series of inter-faith initiatives have been designed to further the role of faith communities in the COP process, including a global summit for faith leaders, the Confluence of Conscience, to be held from November 6-7 in Abu Dhabi. It will unite hundreds of religious leaders, academics, and scientists to collectively address the findings of the Global Stocktake (GST) and sign a declaration to progress climate action at COP28.

Additionally, the COP28 Presidency will also co-host the Faith Pavilion at COP28, marking the first-ever pavilion of its kind at a COP event. The Faith Pavilion will host panels with religious

leaders, scientists, and political leaders, and encourage intergenerational dialogue among young faith leaders.

During their meeting in Rome, Dr. Al Jaber and Pope Francis discussed the importance of the Global Stocktake and the need for a detailed action plan to provide a robust and comprehensive response to the findings within the key pillars of the Paris Agreement.

Dr. Al Jaber expressed gratitude to the Vatican for its climate action advocacy and extended an invitation to Pope Francis to join the World Climate Action Summit at COP28. The diverse faith and interfaith activities, along with religious organisations, will support the call for a fair and ambitious climate agreement at COP28 and support those working towards it.

The COP28 Presidency launched the 'COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health' as part of its commitment to make health a central element of the climate agenda.

## Nations Urged To Endorse COP28 Declaration On Climate And Health

The Presidency made the announcement at the World Health Summit in Berlin, where it called on governments around the world to endorse the Declaration. The Declaration covers a range of



COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, developed in close collaboration with WHO and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, was launched during World Health Summit in Berlin

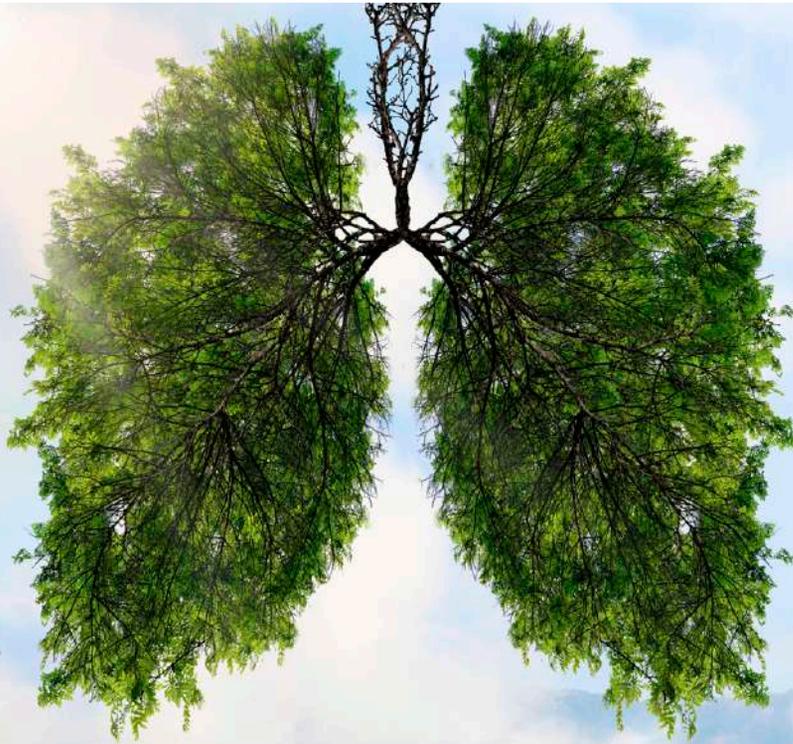
areas, including cross-sector collaboration on climate and health, reducing emissions within the sector, and increasing the amount and proportion of climate financing devoted to health.

"The link between climate change and health is becoming increasingly evident every day, with diseases like malaria surging as temperatures rise, and extreme weather events impacting people around the globe," said COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber.

"The international community must act now to put health at the center of climate action before we see global health systems overwhelmed. Through the Declaration, we aim to deliver public health systems that are climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable."

The Declaration was developed along with the

*The Declaration calls for cross-sector collaboration on climate and health and increasing the amount and proportion of financing devoted to climate and health*



World Health Organization (WHO) and with the support of a number of 'country champions' – including Brazil, Malawi, the UK, the US, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany. Kenya, Fiji, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Malawi were also announced as “early endorsers” of the Declaration.

At the launch, Minister of Health for Malawi, Hon Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda MP said, "Malawi's health system has been straining under the impacts of climate change on health. We need stronger and better coordinated political action, and improved finance. Malawi endorses the Declaration on climate and health, and calls on others to join in. Countries need to speak with one voice on this important issue."

Minister for Health and Medical Services for Fiji, Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu said, “Fiji,

like all Small Island Developing States (SIDS), is witnessing the devastation of climate change every day in our homes, our communities, and our health. Words and good ideas cannot stop them, only decisive actions will. We are building resilience into our infrastructure, health system and way of life. And we demand comprehensive efforts to reduce environmental pollutants that are causing the global temperatures to rise, tide levels at our shorelines to increase, and cyclones in our region more ferocious. Waiting is not an option; we must act now!”

The World Health Summit, held from 15-17 October, was held under the theme of “A Defining Year for Global Health Action” and brought together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society to set the global health agenda.

## COP28, IRENA And Global Renewables Alliance Outline Roadmap To Triple Renewable Power And Double Energy Efficiency By 2030

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COP28



COP28 Presidency, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Global Renewables Alliance publish joint report outlining key enablers to triple global renewable power capacity to 11,000 GW and double average annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030

**T**he COP28 Presidency, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the Global Renewables Alliance (GRA) have launched a joint report titled, “Tripling Renewable Power and Doubling Energy Efficiency by 2030: Crucial Steps Towards 1.5 °C.”

The report, launched on the sidelines of Pre-COP in Abu Dhabi, provides actionable policy recommendations for governments and the private sector on how to increase global renewable energy capacity to at least 11,000 GW while also doubling annual average energy efficiency improvements in the target period. A key goal of COP28 Presidency’s Action Agenda is fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition to keep 1.5°C within reach.

COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said in the report, “Tripling the deployment of renewable

*Key enablers of a just energy transition include: infrastructure and system operation, policy and regulation, supply chains, skills and capacities, finance, and international collaboration*



power generation and doubling energy efficiency are amongst the most important levers to cut greenhouse gas emissions. I am now calling on everyone to come together, commit to common targets, and take comprehensive domestic and international action, as outlined in this report, to make our ambitions a reality.”

IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera added, “Our mission is as clear as it is urgent: we need concerted action to triple renewable power capacity by 2030. This includes urgently addressing deeply entrenched systemic barriers across infrastructure, policy and institutional capacities stemming from the fossil-fuel era. IRENA’s World Energy Transitions Outlook, which provides the analytical foundation of this report, warns that the energy transition is dangerously off-track, demanding immediate, radical collective action.”

Bruce Douglas, Global Renewables Alliance CEO, said, “Tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency is the most impactful commitment policymakers can make to combating climate change. These steps will deliver cleaner electricity systems, open up access to affordable energy and deliver clean green jobs for millions of people.

“The rapid upscaling of renewable energy will require policymakers to work closely with industry and civil society to urgently implement the enabling actions in this report - infrastructure and system operation; policy and regulation; and supply chains, skills, and capacities. Critically, these areas must be reinforced by low-cost financing and international collaboration. We must work together to secure a livable future for all,” he added.

The report, which draws extensively on the analysis presented in IRENA’s World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023: 1.5 °C pathway, divides the key enablers into five sections, covering:

- **Infrastructure and system operation:** power grids, energy storage, end-use electrification, sector coupling and infrastructure planning, demand-side management.
- **Policy and regulation:** improving energy efficiency, market incentives and fiscal policy, power market design and regulation, streamlining permitting, reducing negative impacts, maximizing social and environmental benefits.
- **Supply chain, skills, and capacities:** building resilient supply chains, education, training, and capacity-building.
- Scaling-up public and private finance.
- Enhancing international collaboration.

## COP28 Presidency Supports Women's Leadership In Climate Diplomacy

The COP28 Presidency has announced measures to support the representation and participation of women at the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in the UAE.

The measures include financial assistance to encourage stronger attendance of women delegates, technical training sessions, and support for an international conference.



Under COP28's agenda of inclusivity, steps have been taken to support the representation and meaningful participation of women at the climate conference

“Historically, the perspectives and leadership of women have been underrepresented in many spheres of public life and climate diplomacy is no exception,” said Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, who is also President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the second woman to lead the organisation in its 75-year history.

“The COP28 Presidency is mobilising for an inclusive COP. These steps to support women's leadership and participation get us closer to our goal and, I believe, will also have a positive impact on future rounds of the climate talks and on climate activism in general.”

The COP28 Presidency will also provide financial support to a Night School for Women Delegates, run by the Women's Environment and

*Communities are more successful in resilience and capacity-building strategies when women are part of the planning process*



Development Organisation (WEDO). The financial support will cover logistical, travel and other associated costs for women delegates attending COP meetings. Founded in 2009 and run by the WEDO, the initiative focuses on climate capacity-building for women from the least developed countries and small island developing states.

Bridget Burns, Executive Director of WEDO, said, “Women’s equal participation in climate change decision-making is fundamental to just policies that reflect and respond to the needs of the global community.

“Via the Women Delegates Fund program, this support goes towards strengthening women’s leadership and diplomacy skills - particularly women leaders from countries and regions most vulnerable to climate impacts - through knowledge and capacity strengthening on

technical issues related to the negotiations, including running mock sessions and practice in drafting interventions.”

The COP28 Presidency will also offer financial support for the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data, run collaboratively by COP28, UN Women, WEDO, UNFCCC, IUCN and UN Climate Change High Level Champions.

The two-day event will take place on November 28-29 in Dubai.

Speakers and participants include UN agencies, government officials and policy makers, leaders and commitment makers of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition and the Gender Environment Data Alliance (GEDA), private foundations, civil society organisations, indigenous leaders and local communities and



academia. The goal of the conference is to provide a platform to exchange best practices, leverage innovation and find solutions to common challenges to produce and use data on the gender-environment nexus.

This assistance will help gather a broad array of speakers, including representatives from academia, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities who may otherwise not be able to travel to the UAE.

COP28 UAE will also host the Arab Women Leaders' Summit in collaboration with WiSER (Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy), a global platform that champions women as leaders of sustainable change. WiSER was established in 2015 by Masdar, the UAE's flagship renewable energy company, and empowers women to gain

leadership skills through the lens of sustainability.

Held on December 4, COP28's Finance/Trade/Gender Equality/Accountability Day, the summit will explore the critical relationship between gender equality and climate action.

It will bring together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, including researchers, activists, policymakers, and representatives from civil society organizations, to discuss the intersectionality of gender and climate change.

Dr. Lamy Fawwaz, Executive Director for Brand and Strategic Initiatives at Masdar and Program Director of WiSER, said: "Women are often worst affected by climate change. Yet we know that they are also at the forefront of efforts to combat it. Women have the knowledge, commitment, and

*Investing in gender equality and women's empowerment has far-reaching benefits, including environmental conservation, poverty reduction, and achieving the SDGs*



innovative spirit that the world urgently needs to accelerate the path to net zero.

“At WiSER, we are proud to be collaborating with the COP28 Presidency to amplify the voices and expert insights of Arab women leaders. Climate change is having a profound impact on our region and our planet. Women must be front and center in the collective mission to tackle it.”

The new measures come on top of existing efforts and commitments, such as the official letter sent to all state Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In the letter, Parties have been asked to bring gender-balanced delegations to the Dubai talks.

The COP28 Presidency is also funding a Women and Gender Pavilion at the event. Run by the Women and Gender Constituency, the pavilion

will highlight women’s leadership and efforts in driving global climate action.

“The gendered aspects of climate change are not widely known, yet they deserve our attention – climate change is by no means gender neutral,” said Al Mubarak. “Few people know that women and girls, comprising 70 percent of the world’s poor, are disproportionately affected by climate change. For example, they are 14 times more likely to die in climate-related natural disasters. They are also less able to access relief and assistance once disaster has struck.”

“Getting more women involved and giving them the tools to showcase their perspectives and participate in finding the solutions will ultimately yield stronger outcomes that benefit everyone,” added Al Mubarak.

## COP28 To Lead Dialogue On Building Water- Resilient Food Systems

The UAE Minister for Climate Change and Environment, COP28 Food Systems Lead, Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, has announced that the UAE will host the first ever Ministerial Dialogue on Building Water-Resilient Food Systems in cooperation with Brazil during COP28.

Speaking at the UN-organised World Food Day

28

COP28



UAE will organise the first ever Ministerial Dialogue On Building Water-Resilient Food Systems at COP28 in collaboration with Brazil

Conference in Rome, Almheiri made a call for action – that climate change cannot be solved independently, and global collaboration is imperative in designing and implementing climate action mechanisms as environmental issues know no borders. She also called for greater international collaboration to address the global challenge of food insecurity and underlined the focus of COP28 to usher in a new era of inclusive food finance.

Almheiri presented the UAE's focus on delivering an inclusive climate crisis solution in the presence of the Italian President, Sergio Mattarella; President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins; Alvaro Lario, Dr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization; President, International Fund for Agricultural Development and Cindy H. McCain, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

*Food and water insecurity, including food finance, will play important roles at COP28*



The theme of the 2023 World Food Day is 'Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind'. Almheiri noted that worldwide, agriculture is the single largest consumer of freshwater – and the way we currently produce food is responsible for up to 33% of total global emissions.

The Minister said: “From devastating famines to severe droughts and life-threatening floods, we are seeing their frequency spike as the globe is impacted by climate change. Feeding the world’s growing population equitably and sustainably cannot be achieved without water.”

She added: “How we manage the rapid rise in demand, production, distribution and consumption of food will be one of the single biggest challenges we face in the fight against climate change -- and is something the UAE will put front and centre at COP28.”

The Minister added that the UAE will host the first ever Ministerial Dialogue on Building Water-Resilient Food Systems in partnership with Brazil at COP28, and will bring together ministers, the private sector, international organisations and civil society to assess water and food resilience.

“COP28 represents the opportunity to move the world away from relief to climate-resilient development. We must invest in adaptation solutions with a focus on food and water, to advance resilient and sustainable development.

“The challenge facing us in securing our food systems for the future and tackling climate change are significant. But the spirit of inclusivity and collective responsibility must inspire us all to act. Our future and the future of our children depends on it,” concluded the Minister.

## 'UAE Unites Global Efforts To Address Climate Change'

Jane Goodland, Group Head of Sustainability at London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), has stressed the UAE's commitment to addressing climate change and creating a sustainable future through its ambitious goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

In a statement, Goodland said that COP28 represents a turning point to assess progress in

30

COP28



Jane Goodland, Group Head of Sustainability at London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), says COP28 is of great importance in unifying collective efforts to reduce global carbon emissions

implementing the Paris Agreement and unifying collective efforts to reduce global carbon emissions.

Goodland commended the UAE government's long-term commitment to sustainability, and praised the holistic approach of the COP28 Presidency that enhances the exchange of ideas and diverse perspectives.

She added that the UAE's focus on the regulatory framework as a key element in addressing climate change is a significant step forward, commending the UAE Sustainable Finance Framework 2021-2031, which aims at enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors and creating an environment conducive to the generalisation of sustainable finance practices. She explained that the framework focuses on three interlinked topics:

*'Financial markets play a critical role in contributing to the transition to a sustainable economy'*



strengthening sustainability disclosure; fostering sustainability-focused corporate governance; and designing the UAE's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy. She pointed out that this framework lays a strong foundation for integrating sustainability into the financial sector, promoting responsible investment, and accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Goodland said that financial markets play a critical role in contributing to the transition to a sustainable economy, pointing out that the commitments to channel trillions of dollars towards the transition to zero carbon are vitally important for achieving climate goals.

She explained that the UAE's financial markets are actively participating in expanding sustainable finance offerings, with the Dubai Financial Market issuing regulatory frameworks

for reporting on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) to encourage listed companies to increase disclosure of ESG information and adopt ESG reporting practices.

She added, "The UAE's issuance of green bonds is boosting sustainable finance in the region and reflects the UAE's commitment to developing new asset classes."

Goodland highlighted that COP28 represents a great opportunity to communicate, exchange knowledge, and work effectively towards combating climate change. She said that the participation of the London Stock Exchange Group in the event aligns with the group's regulatory mission, which revolves around achieving financial stability and enabling economies to achieve sustainable growth.

## UAE Calls For Ambitious Climate Action At Arctic Circle Assembly

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, delivered a keynote address at the opening session of the 2023 Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland.

He highlighted the dangerous impact of climate change on fragile, Arctic ecosystems and called on nations to support the COP28 Action Agenda



Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, and Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, deliver keynote addresses at the 2023 Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland

to keep the Paris Agreement goals within reach.

“For the last 10 years, the Arctic Circle has been leading the conversation around the impact of the climate on fragile Arctic ecosystems,” Dr. Al Jaber told delegates at the event. “This group has alerted the world to the fact that the Arctic is warming around four times faster than the rest of the planet.”

The Arctic Circle Assembly is the largest annual international gathering on the Arctic with over 2,000 attendees from more than 60 countries, including the Chairman of the Arctic Circle, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson; the Prime Minister of Iceland, Katrín Jakobsdóttir; Denmark’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, policymakers from other nations, indigenous leaders, scientists, activists and representatives from business, civil society, and

*"The world has a lot to learn from the Arctic indigenous people, who have long experience with sustainable management of land and resources"*



other stakeholders. The event featured more than 700 speakers and 200 sessions, with a major focus on climate change and energy security.

"The world must cut 22 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions in the next seven years to keep 1.5°C in reach," Dr. Al Jaber declared. "This is a massive task that will require nothing short of global unity."

The COP28 Action Agenda provides "a practical plan of action to transform the goals of Paris into a realistic roadmap that the whole world can follow," Dr. Al Jaber said. This roadmap is centred on our key pillars: fast-tracking the energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives, and livelihoods, and underpinning everything with full inclusivity."

COP28 has set a global goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030. "We are making

progress," Dr. Al Jaber said, "85 percent of the world's economies have endorsed our goal of tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency by 2030."

Dr. Al Jaber said his Presidency was engaging with oil and gas companies to eliminate methane emissions by 2030 and align around Net Zero by 2050. He added that he was also in discussions with heavy emitting sectors "to accelerate their transition timelines and decarbonise the energies they use today."

Dr. Sultan also praised Iceland for "pioneering geothermal energy to build the world's largest direct air capture facility in the world."

### **Urgent action required to protect the earth's poles: Mariam Almheiri**

In her keynote speech, Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the



Environment, said as the Arctic is warming twice as fast as anywhere else on earth and sea ice is declining by more than 10 percent every 10 years, urgent action is required to address the climate crisis and protect the earth's poles.

"We believe the best way to protect the poles is to transition to a global clean energy economy. This will require a massive investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, keeping a just energy transition in mind, while ensuring energy security for all," the Minister added.

In her role as COP28 Food Systems Lead, Almheiri also took the opportunity to invite all nations at the Summit to ratify the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action. The Emirates Declaration was launched in July to help drive the political will required to bolster international efforts in developing more sustainable, equitable food

systems for the future.

During her visit, the Minister also toured Carbfix and Climeworks, two companies taking a lead in Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS).

At Carbfix, the UAE delegation discovered more about an emerging technology, mineralisation, which provides a natural, permanent storage solution to emissions, through turning CO<sub>2</sub> into stone in less than two years.

The delegation also visited a groundbreaking emissions mitigation site, Orca, a joint venture between Iceland's Carbfix and Swiss group Climeworks, a Swiss clean-tech company specialising in direct air capture (DAC) which can capture some 4,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The Orca project is the world's first and largest direct air capture storage facility.

# 131 Businesses Sign UAE Climate Responsible Companies Pledge

**M**ariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has called upon businesses from across the UAE's extensive retail sector to embed sustainability throughout their operations, raise the bar on climate ambition, and drive positive behavioural change from consumers in the process. Speaking at the 13th National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA), she underlined the

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influential role the UAE's retail sector can play in achieving the nation's Net Zero initiative.

Her Excellency welcomed the signatures of 13 more businesses to the UAE Climate Responsible Companies Pledge, bringing the overall total to 131. The pledge is a commitment and dedication to embedding sustainability in their operations and inspiring customers and partners to embrace sustainable action.

According to reports, global retail supply chains are responsible for 25 percent of global emissions and for 40 percent of plastic usage worldwide. And today, the world produces twice the plastic compared to two decades ago - and just 9 percent is recycled.

"Addressing how the retail sector views and manages both emissions and plastic usage is a strategic imperative for climate action," said

Almheiri. "We must also support customers make the green transition and change behaviour. We can do this by enabling retailers, consumers and supply chains move in the same direction towards sustainability. Businesses that are embracing the green transition are feeling the economic benefits. From jobs to technological efficiencies, sustainable practices can help drive growth."

The 13 businesses that have newly signed the UAE Climate Responsible Companies Pledge are: Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB); Tristar; Transworld; Arabian Gulf Steel Industries (AGSI); Future Glass; FIVE Holdings; HITACHI; IN2 Communications; M42 Mubadala Health; Middle East Solar Industry Association (MESIA); Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC); AMEA Power; Commercial Bank of Dubai (CBD); and Ricardo.

## COP28 President-Designate Rallies Oil And Gas Industry To Decarbonize

COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber has called on the oil and gas industry to rally around ambitious decarbonization targets as part of the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda to fast-track the energy transition and keep 1.5C within reach.

Speaking at the 2023 Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC),



Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber highlighted how renewables represent an opportunity for oil and gas industry to diversify and future-proof its business model

the largest and most inclusive energy industry gathering, Dr. Al Jaber reiterated calls on industry to “step up, align around net zero by or before 2050, zero-out methane emissions, and eliminate routine flaring by 2030.”

He welcomed recent progress and action from over 20 oil and gas companies, including both international and national oil companies (IOCs and NOCs), which have “positively answered the call” to take the challenging but achievable steps to curb emissions from the production of energy.

Describing the progress, Dr. Al Jaber said, “This took time, effort and many months of hard work, negotiation and collaboration. We are counting on many more to come onboard and start taking action to decarbonize further and faster. I urge everyone to make this commitment at COP28, a COP where I am calling on everyone to set the

*'Step up, align around net zero by or before 2050, zero-out methane emissions, and eliminate routine flaring by 2030'*



highest ambitions, follow through with practical actions and deliver real results.”

The 2023 edition of ADIPEC was attended by HH Shiekh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE, along with 160,000 energy professionals, 2,200 exhibiting companies, 54 NOCs, IOCs, and IECs.

Setting off the event which ran from 2-5 October, Dr. Al Jaber said that “This industry can and must help to drive the solutions. For too long, this industry has been viewed as part of the problem, that it is not doing enough and, in some cases, even blocking progress. This is your opportunity to show the world that, in fact, you are central to the solution.”

Noting the scale of the climate challenge, Dr. Al Jaber stated that “the world must reduce emissions by at least 43% over the next 7 years

to keep 1.5 within reach. And that is our north star. It is our destination. It is simply respecting the science. And we must do this while also ensuring human prosperity by meeting the energy needs of the planet’s growing population.”

Describing the necessary actions, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted three key areas that he was prioritizing, including: curbing emissions from the production of energy, scaling up renewables, and decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel cement, aluminum and heavy transportation.

Discussing the immediate steps that he expects the oil and gas industry to take, Dr. Al Jaber noted that “Eliminating methane leaks and flaring is the fastest way to make the biggest impact on operational emissions in the short term.”

Dr. Al Jaber also noted the critical role that the oil and gas industry has in scaling up renewables,



highlighting how they represent “an opportunity for this industry to diversify and future proof its business models.”

Acknowledging that intermittency meant renewables were not a viable solution for heavy emitting industries, Dr. Al Jaber emphasized the need to find low-carbon solutions to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement, aluminum, and heavy transportation.

“We know that solutions exist, and all industries can and must respond. But they can’t act alone. Governments should be proactive in setting the right demand signals and dealing with critical issues like permitting.”

He also stated the need to “overcome the hurdles to scale up and commercialize hydrogen and carbon capture technologies.”

Speaking of his intention to underpin everything at COP28 with full inclusivity, Dr. Al Jaber said that “everyone must be around the table to make the transformational progress needed, and especially the energy industry. No other industry has the same ability to manage complexity, depth of knowledge, engineering talent, technology, capital, and scale that is needed for the task at hand.”

Speaking of the need to “create a pro-climate, pro-growth future”, Dr. Al Jaber noted that “it is a historic opportunity for growth and innovation. In fact, it represents the largest economic opportunity since the first industrial revolution.”

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Al Jaber said that “it’s time to turn rhetoric into results, ambitions into action, pilots into scalable projects. It is time to Unite, it is time to Act, and it is time to Deliver.”

*The oil and gas industry “can and must help drive the solutions” to global energy challenges*



Dr. Al Jaber’s speech came a day after hosting a “Changemakers Majlis”, a pioneering CEO level gathering with representatives from the energy, cement, heavy transportation, steel and aluminum sectors to develop and drive actionable solutions to the energy transition. Collaboration focused on commercializing the hydrogen value chain, scaling carbon capture technologies, eliminating methane from energy, increasing renewables in grids, and biofuels as an enabler of decarbonization.

The COP28 President-Designate’s call to implement a comprehensive energy transition plan is part of the COP28 Presidency’s Action Agenda which is based on four key pillars. These pillars include fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives and livelihoods, and underpinning everything with full inclusivity.



Hamburg, Germany's second most populous city, is on its way to becoming Europe's pioneering sustainable city.

## A Pioneering Sustainable City: Hamburg, Germany

The city has adopted a range of commendable initiatives, such as the establishment of cycling lanes, promotion of electric transportation, waste minimization efforts, and neighborhood revitalization. Hamburg serves as a daily

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GREEN CITY



'Green Network Hamburg' is an extensive design concept connecting Hamburg's urban fabric with easily accessible public green spaces

example of sustainable economic development that prioritizes environmental preservation.

The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design named Hamburg, Germany as the Green City of the Year for 2021 for its remarkable achievements and leadership in putting sustainability at the top of its urban agenda. The jury praised Hamburg as one of the ten most sustainable cities in the world, which is becoming greener every year, setting ambitious ecological goals, and achieving them.

### Green Network

With its many waterways, tree-lined streets, public gardens and sprawling suburban parks, Hamburg is a remarkably green city — especially considering its size and population of nearly two

*Hamburg has an efficient and well-connected public transportation system, which reduces the reliance on private cars and encourages the use of sustainable modes of travel*



The landscape axes radiate from the city center through parks, allotment gardens, cemeteries and green spaces to the landscapes on the outskirts of the city. These large open space elements are linked together by numerous other green spaces and green path connections .

Despite pressure from residential and commercial developers, Hamburg's network of parks, gardens and fields continues to shape the city's identity. The green, open spaces of GrünesNetzHamburg are all within reach from the city centre and make for excellent day trips. Take, for example, the footpaths and cycling lanes along the rivers Elbe, Alster, Osterbek, Wandse and Bille, the fruit producing region Altes Land to the southwest, or the bountiful Vier- und Marschlande marshes in the east.

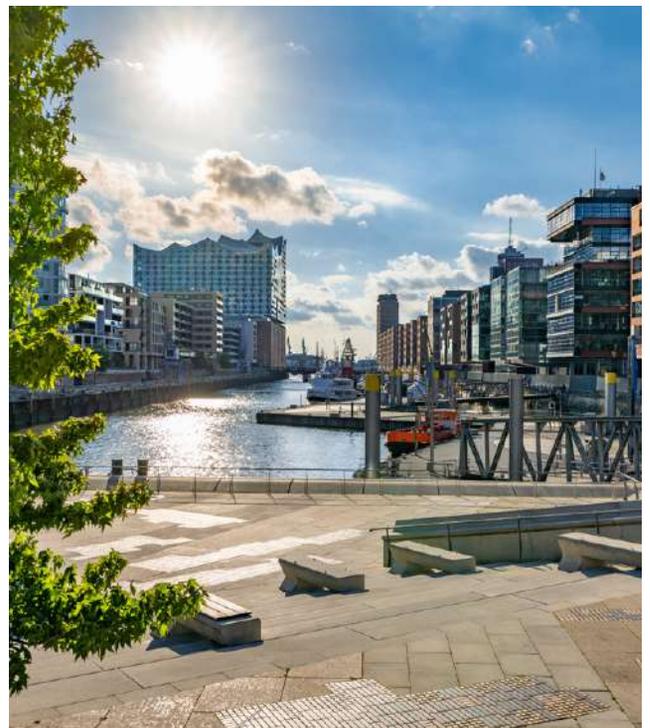
### **Green Transport**

Hamburg is a city helping to shape the urban

million inhabitants. It's not just a happy coincidence that nature seems to be present everywhere you turn.

In fact, Hamburg's green environment is the result of an urban planning scheme that has been nearly 100 years in the making. 'GrünesNetzHamburg' ('Green Network Hamburg') is an extensive design concept connecting Hamburg's urban fabric with easily accessible public green spaces.

The framework of the Green Network consists of two green rings and twelve landscape axes . The 1st Green Ring runs on the old wall ring on the edge of the city center for about one kilometer around the town hall, while the 2nd Green Ring, eight to ten kilometers away, circles the city for a length of around 100 kilometers and connects many parks and cultural landscapes connects.





traffic of the future in a sustainable manner, with plentiful public transport options, sharing services and the goal of making transport individual, flexible and environmentally friendly and efficient for everyone. All these factors are decisive in making Hamburg a key player in the development of modern urban transportation.

The electric ioki Hamburg shuttles have been integrated into the Hamburger Verkehrsverbund (HVV) public transport network since summer 2018. The ioki shuttle service can easily be booked using an app. As an example of on-demand mobility, ioki only comes when ordered, then the fastest route is determined. If there are other passengers who want to travel on a similar route, their needs are bundled together with the help of an algorithm and car pools are created. This on-demand service complements public transport and thus offers alternatives to automobile

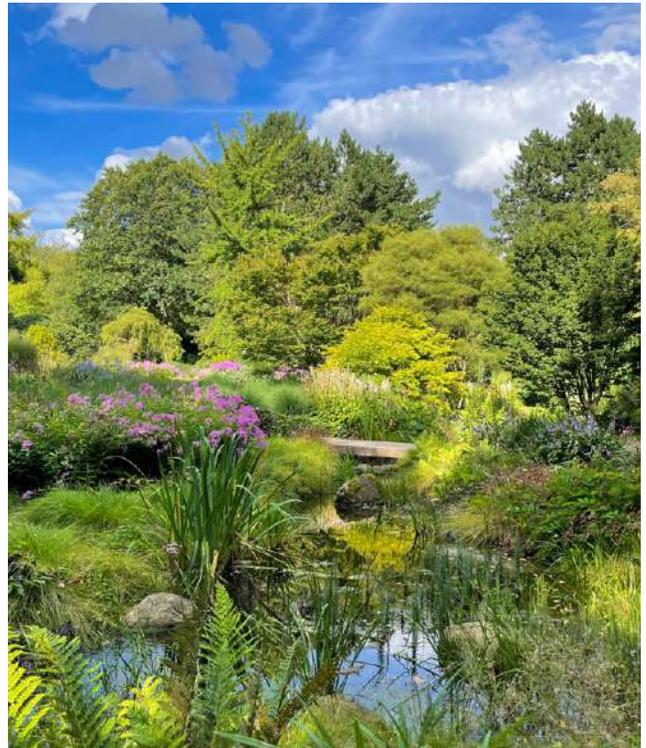
ownership. In this way, the volume of traffic is condensed and traffic-related pollutants are reduced.

Hamburg also plans to take cars off the roads and avoid motor vehicles to enter the city centre by 2034. A car-free city will significantly reduce CO2 emissions while the presence of more trees and green spaces will serve to mitigate the negative effects of possible floods or extreme climate events.

### **Green Fleet**

The harbour of Hamburg is the third in Europe by extension and commercial importance but the entire port area in recent years has been the subject of a profound work of redevelopment, becoming a residential area where industrial elements are combined with the latest eco-friendly technologies.

## *Hamburg plans to take cars off the roads and avoid motor vehicles to enter the city centre by 2034*



Since July 2017, the Hamburg Fleet combines the City's ships under a sole fleet management. This founding provides added value for the City and the port. The fleet contains about 50 ships, mostly harbor ships with different functions – firefighting boats, police ships, ice breaker, survey and transportation ships. In addition, the Hamburg Fleet operates a dredger and about 40 barges.

The port of Hamburg is located in the city center. Therefore, not only climate protection, but especially the reduction of air pollutants such as nitric oxide and particulate matter play a crucial role in public discussions. With the founding of the company, the instructions of the City of Hamburg to the Hamburg Fleet are to pioneer environmental protection around the harbor. As environmental protection contains multiple aspects, the Hamburg Fleet came up with a five-

pillar concept for its environmental strategy, which is integrated in the general policy of its parent-company "Hamburg Port Authority":

- Use of innovative, low emission, fuels
- Exhaust gas treatments in new buildings
- Retrofit with exhaust gas treatments
- Use and testing of innovative propulsion technologies
- Energy-efficient ship operation

Hamburg's industrial port demonstrates in many ways that a port which embarks on resource protection won't lose its competitive edge – on the contrary, it can even become more attractive. Hamburg has managed to expand its position as a leading international maritime hub, while at the same time turning into a green port that embraces climate protection.

## Smart And Autonomous Vehicles Industries Cluster Launches In Masdar City

In the presence of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Smart and Autonomous Vehicle Industries (SAVI) cluster was launched at Masdar City. Further enhancing Abu Dhabi's industrial evolution, SAVI aims to position Abu Dhabi as a leading smart and autonomous vehicles hub, making significant contributions across air, land and sea mobility applications.



Located in Masdar City, SAVI will build on Abu Dhabi's industrial base and access to established air corridors, road infrastructure and global network of partners

SAVI will support innovation and the commercialisation of smart and autonomous vehicle technologies in the UAE, unlocking their global potential, by providing state-of-the art facilities and value-added services within an enabling regulatory environment.

Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), said: "Abu Dhabi is uniquely positioned to lead the charge in advancing technology and commercialisation within the smart and autonomous vehicles sector. Backed by a proven track record of accelerated innovation and built on a robust industrial base, the emirate both embraces and shapes global trends, supercharging the sector by leveraging its infrastructure, talent, progressive regulatory mindset, and key location at the crossroads of global trade.

## *The SAVI cluster aims to position Abu Dhabi as a leading smart and autonomous vehicles hub*



“As a catalyst for Abu Dhabi’s diversification, SAVI is a game changer that will unleash extraordinary economic growth and create new opportunities for talent, entrepreneurs, and investors. SAVI is projected to contribute AED90-AED120 billion to the UAE economy and generate 30,000-50,000 jobs, which will create an extended ripple effect benefitting various sectors, and taking our smart, diversified, sustainable Falcon Economy to new heights”.

The launch of Smart and Autonomous Vehicles Industries (SAVI) cluster follows the unveiling of Abu Dhabi Industrial Strategy (ADIS) in 2022 to leverage advanced technologies to harmonise human development, sustainability, and growth. ADIS champions green economy practices and Industry 4.0 technologies to drive Abu Dhabi’s transition towards a smart, circular, and sustainable economy.

The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) and Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) are spearheading the development of SAVI covering the design, testing, and manufacturing of applications for transportation and mobility, as well as to service other sectors such as logistics. SAVI will build on the strength of Abu Dhabi’s industrial base and leverage its unparalleled access to established air corridors, road infrastructure and global network of partners.

The SAVI cluster brings together all relevant stakeholders to advance the development of the value chain, attract companies from all around the world, enable access to funding and investments, facilitate and fund innovation, streamline regulatory services and accelerate the adoption of future urban and mobility services. SAVI will house academia, test zones,



R&D labs, testing and certification facilities, large scale workshops, hangars, manufacturing facilities, connected through Abu Dhabi's global logistics network. Underpinning all operations are the local regulators establishing an enabling regulatory framework across air, land, and sea applications. These include the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, General Civil Aviation Authority, Integrated Transport Centre and Abu Dhabi Maritime.

Three dedicated test zones, provided through ADIO's partnerships with Tawazun Industrial Park (TIP), Miral and Maqta Gateway, part of AD Ports Group's Digital Cluster, will enable companies to test and certify applications across air, land and sea. Enabling testing, TIP will make available its Nibras Aerospace Park, runway facilities, and an aerospace park for testing and manufacturing companies. The land testing zone in Yas Island,

home to F1's Yas Marina Circuit, offers an established road mobility test bed with a growing number of incorporated technology startups. The sea testing zone in Mussafah Port houses a port and the Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy.

The SAVI cluster will complement existing infrastructure and tap into synergies from shared technologies such as smart electrification, connectivity, and navigation software. It will also maximise the scope and coverage of applications to serve the future of integrated multi-modal logistics and mobility in the UAE, across the region and elsewhere around the world.



# Record Number Of Breeding Ospreys Reported In Abu Dhabi

The largest recorded number of ospreys in the Arabian Gulf region are breeding in Abu Dhabi, a study by the emirate's environment agency has found.

Researchers recorded 127 pairs of the fish-eating birds of prey at more than 40 coastal and island locations in the emirate, in the most comprehensive study of the species conducted

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in the UAE. To support the osprey population, classified as Endangered (EN) in the Abu Dhabi Red List of Species, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has provided artificial nesting platforms at a number of sites, including islands connected to the mainland, to protect them from predators and human interference.

The Western Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), known locally as “Dammi”, is a breeding bird species native to the UAE. It feeds exclusively on fish and is widespread in marine habitats only, with very few nesting inland.

Ospreys breed in the UAE from December to March, and usually nest on the ground in huge nests made up of dry vegetation surrounding the nesting site. Each breeding pair builds one or more large nests using the dry twigs found on these islands. Nests are also built on rocky

outcrop, abandoned structures, or any raised platform large enough to accommodate them. One nest was recorded at a height of about 60 metres on a communications tower while another was built in a tree – which is unusual as this species prefers to nest on the ground.



## WGS Report Outlines 5 High-Impact Actions To Achieve Carbon Neutrality

The World Governments Summit (WGS) Organisation has launched a report titled 'Net Zero: The Countdown Has Begun', which explores the challenges of global warming and outlines 5 key high-impact actions to drive decarbonisation efforts.

The report, launched in partnership with "Arthur D. Little", issues a reminder of the scale of the



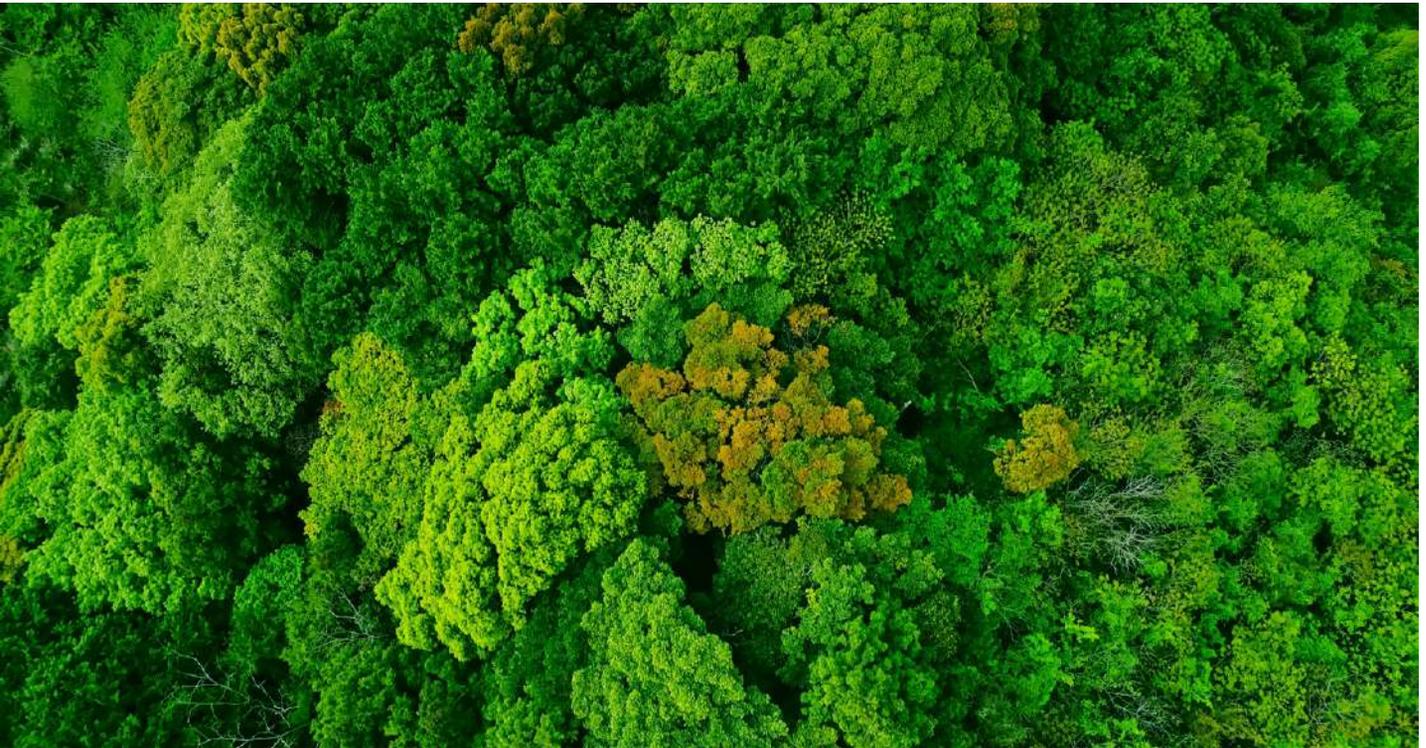
Report titled 'Net Zero: The Countdown Has Begun' explores the challenges of global warming and outlines 5 key high-impact actions to drive decarbonisation efforts

climate emergency and the collective action thus far to make a dent in global CO2 emissions. As the 1.5°C target grows increasingly out of reach, the report warns that the world has less than 400 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent left to spend until 2050.

Developed with global companies serving as cases in point, the five high-impact actions that can be taken to move the decarbonisation dial as detailed in the report are:

- Driving a bold net-zero transformation: Continuously revisit the scope of the emissions target, execute an integrated and technology-led whole-of-company transformation programme, and take stock of decarbonisation progress on a regular basis.
- Addressing emissions reduction and capture growth opportunities: Explore future profit

*The world has less than 400 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent left to spend until 2050*



pools resulting from the energy transition while driving down own emissions, work with customers to uncover growth opportunities, look for ways to leverage technology and innovation, and pursue new business models.

- Putting people at the heart of the net-zero transformation: Focus on upskilling/reskilling the current workforce, develop a focused talent development strategy, and nurture/onboard new talent.
- Ensuring the supply chain is keeping up: Collaborate inside and outside of siloed organisational boundaries to anticipate and bring together supply chain initiatives that need to be in place to get major decarbonisation projects off the ground.
- Bringing stakeholders along for the journey: Work with different stakeholders to develop common understanding of the plan and action

and involve funding organisations to find innovative solutions to pressing funding challenges for net-zero programmes.

The report also highlights that 70 countries, which account for 90 percent of global GDP and 76 percent of total emissions, had pledged to reach net zero, and that the world can expect COP28 to yield real results, not just good intentions.

To support the decarbonisation journey, the report takes a sector-by-sector approach, unpacking the transformation challenges and opportunities within four key sectors: utilities, industrials, transportation, and oil and gas.

The report also draws on real-world examples from global companies including ARAMCO, DHL, Shell, Engie, Siemens, Schneider, and more.

## Masdar City And Huawei Join Forces To Accelerate Net-Zero

Masdar City, a ground-breaking sustainable urban community in Abu Dhabi, and Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology infrastructure, have joined forces through a Memorandum of Understanding to help power the UAE's journey to net zero.

The agreement, signed at GITEX GLOBAL 2023



The partnership aims to reduce the carbon footprint of Masdar City's ICT infrastructure and promote carbon-conscious ICT

by senior officials at Masdar City and Huawei, will lead to knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in net-zero development, help reduce the carbon footprint of Masdar City's information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, and promote the adoption of carbon-conscious ICT through Huawei's Net Zero Campus Framework, designed to help firms reduce the energy demand of ICT systems and operations while switching to clean energy.

Masdar City, already home to one of the largest clusters of LEED Platinum buildings in the world, has three net-zero energy buildings currently under construction. Huawei is home to several low-carbon campuses and is creating new technologies to support sustainability as one of their strategic priorities.

"Masdar City already develops the most high-

*Masdar City is constructing three net-zero energy buildings, while Huawei is developing low-carbon campuses and sustainable technologies*



performing, energy-efficient buildings in the region,” said Mohamed Al Breiki, Masdar City’s executive director of sustainable real estate. “Optimising ICT systems is a vital step in reducing our energy demand even further and cutting tech-related carbon emissions.”

Safder Nazir, Senior Vice president, Public sector, Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, said: “Through this MOU, we aim to empower knowledge-sharing, promote the drive toward carbon-conscious. Technological innovation plays a crucial role in sustainable development, and this collaboration will set a benchmark for the cities and campuses of the future.”

In addition to optimising existing ICT systems at Masdar City, Huawei will advise on Masdar City’s upcoming Command and Control Center, which will feed data related to energy, water, and waste

management in all Masdar City-owned buildings to a central location. This will allow facilities managers to monitor and improve building performance in real-time.

Masdar City will look for opportunities to amplify Huawei’s Net Zero Campus Framework, which recommends a stepwise approach towards a net zero campus.

A smart campus solution supports a collaborative work environment, while a net-zero energy campus implements key energy initiatives such as reducing energy consumption, generating energy onsite, and actively managing energy consumption and energy trading. The net-zero-carbon campus strives for a net-zero balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon removed from it.

## UAE Study Reveals How Common Desert Shrub Efficiently Harvests Water from the Air

A team of scientists, led by Post-Doctoral Associate Marieh Al-Handawi and Professor of Chemistry Panče Naumov from NYU Abu Dhabi's Smart Materials Lab and NYU Abu Dhabi Institute's Center for Smart Engineering Materials (CSEM), have revealed the mechanism that a desert plant, native to the UAE, uses to capture moisture from the desert air in order to survive.



New understanding of this unique mechanism could inform new, sustainable approaches for water collection

The identification of this unique mechanism, in which the plant excretes salts to extract and condense water onto the surface of its leaves, has the potential to inspire the development of new technologies, and improve existing ones such as cloud seeding, to harness atmospheric water resources.

*Tamarix aphylla*, or *athel tamarisk*, is a halophytic desert shrub, meaning it can survive in hypersaline conditions. Over time, the plant has evolved to take full advantage of the prevalent humidity and fog occurrences in the UAE. Many plants and animals that inhabit arid regions have developed water-harvesting mechanisms and morphophysiological traits which have given them the ability to utilize abundant, untapped sources of water such as fog and dew. The fundamental principles governing this natural water collection serve as an inspiration for

*Tamarix aphylla*, or athel tamarisk, is a halophytic desert shrub that can survive in hypersaline conditions



emerging water-collection technologies, which are developed to maximize the efficiency of the existing methods for harvesting aerial humidity.

In the paper titled *Harvesting of Aerial Humidity with Natural Hygroscopic Salt Excretions* published in the journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, the researchers present their exploration of the physicochemical aspects of salt release and water collection mechanisms by *Tamarix aphylla* that has allowed it to thrive in hypersaline sands.

The plant absorbs saline water from the soil through its roots, filters out the salt, and expels the concentrated salt solution onto the outer surface of its leaves. The researchers found that as the salt solution undergoes evaporation, it transforms into a hygroscopic crystalline mixture composed of at least ten different minerals. It

was discovered that some of these salt crystals have the ability to attract moisture from the air even when the humidity levels are reasonably low (~55% relative humidity). This moisture condenses onto the surface of the plant's leaves and is then absorbed.

“Our findings not only reveal a unique, natural complex mechanism for water utilization, they also open prospects for designing environmentally benign formulations based on a biogenic salt mixture that could be used for efficient harvesting of aerial water or cloud seeding at low humidity,” said lead author Al-Handawi. “This holds the promise of revolutionizing cloud seeding practices by rendering them more effective and environmentally friendly, while also aligning with our responsibility to use the planet’s scarce water resources wisely.”

The global scarcity of freshwater has stimulated



research into alternative water-harvesting technologies to supplement the existing conventional resources in water-stressed areas.

Within a broader context, this natural mechanism developed by the research team for harvesting humidity using environmentally benign salts as moisture adsorbents could provide a bioinspired approach that complements the currently available water collection or cloud-seeding technologies.

### **Essential role of water highlighted at Al Sidr Environmental Film Festival**

Al Sidr Environmental Film Festival, organised recently at the Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi, emphasized the essential role of water in achieving environmental sustainability and explored its crucial connection to climate change, ecological equilibrium, and human survival.

The event presented a curated selection of 10 regional and international films, exploring water's diverse facets - from its cultural importance to its critical role in our ecosystems.

Screenings on the first day included, *The Whelming Sea*, a journey into the lives of animals on the sea's edge; *The First Days*, by Stephane Breton, offering a mesmerizing exploration of nature's power on the beaches of Chile; and *Stepping Softly on Earth*, a compelling documentary of the struggles of indigenous peoples from Latin America.

Films screened on the second day included the Egyptian short *Drowning Fish*, and a fiction feature from India, *The Whispers of Fire and Water* - a poignant story about a sound artist searching for equilibrium in a world out of balance.

## UAE partners with UNICEF To Develop Climate Change Education

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to launch the 'Greening Capacities Initiative'.

This comes as part of its efforts to achieve the objectives of the Green Education Partnership Roadmap in preparation for COP28. The initiative aims to advance climate education and

UAE NEWS



action among children and youth to help them adapt and address the repercussions of climate change. The MoE-UNICEF strategic partnership is centred around 'Greening Capacities', one of the four pillars of the roadmap announced by the ministry last April, namely 'Greening Learning', 'Greening Schools', and 'Greening Communities'.

Through this partnership, both parties will launch and execute three joint programmes, namely Educators Training, Net Zero Heroes, and the Children's Art Competition. These programmes aim to create a meaningful impact, empowering students and educators to navigate climate changes and work towards a better future.

Through the programmes, the Ministry of Education aims to prepare every learner with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development. This will be achieved through

professional development for every teacher and school principal in the UAE, in cooperation with UNICEF. Simultaneously, both parties will provide the opportunity for children to share their views in the lead-up to COP28. This will be through; Educators Training - "Climate Education Pioneers", Net Zero Heroes initiative, and Children's Art Competition.

The Green Education Roadmap, through its four pillars, identified environment-and-climate-friendly initiatives that the Ministry of Education aims to achieve by the start of COP28. For instance, the ministry will transform 50 percent of all the UAE's schools and campuses to be green accredited; and provide training to more than 2,800 educators and 1,400 principals. Furthermore, the first Education Hub in the history of COP will be designed in COP28.

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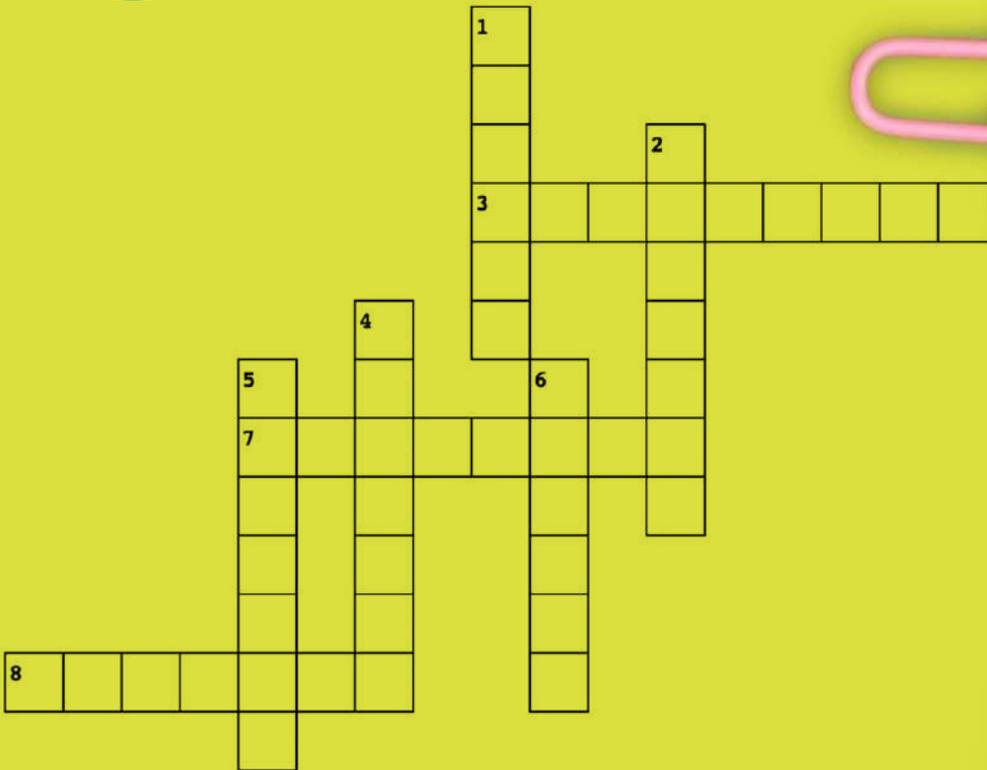
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ANSWERS: 1) Neutra 2) Authority 3) Governance 4) Economical 5) Policies 6) Turtles 7) Endanger 8) Ecology

A	E	W	H	A	L	E	S	R	S	U	S	A	S
R	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	T	L	S	W	C	E
D	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S	N	N	E	U
I	J	R	R	N	U	C	E	S	T	A	R	L	E
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C	R	S	H	R	A	I	N	F	O	R	E	S	T
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- RIVER
- TURTLES
- WHALES
- REDUCE
- RAINFOREST
- OCEANS
- RECYCLE
- ENERGY
- JUNGLE
- FLOODS
- VOLCANO
- MOUNTAINS
- DINOSAURS
- SUSTAINABLE
- EXTINCT
- RENEW

# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

- 3. Situation needing immediate attention
- 7. Members of a state
- 8. Prolonged shortage of rain

## Down

- 1. Be in power
- 2. Express objection
- 4. No longer in existence
- 5. Study of organisms and their surroundings
- 6. State of being rich

1) Govern 2) Protest 3) Emergency 4) Extinct 5) Ecology 6)  
Wealth 7) Citizens 8) Drought

## WORD OF THE DAY:

# AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution is when unwanted chemicals, gasses, and particles enter the air and the atmosphere causing harm to animals and damaging the natural cycles of the Earth. Some sources of air pollution come from nature. These include eruptions of volcanoes, dust storms, and forest fires.

Human activity is a major cause of air pollution, especially in large cities. Human air pollution is caused by things such as factories, power plants, cars, airplanes, chemicals, fumes from spray cans, and methane gas from landfills.

One of the ways that humans cause the most air pollution is by burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels include coal, oil, and natural gas. When we burn fossil fuels this releases all sorts of gasses into the air causing air pollution such as smog.

### Effects on the Environment

- **Global warming** - One type of air pollution is the addition of carbon dioxide gas into the air. Some scientists believe that releasing too much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is one of the causes of global warming. This upsets the balance of the carbon cycle.
- **The ozone layer** - The ozone layer helps protect us from harmful rays from the sun. It is getting damaged from air pollution such as methane gas from livestock and CFCs from spray cans.
- **Acid Rain** - Acid rain is created when gasses such as sulfur dioxide get high into the atmosphere. The wind can blow these gasses for miles and then they get washed out of the air when it rains. This rain is called acid rain and can damage forests and kill fish.
- **Health** - Air pollution can also make people sick. It can make it difficult to breathe and cause



diseases such as lung cancer, respiratory infections, and heart disease. According to the World Health Organization, 2.4 million people die each year from air pollution. Air pollution can be especially dangerous to children living in big cities with bad smog.

## WORLD SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DAY – NOVEMBER 26

Transport is vital for promoting connectivity, trade, economic growth and employment. Yet it is also implicated as a significant source of green-house gas emissions. Resolving these trade-offs is essential to achieving sustainable transport and, through that, sustainable development.

Recognizing the important role of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries, the General Assembly decided to declare 26 November as World Sustainable Transport Day.

It also noted the importance of cooperation in enhancing transport connectivity through an integrated intermodal transport system by developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, exchanging best practices to optimize the development of interconnected highways, roads, streets, railways, waterways, airways, areas of modal transfer and ports, and by encouraging transport infrastructure construction and operations to minimize consumption of energy, land and other resources; generate lower emissions of greenhouse gases, ozone-depleting substances and other pollutants and ensure a positive social impact.



## INTERNATIONAL JAGUAR DAY – NOVEMBER 29

International Jaguar Day was created to raise awareness about the increasing threats facing the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts ensuring its survival from Mexico to Argentina. Observed

annually on November 29, International Jaguar Day celebrates the Americas' largest wild cat as an umbrella species for biodiversity conservation and an icon for sustainable development and the centuries-old cultural heritage of Central and South America.

International Jaguar Day also represent the collective voice of jaguar range countries, in collaboration with national and international partners, to draw attention to the need to conserve jaguar corridors and their habitats as part of broader efforts to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Jaguar 2030 Roadmap is a range-wide effort that unites range country governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve jaguars and their valuable ecosystems. The Roadmap aims to strengthen the Jaguar Corridor across range countries by securing 30 priority jaguar landscapes by 2030, stimulating sustainable development, reducing jaguar-human conflict in human dominated landscapes, and increasing the security and connectivity of core protected landscapes.

### What can you do to help?

#### Things to Do...

- Recycle your waste! -----
- Use both sides of paper -----
- Switch off all lights when not in use -----
- Donate your clothes -----
- Switch off all lights when not in use! -----

# COLOUR ME!



## New UN Framework To Address Harm From Chemicals And Waste

The Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) recently concluded in Bonn, Germany, with the adoption of a comprehensive global framework that sets concrete targets and guidelines for key sectors across the entire lifecycle of chemicals.

A unique international negotiating process – where representatives from governments, the

CONFERENCE



private sector, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, youth, and academia participated at the same level – resulted in the historic decision to establish the “Global Framework on Chemicals – For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste.”

Based around 28 targets, the framework outlines a roadmap for countries and stakeholders to collaboratively address the lifecycle of chemicals, including products and waste.

The newly adopted framework calls for the prevention of the illegal trade and trafficking of chemicals and waste, the implementation of national legal frameworks, and the phase out by 2035 of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture. It also calls for the transition to safer and more sustainable chemical alternatives, the responsible management of chemicals in various sectors – including industry, agriculture and

healthcare – and the enhancement of transparency and access to information regarding chemicals and their associated risks.

A decision was made to unlock financing for the implementation of the framework from different sources. A UNEP-administered Global Framework on Chemicals Fund will be set up, time-limited, that may include multilateral, bilateral and private sector sources. Germany, the president of ICCM5, pledged EUR 20 million to this fund. In parallel, the Global Environment Facility is being encouraged, as part of its ninth replenishment, to provide a greater focus on chemicals and waste.

With the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals, pollution and waste, is recognized at the same level as the crises of climate change and nature and biodiversity loss, which already have frameworks in place.

## Top UN Award Honors Innovative Solutions To Eliminate Plastic Pollution



The Champions of the Earth award honours individuals, groups, and organizations whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced the 2023 Champions of the Earth, honouring a city mayor, a non-profit foundation, a social enterprise, a government initiative and a research council for their innovative solutions and transformative action to tackle plastic pollution.

Since its inception in 2005, the annual Champions



of the Earth award has been given to trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect people and planet. It is the UN's highest environmental honour. UNEP's 2023 Champions of the Earth are:

**Mayor Josefina Belmonte of Quezon City, Philippines**, honoured in the Policy Leadership category, is driving environmental and social action through a raft of policies to combat the climate crisis, end plastic pollution and green the urban enclave. Her initiatives include bans on single-use plastics, a trade-in programme for plastic pollution, refill stations for everyday essentials and advocacy for strong global policymaking on plastics.

**Ellen MacArthur Foundation (UK)**, honoured in the Inspiration and Action category, has played a leading role in mainstreaming a lifecycle

*Around 430 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year, two-thirds of which quickly becomes waste*



approach, including for plastics. The foundation has developed lifecycle initiatives and solutions to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution and more.

**Blue Circle (China)**, honoured in the Entrepreneurial Vision category, uses blockchain technology and the internet of things to track and monitor the full lifecycle of plastic pollution – from collection to regeneration, re-manufacturing and re-sale. It has collected over 10,700 tonnes of marine debris till date.

**José Manuel Moller (Chile)**, also honoured in the Entrepreneurial Vision category, is the founder of Algramo, a social enterprise dedicated to providing refill services that reduce plastic pollution and lower the costs of everyday essentials. Moller also works to prevent, reduce and sustainably manage waste.

**Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa)**, honoured in the Science and Innovation category, uses cutting-edge technology and multidisciplinary research to identify sustainable alternatives to conventional plastics and test plastic biodegradability.

Plastic has transformed everyday life but humanity produces around 430 million tonnes of plastic every year, two-thirds of which quickly becomes waste.

Every year, up to 23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas. By 2040, carbon emissions associated with the production, use and disposal of conventional fossil fuel-based plastics could account for nearly one-fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions.

## 'Cutting Methane Emissions Essential To Achieve Climate Targets'

Decisive, far-reaching efforts to cut methane emissions from fossil fuel production and use must go hand-in-hand with decarbonisation of our energy systems to limit global warming to 1.5 °C.

This is according to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme



New report by International Energy Agency calls for immediate slashing of methane emissions from fossil fuels to limit global warming

(UNEP) and the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

The new report, *The Imperative of Cutting Methane from Fossil Fuels*, builds on findings from the IEA's recently updated net zero pathway to limit global warming to 1.5 °C. It shows that while a drop in fossil fuel demand would cut methane emissions, these reductions by themselves would not occur fast enough to meet the world's climate goals.

Additional targeted actions to tackle methane emissions from fossil fuel production and use – such as by eliminating routine venting and flaring and repairing leaks – are essential to limit warming to 1.5 °C and reduce the risk of crossing irreversible climate tipping points.

The new report finds that rapid cuts in methane

*Methane is far less abundant in the atmosphere than CO2 but is responsible for around 30 per cent of the global rise in temperatures to date*



emissions from fossil fuels could avoid up to 0.1°C in global temperature rise by mid-century – greater than the emissions impact of taking all cars and trucks in the world off the road.

As methane emissions lead to ground-level ozone pollution, immediate action would also deliver public health, food security and economic benefits for all.

Methane action would prevent nearly 1 million premature deaths due to ozone exposure, 90 million tonnes of crop losses due to ozone and climate changes, and about 85 billion hours of lost labour due to extreme heat by 2050. This would generate roughly USD 260 billion in direct economic benefits through 2050.

“Reducing methane emissions from the energy sector is one of the best – and most affordable – opportunities to limit global warming in the near

term,” IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said. “Early actions by governments and industry to drive down methane emissions need to go hand-in-hand with reductions in fossil fuel demand and CO2 emissions.”

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas responsible for around 30% of the rise in global temperatures since the Industrial Revolution; it is the second largest contributor to global warming after CO2. More than half of global emissions stem from human activities in three sectors: agriculture, waste and fossil fuels.

Under current trajectories, total methane emissions from human activities could rise by up to 13% between 2020 and 2030. In a scenario that limits warming to 1.5 °C, they need to fall by 30% to 60% over this timeframe.

## November 6: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

Since I am now in the middle of an armed conflict between the Army and a rebellion militia here in Sudan, a recent article, excerpts of which are produced below, resonated with me. We had to leave our home in a hurry, and it is now occupied by the militia soldiers. So, as a family, we are now war immigrants.

*Though humanity has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers & civilians and destroyed cities & livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched,*



**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**  
Chief Technical Advisor  
Zayed International  
Foundation for the  
Environment

*forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage. A UN study has found that at least 40% of all internal conflicts have been linked to natural resources, and these are twice as likely to relapse. Action on the environment is vital for conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies. No durable peace can be reached without natural resources that sustain livelihoods.*

Although the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was announced in 2001, it was only in 2016 that a resolution was adopted which recognized the role of healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed resources in reducing the risk of armed conflict.

Six UN agencies and departments (UNEP, UNDP, UNHABITAT, PBSO, DPA and DESA), have since partnered with the European Union to help countries identify, prevent and transform tensions over natural resource as part of conflict prevention and peacebuilding programs while another global research program represents the most significant collection to date of experiences, analyses and lessons in managing natural resources to support post-conflict peacebuilding.

*In addition, UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office are exploring the complex relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected settings, and makes the case for pursuing gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable natural resource management in support of peacebuilding.*

Being an armed conflict victim, I do appreciate the UN's efforts to prevent conflicts over natural resources because it is the root cause of civil wars in any country. Yet, we need to have more focus on the human impact and create better awareness to minimize the tendency towards aggression.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD  
IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment