OCTOBER
2023
ISSUE 224

Society & Environment

creating green communities for a better tomorrow

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



06 'Climate Change Is Our Common Enemy': COP28 Presidency At UN General Assembly In New York

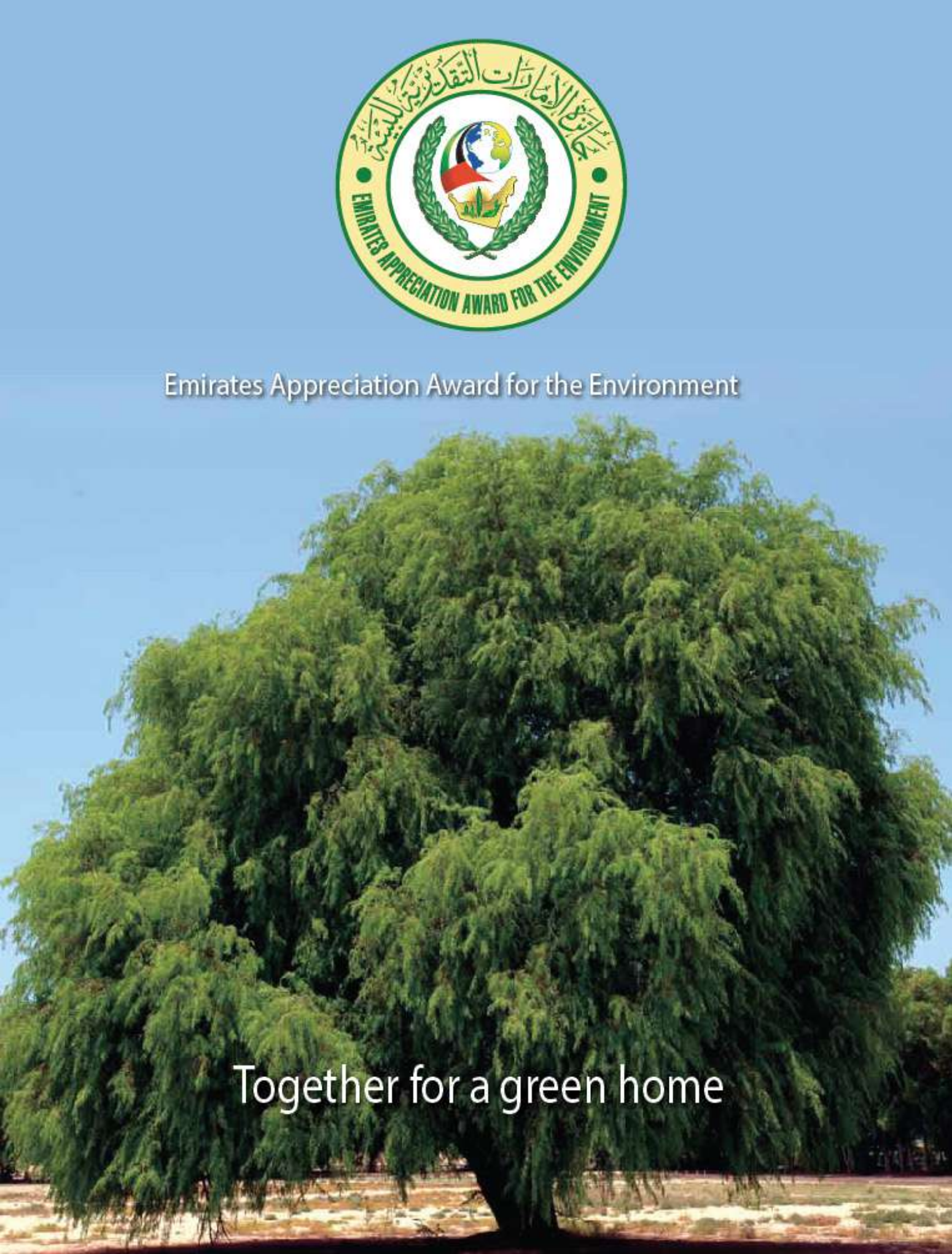


32 Vauxhall Experimental: Pioneering The Future

جائزة الإمارات التقديرية للبيئة

EMIRATES APPRECIATION AWARD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment



Together for a green home

Chairman's Message

At a time when the impacts of climate change are increasingly evident, the urgency to address this global crisis cannot be overstated. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and ecological imbalances affect every corner of the globe. The upcoming 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), provides a unique opportunity for global unity and collective action on climate change.

As host nation, the United Arab Emirates has been effectively building international support for COP28, underscoring its commitment to addressing climate change on a global scale.

One of the most notable aspects of the UAE's strategy has been its inclusivity. The UAE has actively engaged with a diverse array of nations, from established global powers to emerging economies and vulnerable countries most affected by climate change. This broad outreach aims to build consensus among nations with varying interests and priorities, reflecting the complexity of the global climate challenge. By fostering dialogue and cooperation across these diverse





Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

groups, the UAE is laying the groundwork for meaningful discussions and actionable solutions at COP28.

Leading by example, with its focus on innovation and technology and investments in renewable energy and sustainable technologies, the UAE is transforming COP 28 into a platform for hope and an opportunity for unity. The challenges of climate change do not recognise borders or boundaries, and it affects every nation, rich or poor, large or small. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility, COP 28 is an opportunity to bridge gaps, find common ground, and forge stronger international partnerships to address climate change effectively.

More than anything, COP 28 is a call to action and by going beyond dialogues among nations to also involve civil society, youth, and the private sector, the UAE is ensuring that COP28 is a comprehensive platform for innovative ideas, diverse perspectives, and real-world solutions.

Contents



06 **COVER STORY**
'Climate change is our common enemy': COP28 Presidency at UN General Assembly in New York

12 **12 COP28**
COP28 President-Designate urges countries to get 'back on track' to Paris



14 **CLIMATE FINANCE:** COP28 Presidency urges private sector to play its role in ushering in a new era for sustainable climate finance

16 **CLIMATE ACTION**
MoCCAE calls upon global nations to leverage the opportunity offered by COP28 to drive climate action



20 **HEALTH:** COP28 will lift the political profile of the climate-health nexus, and mainstream health in the global climate change agenda

28 **INITIATIVE**
Climate Future Week concludes with powerful 'countdown to COP 28'



32 **ELECTRIC MOBILITY**
Vauxhall Experimental: A clear vision of the future

FOOD SECURITY
Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) to develop new integrated strategy to reduce food loss and waste



38

PUBLISHED BY

Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

Executive Director
Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

Advisors
Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Marketing
marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Editor
Sangeetha K
editor@zayedprize.org.ae
mail@zayedprize.org.ae

Design Director
Nash - Intoto Marketing Communications
editor@zayedprize.org.ae

P.O. Box 28399, Dubai, UAE | Tel: +971 4 3326666 | Website: www.zayedprize.org.ae | email: secretary@zayedprize.org.ae

44



GREEN CITY: Rethinking the Future: Basel, Switzerland's third most populous city

54

RESOURCES
UNEP Marine Sand Watch reveals massive extraction in the world's oceans

56



REPORT: New UN plan promises massive emission cuts in the construction sector



Upcoming events

MENA Climate Week 2023

Date: October 8 - 12

Location: Boulevard Riyadh City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW) is an annual event that brings together leaders from governments, businesses, international organizations and civil society to explore ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to the mounting fallout from the climate crisis.

Second of four Regional Climate Weeks held this year, MENACW 2023 builds momentum ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in Dubai and the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake, designed to chart the way for fulfilling the Paris Agreement's goals and provide region-focused contributions to inform the Global Stocktake.

MENACW 2023 is organized into four systems-based tracks, each focusing on specific themes:

- Energy systems and industry
- Cities, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure and transport
- Land, ocean, food and water
- Societies, health, livelihoods, and economies

World Migratory Bird Day 2023

Date: October 14

This annual awareness-raising campaign will focus on water and highlight its importance for migratory birds.

Water is fundamental to life on our planet. The vast majority of migratory birds rely on aquatic ecosystems during their life cycles. Inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes, and ponds are all vital for feeding, drinking, or nesting, and also as places to rest and refuel during their long journeys.

Unfortunately, aquatic ecosystems are becoming increasingly threatened around the world and so are the migratory birds that depend on them. The increasing human demand for water, as well as pollution and climate change, are having a direct impact on the availability of clean water and the conservation status of many migratory birds.

The campaign has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

‘Climate Change Is Our Common Enemy’: COP28 Presidency At UN General Assembly In New York



The COP28 Presidency team attended the UN General Assembly in New York recently, seizing on the opportunity of the global gathering to mobilise leaders across government, business and civil society around its ‘Action Agenda’ to keep 1.5 degrees in reach.

Spearheaded by COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the team also included Shamma Al Mazrui, UN Youth Climate Champion, Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, Director-General of COP28 and Adnan Amin, CEO of COP28.

The COP28 Presdiency’s landmark moment came when Dr. Al Jaber set out the Presidency’s ‘Action Agenda’ at the UN Climate Ambition Summit; the leading climate engagement at the event convened by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and attended by world leaders. The speech was supported by a range of activity led by the COP28 Presidency team during the week, involving multiple speaking engagements, meetings with world leaders and touch points with individuals leading COP28 workstreams to drive consensus ahead of the event in November.

In explaining the Action Agenda, Dr. Al Jaber was unequivocal before the leading global dignitaries gathered in the room and online – the Global Stocktake shows the world is falling short on climate change and we are running out of time. However, Dr. Al Jaber was equally emphatic in affirming COP28 as an opportunity for hope, unity and action.

He stated: “We must remember that we are not powerless. When we act with solidarity, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges.” In

The COP28 Presidency team attended the UN General Assembly to mobilise leaders across government, business and civil society around its 'Action Agenda'



keeping with this focus on solidarity and action he said, "Climate change is our common enemy and we must unite to fight it."

The COP28 Action Agenda sets out a series of calls to action for the public and private sectors in four key areas: fast tracking a just, orderly, and well-managed energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives and livelihoods and underscoring everything with full inclusivity.

As emphasised in his speech, fast tracking a just, orderly, and well-managed energy transition is fundamental to the plan. Here, Dr. Al Jaber put a number to this for this first time – calling on the world to "go after" the 22 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions the world needs to cut in the next seven years to keep 1.5 within reach.

In keeping with previous engagements, a major focus for the COP28 Presidency during the UN General Assembly this year was 'fixing climate finance' as a major enabler of delivering progress in multiple areas.

As such, Dr. Al Jaber went on to speak at a high-level roundtable on private capital mobilisation in emerging and developing markets (EMDEs), organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ).

Attended by a range of climate finance leaders including Mark Carney, Co-Chair GFANZ and UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance; Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank; and Larry Fink, CEO of BlackRock; Dr. Al Jaber stressed that innovative new mechanisms to lower risk and expand private investment must happen to unlock private investments for







climate and drive macroeconomic stability in emerging and developing markets.

Later, Dr. Jaber also co-hosted a Loss and Damage Ministerial with Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and COP27 President, where they urged all ministers present to align and make the Loss and Damage Fund – agreed to at Sharm ElSheikh – a reality in Dubai at COP28.

Commenting on the event, Simon Steill, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said "Addressing loss and damage has never been more urgent. The fund and funding arrangements that were agreed to at Sharm el-Sheikh provide a beacon of hope, a lifeline for the particularly vulnerable. This discussion represents a stepping stone in that direction."

Throughout the UN General Assembly, Dr. Al Jaber also called on contributing countries to deliver the USD100 billion pledge this year. Countries were also urged to double adaptation finance by 2025 and replenish the Green Climate Fund. Another major focus was inclusion, most strongly seen when Dr. Al Jaber joined Mayor Mike Bloomberg to announce that Bloomberg Philanthropies will fund 1,000 mayors to attend COP28 in the UAE.

Dr. Sultan spoke at the event before a prestigious group including Xie Zhenhua, Special Representative for Climate Change Affairs of China, John Kerry, former U.S. Secretary of State and Laurence Tubiana, CEO of the European Climate Foundation.

Hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the COP28 Local Climate Action

COP28 Action Agenda provides a roadmap to make this progress possible - world called on to be brave, bold and deliver



Summit will convene subnational climate leaders, such as mayors, governors, business executives, non-government organisation heads, and more, into the heart of the COP process.

In addressing the lives and livelihoods pillar of the Action Agenda, COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber was equally clear: people and their health, safety and prosperity must be at the centre of climate discussions.

To drive this forward, he spoke at a key event alongside Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of Malawi, and invited the world to attend the first Health Day at a COP at COP28. Here, he called on the international community to address the crucial connection between climate change and health.

He also advanced the COP28 food systems and agriculture agenda, reissuing the COP28 Presidency's call for increased global action to address the interlinked challenges across climate change and the food system, including production, consumption, trade and resilience.

To this end, the COP28 President-Designate invited Parties to sign the COP28 Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action and align this commitment in their climate action plans.

During the week bilateral meetings were held with a significant array of leading figures from across the world including Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, IMF; Alok Sharma, former President of COP26; Costas Simitis, the former Prime Minister of Greece; Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice President of the European Union;



Stephen Guilbert, Canada's Minister of Environment & Climate Change; Dr. Han Hwa-jin, South Korea's Minister of Environment; and Amos J. Hochstein, US Special Presidential Coordinator for Global Infrastructure & Energy Security.

The whole team also took part in a large array of events, with Ambassador Al Suwaidi speaking on finance, technological innovation, decarbonisation of heavy emitting industries and the climate-nature nexus, amongst other activity.

Shamma Al Mazrui attended and spoke at series of engagements, including a youth philanthropy roundtable with prominent philanthropic organisations to unveil the Youth Climate Champion, and a future of COP panel to discuss youth empowerment and inclusion.

Meanwhile, Razan Al Mubarak delivered opening remarks at a roundtable hosted by the Bezos Earth fund and SalesForce on restoring and protecting 15 million hectares of mangroves by 2030.

She also spoke at an event hosted by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation to share insights into the gender outcomes she is prioritising as the UN Climate Change High level Champion for COP28.

Overall, the UN General Assembly marked an essential and milestone step in the road to COP28. The COP28 Presidency will continue its efforts to rally the international community into action and drive forward its agenda for a COP of Action.

Zayed International Foundation For The Environment And ICBA Discuss Pathways To Sustainability Ahead Of COP 28



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment recently hosted representatives of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), a not-for-profit applied agricultural research center, at its office to discuss ways of collaboration and cooperation ahead of the upcoming COP28 in September.

The discussions were led by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, and Dr. Tarifa A. Al Zaabi, Director General of International Center for Biosaline Agriculture ICBA), in the presence of key representatives from both organizations.

The purpose of this meeting was to explore potential avenues for mutual cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable environmental practices. This partnership aims to make significant strides toward addressing global environmental challenges and develop solutions and create impact ahead of COP 28. Both organizations share a common commitment to preserving our planet and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Welcoming the guests, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Fahad, said: ""Collaboration is key to finding effective solutions to global issues such as food security and environmental sustainability. This meeting represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to address the pressing environmental challenges of our time, and we are excited to explore opportunities with ICBA that will lead to a more resilient and sustainable future."

Representatives from the Zayed Foundation at the meeting included Salma Moustaid, Technical Executive Officer and Rashid Al Saadi, Public Relations Department. Among the other attendees representing ICBA were Dr. Charbel Tarraf, Chief Operations and Development; Nour El Jundi, Project Development Specialist; and Ryma Affani, Emirates Soil Museum Curator.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed innovative strategies to achieve the shared goals of sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

The meeting also witnessed a noteworthy exchange of knowledge and resources. The Zayed Foundation presented the latest additions of its research-led environmental publications to the ICBA team. These books, authored by leading environmental experts, provide valuable insights into contemporary environmental issues and sustainable solutions.

COP28 President-Designate Urges Countries To Get 'Back On Track' To Paris

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate recently concluded a visit to China to attend a high-level dialogue on climate action, during which he hailed China's "remarkable leadership" in the energy transition.

During his visit to China, the President-Designate held meetings with Xie Zhenhua, China's Special



Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate concluded a visit to China to attend a high-level dialogue on climate action

Envoy on Climate Change; Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment; and Wangi Yi, Foreign Minister. He also met Laurence Tubiana, CEO of the European Climate Foundation, and a key architect of the Paris Agreement.

The President-Designate delivered an address at the Friends of Paris High-Level Dialogue meeting held in Beijing. Calling for a robust response to the Global Stocktake, Dr. Al Jaber said, "We have no time to waste, and we need a detailed action plan that delivers a robust and comprehensive response to the Global Stocktake across the key pillars of the Paris Agreement. We must agree on an ambitious mitigation work program, finalise the global goal on adaptation, establish a fund for loss and damage and agree on an equitable approach to means of implementation."

"COP28 Action Agenda will help translate all the ambitions of Paris into practical results"

- COP28 President-Designate



Acknowledging that the world is not on track to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, Dr. Al Jaber said that the COP28 Action Agenda will help "translate all the ambitions of Paris into practical results."

He said: "The first pillar of that agenda is a fast, fair, equitable and well-managed energy transition. China's remarkable leadership in this transition is one of the reasons I am optimistic that we can make breakthrough progress.

"This great country has already installed 1000 GW of renewable energy capacity and will add another 500 GW in wind and solar in the next three years alone. This aligns closely with COP28's call for a global goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030."

China will also "play a vital role in expanding green growth through expanding South-South cooperation with the Belt and Road Initiative," Dr. Al Jaber said. The initiative is designed to drive investment in green infrastructure in emerging and developing economies.

The President-Designate reiterated the importance of operationalising the fund and funding commitments for loss and damage at COP28 and again urged donor countries to double adaptation finance by 2025 and replenish the green climate finance.

The fifth such meeting, the Friends of Paris High-Level Dialogue, is a non-government platform to convene climate champions to explore ideas for implementing the Paris Agreement. The meeting featured thematic dialogues on the energy and industry transition and financial flows for climate and financial reform.

COP28 Presidency Rings In New Era Of Climate Finance At UNGA

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate, rang the famous opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange to help raise awareness of climate finance in the US business community.

On the second day of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the COP28 Presidency advanced its Action Agenda and consulted with world leaders from politics, business, and other sectors on how to deliver progress at COP28.



Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate, urges private sector to play its role in ushering in a new era for sustainable climate finance

In addition to his engagement at the New York Stock Exchange, a major focus of the day was announcing the greater involvement of cities and sub-national decision makers in COP28. He joined Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, to announce the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit.

Hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit will convene subnational climate leaders, such as mayors, governors, business executives, non-government organisation heads, and more, into the heart of the COP process.

The role of local leaders in climate action is a key

Building a new framework for global climate finance is critical to deliver the USD4.5 trillion necessary to reach urgent climate targets



focus area for the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda, under the pillar of full inclusivity. Continuing his focus on finance for the day, Dr. Al Jaber also attended a high-level roundtable on climate finance, organised by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, which focused on private capital mobilisation in emerging and developing markets.

Other attendees included Mark Carney, Co-Chair GFANZ and UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, IMF, Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank, Larry Fink, CEO of BlackRock, Janet Yellen, US Treasury Secretary, and Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt.

Dr. Al Jaber also held a series of one-on-one consultations and discussions with high-level figures, including Alok Sharma, former President of COP26, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva and Costas Simitis, the former Prime Minister of Greece.

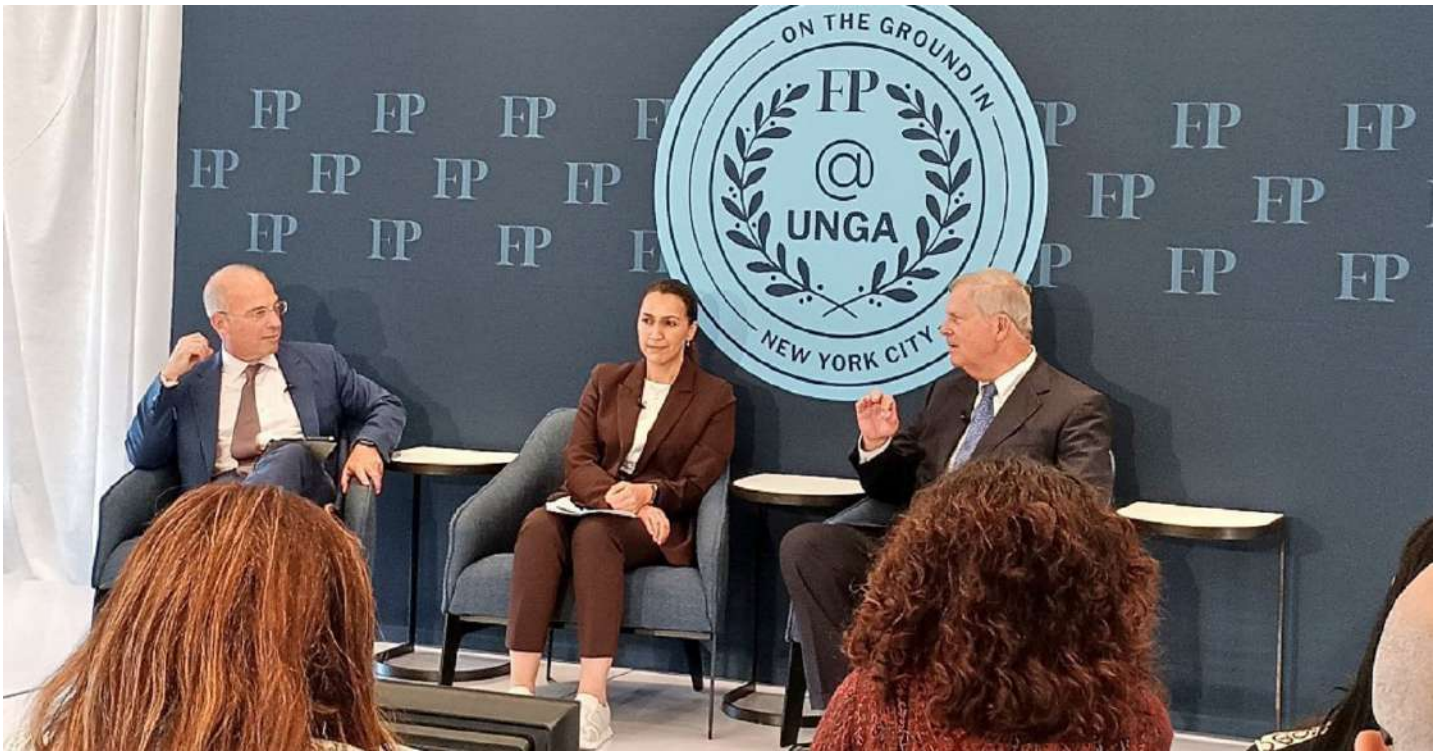
Accompanying the President-Designate were COP28 Director-General, Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, COP28 CEO Adnan Amin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion of the COP28 Presidency Razan Al Mubarak, and Minister of Community Development and Youth Climate Champion for COP28 Shamma Al Mazrui.

Ambassador Al Suwaidi delivered a speech at the International Emissions Trading Association's opening ceremony on harnessing the power of markets and collaboration in scaling high-integrity voluntary carbon markets.

MOCCAE Urges Nations To Seize Climate Opportunity At COP28

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, has called upon global nations to leverage the significant opportunity offered by COP28 in the UAE to drive climate action, with a special focus on food systems transformation and promoting nature-based solutions.

This was during her high-level meetings on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

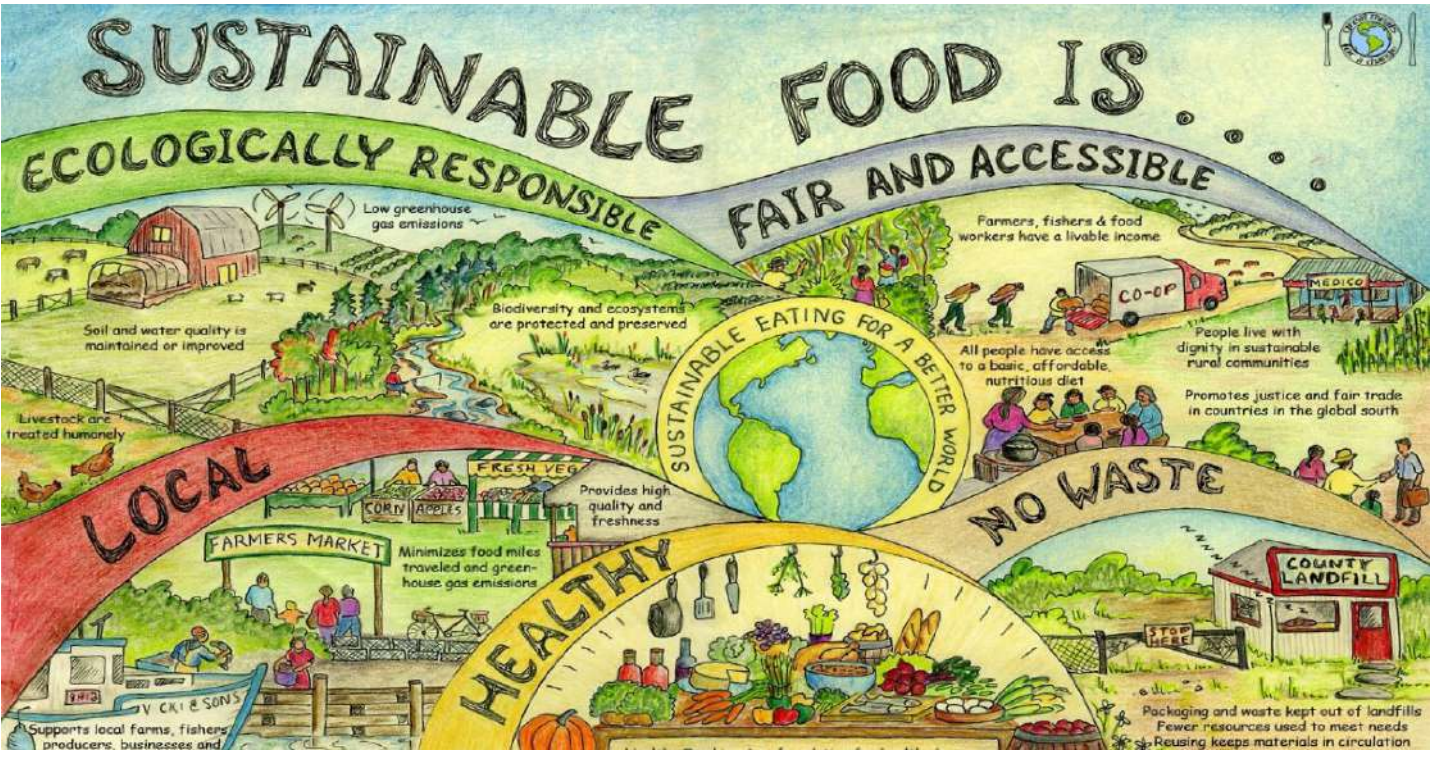


Speaking on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, UAE's Minister of Climate Change and the Environment called upon global nations to leverage the opportunity offered by COP28 to drive climate action

Almheiri, who is also the COP28 Food Systems Lead, underlined the importance of collective action to create more sustainable global food systems, highlighting the prominence placed by the UAE on food and agriculture in the COP28 agenda. She also marked the UAE's endorsement of the Mangrove Breakthrough and announced the Mangroves Ministerial to be hosted at COP28 on the Nature, Oceans and Land Use Day to drive forward discussions to advance nature-based solutions.

During her participation in the Ministerial Panel Discussion on the High Impact Initiative Food Systems, organised by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, she explained that the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda is

Almheiri, who is also the COP28 Food Systems Lead, underlined the importance of collective action to create more sustainable global food systems



focused on four key domains of country-led action, non-state actor leadership and action, innovation scaling, and finance.

Inviting all countries to exemplify national leadership by signing the first-ever Emirates Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture and Climate Action, which was sent to all Agriculture Ministers for their feedback. Almheiri said the UAE's goal is to further galvanise collective action to transform the food system.

Speaking at the High-Level event for 'Nature and People: From Ambition to Action', Almheiri reiterated the UAE's commitment to nature-based solutions and their role in building resilience to climate change. She said that as part of the Presidency's Action Agenda, COP28 will mobilise robust action to drive implementation and advance the climate-nature agenda, and demonstrate practical, novel, and at-scale solutions that protect, restore, and sustainably manage critical land and ocean ecosystems.

Endorsing the Mangrove Breakthrough, Almheiri said: "This collaborative effort between the Global Mangrove Alliance and the UN Climate Change High-level Champions has support from non-state actors and governments worldwide with one main goal: to restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030. It is exactly these types of ambitious, accountable, and collaborative nature-based projects that can help the global community get back on track for the Paris Agreement goals by 2050."

She called on all nations to endorse the Mangrove Breakthrough and actively participate in the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC). MAC, which is a partnership between the UAE and Indonesia,



has attracted 20 partners to scale up and accelerate the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems for the benefit of communities worldwide.

Speaking at the 'Food+ Forum: Foreign Policy', alongside Hon. Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, Almheiri reiterated the need to direct collective innovation and mobilise global finance to fight global hunger and create sustainable and equitable food systems.

She invited nations to join AIM for Climate, which the UAE co-leads with the USA. AIM for Climate, which boasts over 500 international partners, has raised $13 billion in investment for climate-smart agriculture and food system innovation.

"The UAE believes that one of the most powerful ways COP28 can deliver is by securing equitable climate finance for developing nations. In turn, this enables us all to significantly improve the food system. Unlocking priorities at a country level could make a real and immediate difference to hundreds of millions of lives. This is what the UAE Presidency is determined to bring to the fore at COP28 in just two months, creating a positive paradigm shift in our food systems."

Throughout the week, Almheiri took part in a series of successful bilateral meetings. These meetings have been pivotal in fostering collaborations for climate action, recognising the shared commitment to tackling climate change head-on. These engagements also exemplified the UAE's dedication to a sustainable future, where innovation, cooperation, and ambition pave the way for transformative action on the global stage.

GCC Nations Urged To Sign Emirates Declaration On Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, And Climate Action



Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, has called on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers of agriculture to sign the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action, and support UAE's efforts in strengthening food systems to mitigate climate change, reduce global emissions, and contribute to global hunger eradication.

Addressing the 34th meeting of the GCC Agricultural Cooperation Committee, held in Muscat, Oman, Almheiri said: "The UAE aspires to make COP28 the most inclusive and influential COP to date and drive actionable solutions to creating a sustainable future for all of humanity by focusing on practical implementation. COP28 is an excellent opportunity to promote the GCC's collective efforts in mitigating climate change. "

She said: "We are urging national governments to invest in sustainable food systems with several key objectives: reducing the carbon footprint of traditional food systems - responsible for a third of global emissions, and minimising water consumption. Additionally, we seek to strengthen food production to combat world hunger, which impacted 783 million people last year.

"The Declaration underpins UAE's commitment to rally global action to solving the shared challenges of water scarcity, desertification, and the unavailability of farming land."

Almheiri highlighted the UAE's efforts to enhance its food security through the National Strategy for Food Security, as well as efforts to reduce food loss and waste through the Ne'ma initiative, through which the UAE aims to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent by 2030.

COP28 President-Designate Commits To Put Health At Centre Of Climate Discussions

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate, has vowed that COP28 will drive international action on climate and health.

The first-ever Health Day and climate-health ministerial at a COP, he said, will act as a ground-breaking opportunity to determine steps towards equitable, climate-resilient health systems and mobilise vital investment in the sector.



COP28 will lift the political profile of the climate-health nexus, and mainstream health in the global climate change agenda

Speaking against the backdrop of the United Nations General Assembly and New York Climate Week, alongside Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), and Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of Malawi, Dr. Al Jaber called on the international community to support the day and ministerial, which will be co-hosted with the WHO and several countries.

Dr. Al Jaber stressed the importance of addressing the crucial connection between climate change and health. He said, "The connection between health and climate change is evident, yet it has not been a specific focus of the COP process — until now. This must change."

Amongst the risks climate change poses to human health include shifting disease patterns, expanding vectors, and the resurgence of previously contained diseases



He continued, "As we prepare for the groundbreaking Health Day at COP28, we are resolute in our determination to address the challenges posed to health by climate change and encourage ambitious investment in the health sector. Our goal is to build resilient, equitable health systems capable of withstanding the impact of climate change."

He went on to thank the country champions, Brazil, the UK, the USA, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany for their work to lead the climate health discussions at COP28.

During his remarks, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted the risks climate change poses to human health, including shifting disease patterns, expanding vectors, and the resurgence of previously contained diseases.

He noted that WHO statistics reveal that air pollution alone leads to seven million excess deaths annually and that vector-borne diseases, such as Malaria, are expanding their reach due to rising temperatures and changing weather patterns, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities.

Alongside this growing threat, the COP28 Health Day – scheduled for 3rd December – will also take into account the fragility of public health systems worldwide, as exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the urgent need for transformative changes to adapt these systems in response to climate change.

"COP28 is determined to shine a light on these issues and to bring together partners who can make a positive difference. We are determined to reverse these trends by bringing the world



together around an inclusive action agenda centered around a just transition, fairer climate finance and improved lives and livelihoods." Dr. Al Jaber said.

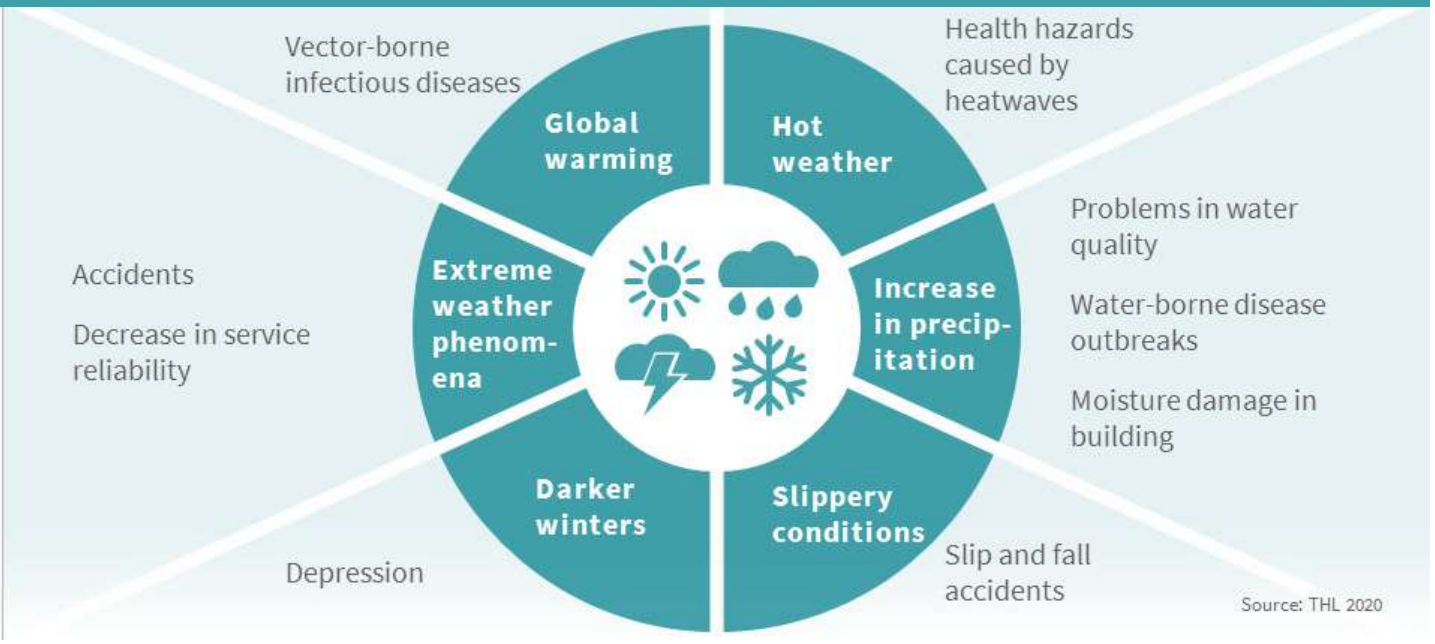
Finance will also be a priority during COP28's Health Day. The financial toll of health crises attributed to climate change is estimated to reach between USD2-4 billion annually by 2030, exacerbating poverty, particularly in disadvantaged regions. The World Bank projects that nearly 40 percent of climate-related poverty will result from the direct health impacts of climate change, impacting productivity, income, and health expenses.

In his remarks, Dr. Al Jaber called for increased concessional funds to the Global South to lower risks and attract private capital. He emphasised the need to rebalance finance and called on governments to double adaptation finance by 2025, urging them to contribute generously to replenish the Green Climate Fund.

Dr. Al Jaber also underscored the significance of investing in health as a crucial aspect of climate resilience, emphasising that these expenses should be viewed as investments rather than costs. According to the World Bank, every dollar invested in building climate resilience yields an average benefit of four dollars.

As such, he called on financial institutions, including development banks, to prioritise climate-health investments. Dr. Al Jaber commended the leadership of organisations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation for their commitment to closing the climate-health financing gap at COP28.

The financial toll of health crises attributed to climate change is estimated to reach between USD2-4 billion annually by 2030



During the session, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted the UAE's legacy and leadership to safeguard human health. He highlighted initiatives such as "Reaching the Last Mile", which has committed over USD455 million to improve global health outcomes, with an emphasis on supporting resilient health systems that best serve vulnerable communities.

The UN event, "Looking Forward Towards COP's First-Ever Day of Health: Advancing A Bold Vision for Action, Equity, and Accountability", featured prominent figures including Adnan Amin, CEO of COP28; and Dr. Maria Neira, Director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Health at the WHO. The session was moderated by Vanessa Kerry, WHO's Special Envoy on Climate Change and Health.

The COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda outlines a science-based, action-oriented plan focused on charting a new course to address the climate crisis. It combines passion with pragmatism and ambition with realism.

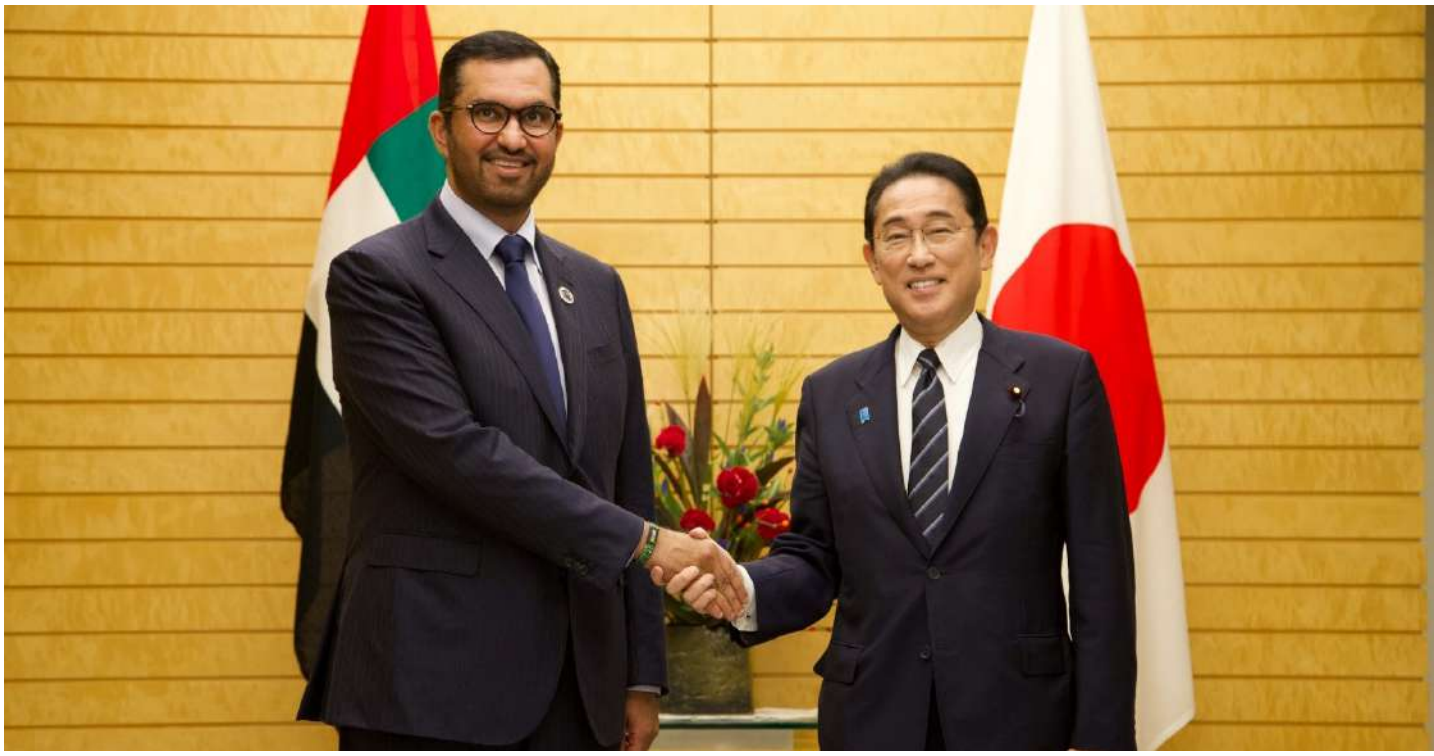
Health sits within the part of the Agenda that focuses on people, lives, and livelihoods. This also includes the creation of a Food Declaration aimed at mobilising political commitment to drive positive changes in systems, enhance food security, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, COP28 will feature the first-ever climate-Health Ministerial Declaration and a significant mobilisation of nature-climate finance on a large scale.

The other three focus areas include fast-tracking the energy transition, fixing climate finance, and ensuring a fully inclusive COP28.

Japan's Role In Energy Transition Highlighted During Tokyo GX Week

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate, and Special Envoy of the UAE to Japan concluded an official visit to Japan on 26 September.

During the visit, he met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and other ministers, to discuss mutual cooperation in a range of areas, including the energy transition. Dr. Al Jaber's official visit took place during Tokyo GX Week, a special event organised by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to promote green transformation.



Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate visited Japan during Tokyo GX Week, a special event organised to promote green transformation

The President-Designate also discussed with Kishida the UAE's preparations to host COP28 in November and December this year. The meeting follows the Prime Minister's successful visit to Abu Dhabi last July, which yielded substantial progress in implementing programs, projects, and initiatives within the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Dr. Al Jaber co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the UAE-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, where he engaged in bilateral meetings with Japanese government officials and private sector partners. Dr. Al Jaber also gave an address at a GX Week ministerial

GX (Green Transformation) is focused on innovation, policies, and framework building, to work toward a common goal, i.e., net zero emissions



session, focused on energy security, decarbonisation and economic growth, where he highlighted the important role Asian nations, including Japan, will play in climate action.

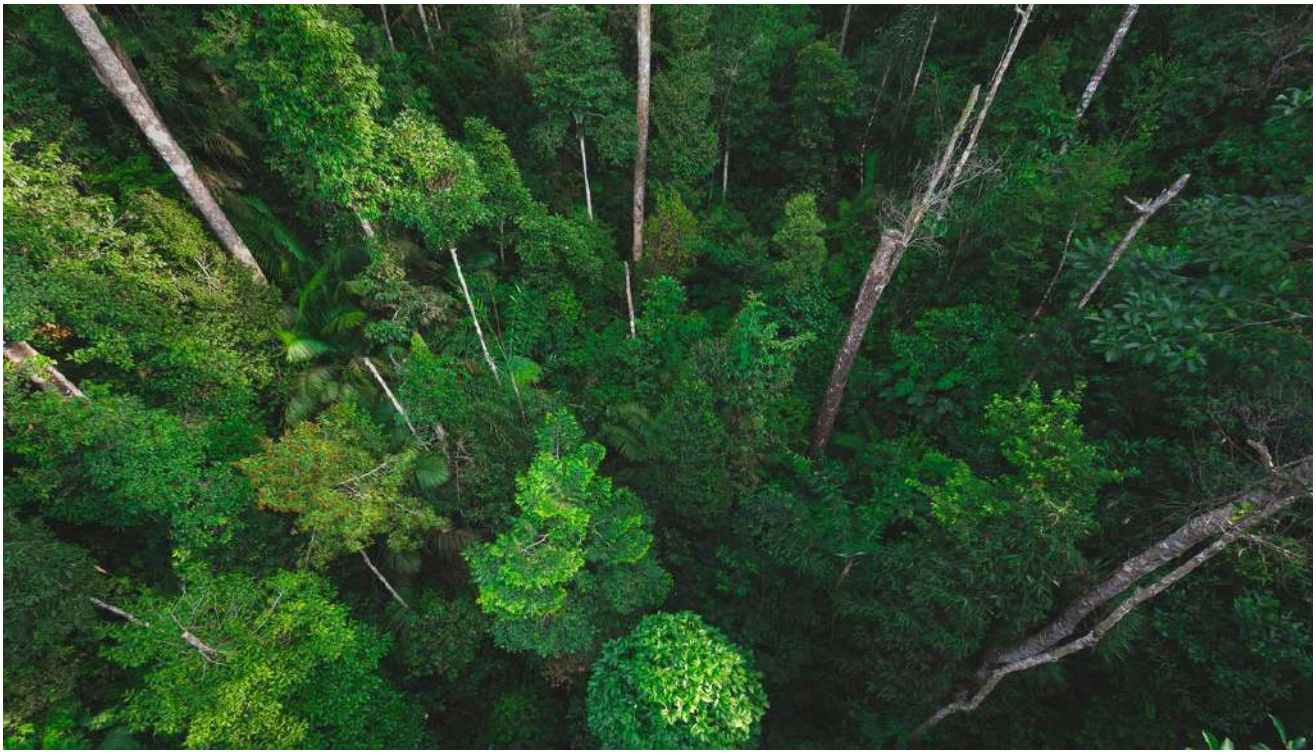
"Asia is central to many of the drivers of global green transformation. This region is home to over 1000 GW of installed renewable energy capacity and is on track to grow to 1500GW in the next 2 years. A trajectory that aligns with COP28's call to triple renewable energy capacity, as part of a fast, fair and well-managed energy transition."

Dr. Al Jaber also highlighted the different pathways to net zero. "There will be multiple net zero pathways depending on the diverse circumstances of each country. And the critical success factors for each pathway are smart government policies, investment in technologies and, critically, finance."

"COP28 is calling for climate finance to be more available, accessible and affordable. IFIs and MDBs need to modernize their mandates. Innovative financial mechanisms must be fully explored to lower risk, including currency risks. And we should not overlook the power of efficiency as the fastest, simplest and cheapest way to cut carbon emissions."

During the session, Dr. Al Jaber's sentiments were echoed by the attendees highlighting the importance of utilizing energy efficiency as a 'first fuel' in addition to the deployment of hydrogen and Carbon Capture Solutions as decarbonisation options for hard-to-abate sectors.

The visit also included the signing of a joint declaration of intent (JDI) between the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology



and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, designed to enhance cooperation between the two nations on climate action and on advancing the energy transition. The JDI envisages the development of a global green energy hub between the two nations.

Dr. Al Jaber noted that the UAE and Japan are already co-operating on hydrogen development, and praised Japan's pioneering role in developing energy efficiency technologies that the world can take to scale.

Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu-Ghazaleh Expresses Hope For COP28

Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Sector at the League of Arab States, expressed hope that the upcoming 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to be hosted by the UAE this year will build on the outcomes of COP27 to contribute to addressing pressing environmental issues.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh said that the Arab region's participation in the ongoing talks on how to cope with crises resulting from climate change underscores the significant role played by Arab countries in the field of climate action and the world's interest in the proposals and initiatives presented by Arab countries to combat the negative impacts of climate change.

The Assistant Secretary-General commended the UAE for its advances, especially in the field of environment and renewable energy.

She pointed out that the League of Arab States will participate in events to be held on the sidelines of COP28 in cooperation with the General Women's Union of the UAE.

Collective Efforts Needed To Stop Wasting Food While Millions Go Hungry: UN

A staggering one billion tonnes of food are wasted every year, while up to 783 million people around the world are facing hunger.

Ahead of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction (IDAFLW) on September 27, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) sounded the alarm over



losses amounting to 13 per cent of the world's food in the supply chain before products even hit the shelves, and a further 17 per cent lost in households and retail.

The agencies said that stopping food loss and waste boosts food security, saves resources and helps reduce our carbon footprint. They called for urgent action from the public and private sector as well as consumers to save and preserve food and set out concrete steps for all stakeholders in a joint guide, insisting that "our collective efforts can make a difference".

The IDAFLW made a clear call to action for public and private entities to take action to reduce food loss and waste (FLW) towards transforming agrifood systems to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Held at a time when the global economy faces tremendous strain from climate change, conflicts, slowdowns and downturns and high food prices exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the on-going crisis in Ukraine, the IDAFLW aims to promote awareness and collective action to reduce food loss and waste.

Governments and decision-makers must invest in national agriculture and food data systems and seek to engage with new sources of data and methods to generate relevant information to improve food loss and food waste, increase food security, healthy diets and transform agrifood systems. They must also raise climate ambition by committing to work towards transforming national agrifood systems in favour of healthy diets and sustainable agrifood systems and implement programmes to encourage a change in consumer behaviour to help citizens reduce food waste at home.

Climate Future Week Concludes With Powerful 'Countdown to COP 28'

The Museum of the Future, in collaboration with Dubai-based interdisciplinary think tank, Fiker Institute, concluded the inaugural 'Climate Future Week' with more than 6,300 government officials, industry leaders, futurists, academics, and senior delegates in attendance.

Climate Future Week took place from 26th to 30th September and was hosted at the Museum of the Future, a global platform dedicated to studying, conceiving and designing the future and creating deep discussions about its trends across scientific, economic, environmental and social sectors.



Held in collaboration with Fiker Institute, Climate Future Week is part of the UAE's broader commitment to bolster national initiatives within the realm of environmental conservation, climate change, and natural resource management

The last day of the event commenced with a powerful 'Countdown to COP28' discussion between Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President-Designate, and Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28 and President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, "The UAE assumes the responsibility of hosting COP28 with humility and a deep sense of urgency to deliver a future-proofed world for us all. We live in a region where

Climate Future Week showcased new technologies and innovations supporting the climate transition



heat is extreme, water is scarce and food systems are fragile. And we also live in an ever-more interconnected world where the impacts of climate change anywhere will affect us all."

He added: "As hosts of COP28, we are guided by a single north star, keeping 1.5C within reach. We aim to do that with a four-part Action Agenda: fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives and livelihoods and underpinning everything with full inclusivity. We must now seize the opportunity of COP28 to unite the world and act together to deliver actionable solutions to the climate crisis."

Razan Al Mubarak stated, "We need a whole-of-society approach to address climate change and drive a just systems transformation. This is why inclusion has been the cornerstone of the COP28 Presidency. In my role, I've been focusing on raising the profile of inclusion and nature in order to deliver on this goal. I have been engaging with businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society to ensure they are a part of the dialogues and shaping the solutions. I have also been advocating for and mobilising nature-positive climate action."

"While we are seeing closer alignment between the climate and nature agenda, we urgently need to scale implementation. COP28 will be a pivotal moment to elevate nature as a critical lever to achieve the Paris Accord goals," she concluded.

The session was followed by a Climate Start-up Majlis which saw a line-up of entrepreneurs and business leaders present future-focused technologies including effective waste management solutions, innovations within smart farming and agri-tech methodology, moderated by Faisal Kazim, of 'The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution UAE' (C4IR).



The Climate Startup Majlis featured Dr. Saeed Al Khazraji, Professor at Khalifa University and Founder of Manhat; Lamis Al Hashimy, Co-Founder of Palmade; Dr. Josef Schmidhuber, Chief Sustainability Office of Pure Harvest; Rabih Elchaar, Co-Founder of Nadeera; and Onur Elgun, Co-Founder of CarbonSifir; whilst Lara Hussein was joined by Ceylan Uren, Co-Founders and Soil Builders at The Waste Lab.

Entrepreneurs shared effective solutions to accelerate climate resilience including new technology bolstering climate progress and presented innovations in smart farming, sustainable production and zero waste technology.

Climate Future Week took place as the country counts down to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP28), to be hosted in Dubai in November. Aiming to identify new frameworks for driving climate action and bolstering sustainability efforts, Climate Future Week showcased new technologies and innovations supporting the climate transition. Following the event, a whitepaper exploring strategies to bolster climate resilience and the effective utilisation of new future-proofing technologies will be produced by the Museum of the Future in collaboration with Fiker Institute.

The final day of Climate Future Week concluded with an immersive workshop session on 'Eco-poetry and Writing Nature' hosted by Shamma Al Bastaki, Emirati Artist and Poet, sharing a powerful call to action.

Climate Future Week's commitment gains a particular significance as COP28 approaches, where global discussions on the future of climate change will be hosted in Dubai.

'Peaceful Nuclear Energy Is Key Component Of UAE's Net-Zero Strategy'

Ambassador Hamad Al Kaabi, UAE's Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), affirmed that the development of the country's peaceful nuclear energy sector is a key component of its net-zero strategy.

This reflects the nation's commitment to diversifying its energy mix and reducing



dependence on fossil fuels. "The nuclear power programme, along with renewable energy, will provide 14 GW of clean power for the UAE by 2030," the Ambassador said at the 67th session of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna.

He added: "As we approach the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), we look forward to discussing the role of nuclear energy in tackling climate change and mitigating its impacts." He affirmed that the UAE's decision to host COP28 reaffirms its commitment to tackling climate change issues proactively and at various levels.

"In 2023, the UAE updated its National Energy Strategy to include several new goals, including raising the percentage of clean energy in the total energy mix to 30 percent by 2031, and becoming carbon neutral by 2050," Al Kaabi continued. "The path to net-zero emission systems needs a built-in climate resilience to guarantee the security of energy supply."

Highlighting the IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, he said it provides critical support to the Member States to develop the infrastructure and to build the capacity required for the nuclear energy programme and in other sectors such as health, agriculture and the environment. "These efforts contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Al Kaabi further noted that the UAE welcomes the active discussion of the role of SMRs and advanced nuclear technologies in achieving net zero and supporting energy security and sustainability and supports the IAEA platform on SMRs and their Applications and the Nuclear Harmonisation and Standardisation Initiative.

Vauxhall Experimental: Pioneering The Future

Vauxhall is showing how it will be approaching the future with its stunning new Vauxhall Experimental concept.

With an ultra-modern exterior design, the Vauxhall Experimental gives a clear vision of where the Vauxhall brand will be heading in the coming years. Highlights include the cutting-edge aero-efficiency features, the spacious, illuminated interior with lightweight seats and next-level head-up display. The battery-electric crossover celebrated its world premiere at this year's IAA Mobility in Germany, in September, where it introduced a new audience to Vauxhall's vision for sustainable individual mobility.



With an ultra-modern exterior design, the Experimental gives a clear vision of where the Vauxhall brand will be heading in the coming years

"The Vauxhall Experimental gives an outlook on upcoming models and technologies, on the future design, even on a new era and the future of the brand. This stunning concept car represents a guiding light and showcases once again Vauxhall's pioneering spirit," said Vauxhall Managing Director James Taylor.

"Our new Vauxhall Experimental gives a more extreme interpretation of our Bold and Pure design philosophy. It gives shape to our vision of the future. Many of the elements of its design and the mindset behind it will be visible in future

The Experimental concept prioritizes aerodynamic advancements and features a simpler and more spacious interior



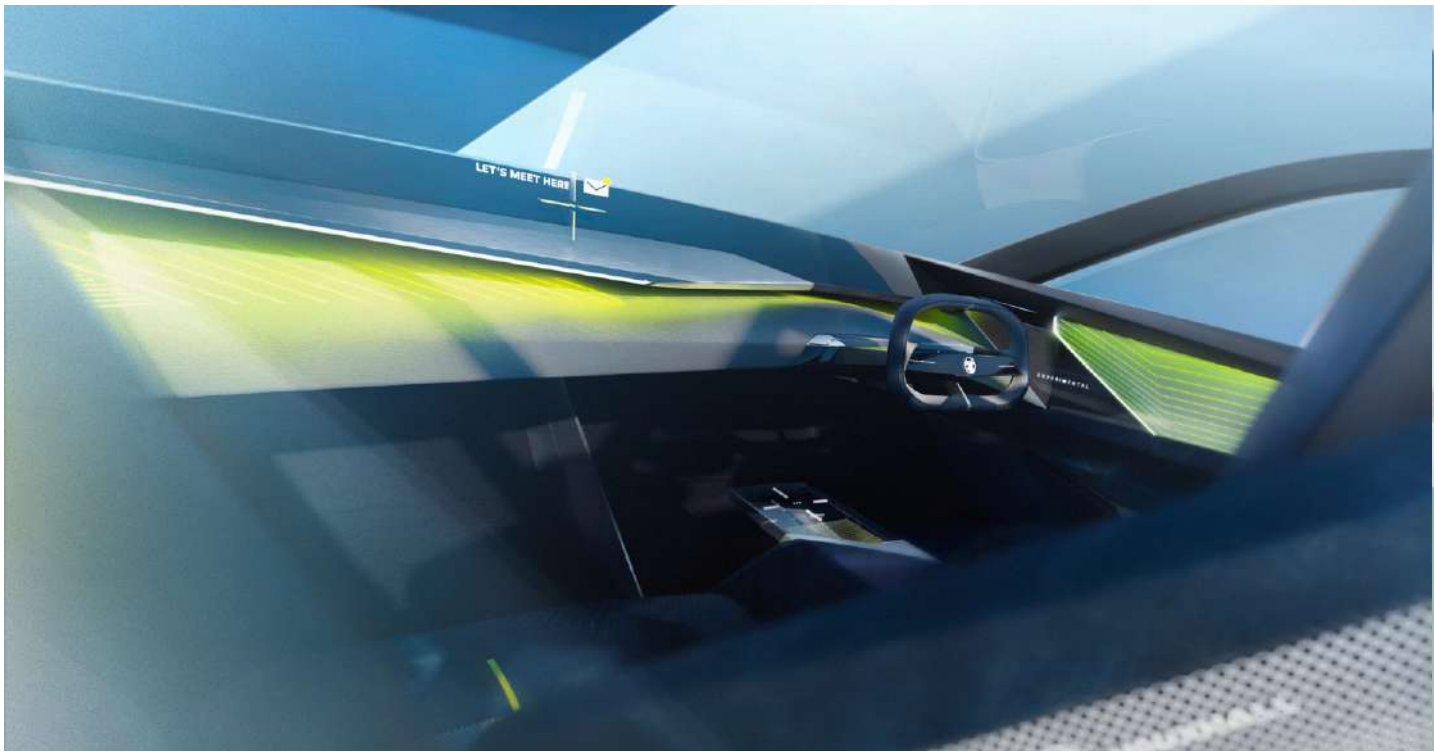
production vehicles. The exterior design delivers an optimised aerodynamic performance in combination with a stunning silhouette while the interior offers an immersive and emotional user experience," added Mark Adams, VP Design.

One of the most eye-catching things about the sleek silhouette of the Vauxhall Experimental is the absence of chrome. Instead, the addition of exterior lighting and bold contrasting graphics add personality and sophistication to the already impressive proportions.

Overall, the efficient battery-electric crossover is based on a state-of-the-art Stellantis BEV platform, and also equipped with electric all-wheel drive. The dramatic tapering profile has a bold and pure design with clean surfacing to enhance its stunning presence. Even traditional wing mirrors have made way for fully integrated 180-degree cameras on the C-pillars while sharp, muscular wheel-arch blisters emphasise the confident stance.

At the front, the new illuminated Vauxhall Griffin sits proudly at the centre of the signature Vauxhall Compass, the guiding element of Vauxhall's design philosophy. It is flanked by the elongated wing signature lighting on the horizontal axis while the illuminated centre crease adds further drama. This then repeats at the rear with the distinctive compass signature braking light created by edge lighting technology and sophisticated glass transparency.

This combines with bold Vauxhall lettering – instead of the Griffin logo at the rear – to form the central element. Around the front compass sits the next generation 4D Vauxhall Vizor. The extra dimension is the addition of the advanced



sight technologies including sensors, the lidar, radar and camera systems.

Clever aero solutions and space detox

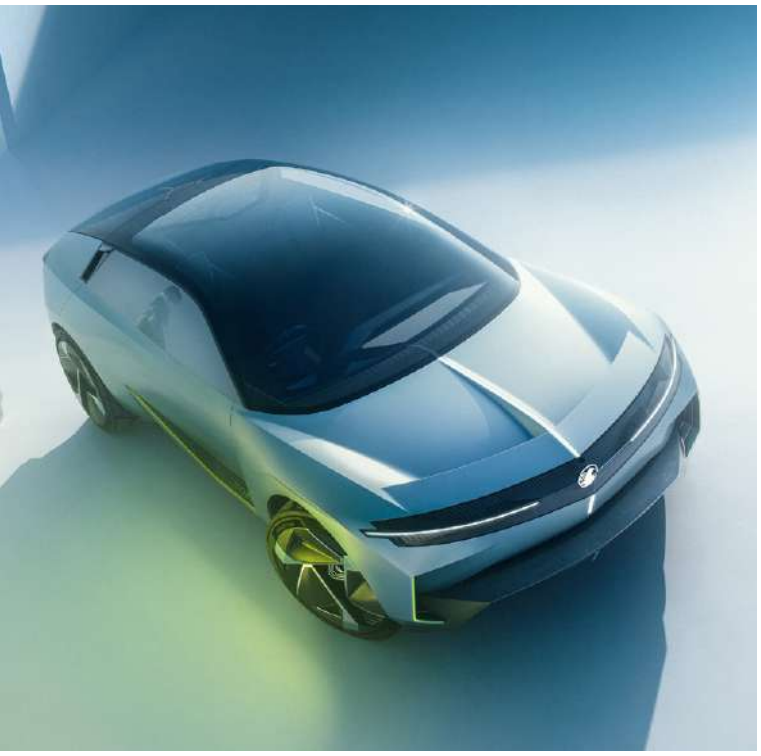
The sleek and gliding silhouette of the Vauxhall Experimental is set around very efficient packaging while the concept car also offers clever and optimised aero solutions. Aero-flaps at the front and rear increase aerodynamic efficiency as does the rear end diffusor. It extends or retracts depending on the prevailing driving situation. Elsewhere, the tyres developed in cooperation with Goodyear are made from recycled rubber and sit on 3-zone Ronal wheels with an active feature to increase aerodynamic efficiency even further.

While the exterior dimensions put the Vauxhall Experimental in the compact C-segment the interior boasts D-segment spaciousness. This has been enabled by the liberation of space (space detox) inside the Vauxhall Experimental. The steering wheel folds away seamlessly when not required. This is made possible by the steer-by-wire system, which further reduces weight by eliminating mechanical steering components. Elsewhere, the lightweight adaptive seats combine a lean but durable structure with 3D mesh-technology fabrics. These ensure the outstanding seating comfort that customers have become accustomed to from Vauxhall vehicles, while contributing further to the liberation of space inside the concept car.

Pure Experience, Pure Pad – pure pleasure

The detox approach is continued with the Pure Experience. Drivers can personalise the information according to their needs on the slim Tech Bridge, a new interpretation of the Pure Panel seen in current Vauxhall models. Instead of

Vauxhall has ambitious plans to expand its electric vehicle (EV) lineup in the coming years and to offer solely EVs by 2028





conventional screens, information or entertainment is presented using augmented projection technology supported by artificial intelligence and natural voice control.

The floating, transparent Pure Pad sits ahead of the front armrest. It can be configured according to the driver's personal preferences to allow instant access to the frequently used controls.

While the Vauxhall Experimental embodies all of Vauxhall's brand pillars – Detox, Progressive British, Green Technology and Innovation – it also goes a step further by expressing the brand's emotional approach to sustainable mobility. Electrochromic fabrics immerse occupants in atmospheric light that create a perfect environment for wellbeing. In addition, the reactive fabrics can enhance functional attributes. For example, when a vehicle enters the blind spot, a warning appears in the respective door insert as well as on the head-up display thus providing additional safety for occupants and other road users.

With its focus on showing a clear vision for the brand, the Vauxhall Experimental continues the long and successful tradition of concept cars, a tradition that started in 1966 when Vauxhall presented a design study in the form of the legendary XVR Concept.

UAE Signs Declaration Of Intent For World Falcon Day

The UAE has become the first country in the Middle East to sign a Declaration of Intent for the 'World Falcon Day' during the participation of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment at the first forum of the Falcon Day "Gyrfalcon", held in Vladivostok, Russia on September 27, 2023.

Dr. Mohammed Salman Al Hammadi, Assistant Under-Secretary for Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Signing the declaration ahead of the UAE's hosting of COP28 underlines our efforts to promote endangered species and protect their natural habitats. We look forward to announcing more initiatives to promote biodiversity in the UAE."



UAE has become the first country in the Middle East to sign a Declaration of Intent for the 'World Falcon Day' at the first forum of the Falcon Day "Gyrfalcon"

The Declaration of Intent for "World Falcon Day" aims to support the efforts of various nations in preserving the population of Gyrfalcon. This calls for intergovernmental cooperation and putting global agreements into action. The Declaration also aims at monitoring Gyrfalcon chicks and their food sources, as well as preventing the illegal hunting, smuggling and trafficking of the falcons. The goal is to strengthen the work of organisations involved in scientific research and education, and to develop

Gyrfalcons, as a predator at the top of the food pyramid, are important indicators of biodiversity and the sustainability of Arctic ecosystems



financing mechanisms for the long-term preservation of falcons.

The Gyrfalcon lime falcon is one of the rarest species in the Falconidae family, found in polar, sub-polar and cold temperate regions of Europe, Asia and North America. There is serious concern about the decline in their numbers, owing to the loss, degradation and fragmentation of their natural habitats, depletion of food sources, illegal hunting and trafficking. Additionally, Gyrfalcons, as a predator at the top of the food pyramid, are important indicators of biodiversity and the sustainability of Arctic ecosystems.

The UAE was one of the first countries to drive focused initiatives to protect falcons. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan provided support for protecting migratory animals and birds, and also launched the "Falcon Release Program" in 1995. The programme supports the release of falcons into the wild and is carried out annually in a number of countries to rehabilitate confiscated falcons and other birds of prey. The most common types of falcons in the UAE are Gyrfalcons, Saker falcon and Peregrine falcon.

The UAE is a signatory of international conventions aimed at protecting falcons from extinction, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1990, which regulates the international trade in falcons. Falconers can travel with the falcons across international borders only after all necessary conditions have been met. The UAE has also issued Federal Law No. 11 of 2002 regulating and controlling the international trade of endangered animals and plants.

New Integrated Strategy To Reduce Food Loss And Waste

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) has launched a strategic project to develop an integrated food security and agricultural data platform, in collaboration with stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

The platform will provide access to accurate, comprehensive and integrated data for the agricultural and food sector in Abu Dhabi, to inform decision-making using the best data governance practices.



The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) is intensifying its efforts to develop an integrated strategy to reduce food loss and waste and improve the efficiency of the production chain

Saeed Al Bahri Al Ameri, Director-General of ADAFSA, said the data platform is a step forward to achieving ADAFSA's priorities towards ensuring food availability, safety and promoting sustainable agricultural development in Abu Dhabi. "The platform supports developing a sustainable, flexible and integrated food system supported by a rapid response system, to effectively address food and biosecurity risks, thus increasing the competitiveness of local products," Al Ameri added.

He said that the data platform will feature an integrated dashboard to monitor local, regional and global food security situation, which supports decision-makers respond to food,

New integrated food security and agricultural data platform to provide comprehensive insights about agricultural production, trade, logistics, environment, weather, biosecurity and more



livestock and agricultural emergencies, take early action to prevent supply chain disruptions, and avoid any potential food risks.

Al Ameri further noted that data fragmentation and the lack of a clear model for data governance preclude the provision of the needed information to predict threats and develop plans for emergencies. He expressed appreciation for the public and private entities that are collaborating with ADAFSA in developing the platform, stressing the importance of their future role in providing accurate and comprehensive data for the sector.

The data platform will collect and monitor all data related to agriculture and food security. This includes data related to local agricultural production, trade, investment, future production, levels of strategic food reserves, food loss and waste rates throughout the value chain. Additionally, the platform will also monitor data on livestock and plant health, pest control programmes, and vaccination programmes against communicable and zoonotic diseases.

The platform will deliver updated data, analytical reports and forecasts, to help address food and biosecurity challenges based on actionable insights.

Furthermore, it will deliver scientific forecasts on production, consumption, supply and demand for food commodities. This will enable conducting accurate analysis of self-sufficiency levels by comparing local production to consumption, monitoring the strategic food reserves, and analysing price tendencies of major domestic and global products along with level of dependence on food imports for each item.

UAE Reaffirms Commitment To Protecting Mangroves

A study by the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has found that the area globally covered by mangrove trees declined by 14.8 million hectares between 2000 and 2020.

This is due to factors such as aquaculture expansion, natural retraction, oil palm cultivation, rice farming, and direct human encroachment. The study highlighted the environmental significance of mangrove trees, which are crucial in protecting coastal communities from natural hazards, such as storms, soil erosion, and tsunamis. Their importance has increased with the growing intensity of extreme weather events and rising sea levels, as they can mitigate the damage caused by waves, severe storms, and soil erosion.



The area globally covered by mangrove trees declined by 14.8 million hectares between 2000 and 2020, reports new FAO study

The UAE's efforts to protect mangroves and restore its prominent role in enhancing global environmental sustainability are vital in the face of this reality. International institutions and organisations that work to address the consequences of climate change have applauded and acknowledged these efforts.

The UAE will host a high-level ministerial meeting on mangrove trees during COP28, bringing

The UAE is home to 60 million mangrove trees, covering an area of 183 sq kms and capturing 43,000 tonnes of CO2 annually



together mangrove-hosting governments, partners, civil society organisations, foundations, financial institutions, and scientists.

During Climate Week NYC, the UAE announced its support for the "Mangrove Breakthrough" initiative, which aims to restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangrove trees globally by 2030. The world only has 14 million hectares of mangroves left, half of their original level.

In November 2022, the UAE launched the global "Mangrove Alliance for Climate," in partnership with Indonesia, which aims to support, enhance, and expand mangrove forests globally as a nature-based solution to climate change and as part of the international efforts to absorb and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The alliance has attracted nearly 20 partners to expand its scope and accelerate the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems to benefit communities worldwide.

The Mangrove Alliance for Climate is a group of entities that share a common vision: to use nature to solve climate change by protecting and planting mangrove trees. Mangroves are valuable ecosystems that can store carbon, reduce coastal erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife.

The alliance's members aim to highlight their joint commitment to nature-based climate solutions by conserving and restoring mangrove forests; promoting the role of mangroves in climate mitigation and adaptation through innovation and scientific research; ensuring the international protection of mangrove ecosystems by conducting scientific and social and economic studies; encouraging charitable initiatives in society and the private sector to support blue



carbon solutions and mangrove tree planting efforts; and strengthening the global efforts to realise the international climate action agenda.

The UAE aims to enhance its nature-based solutions to environmental challenges by increasing its mangrove forest area and has raised its goal of planting 30 million mangrove trees as stated in the second national contributions report under the Paris Agreement, to 100 million trees by 2030.

Mangrove forests play a key role in protecting the UAE's coastlines from rising sea levels and severe storms, providing habitats for biodiversity, and acting as natural carbon sinks. The UAE is home to 60 million mangrove trees, covering an area of 183 square kilometres and capturing 43,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. With the addition of 100 million mangrove trees, the total forest area will reach 483 square kilometres, capturing nearly 115,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

In February 2022, the UAE announced the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative, an ambitious plan to establish the emirate as a global hub for mangrove conservation research and innovation. The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) is implementing the initiative with local, regional and international partners, and in its first phase, the EAD successfully planted one million mangrove tree seeds using innovative drones.

Abu Dhabi has a wealth of mangrove forests along its coast, covering some 70 sq kms of the emirate's land. The Mangrove National Park in Abu Dhabi is one of the most densely populated mangrove areas, with more than 19 sq kms of forests.

New Organic Fertiliser Project Reshaping Agriculture In RAK

Uterra Middle East Agro Industries is investing US20 million in the next three years for the construction and development of Ras Al Khaimah's first organic soil fertiliser project, which aims to revolutionalise agriculture, address environmental challenges and promote sustainability.

A part of a multi-national UniPax Investment



Group, Uterra has acquired a land plot of approximately 33,000 m2 in Al Ghail Industrial Zone to build a sustainable biosphere cluster. At the new facility, the company will produce high-efficiency micro-biological organic fertiliser for agriculture and carry out research and scientific work on the creation of unique methods of cultivating plants, medicinal and valuable fungi. The company will also be farming fruits, vegetables and berries, both indoors and outdoors, and conduct organic animal husbandry.

The Uterra project implementation in the UAE aims to address several key objectives. First, it aims to produce and implement highly efficient and profitable organic fertilisers in both the UAE and the global markets. Second, the project aims to ensure that the residents of the region have access to sufficient quantities of high-quality, environment-friendly products. The 'uTerra' branded products will be developed without the use of pesticides. Additionally, they will have zero amount of harmful chemicals and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), promoting natural and healthy food sources. This will not only positively affect people's health, but also reduce depletion of valuable soil resources.

RAKEZ Group CEO Ramy Jallad said, "We are thrilled to welcome Uterra into our diverse business ecosystem. We, at RAKEZ, are big supporters of innovation and sustainability in all aspects of business and Uterra's plans align perfectly. By developing organic soil fertilisers, Uterra is not only providing a solution for environmental challenges, but also fostering a more sustainable agriculture sector in Ras Al Khaimah. This resonates with our commitment to the Year of Sustainability."

Rethinking the Future: Basel, Switzerland

Switzerland's third most populous city, Basel, is a pioneer in creating green spaces for its people.

In 2022, the citizens in the canton of Basel-Stadt approved the plan to achieve net zero by 2037. This means that, by 2037, the canton should not emit more greenhouse gases than can be absorbed naturally or by technical means.



Basel's green rooftops tackle energy wastage and rising temperatures caused by climate change

Thanks to its exemplary energy policy, Basel was awarded the European Energy Award Gold for the fifth time in 2022. The city has also been committed to the vision of a 2000-watt society since 2001, to reduce energy consumption gradually to 2000 watts per person.

Green Spaces

Basel, Switzerland has become the first city in the world to make green spaces a legal requirement on new buildings.

As inner-city living becomes ingrained in much of our social and work lives many of us are missing out on access to green space. Basel has come up with an ingenious way of adding some much-needed greenery to urban areas. Utilising their once empty flat-roof space, Basel's city planning authority have made green roofs compulsory. This new requirement adds patches of green

In November 2022, the citizens in the canton of Basel-Stadt approved the plan to achieve net zero by 2037



space which defuse humidity and help to cool buildings off quicker during the summer months.

As part of Basel's biodiversity strategy, for the past 15 years, green spaces have been mandatory on all new and retrofitted buildings with flat roofs. Now that this has been made compulsory, more than 1 million square metres of green roofs have been constructed, making it the leading city in 'greening' its urban spaces.

Inner-city green spaces have a myriad of benefits for climate change and vastly improve mental and physical health. Green spaces have great benefits when tackling issues of smog and pollution. Scientists consistently praise the role of green walls and roof gardens in helping to mitigate the effects of harmful inner-city emissions.

When considering the future of climate change and increasing temperatures, Basel is ahead of the curve in using rooftop gardens to reduce humidity.

Green Energy

Environmental and energy policy in Basel has a long history. As early as the 1970s, the population prevented the construction of the nuclear power plant in Kaiseraugst. As a result, a ban on nuclear power on one hand and the advancement of renewable energies on the other, were laid down in the constitution. Basel has an ambitious energy law which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy. It frequently serves as a model throughout Switzerland.

An important instrument of the energy and climate policy of the Canton of Basel-Stadt is the Cantonal Energy Act. Its main goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy





efficiency and promote renewable energy. To achieve these goals, energy-efficient renovations, efficient new buildings and systems for the use of renewable energy have been supported with subsidies since 1984.

The cantonal energy law stipulates that whenever a heat generator is replaced, it must be switched to renewable energies. The installation of oil or gas heating systems is only approved in exceptional cases. IWB already operates Switzerland's largest district heating network in Basel, supplying around 45,000 households as well as small and large businesses with heat.

By around 2035, climate-friendly district heating is to be greatly expanded, the existing district heating network further consolidated and additional urban areas integrated into the grid-based, CO2-neutral heat supply.

The climate protection targets are reviewed through the cantonal energy statistics. Since 2010, energy consumption, the expansion of renewable energies and CO2 emissions have been surveyed and analysed every two years. The results in the period from 2010 to 2018 are positive: CO2 emissions per inhabitant and year were reduced from 4.7 tonnes in 2010 to 3.5 tonnes in 2018. By 2040, the government council wants to reduce the CO2 emissions per inhabitant and year in Basel to net zero.

Green Transport

The Basler Verkehrs-Betriebe is a public transport operator in the Swiss city of Basel, and is wholly owned by the canton of Basel-Stadt, which consists of the city of Basel and the municipalities of Bettingen and Riehen. The service completed detailed analyses of the bus routes, scheduling requirements and the future energy and power

Basel has become the first city in the world to make green spaces a legal requirement for new buildings



needs of the electric bus fleet. Specific hardware and software recommendations were agreed upon and the associated costs calculated to move towards electrification of their services by 2027.

With the continuous improvement of the public transport infrastructure through the expansion and optimisation of the tram and bus network as well as the tri-national S-Bahn, residents and commuters have the opportunity to increasingly switch to public transport. This reduces the number of vehicle kilometres travelled by motorised private transport.

Basel also takes ecological, economic and social aspects of sustainability into account in many other areas:

- Basel promotes fair trade and was officially named Switzerland's biggest "Fair Trade Town" in May 2022.



- To promote sustainable food, Basel has signed up to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.
- Basel is a member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and ICLEI city networks, which support projects and campaigns for sustainable urban development.
- In 2019, Basel was the first Swiss city to declare a climate emergency. As such, the Basel Parliament considers combating climate change a responsibility of the highest priority.

Climate Change Undermines Nearly All Sustainable Development Goals

At the half-time point of the 2030 Agenda, the science is clear – the planet is far off track from meeting its climate goals.

This undermines global efforts to tackle hunger, poverty and ill-health, improve access to clean water and energy and many other aspects of sustainable development, according to a new multi-agency report coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).



Eight of 17 Sustainable Development Goals are impacted by the effects of climate change, which could undermine progress in achieving the SDGs by 2030, a World Meteorological Organisation report says

Only 15% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track, says the United in Science report, which makes a systematic examination of the impact of climate change and extreme weather on the goals. It illustrates how weather, climate and water-related sciences can advance aims such as food and water security, clean energy, better health, sustainable oceans and resilient cities.

"2023 has shown all too clearly that climate change is here. Record temperatures are scorching the land and heating the sea, as extreme weather causes havoc around the globe. While we know this is just the beginning, the global response is falling far short. Meanwhile, halfway to the 2030 deadline for the SDGs, the world is woefully off-track," says UN Secretary-

Improving observational data collection and advancing access to research and technology will close existing knowledge gaps and can support achievement of SDGs



General António Guterres. "Science is central to solutions. It is widely understood that weather, climate, and water-related sciences provide the underpinnings for climate action. But it is less recognized how these sciences can supercharge progress on the SDGs across the board."

"At this pivotal moment in history, the halfway mark to achieving the SDGs, the science community stands united in the effort to achieve prosperity for people and the planet," says WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

"Groundbreaking scientific and technological advances, such as high-resolution climate modelling, AI and nowcasting, can catalyze transformation to achieve the SDGs. And achieving Early Warnings for All by 2027 will not only save lives and livelihoods but also help safeguard sustainable development," he said.

The report shows, for example, how weather predictions help boost food production and move closer to zero hunger. Integrating epidemiology and climate information helps understand and anticipate those diseases sensitive to climate. And early-warning systems help to reduce poverty by giving people the chance to prepare and limit the impact.

The need for science and solutions is more urgent than ever. Between 1970 and 2021, there were nearly 12,000 reported disasters from weather, climate and water extremes, causing over 2 million deaths and USD 4.3 trillion in economic losses. Over 90% of these reported deaths and 60% of economic losses occurred in developing economies, undermining sustainable development.

Rising global temperatures have been accompanied by more extreme weather. The



chance of the annual mean global near-surface temperature temporarily exceeding 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the next five years is 66% and is increasing with time.

So far, there has been very limited progress in reducing the emissions gap for 2030 – the gap between the emissions reductions promised by countries and the emissions reductions needed to achieve the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. Fossil fuel CO2 emissions increased 1% globally in 2022 compared to 2021 and preliminary estimates from January-June 2023 show a further 0.3% rise.

To get on track to meet the Paris Agreement goals of limiting warming to well below 2 °C and preferably 1.5 °C, global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 30% and 45%, respectively, by 2030, with carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions getting close to net zero by 2050. This will require large-scale, rapid and systemic transformations.

Some future changes in climate are unavoidable, and potentially irreversible, but every fraction of a degree and ton of CO2 matters to limit global warming and achieve the SDGs, says the report.

"The science continues to show that we are not doing enough to lower emissions and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement - as the world prepares for the first global stocktake at COP28, we must increase our ambition and action, and we must all do the real work to transform our economies through a just transition to a sustainable future for people and planet," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.

German Embassy In UAE Discuss GCC's Way To Climate Neutrality

The German Embassy in the UAE and the Hydrogen Diplomacy Office Riyadh jointly organised a roundtable on tackling the GCC countries' way to climate neutrality.

The event took place on September 25 in Dubai under the framework of the Traveling Exhibition on Germany's Energy Transition, an initiative by the German Foreign Office, which aims to



enhance the energy dialogue among states around the world.

The central topic of the panel was dedicated to the GCC´s path towards climate-neutrality as a necessary contribution towards the 1.5°C path agreed upon in Paris. In a short introduction, the German Embassy stressed the need to combine scalable and innovative solutions to cope with the climate challenges ahead.

Ayesha Al Suwaidi, Section Head – Climate Change at the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, enlightened the audience with a presentation on "Climate change vulnerabilities, present and future, the UAE facing in their fight against climate change and on the Abu Dhabi's climate Change strategy".

Based on these premises, panelists navigated through three key topics: net-zero targets, decarbonising energy systems and industries as well as the effects of decarbonisation on the labour market.

All GCC countries have set themselves ambitious targets: from drastically decreasing carbon emissions to afforestation or boosting the use of renewables – the to do list is all-embracing. In this vein, panelists agreed on a combination of solutions as a promising way forward.

Indeed, by coupling relevant energy stakeholders´ existing knowledge, it is feasible to accelerate the transition pace. In that regard, Al Suwaidi aptly called for more multilateral stakeholders dialogue to further enhance the sharing and exchange of knowledge and technologies.



Applications for the Prestigious 2023 UN Global Climate Action Awards Now Open

Young people taking bold leadership on climate change can now nominate their work for the 2023 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards.

The awards programme, run by UN Climate Change since 2011, recognizes the world's most innovative examples of action to tackle climate change. This year's awards will showcase youth



The 2023 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards will recognize climate action led by young people that is achieving real and tangible results in two categories

and projects taking bold and effective climate action in the areas of energy transition and resilient nature.

The 2023 award winners will be celebrated at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in Expo City, Dubai, UAE from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

The UN Global Climate Action Awards shine a light on activities which aim to help achieve the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. The Awards have for example recognized transformational initiatives such as the Government of Quebec's climate finance program and Microsoft's internal carbon fee.

Other past winners also include the world's greenest football club, the first all-women solar team in Lebanon, a Swedish restaurant chain

Awards showcase youth and projects taking bold and effective climate action in the areas of energy transition and resilient nature



that is creating the world's first 'climate positive' menu, and the Danish island of Samsø, which has completely transformed its energy system.

The 2023 UN Global Climate Action Awards will recognize climate action led by young people that is achieving real and tangible results in two categories:

Youth leading the energy transition: Recognizing the efforts of youth (up to 35 years of age) in driving renewable energy and/or energy efficiency activities that are locally led and/or community focused. These activities incorporate elements of education, training, and public awareness to achieve goals, and achieve greater equity in the community.

Youth supporting resilient nature: Recognizing innovative work on nature and resiliency by an individual or group of young people (up to 35 years of age) in indigenous and/or local communities. The activities should be designed to restore, maintain, or enhance nature's resilience or its contributions to people, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches. These activities incorporate public awareness, public participation, and/or public access to information to achieve its goals, achieving greater equity in the community.

The Awards are implemented in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Permanent Representative of the UAE to IRENA.

Applications for the 2023 UN Global Climate Action Award will be accepted until 15 October 2023 at https://momentum.unfccc.int/

UNEP Marine Sand Watch Reveals Massive Extraction In The World's Oceans

The first-ever global data platform on sand and other sediment extraction in the marine environment finds that the marine dredging industry is digging up 6 billion tons per year, the equivalent of more than 1 million dump trucks per day. This is significantly impacting biodiversity and coastal communities.

The new data platform, Marine Sand Watch,



A new data platform, Marine Sand Watch, tracks and monitors dredging activities of sand, clay, silt, gravel, and rock in the world's marine environment

tracks and monitors dredging activities of sand, clay, silt, gravel, and rock in the world's marine environment, including hotspots like the North Sea, South East Asia, and the East Coast of the United States.

Developed by GRID-Geneva a Centre for Analytics within the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the platform provides information on areas used for sand extraction (sand concessions), areas of capital and maintenance dredging, sand trading ports/hubs, number of vessels and operators, and extraction of sediment and other types of activities by countries with Exclusive Economic Zones.

The Marine Sand Watch estimates that between 4 and 8 billion tons of sand and other sediments are dredged every year in the marine and coastal environment. Furthermore, data analysed for

Between 4 and 8 billion tons of sand and other sediments are dredged every year in the marine and coastal environment



the years 2012-19 shows the scale of dredging is growing. The world is approaching the natural replenishment rate of 10 to 16 billion tons per year which is needed by rivers to maintain coastal and marine ecosystem structure and function. This is especially concerning for regions where dredging is more intense and extraction already substantially surpasses the sediment budget from land to sea.

Shallow sea mining for sand and gravel is central to various construction activities. It poses a threat to coastal communities in the face of rising sea levels and storms, as marine sand will be needed to build coastal defences, and support offshore energy infrastructure such as wind or waves turbines. Sand extraction puts coastal and seabed ecosystems at risk, including marine biodiversity affected by water turbidity and changes in nutrient availability and noise pollution. Coastal or near-shore extraction can also affect the salinization of aquifers and future tourist development.

International practices and regulatory frameworks vary widely. Some countries – including Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Cambodia – have banned marine sand export while others lack any legislation and/or effective monitoring programmes.

In its 2022 Sand and Sustainability report, UNEP calls for better monitoring of sand extraction and use, the report recommended to stop the sand extraction on the beaches and active beach-nearshore sand system for the purpose of mining sand as a resource and to establish an international standard on sand extraction in the marine environment.

New UN Plan Promises Massive Emission Cuts In The Construction Sector

Rapid urbanisation worldwide means every five days, the world adds buildings equivalent to the size of Paris, with the built environment sector already responsible for 37 per cent of global emissions.

A new report published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Yale Center for Ecosystems + Architecture (Yale CEA), under the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), offers solutions to decarbonize the buildings and construction sector and reduce the waste it generates.



The report, 'Building materials and the climate: Constructing a new future', offers a three-pronged 'Avoid-Shift-Improve solution' to address challenges in the most polluting and toughest sector to decarbonise

The report, Building materials and the climate: Constructing a new future, offers policy makers, manufacturers, architects, developers, engineers, builders and recyclers a three-pronged solution to reduce "embodied carbon" emissions and the negative impacts on natural ecosystems from the production and deployment of building materials (e.g., cement, steel, aluminium, timber, biomass):

Avoid waste through a circular approach: Building less by repurposing existing buildings is the most valuable option, generating 50-75 per cent fewer emissions than new construction; promote construction with less materials and

Every five days, the world adds buildings equivalent to the size of Paris



with materials that have a lower carbon footprint and facilitate reuse or recycle.

Shift to ethically and sustainably sourced renewable bio-based building materials, including timber, bamboo, and biomass. The shift towards properly managed bio-based materials could lead to compounded emissions savings in many regions of up to 40 per cent in the sector by 2050. However, more policy and financial support is needed to ensure the widespread adoption of renewable bio-based building materials.

Improve decarbonisation of conventional materials that cannot be replaced. This mainly concerns the processing of concrete, steel, and aluminium – three sectors responsible for 23 per cent of overall global emissions today – as well as glass and bricks. Priorities should be placed on electrifying production with renewable energy sources, increasing the use of reused and recycled materials, and scaling innovative technologies. Transformation of regional markets and building cultures is critical through building codes, certification, labelling, and the education of architects, engineers, and builders on circular practices.

The three-pronged 'Avoid-Shift-Improve solution' needs to be adopted throughout the building process to ensure emissions are slashed and human health and biodiverse ecosystems are protected. The solution also requires, in its implementation, sensitivity to local cultures and climates, including the common perception of concrete and steel as modern materials of choice.

"Until recently, most buildings were constructed using locally sourced earth, stone, timber, and bamboo. Yet modern materials such as concrete



and steel often give only the illusion of durability, usually ending up in landfills and contributing to the growing climate crisis," said Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director of UNEP's Industry and Economy Division. "Net zero in the building and construction sector is achievable by 2050, as long as governments put in place the right policy, incentives and regulation to bring a shift the industry action," she added.

To date, most climate action in the building sector has been dedicated to effectively reducing "operational carbon" emissions, which encompass heating, cooling, and lighting. Thanks to the growing worldwide decarbonisation of the electrical grid and the use renewable energies, these are set to decrease from 75 per cent to 50 per cent of the sector in coming decades.

Since buildings contain materials produced in disparate regions across the globe, reducing "embodied carbon" emissions from production and deployment of building materials requires decisionmakers to adopt a whole life-cycle approach. This involves harmonized measures across multiple sectors and at each stage of the building lifecycle – from extraction to processing, installation, use, and demolition.

Government regulation and enforcement is also required across all phases of the building life cycle – from extraction through end-of-use – to ensure transparency in labelling, effective international building codes, and certification schemes.

Investments in research and development of nascent technologies, as well as training of stakeholders in the sectors, are needed, along with incentives for cooperative ownership models

The built environment sector is responsible for 37 per cent of global emissions



between producers, builders, owners, and occupants to the shift to circular economies.

"The decarbonisation of the buildings and construction sector is essential for the achievement of the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. By providing cutting-edge scientific insights as well as very practical recommendations to reduce embodied carbon, the study "Building materials and the climate: Constructing a new future" advances our joint mission to decarbonise the sector holistically and increase its resilience", said Dr. Vera Rodenhoff, Deputy Director General for International Climate Action and International Energy Transition of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

Case studies from Canada, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, and Senegal, demonstrate how decarbonisation takes places using "Avoid-Shift-Improve" strategies: developed economies can devote resources to renovating existing ageing buildings, while emerging ones can leapfrog carbon-intensive building methods to alternative low-carbon building materials.

Cities worldwide can drive the implementation of decarbonisation. Many are already integrating vegetated surfaces, including green roofs, façades, and indoor wall assemblies to reduce urban carbon emissions and cool off buildings, increase urban biodiversity and more.





Word Scramble

OEPLSICI
UTSSNAI
IRCARCLU
SCREOEURS
MYOCOEN
ERGNE
SDSIARET
RMNENEIONTV

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

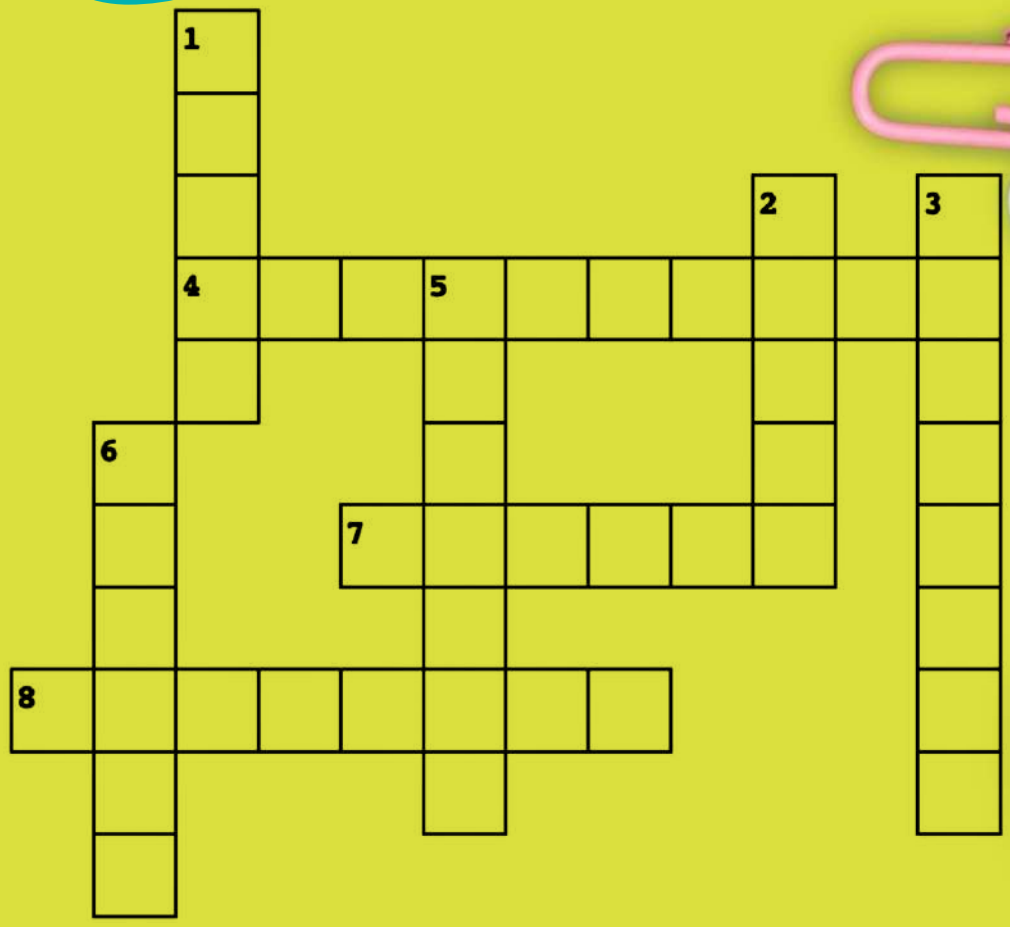
ANSWERS: 1) POLICIES 2) ENVIRONMENT 3) GREEN 4) CIRCULAR 5) ECONOMY 6) DISASTER 7) RESOURCES 8) SUSTAIN

Word Search

S	N	N	T	A	P	I	E	N	N	P	S	P	S
N	T	E	A	P	M	L	T	N	M	R	I	C	E
O	A	O	A	M	A	I	A	N	C	O	E	U	E
I	U	A	E	I	O	N	E	N	H	C	A	E	T
T	R	A	E	M	U	D	T	F	T	E	N	C	A
C	I	O	D	E	R	L	A	S	S	S	O	A	F
N	E	N	E	O	I	I	N	W	A	S	T	G	W
I	T	N	I	C	I	N	I	N	N	T	E	E	A
T	M	G	E	S	H	M	M	R	T	G	A	I	R
X	N	L	M	L	T	M	R	R	E	R	P	I	M
E	G	A	N	A	M	F	E	R	T	I	L	E	T
P	P	N	N	A	U	G	G	U	R	S	D	O	H
M	R	U	T	A	H	A	S	O	I	L	P	X	C
E	G	C	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S	M	S

EXTINCTION
GERMINATE
MUD
NARMTH
SOIL
FERTILE
MOUNTAINS
MANAGE
PLANTS
PROCESS

Crossword Puzzle



Across

4. Like thrift shop wares
7. World of plants, animals, landscapes etc
8. Disaster or misfortune

Down

1. Reprocess
2. Discarded materials
3. Publicly recommend
5. Produced without artificial chemicals
6. Study of plants

1) REUSE 2) WASTE 3) ADVOCATE 4) SECONDHAND 5)
ORGANIC 6) BOTANY 7) NATURE 8) CALAMITY

WORD OF THE DAY:

NOISE POLLUTION

Noise pollution is an invisible danger. It cannot be seen, but it is present nonetheless, both on land and under the sea. Noise pollution is considered to be any unwanted or disturbing sound that affects the health and well-being of humans and other organisms.

Sound is measured in decibels. There are many sounds in the environment, from rustling leaves (20 to 30 decibels) to a thunderclap (120 decibels) to the wail of a siren (120 to 140 decibels). Sounds that reach 85 decibels or higher can harm a person's ears. Sound sources that exceed this threshold include familiar things, such as power lawn mowers (90 decibels), subway trains (90 to 115 decibels), and loud rock concerts (110 to 120 decibels).

Noise pollution impacts millions of people on a daily basis. The most common health problem it causes is Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). Exposure to loud noise can also cause high blood pressure, heart disease, sleep disturbances, and stress. These health problems can affect all age groups, especially children. Many children who live near noisy airports or streets have been found to suffer from stress and other problems, such as impairments in memory, attention level, and reading skill.

Noise pollution also impacts the health and well-being of wildlife. Studies have shown that loud noises can cause caterpillars' dorsal vessels (the insect equivalent of a heart) to beat faster, and cause bluebirds to have fewer chicks. Animals use sound for a variety of reasons, including to navigate, find food, attract mates, and avoid predators. Noise pollution makes it difficult for them to accomplish these tasks, which affects their ability to survive.

Increasing noise is not only affecting animals on



land, it is also a growing problem for those that live in the ocean. Ships, oil drills, sonar devices, and seismic tests have made the once tranquil marine environment loud and chaotic. Whales and dolphins are particularly impacted by noise pollution. These marine mammals rely on echolocation to communicate, navigate, feed, and find mates, and excess noise interferes with their ability to effectively echolocate.

WORLD HABITAT DAY – OCTOBER 2

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our habitats, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

In 1985 the United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 with the theme "Shelter is My Right". Nairobi was the host city for the observance that year.

The 2023 Theme for World Habitat Day is Resilient urban economies: Cities as drivers of growth and recovery. This year's World Habitat Day aims to convene various city

stakeholders to discuss the ways in which cities can be primed for recovery following the economic shocks of COVID-19 and conflicts by:

Broaching the different dimensions of economic slowdown that cities are currently experiencing and identifying actions that cities can take to boost economic recovery.

Sharing experiences among different cities on how they are positioning themselves to tackle inflationary pressures and other tight global financial conditions.

WORLD FOOD DAY – OCTOBER 16

World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on October 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with hunger and food security.

Water is essential to life on Earth. It makes up over 50% of our bodies and covers about 71% of the Earth's surface. Only 2.5% of water is fresh, suitable for drinking, agriculture, and most industrial uses. Water is a driving force for people, economies and nature and the foundation of our food. Indeed, agriculture accounts for 72% of global freshwater withdrawals, but like all natural resources, fresh water is not infinite.

Rapid population growth, urbanization, economic development, and climate change are putting the planet's water resources under increasing stress. At the same time, freshwater resources per person have declined 20% in the past decades and water availability and quality are deteriorating fast due to decades of poor use and management, over extraction of groundwater, pollution and climate change. We risk stretching this precious resource to a point of no return.

Today, 2.4 billion people live in water-stressed countries. Many are smallholder farmers who already struggle to meet their daily needs, particularly women, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, and refugees. Competition for this priceless resource is increasing as water scarcity becomes an ever-increasing cause of conflict.

Around 600 million people who depend, at least partially, on aquatic food systems for a living are suffering the effects of pollution, ecosystem degradation, unsustainable practices and climate change. Collective action across 150 countries worldwide, in up to 50 languages, is what makes World Food Day one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. Hundreds of events and outreach activities bring together governments, municipalities, businesses, CSOs, the media, the public, even youth. They promote worldwide awareness of hunger and promote action for the future of food, people and the planet.



What can you do to help?

Things to Do...

- ☑ Use both sides of paper!
- ☑ Carry a reusable water bottle
- ☑ Grow a plant
- ☑ Volunteer for a cleanup drive
- ☑ Switch off all lights when not in use!

COLOUR ME!



Ajman Hosts 'Sustainable Green Tourism And Investment' Workshop

The Department of Tourism Development in Ajman (ADTD) concluded the "Sustainable Green Tourism and Investment" workshop on September 27, bringing together strategic partners and experts from the tourism and environmental sectors.

The workshop aimed to bolster the role of tourism in fostering sustainable green



investment, uniting stakeholders from various sectors, including strategic partners, hotels, tourism establishments, and department employees. Participants explored key themes within the global tourism industry, including the 2023 global tourism objectives and strategies, and the environmental impact of tourism.

Discussions also delved into the adoption of sustainable practices, the concept of "green investments" directed toward sustainable tourism development, and the importance of aligning tourism with the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

The workshop reviewed green investment opportunities within the tourism sector and their associated regulations, accompanied by successful examples of sustainable tourism projects. Emphasis was placed on promoting sustainable travel methods, eco-friendly transportation, and the utilisation of renewable resources within the tourism industry.

Mahmood Khaleel Alhashmi, Director-General of the Department of Tourism Development in Ajman, stressed the need to strike a balance between sustainable development and the preservation of natural and cultural assets in light of the rapid growth in Ajman's tourism sector.

The Ajman Tourism Development Department is actively addressing this challenge, implementing proactive measures to raise awareness in cooperation with relevant partners. Ajman Tourism is committed to advancing green and sustainable tourism, and in transforming Ajman into a sustainable and innovative tourist destination that harmonizes environmental preservation and its rich cultural heritage.

Thieving and looting during armed conflicts - are these environment-related?

When the African Sahel was hit hard by drought and desertification in the early 1980's, farmers and pastoralists in Western Sudan were devastated by food shortages that led to severe hunger and mass mortality of their animals. They had to move, with no financial or material possessions in hand, to the capital Khartoum and other bigger cities. While local and international aid organizations provided food, water and temporary shelter, the official response was quite inadequate.





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

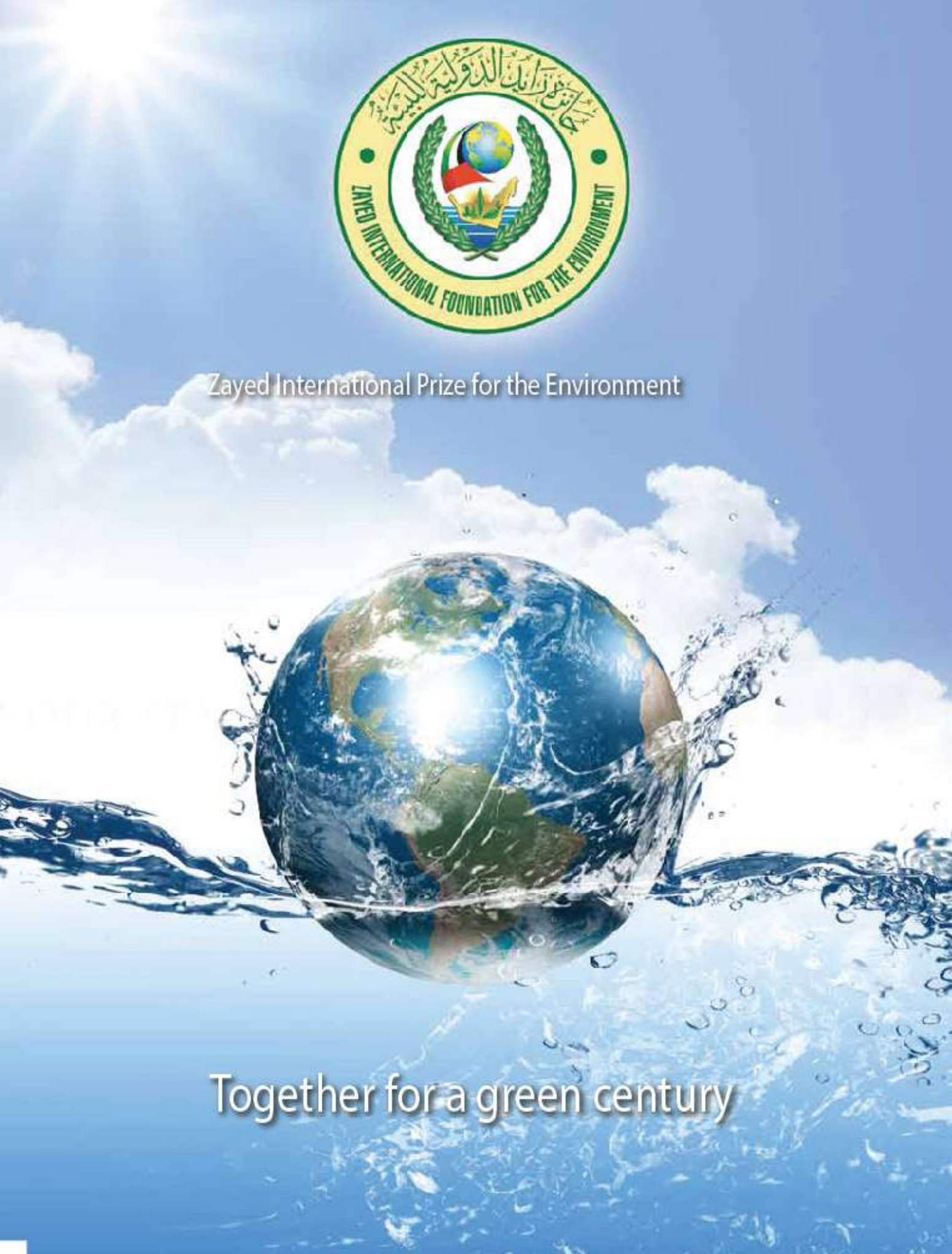
Since then, Khartoum and other major cities have been surrounded by poverty belts populated by migrants settled in slums. They work as cheap labor and sell traditional food and artifacts. Many have turned to illegal activities such as robbery, shoplifting, and more. The stark socioeconomic challenges have led generations of marginalized and deprived children and youth to take up such heinous activities as around them, in the city, children and youth attend school and colleges, live in fancy houses and drive big cars. Some have also endured the punishment of having their hands cut off under stringent laws announced in 1983, further instilling intense hatred amongst the communities.

More people moved into Khartoum seeking jobs, good education and healthcare as the government paid no attention to developing rural areas. Hence, the capital city was overcrowded, and poor urban planning, inadequate infrastructure and inefficient municipal services aggravated the problem.

Political instability also weakened the police and security forces, and corruption was rampant. The marginalized youth formed gangs and robbed homes and pickpocketed mobiles and purses on the street. Having lost faith in the police, the residents often mercilessly beat up the miscreants who were caught in the act.

When the war broke out in Khartoum, the city's residents were forced to flee the shelling, leaving their houses and vehicles behind. The people who lived in the poverty belts seized the opportunity to move and live in the empty homes while many loaded all the home appliances and furniture onto trucks to their impoverished residential areas far away.

Environmental degradation, political instability and exploitation can thus be both a cause and a consequence of armed conflicts and criminal practices.


ZAYED INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Zayed International Prize for the Environment
Together for a green century

THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD IS IN OUR HANDS.

ACT NOW!



مؤسسة زايد الدولية للبيئة

Zayed International Foundation for the Environment