



# COP28 UAE

## OUR THEMATIC PROGRAM

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**From November 30 to December 12, 2023, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai.**

COP28 will be a milestone moment for global climate action. The COP28 Presidency's two-week thematic program is geared towards responding to the Global Stocktake and closing the gaps to 2030.

The Presidency has tried to take an inclusive approach to developing the thematic program, as the first Presidency to hold an open consultation on thematic areas and sequencing, inviting inputs from a broad mix of stakeholders across government, business, civil society, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, among others.

Together they have helped to highlight the most pressing action areas for COP28 to progress, and the importance of their interconnectedness.

The program reflects the sectors and topics raised by stakeholders during consultations, including new actions areas like health, trade and relief, recovery, and peace. The thematic days programming also incorporates four cross-cutting themes that underpin effective, interconnected delivery: Technology & Innovation, Inclusion, Frontline Communities and Finance.



# COP28 UAE

## OUR PLAN OF ACTION

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The COP28 Presidency has set out a plan of action, focused on matching the highest ambition for negotiated outcomes, with a robust action agenda to implement those ambitions in the real world.

The Presidency has called on governments and key climate stakeholders to take action in four areas:

- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030
- Transforming climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance
- Putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action
- Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP ever

# TWO WEEK SCHEDULE

**Nov 30**  Opening

**Dec 1**  World Climate Action Summit

**Dec 2**  World Climate Action Summit

**Dec 3**  Health / Relief, Recovery and Peace

**Dec 4**  Finance / Trade / Gender Equality / Accountability

**Dec 5**  Energy, Industry, and Just Transition

**Dec 6**  Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment/Transport

**Dec 7**  Rest

**Dec 8**  Youth, Children, Education and Skills

**Dec 9**  Nature, Land Use, and Oceans

**Dec 10**  Food, Agriculture and Water

**Dec 11-12**  Final Negotiations

## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Technology and innovation	
Inclusion	
Frontline communities	
Finance	



Dec  
1-2

## WORLD CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

The World Climate Action Summit welcomes heads of state and government alongside leaders from civil society, business, youth, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, frontline communities, science, and other sectors and groups to evidence progress and forward-looking policy and investment across all pillars of the Paris Agreement. The summit is intended to provide momentum and guidance to the remainder of the COP and will feature sector-specific segments with diverse representation alongside leader-level statements.

Dec  
3

## HEALTH / RELIEF, RECOVERY AND PEACE

These two themes - new for COPs - bring a human perspective to climate impacts and aim to boost investment and incentivize policy that protects lives and livelihoods and supports community resilience and stability.

- Health Day will host the first climate-health ministerial to build consensus on priority actions for the health system's response to climate change, paired with financing commitments for implementation.
- Relief, Recovery, and Peace Day will focus on accelerating adaptation and preventing and addressing loss and damage, including in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, that face considerable barriers to accessing climate finance and strengthening climate action.



Dec  
4

## FINANCE / TRADE / GENDER EQUALITY / ACCOUNTABILITY

Finance and trade systems require drastic and rapid change if the world is to meet its climate goals. This day will focus on scale, access, and affordability through macro-level reform of the international financial architecture, sustainable finance market development, and strengthening voluntary carbon markets - with an over-arching goal to leverage private sector finance and improve equity.

COP28 will also introduce the role of trade to COPs for climate-smart, equitable growth, including supply chain decarbonization, transition, and resilience.

Gender Equality Day will focus on how gender-responsive policy-making and better access to finance are central to achieving a Gender-Just Transition that advances gender equality and allows for the full and meaningful participation of women and girls in climate action.

In light of the global focus on private sector engagement, commitments, and finance, the program will additionally examine accountability mechanisms that help to turn promises and ambition into tangible results.

An aerial photograph of a white wind turbine standing in a lush green field. The turbine's shadow is cast long and dark on the ground to the right. The field is divided into sections by a dirt path or road.

**Dec  
5**

## **ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND JUST TRANSITION**

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This day will focus on levers and pathways for rapid decarbonization and just transition across the full energy and industrial value chains, accelerating economic and job growth.

The package of outcomes will include massive deployment of renewable energy, greater energy efficiency, innovation and action for heavy-emitting sectors (including steel, cement, and aluminum), unlocking the potential of hydrogen, and decarbonization of oil and gas supplies, including through methane abatement and carbon management technologies. Outcomes will also address universal energy access and the needs of energy workers.

The day will additionally have a special focus on cooling as a critical mitigation and adaptation factor.



Dec  
6

## MULTILEVEL ACTION, URBANIZATION AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT / TRANSPORT

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COP28 will feature a historic presence of local leaders, including mayors, governors, parliamentarians, business, and civil society leaders, united to accelerate climate action across all levels of government and society.

The day will also highlight solutions to transition to low-carbon and resilient built environments and infrastructure, sustainable and circular waste systems, and - through the interlinked transport pillar - more people-and-planet-friendly modes of mobility and freight. The day will particularly look at action in urban areas, where population growth, economic activity and greenhouse gas emissions converge.

Dec  
7

## DAY OF REST

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COPs traditionally incorporate a 'day of rest' in the middle of the program for participants to reflect and recharge ahead of the second week.

The presidency will not run programming on this day.



Dec  
8

## YOUTH, CHILDREN, EDUCATION, AND SKILLS

This day seeks to empower young people to shape the outcomes of COP28 and beyond, looking at equitable representation, stronger engagement mechanisms, and resource allocation across the COP themes and policy tracks.

Building on youth galvanization of the climate movement, the day aims to position young people to thrive in a green future while addressing climate change, particularly in light of disproportionate risks and impacts for children and youth.

Focuses will include investment in youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship; capacity-building, skills training, and green jobs aligned with climate action; inclusion in policymaking processes; and transforming education to achieve climate ambitions.



An aerial satellite-style photograph of a tropical cyclone, showing a distinct eye and spiral cloud structure over a dark blue ocean. The image is partially obscured by a teal gradient on the right side of the page.

Dec  
9

## NATURE, LAND USE, AND OCEANS

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Nature, Land Use, and oceans are integral to achieving all the Paris Agreement's goals, and recent adoption of the 30 x 30 biodiversity goal creates an imperative for integrated policy and investment for climate and nature.

COP28 will focus on delivering climate and nature co-benefits through a range of financing mechanisms and packages, co-designed with local and Indigenous Peoples, to sustainably manage and conserve natural carbon sinks and biodiversity hotspots.

It will also seek to accelerate private sector commitments to nature-positive accountability frameworks.



**Dec  
10**

## **FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND WATER**

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Climate change is creating severe pressure and risks for the agri-food and water systems that underpin human wellbeing. At the same time, these systems are also key contributors to climate change: one third of all human-made GHG emissions derive from agri-food systems, and some 70% of all fresh water consumed worldwide is used for agricultural production.

Specific food and agriculture focuses include innovation investment, procurement around regenerative agriculture, and national transformation pathways, underpinned by financing mechanisms and project preparation. Water programming will also look at freshwater restoration and conservation, infrastructure for urban water resilience, and integrated governance and management of water-food systems.

**Dec  
11-12**

## **FINAL NEGOTIATIONS**

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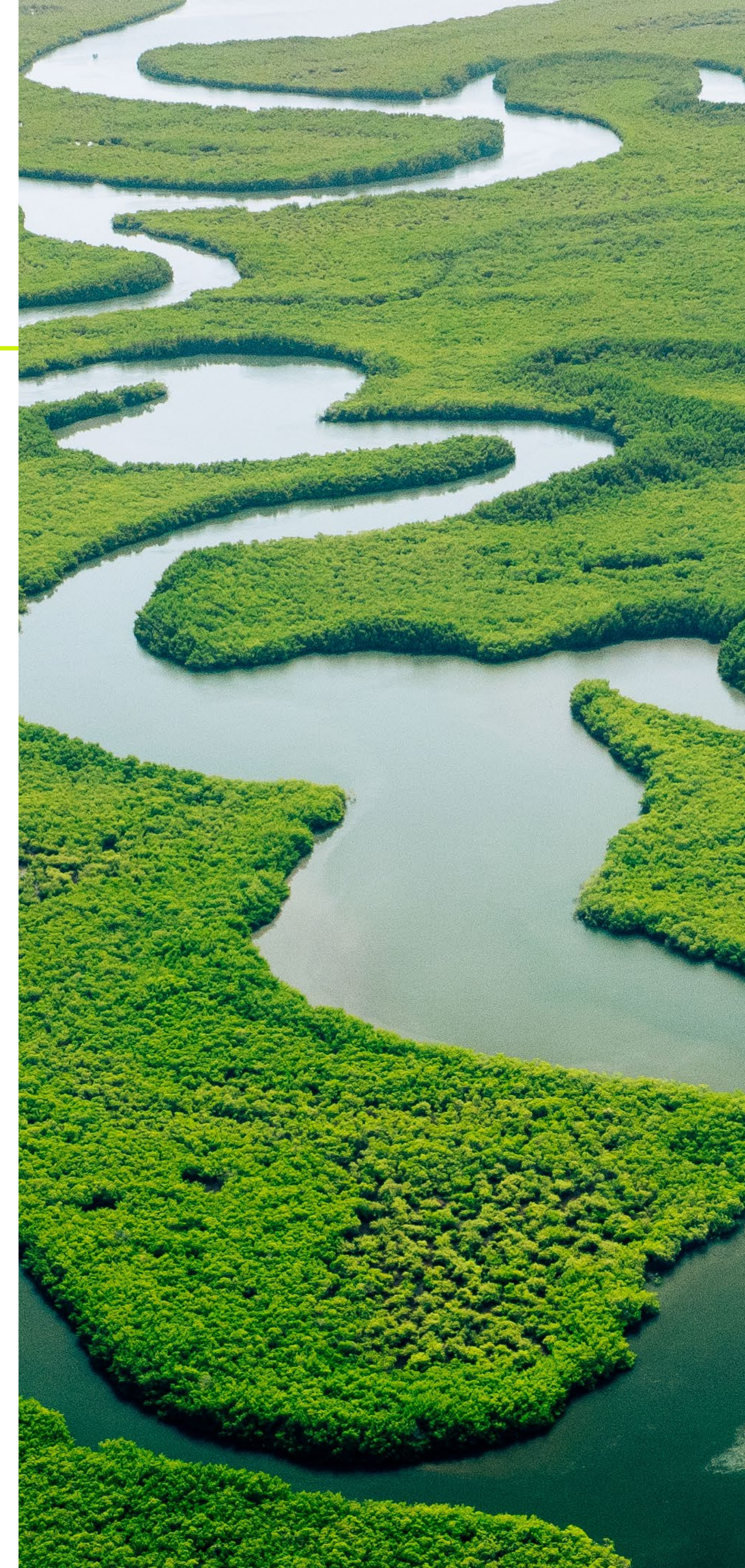
On the final two days of COP28, we have opted for no thematic days to avoid extensive programming when the negotiation text is often being closed.

This decision was informed by widespread feedback received from stakeholders.

# OUR SEQUENCING AND THEMES

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- The COP28 Presidency's thematic days and sequencing aims to address the pillars of the Paris Agreement through 'real world' sectors within the climate nexus where multiple pillars typically apply.
- On the final two days of COP28 UAE, we have opted for no thematic days to avoid extensive programming when the negotiation text is often being closed.
- Shared thematic days are not 'half days' and while there will be a focus on the nexus between topics, this will not result in reduced programming for the theme.
- Each day of programming incorporates four cross-cutting themes that underpin effective, interconnected delivery. These are:
  - ▶ Technology & Innovation
  - ▶ Inclusion
  - ▶ Frontline Communities
  - ▶ Finance
- Programming across the two-week program will explicitly include these dimensions in content and speakers.



# OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

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The COP28 thematic program results from a six-week public consultation process to receive inputs on the draft program released by the Presidency in May 2023.

We are grateful for the over 600 submissions we received from observers, Parties, and other stakeholders, as well as guidance from the Marrakech Partnership, UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, UNFCCC Secretariat, and UNFCCC observer constituencies.

Given the many contrasting perspectives on themes and sequencing, not all comments were able to be reflected in the final program, however where possible, feedback has informed our approach to operationalizing it.



# OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

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The six most frequent inputs were:

- Moving finance earlier in the program, to set the tone on increasing all available sources, particularly for implementation of climate action in developing countries and vulnerable communities.
  - Including content on energy, industry, cities, regions, the built environment, and transport in a cluster, so that participants can hold interlinked events across two days.
  - Similarly, maintaining the cluster of nature, land use, oceans, water, food, and agriculture for thematic synergies.
  - Ensuring that the presidency's four proposed cross-cutting themes (especially on leadership and participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and frontline communities, among other groups) are realized.
  - Either questioning or commending the presidency's proposal to link finance and gender equality.
  - Explicitly recognizing agriculture alongside food and water.
- *Given the high volume of environment and climate ministers who will be at COP during the second week, the Nature, Land Use, and Oceans Day and the Food, Agriculture, and Water Day have been moved to 9th and 10th December, respectively, and will be a major focus of attendance and programming.*
- *The Presidency and High-Level Champions will also design the World Climate Action Summit to feature thematic topics across both weeks, so that they benefit from leader-level consideration.*