

COP28 Opening Ceremony

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Agenda Item	
Date	30. November 2023
Time	14:00 UAE Time
Chair(s)	COP27 President, incoming COP28 President
Dynamic	<i>Watching from the webcast, it feels as though most at this COP are trying – but occasionally struggling – to be trusting the resolve of the host country – the elephant in the room being – widely held expectations of wording explicitly addressing the contested role of fossil fuels.</i>
Key outcomes of session/Progress achieved during session	• COP28 President elected • COP scene setting and priorities outlined • Memory of Saleemul Huq and Pete Betts honored • UNFCCC transparency decisions • IPCC message toward AR7
	Stream recording

Outgoing COP27 President

- A moment of silence for Saleem and Pete and the victims in the conflict in Gaza
 - We also need a frank assessment of where we stand (on mitigation)
 - Aligning financial flows currently theoretical only
 - Actually, climate finance is decreasing when seen compared to the needs
 - Expansion of ff exploration and production in particular on coal – in countries that previously committed to phase down – is worrying
 - Many worrying signs we need to take seriously, eroding trust and our ability of achieving paris goals
- Outcomes in Sharm take us a step further
Worrying signs need to be addressed for us to stay on right side of history

Election of COP28 President (formality) – Al Jaber – elected by acclamation

COP28 president (in Arabic) Welcome to UAE, the country of giving and sustainability
Excellencies (continuing in English) ... it is an honor...

- A decision on an ambitious GST
 - A chance to unite three core elements of climate agenda
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
 - Means of implementation
- Under one Umbrella, giving clear direction
- Agree here to practical action ...
 - I pledge to enable a transparent free and open discussion
 - Ask to adopt a different way of thinking and to be flexible
 - Ensure this COP delivers the most ambitious GST possible
 - Let's work efficiently, agree on the agenda and move to text quickly, please!
- Applause
- We have no time to waste, believe the UAE embodies spirit of COP28

- UAE a young country, national rose up from desert through the vision of late founding father and conviction and aspiration passed on through following generation
- Partnership, determination and commitment – core values of trust, purpose and pragmatism must define COP28
- Essential that no issue is left off the table (comment MH: this appears to be the President's strategy for getting Parties to agree to the Agenda: signal that all issues are seen and giving airtime to all the topics that have been requested to be added to the agenda):
 - Fossil fuels – we do have no choice but to go the very unconventional way,
 - ask all to work together, be flexible, come forward with solutions
 - never lose sight of our north star 1.5 (C) [applause] because that is what I am going to be laser focused on.
 - Key factor of SD agenda is Finance; too long not been available or affordable; this President is committed to unlocking finance so no longer a choice between development and climate action. Let this be the year that climate finance meets magnitude of the moment,
 - where we deliver on promises of 100bn on loss and damage, know how important to the most vulnerable, what Sharm began must now be delivered and actioned here in Dubai.
 - Allow me here to pause for a moment of dear friend Saleemul Huq – dedicated to loss and damage – imperative to shift focus to needs of adaptation
 - adaptation must be at heart of our action, we must bridge the finance gap and agree on robust framework for global goal [on adaptation], face issues critical to adaptation water food agri and health: why I'm proud that COP is first to hold a climate-health ministerial.
 - I want this COP to maximise momentum on mitigation; 85% economy behind tripling renewable capacity by 2030, on path to double energy efficiency
 - The way to address unabated coal,
 - Next round of NDCs, zeroing out Methane emissions, huge impact in shortest timeframe
 - Let history reflect that this Presidency made bold choice to proactively engage with Oil and Gas companies; had many hard discussions; wasn't easy, but today many of them are committing to zero methane emissions by 2030 for the first time
 - Many national oil companies have adopted net-zero 2045 targets for the first time (need to factcheck the years)
 - Let me say it is not enough and they can do much more, can lead the way and this will ensure others follow
 - Engaging with other high emitting sectors
 - Heavy transport
 - Steel
 - Cement
 - All in effort to accelerate decarbonization at scale
 - Calling on all industries to accelerate and invest in clean tech
- Next two weeks not easy, not only about negotiating text, but improving lives, people, all want the same, clean air, water, food, safe and secure future; is that too much to ask?
- We understand gravity of situation, all respect the science
- Bring everyone on board with us, must apply a positive can do vision
- To get GST decision with highest ambition
- Translate negotiated outcomes into real results in real world
- Must use these two weeks wisely, no non-sense approach; restore faith in multilateralism and deliver good news

- Friends, I'll be right there – at your side – every step of the way, roll up my sleeves, let's make that difference together
- Unite, act and deliver.

Continuing with

Simon Stiel (UNFCCC Exec Sec)

- Thank Egypt
- Parable of world and climate action like an unstable and vulnerable child
- if we do not signal the terminal decline of fossil era, we choose our own terminal decline and to pay with lives
- if transition is not just, we do not transition at all
- our vision for next two years:
 - in 2024 submit transparency reports and face new finance goal
 - must deliver new NDCs – please start to work on them now
 - in 2025 – COP30 –
 - my son: “I’m trying to try” (going homework) – simply not enough for us to be trying to try
 - not his generations responsibility, we are indebted to young people – looking to us to take the responsibility
 - let us be transparent in the actions and decisions we take
- UNFCCC has reformed the badging process and took decision:
 - Every participant is publicly listed
 - Whole world will hold us to account of our actions
 - Yoda would say: do or do not – there is no try (referencing a climate action newspaper add featuring world leaders in star wars theme before COP17 (I think?))
 - Initiative of UNFCCC secretariat tracking all announcements made
 - UNFCCC is here as the impartial facilitator
 - behind every word, comma you wrestle with: there are humans that depend on them
 - accelerate climate action, teach it to run!

Jim Skea (new IPCC chair)

- without deep reductions across all sectors we will not meet the Paris goals
- UNEP says we are headed to 3°C
- Some good signs of action, helped bend the rising trend..
- Price declines of renewables
- Actions can be taken right now, need to be scaled etc.
- IPCC AR7 – program of work for rest of decade to be decided in two months
 - Science
 - And in inclusive manner
- Science no substitute for action

Interventions

GROUP/ COUNTRY	NAME (IF POSSIBLE)	INTERVENTION
EU, UK, Bangladesh		Taking turns in honoring the memory and legacy of Saleemul Huq and Pete Betts

