



Climate Change **Conference of People**

In the context of COP-28, Dubai
30th November – 12th December, 2023

Synthesis **Day 3**

- ▶ On December, 2, 2023, cats are coming out of the bag. **More than 20 nations including the United States called for a tripling of nuclear energy to drive down emissions**

Tripling nuclear energy capacity has been announced as a goal by 20 nations, including all the developed countries, whose historical role in carbon emissions and global warming has been established. Yesterday, 118 nations pledged to triple renewable energy capacity. There are now two camps, on energy solutions, outside the negotiating rooms but within the COP negotiations, at COP28 in Dubai. India did not sign the pledge on renewable energy. But, in a conference at Gandhinagar, yesterday, Sri. R. K. Singh¹, Union Minister for Power announced India's intention to increase nuclear energy capacity from 7000 MW to 15,000 MW, and to 100 GW, citing that with storage capacity issues renewable energy is becoming an expensive option and coal phaseout cannot be immediate. He tried to justify continued dependence of coal citing low per capita emissions and advanced technological efforts taken to control emissions. Ultimately, citing various reasons, all major fossil fuel dependent economies are giving out a message that carbon emission reduction will be done through nuclear energy. This will mean in my view transitioning from devil to deep sea.

- ▶ A first-of-its-kind nuclear energy summit, is to be held in Brussels in March 2024 to highlight the role of nuclear energy in addressing the global challenges to reduce the use of fossil fuels, enhance energy security and boost economic development.

For the first time, a Declaration was made linking health with climate action, with the active involvement of World Health Organisation and its principal sponsors, namely Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other Foundations. 123 countries endorsed 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health' to place health at the heart of climate action and accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable health systems.

A Ministerial of Health Ministers will be held in COP28 to deliberate further on actions and commitments. Through this Declaration and linked events, before COP28, during and after COP28, WHO is integrating actions on health, agriculture and other areas. This integration of 'actions' with grant funds from private organisations, we can expect a global programme to transform health, food and agriculture into a structure that fits into the new world order, defined by these philanthropies.

- ▶ **Bill & Melinda Gates** Foundation announced \$57.95 million towards climate and health. This includes a \$50 million investment over the coming four years to support

¹ <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/union-minister-r-k-singh-advocates-nuclear-power-amid-storage-challenges-101701518072026-amp.html>



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climate-focused malaria efforts to better understand, detect and respond to changing vector habitat and endemicity ranges, and to develop new tools and strategies to respond to climate-related changes and disruptions in the malaria response. In addition, the Foundation will contribute \$7.95 million to a Grand Challenges Request for Proposal focused on transdisciplinary approaches to better adapt to, mitigate, or reverse the combined deleterious effects of climate change on health and agriculture.

Methane Summit

The United States, People's Republic of China, and United Arab Emirates today convened a Methane Summit²:

- ▶ to accelerate actions to cut methane and other non-CO2 greenhouse gases
- ▶ **Over \$1 billion** in new grant funding for methane reduction has been mobilized since COP27 for this action
- ▶ Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Angola, Kenya, and Romania joined the Global Methane Pledge. More than 150 countries have pledged to cut their methane output 30% by 2030 (China and India have not joined)
- ▶ Global Methane Pledge Ministerial to be held on December 4
- ▶ The World Bank is expected during the two-week COP28 summit to new launch a fund, with backing from independent oil companies among others, for detection and cleanup programs in developing countries that are [major methane emitters](#), such as Turkmenistan

Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter

Fifty oil and gas companies have signed a “decarbonisation charter”. Analysts have criticised this for ignoring the emissions from fossil fuels. Representing nearly half of global production, these companies have pledged to reach near-zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in their operations by 2030.

Major national oil companies such as Saudi Aramco, Brazil's Petrobras and Sonangol, from Angola, and multi-nationals like Shell, TotalEnergies and BP were part of this.

However, on the other hand, 10 countries and 2,234 CSOs signed call for fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. Significantly, **Colombia, a major fossil fuel producer, [has formally joined this alliance of nations](#) calling for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty to prevent the “omnicide of planet Earth”.**

Announcements

² <https://www.state.gov/accelerating-fast-mitigation-summit-on-methane-and-non-co2-greenhouse-gases/>



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- ▶ 118 countries have agreed to triple installed global renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts and to double the annual global average rate of energy efficiency improvements from ~2 percent to more than 4 percent every year until 2030 (India is not in this list)
- ▶ United States is joining the Powering Past Coal Alliance. US will work with partners around the world to phase out unabated coal
- ▶ US announced an additional \$50 million, subject to congressional approval, for climate-related work to adapt crops and invest in fertile, healthy soils.
- ▶ United Arab Emirates announced their intention to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, to tackle HFCs.
- ▶ Governments reiterated their recent agreement to the largest ever replenishment of the Montreal Multilateral Fund with \$965 million in funding to support Kigali Amendment implementation and energy efficiency.
- ▶ Governments welcomed the imminent launch of the Global Cooling Pledge, to reduce global cooling-related emissions by 2030.

Vignettes from various participants

- ▶ The flurry of announcements coming out of COP28 are largely to be welcomed. It's good to see countries, & companies, taking voluntary action to cut emissions, boost renewables & deliver more climate finance. But, we need to remember COP28 is not a trade show & a press conference. It's an international negotiation & that is still the most important part. (Mohammad Adow)
- ▶ Sadhguru says soil is ultimate unifier, stresses on revitalisation policies
- ▶ For the Global good, it is important that the rights of everyone are protected, and everyone has equal participation: PM Modi
- ▶ Developed countries should completely reduce carbon foot print by 2050: Modi

Side Events

- ▶ At least 14 side events were held involving business, technology and entrepreneurship, as part of World Climate Action Summit
- ▶ CEO-level Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum (BPCF) met for the Private Sector, to expedite climate and nature action.
- ▶ Technology for Climate: Meeting on AI involving Google and Microsoft, to harness AI to confront environmental challenges and drive sustainability
- ▶ The Green Zone Day Pass not available for first three days, from 30 November to 2 December. During this time, access to the Green Zone is by invitation-only.

For clarifications

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This the 3rd update of COP28 happenings, and will be continued every day, until 13th December, 2023. It is not a mere reporting, but will increasingly include an effort to dissect, synthesis and link the COP28 happenings with our environment and India.

Council for Earth Leadership and Sustainability (CELS), an offshoot of Council for Green Revolution, in collaboration with a host of organisations, is organising an everyday synthesis, both in text and video. You can join the review at: <https://bit.ly/3U9KXn7>

Review Video recording link: <https://youtu.be/llZzOjPbqpE>