



# COUNCIL FOR GREEN REVOLUTION

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Regd. No: 443/2010

## Climate Change

**Conference of People**, in the context of COP-28, Dubai  
30<sup>th</sup> November – 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

### **Synthesis**

#### **Day 1**

On 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, COP28 conference was opened through a plenary in the afternoon. This is happening in Dubai, organised by the United Arab Emirates, along with the UNFCCC Secretariat. Next two days, Friday and Saturday, will be the World Leaders Summit, wherein participation is expected from more than 160 Heads of State or Government leaders.

For the first time, as per COP28 President, Mr.Sultan Al Jaber, a decision was taken on the first day of COP. It has been decided to operationalise the “Loss and Damage” Fund, with several countries pledging their financial commitments, including USA, UK, UAE, Japan and Germany. A draft of this agreement on Loss and Damage was circulated a few days ago. This draft was approved on day 1 of the COP28.

Another significant achievement being projected by the COP28 President was the compromise arrived on freezing all new proposals to the agenda of the COP. Usually there is a lot of push on this. In COP27 there was a lot of bickering over inclusion of Loss and Damage. Only when the African countries threatened to boycott COP27, this was included in the agenda. Later, it was included in the cover decision, after extension of COP27 deliberations beyond the scheduled period.

Nevertheless, Kyrgyzstan proposed dialogue on mountain regions, which are affected by climate change and destructive development. This proposal was backed by Bhutan, which referred to the landslides and other disasters being faced by them. I felt India should have joined because India also has Himalayan ranges, Vindhya ranges, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and hills in the North East. Recent devastating disasters in Himalayas (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand including) remind us of this need. Just like oceans, mountains have a key role to play in nature.

Russia raised objections on inclusion of two organisations from the USA, in the list of Observers/ Civil society organisations approved in the plenary. According to the Russian delegate, these two are directly funded by the US government and cannot be called CSOs. John Kerry, US Representative, countered this by saying the list approved has passed through UNFCCC criteria. I looked at the list, There are 18 CSOs from India, out of 615 organisations approved to be sitting inside negotiation rooms as Observers.

Sri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is leading the Indian delegation and has attended this plenary. He made a statement too.





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## Vignettes from various participants

- UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell: "If we do not signal the terminal decline of the fossil fuel sector as we know it, we signal our own terminal decline and we pay with people's lives."
- Several oil and gas companies have committed to become net zero — or carbon neutral — by 2050, the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) President-Designate Sultan Al Jaber said
- Investment is the only way forward to deal with climate change – Seema Javed
- The United States and China — “aligned” toward climate action and reducing methane emissions – COP28 President claims as achievement
- COP27 President Sameh Shoukry: ... that the private sector is the silver bullet that will unlock flows of appropriate finance to developing countries, these are all mere assumptions with no evident proof in reality
- Inger Andersen, of UNEP, “This year [#ClimateChange](#) has become even more disruptive & deadly. The wake up call from nature is loud and clear. We must reverse our addiction to fossil fuels, increase adaptation actions & get finance flowing. [@COP28\\_UAE](#) is our moment to course correct.”
- US pledge of \$17.5 billion is 0.00003% of the cost of climate-related disasters in US

## New areas of concern

- Rising tides aren't the only threat to Pacific Nations. [#ClimateChange](#) is also causing ocean acidification, but in the Pacific, monitoring is patchy.
- Obliteration of nature in Brazil: "Over 2 billion trees, up to 3.8 million monkeys and almost 90 million birds were destroyed in the Amazon during Bolsonaro's term in office"
- Farmers and People of rural areas are the worst victims of [#ClimateChange](#) while their role in carbon emission is minimum.

## New studies and Reports

- The Reserve Bank of India in its latest report has also suggested that up to 4.5 per cent of India's GDP could be at risk by 2030, owing to lost labour hours from extreme heat and humidity.
- India needs \$101bn additional financing for the net-zero pathway
- 2023 is set to be the warmest year on record (State of Climate Report)
  - Greenhouse gas levels continue to increase
  - Record sea surface temperatures and sea level rise
  - Record low Antarctic Sea ice





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## Tomorrow

There will be a World Leaders Summit in the next two days, where Presidents and Prime Ministers will speak. will include the Summit and will feature important High-Level Side Events. This includes the first ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition and continued discussions on the global stocktake.

For clarifications

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This the 1<sup>st</sup> update of COP28 happenings, and will be continued every day, until 13<sup>th</sup> 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/81087392116>

