



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT

A Guide to Climate Action in the UAE

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A Guide to Climate Action in the UAE

2023

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GLOBAL OVERVIEW

The earth's climate is changing, as evidenced by changing temperature and precipitation patterns, rising sea levels, temperatures, and acidity, melting of glaciers and polar caps, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These changes are due to a buildup of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere and the resulting warming of the planet. This phenomenon, called the greenhouse effect, is the main driver of climate change.

GHGs, measured in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), are emitted by certain industrial processes, as well as through agri practices, changes to land use, and deforestation. Because of human activity, the concentration of these GHGs has been rising in the atmosphere over the past century, leading to a strengthened greenhouse effect. Global temperatures have increased by around 1.2°C since the second half of the 19th century, causing widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, and biosphere.

The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole is unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years. Without significant decrease in CO₂ and other GHGs emissions, the global temperatures will continue to increase and will exceed 1.5°C and 2°C during this century. Concerted and strengthened action is therefore essential to limit climate change, to adapt to a changing climate, and to mitigate its impacts.

Climate change negatively affects many areas through a wide range of interlinked impacts, including increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, ocean warming, melting of polar caps, and soil degradation.

Vital infrastructure as well as transport and energy links may be disrupted due to extreme temperatures and weather events. The health sector will also be disrupted, very high temperatures are a key risk factor for people residing in hot and arid countries. Climate change may also increase the spread of vector-borne diseases and cause a rise in the incidence of respiratory problems.

Climate's impact on surface water availability and groundwater recharge directly affects water supply. Coupled with already existing water scarcity, the agricultural sector is suffering from climate change through decreased crop yields, decreased arable lands for farming of traditional plants and crops, and livestock productivity and health. Meanwhile, marine, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems are affected by increasing temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and inland intrusion of saltwater, leading to habitat loss and even extinction of species.

Measures to combat climate change are divided into human-based interventions and nature-based solutions.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called climate change the "defining

issue of our time". In recent years, the staggering impacts of climate change have manifested in more frequent, more intense extreme weather events, calling for an urgent, all-hands-on-deck climate action. This crisis can, however, also become an opportunity for the world to build a more sustainable future without

leaving anyone behind.

Climate action has also been incorporated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13. There are strong links between climate action and meeting other SDGs.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTIONS & TREATIES

Rio Declaration

The Rio Declaration on Development and Environment, an outcome of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, outlines 27 universal principles intended to guide countries in future sustainable development. The document was signed by over 179 countries and resulted in the formation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

UNFCCC

In 1992, the UN established its Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that supports the global response to the threat of climate change and has near-universal membership with 198 parties.

The UNFCCC is headed by the Executive Secretary, appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The current Executive Secretary is Simon Stiell, who assumed the post in August 2022.

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol, which entered into force in 2005, was designed to operationalize the UNFCCC by committing 37 industrialized countries to reducing GHG emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets. The Protocol only set binding targets for developed countries, since they had made the largest contribution to the high levels of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere "Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol".

Paris Agreement

In 2015, the UNFCCC adopted the landmark Paris Agreement that fixes the aim of limiting global warming well below 2°C and pursuing non-binding efforts to limit it to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. It calls on all countries to achieve climate neutrality by mid-century reducing their GHG emissions to the maximum extent possible whilst enhancing carbon

sinks to offset any residual emissions.

The ultimate objective of all three agreements under the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development.

All countries are required to submit and regularly (every 5 years) update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), setting out their climate actions to limit and reduce GHG emissions. An enhanced transparency framework seeks to ensure that all countries are acting in line with their plans. The Paris Agreement is not just about reducing emissions, it also provides for action on adaptation to the impacts of climate change and dealing with loss and damage.

A fundamental component of the treaty is the global stocktake, which is used to monitor its implementation and evaluate the collective progress made in achieving the agreed goals across three thematic areas – mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support. The outcomes of the first global stocktake will be presented at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in 2023.

Santiago Network

The Santiago Network connects vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance, knowledge, and resources they need to address climate risks comprehensively in the context of preventing, minimizing, and reversing loss and damage. Launched in 2019 at the 25th UN Climate Change Conference

in Madrid (COP25), the Network seeks to catalyze technical assistance of relevant organizations and experts in this space.

Glasgow Climate Pact

The Glasgow Climate Pact, a key outcome of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), is a non-binding arrangement that aims to turn the 2020s into a decade of climate action and support. The Pact calls on all countries to raise the ambitions of their NDCs by end-2022, in addition to phasing down unabated coal power and inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels.

Furthermore, it reaffirms the duty of developed countries to fulfill the pledge of providing US\$100 billion annually to developing nations to finance climate measures, and seeks to double investment in adaptation from 2019 levels by 2025.



Dubai - UAE

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SETUP

NDA

The National Designated Authority (NDA) is a government institution that serves as the interface between the host country and the UNFCCC. The NDA for the UAE is the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA).E).

IPCC

Launched in 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) prepares regular reports on the state of scientific, technical, and socio-economic knowledge on climate change. Scientific knowledge underpins the need for strong action on climate and provides information on what can be done to address it. The Panel's First Assessment Report (FAR), completed in 1990, served as the basis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Other important documents produced by IPCC include the global stocktake report that captures the state of GHG emissions worldwide and will be presented for the first time during the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), as well as standards on reporting emissions and classifying them according to transparency needs to avoid greenwashing (providing misleading information about positive impact on the environment).

UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP)

Held annually since 1995, the Conference of the Parties (COP) brings together the 197 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

as well as climate experts and negotiators to agree on coordinated action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC.

The global gathering reviews the national communications and emission inventories submitted by parties, and assesses their progress in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

COP Presidency

The COP presidency, and thus the venue, rotates among the five recognized UN regions:

- Africa
- Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Central Eastern Europe
- Western Europe and Others

Every year, the new host country appoints the COP President, who holds overall responsibility for the delivery of the annual conference. In the run-up to the summit, they collaborate with the UNFCCC Secretariat and the previous COP President in preparing the provisional negotiations agenda. They also work to increase climate ambition internationally and develop effective relationships with countries, institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders to achieve the necessary commitments in advance of and at COP.

COP High-Level Champion

The COP President is supported by the COP High-Level Champion, whose role is

to increase the engagement of non-state actors in assisting the Parties in delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement.

YOUNGO

Acknowledging the integral role of youth in climate action, the UNFCCC established

its Official Youth Constituency (YOUNGO) in 2009. The entity aims to mobilize the young generation in the fight against climate change and provide a platform that encourages young people to lead, join, showcase, and share innovative and effective actions.

LOCAL CONTEXT

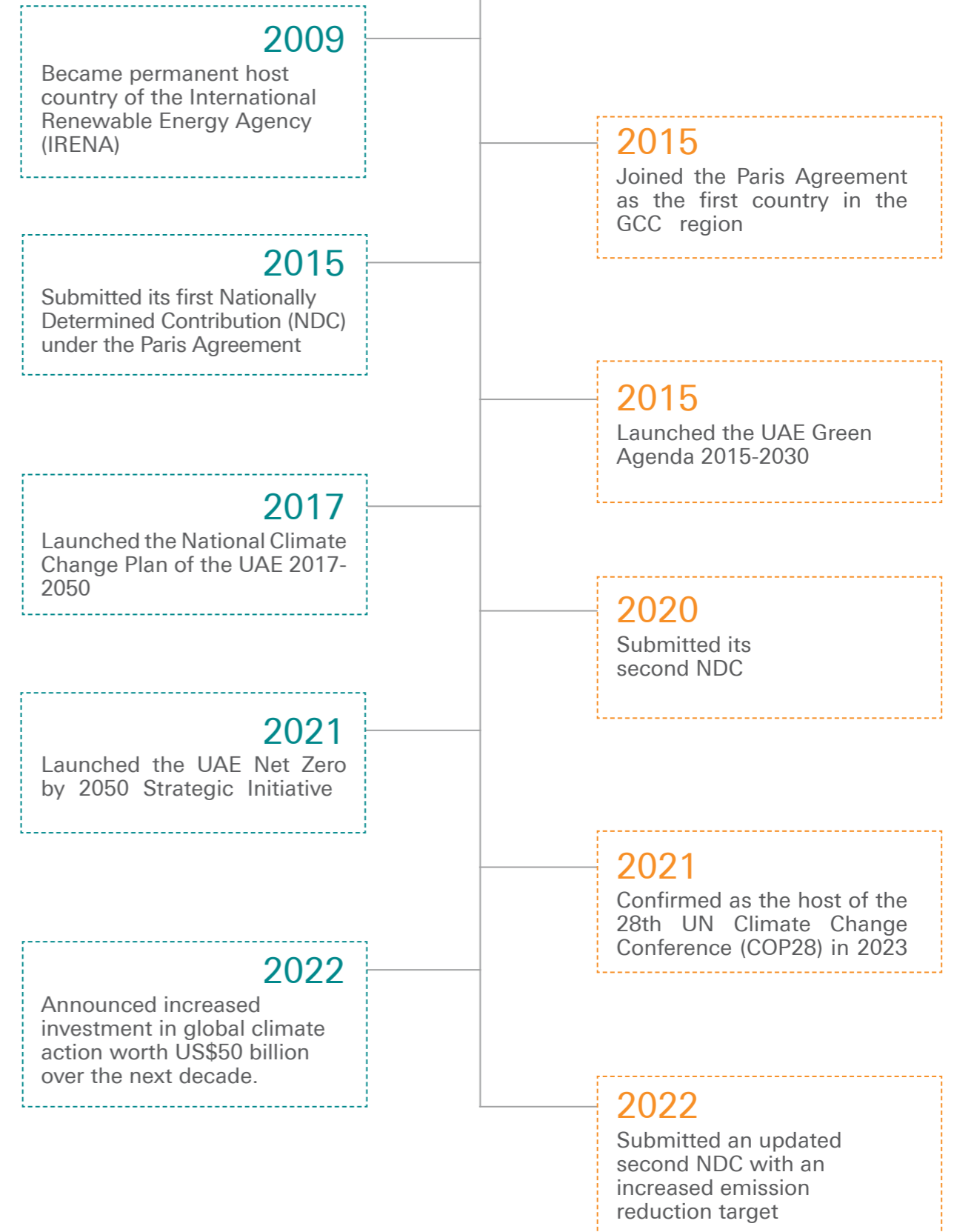
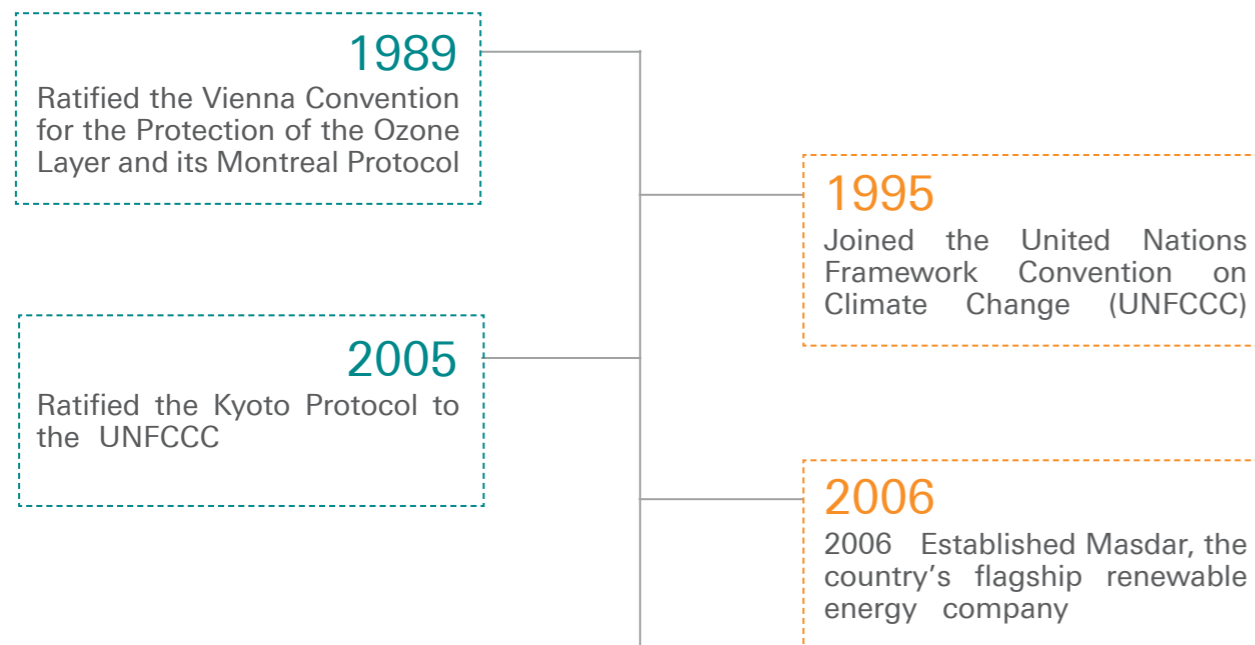
The UAE is leveraging the path to a low-carbon economy to safeguard the environment, drive down emissions, and create lasting economic opportunity. The young, inclusive country that has recently celebrated its Golden Jubilee believes partnership is the key to progress and to solving global challenges.

This approach has underpinned our commitment as a first mover in climate action. We were the first country in the region to sign and ratify the Paris

Agreement, the first to commit to an economy-wide reduction in emissions, and in October 2021, we became the first in the region to announce a Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative.

We are building on a 15-year track record of climate innovation to drive sustainable economic growth, and have leveraged our natural and technological advantages as an energy hub to create an ecosystem for climate solutions.

UAE Climate Change Journey



POLICIES AND PLANS

The UAE has adopted a dual approach to climate action – mitigating the causes of climate change, most importantly greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and enhancing the adaptive capacity of sectors to current and future impacts of climate change.

UAE Green Growth Strategy

In 2012, we launched the UAE Green Growth Strategy, a whole-of-government strategy that aims to spearhead the country's shift towards a low-carbon-intensive economy. It has six tracks – green energy, green economy, green buildings, sustainable environment, optimal resource use, and green technology.

The UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030 seeks to implement the enablement phase of the UAE Green Growth Strategy through consolidating the country's green development efforts in different sectors.

UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment

In 2016, we founded the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment that is mandated to develop and execute plans to achieve the country's environmental objectives, build synergies with the private sector, and lead scientific research in relevant fields.

National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050

The National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050 is a comprehensive framework that aims to address the causes and impacts of climate change, drive the transition to a climate-resilient green economy, and enhance quality of life.

National Climate Change Adaptation Program

Within the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, we are implementing the National Climate Change Adaptation Program that seeks to strengthen our climate resilience. As part of the program, risks across four sectors – energy, infrastructure, health, and the environment – have been assessed, and sectoral adaptation action plans are being developed.

UAE'S EFFORTS

UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative

In October 2021, the UAE announced the launch of the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative that builds on the country's three decades of climate efforts.

The UAE is the first country in the MENA region to pursue a net-zero pathway. The initiative aligns with the Paris Agreement, which calls on countries to prepare long-term strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It also reflects the Principles of the 50 – the UAE's roadmap for accelerating development to mark its Golden Jubilee year.

Viewing climate neutrality as an opportunity for growth, the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative seeks to drive economic diversification while protecting the environment. It will create new knowledge, skills, industries, and jobs to increase the UAE's competitiveness, attract investment, and make the country a better place to live, work, and visit.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are non-binding national plans highlighting climate change mitigation steps countries of the world intend to take

as a contribution to achieving the global targets set out in the Paris Agreement. These include climate-related targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction as well as policies and measures governments aim to implement in response to climate change.

In September 2022, the UAE submitted an updated version of its second NDC to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The NDC raises the economy-wide GHG emission reduction target to 31 percent compared to business as usual for the year 2030. The new target translates into an absolute emission avoidance of 93.2 million tons. The UAE plans to release its LTS and an enhanced NDC ahead of COP28, which will be underpinned by an absolute emission reduction target relative to a 2019 baseline.

The move responds to the call of the Glasgow Climate Pact for countries to strengthen the ambition of their NDCs by end-2022.

To achieve the NDC's targets, the UAE is stepping up its efforts to reduce emissions across key sectors.

The highest decrease will be through the energy sector (54 percent), followed by waste (26 percent), industry (19 percent), and transport (14 percent).

Power

The UAE has embarked on a robust clean energy transition and became a major driver of renewables deployment. Its clean power capacity, including solar and nuclear, is on track to reach 14 GW by 2030, from just above 100 MW in 2015 and 2.4 GW in 2020. To date, the country has invested more than \$40 billion in clean energy projects locally.

The country also supports clean energy projects worldwide, having invested around \$16.8 Billion in renewables ventures in 70 countries.

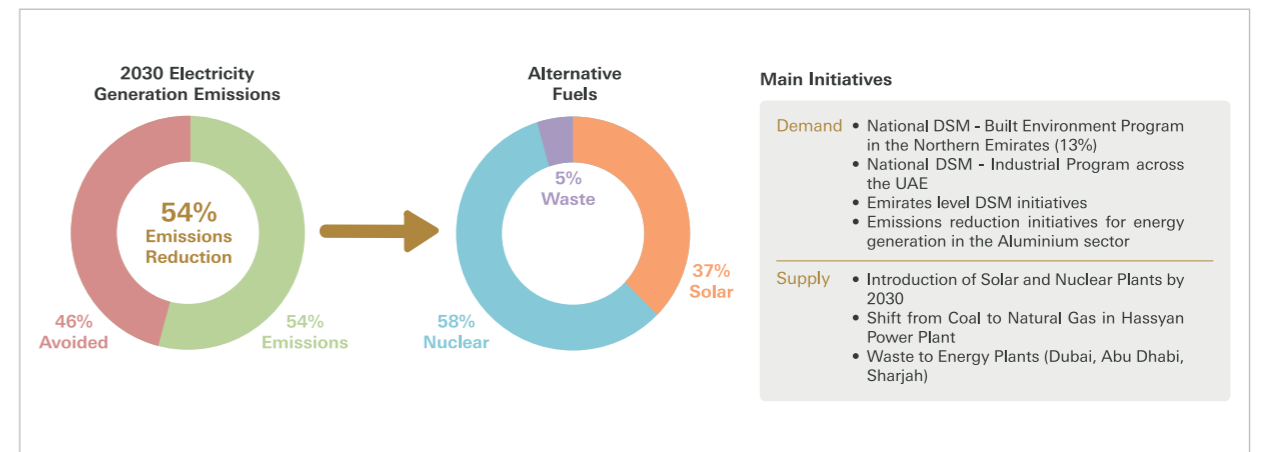
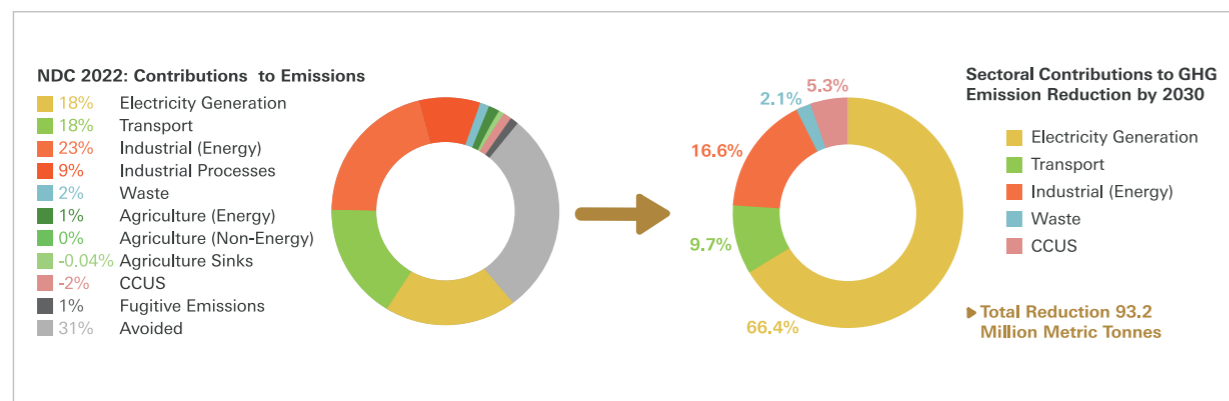
Furthermore, we have contributed \$1 Billion in aid and soft loans to support renewables ventures in 50 countries. Among others, we have launched the UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund and the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund, valued at \$50 million each. In addition, we

have joined IRENA's SIDS Lighthouses initiative that seeks to accelerate the adoption of renewables in small island developing states (SIDS). SIDS have also benefited from the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility that offers \$350 million in soft loans over seven cycles to enable developing countries to access low-cost capital for renewable energy ventures.

In 2022, the UAE pledged to invest an additional US\$50 billion by 2032 to scale up climate action through the deployment of clean energy solutions at home and abroad.

In addition, the country is home to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the international organization that assists countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future.

The UAE's updated second NDC projects a 54 percent reduction in total emissions of electricity generation activities by 2030 due to the use of clean and alternative fuels.



Renewable Energy

The UAE’s renewable energy capacity is expected to reach 9 GW by 2025. Its flagship clean energy company Masdar has made a significant contribution to the country’s renewable energy targets, expanding its renewables portfolio by 400 percent in the last 10 years.

The UAE is home to three of the largest-in-capacity and lowest-in-cost solar plants in the world. These include the 1 GW Noor Abu Dhabi, the world’s largest operational stand-alone solar plant, a 2 GW solar plant that is under development, and the 5 GW Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, set for completion in 2030.

Nuclear Power

The UAE is the first country in the Arab world to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is developing the four-reactor,

5,600 MW Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, with the first reactor launched in 2020 and the second and third in 2022. Once fully operational, the plant will supply up to 25 percent of the country’s electricity needs from a carbon-free source, saving up to 21 million tons of CO2 emissions every year – equivalent to removing 3.2 million cars from the roads.

Clean Hydrogen

The UAE is increasing investment in innovative energy sources, such as clean hydrogen.

January 2021 marked the inception of the Abu Dhabi Hydrogen Alliance that aims to establish our capital as a pioneer in green and blue hydrogen.

In May 2021, we launched the first industrial-scale solar-powered green hydrogen project in the region at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Dubai.



Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant

We are also expanding blue hydrogen production to diversify our energy mix.

In November 2021, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) announced the formation of a new joint venture focused on renewable energy and green hydrogen.

And in the same month, we launched the UAE Hydrogen Leadership Roadmap, a high-level strategy for the development of the hydrogen economy in the country that aims to position the nation as a low-cost producer and exporter of blue and green hydrogen. We are targeting a 25-percent share of low-carbon hydrogen and derivatives in key export markets by 2030.

Transport

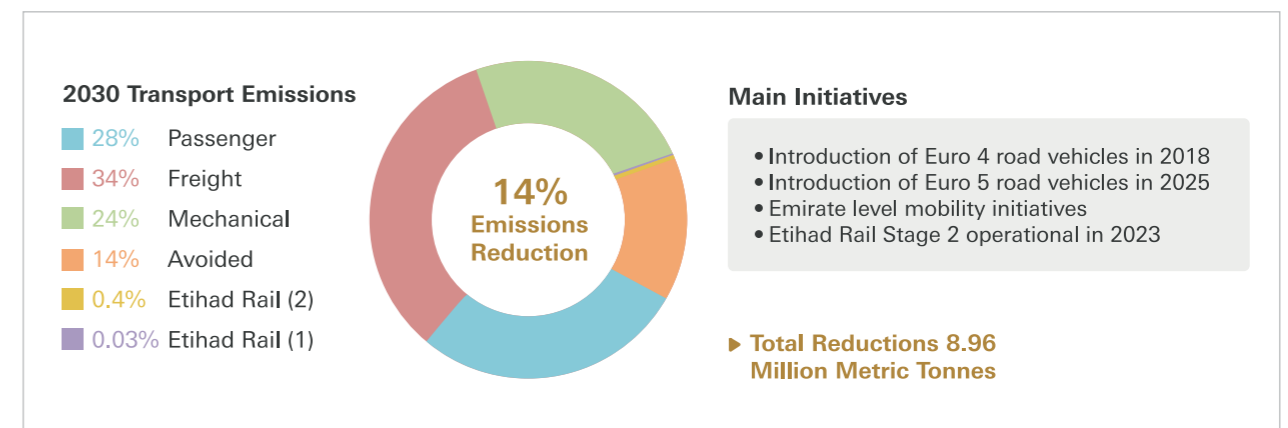
In 2015, the UAE initiated a far-reaching fuel pricing reform, linking gasoline and diesel prices to international market prices. Since then, the country has made further progress in supporting sustainable transport, and providing clean transport

infrastructure and services. During the next decade, the UAE looks to capitalize on the opportunities being presented by advances in electrification and automation of mobility.

According to the UAE’s fuel quality standards, diesel consumed in the country must comply with 10 ppm sulfur content and the latest standards (currently Euro 5).

The UAE is also committed to providing faster, cleaner, and smarter public transport options. The 1,200 km-long Etihad Rail is being built in stages, with the 264 km Stage One route operational for freight movement since January 2016, and Stage Two slated to begin operations in 2023. Further, the country has a world-class rapid transit rail system in Dubai Metro, complemented by a bus service and a short-range tram network.

The UAE updated second NDC projects a 14 percent reduction in total emissions from the transport sector by 2030.



Industry

The UAE’s key heavy industries include aluminum, iron and steel, cement, and chemicals, with each pursuing relevant green industry initiatives.

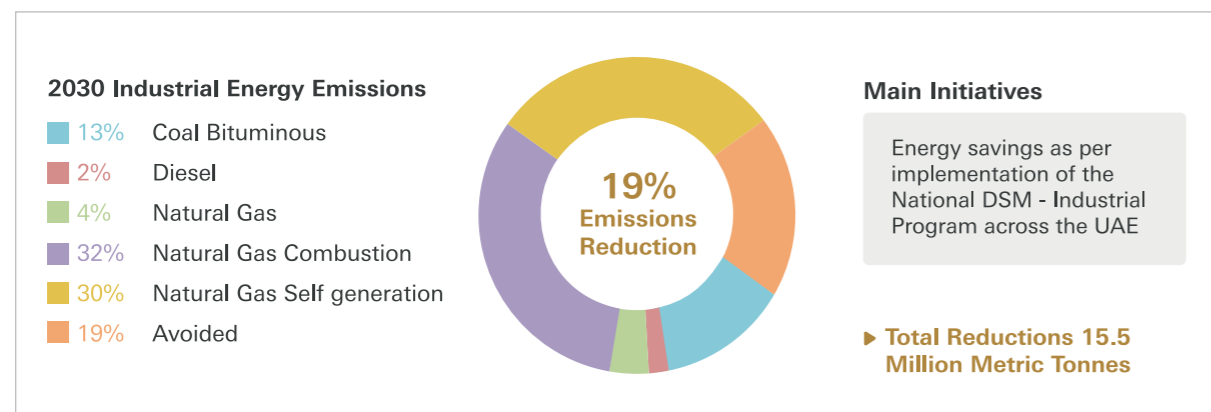
The aluminum sector, reliant on natural gas for the generation of electricity for manufacturing needs, has set emission intensity targets that cover the complete range of industrial processes: power production, smelting, and casting. The use of state-of-the-art gas turbine technology, improved maintenance of plants and equipment, and operational efficiency are yielding significant emission savings.

The cement sector, where most emissions

come from clinker production, is shifting to alternative fuels, including refuse-derived fuel (RDF), for powering furnaces and generators.

The steel industry is leveraging technology interventions to increase efficiency of energy use in reheating of steel billets, heating of metal scrap in electric arc furnaces, as well as casting. In addition, Emirates Steel has begun the implementation of a two-phase green hydrogen project, with Phase 1 scheduled for completion by 2026.

The 2022 NDC projects a 19 percent reduction in total emissions from industrial energy production by 2030.



Waste

The UAE has succeeded in drastically reducing waste generation per capita – from 1.9 kg prior to 2015 to just above 1.2 kg in 2022. The country is also taking proactive steps to increase waste management and treatment through regulation, technology, and consumer awareness. Circular economy initiatives are being rolled out to transform waste from an environmental burden into an asset with economic value. In January 2021, the UAE became the first country in

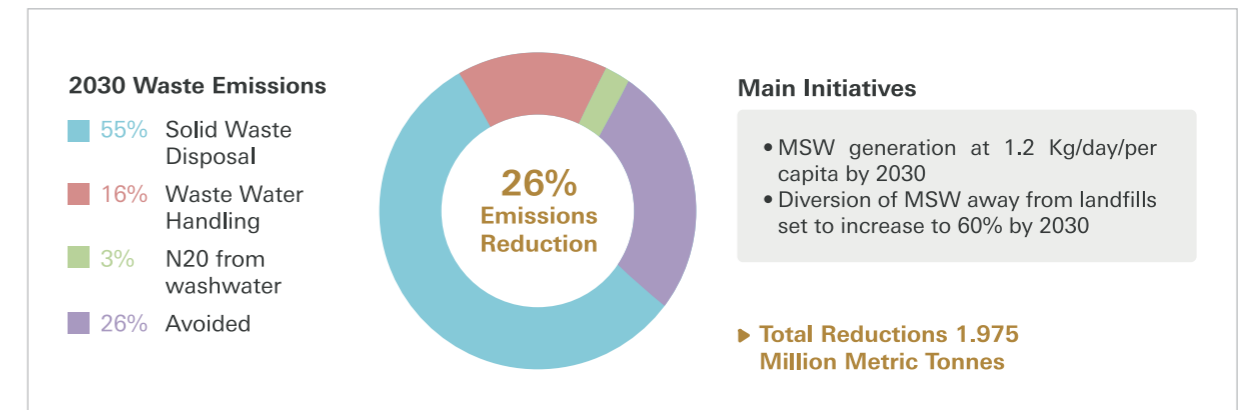
the region to launch the Circular Economy Policy 2031.

In keeping with the approach of diverting waste away from landfills and deriving value from municipal solid waste, waste-to-energy projects are in the works across the UAE. In May 2022, the Sharjah Waste-to-Energy plant was inaugurated. The facility produces 30 MW of low-carbon energy, enough to supply electricity to about 28,000 homes in the country, and provides 45 million cubic meters of natural gas each year. Moreover, the under-

development Dubai Waste Management Centre (DWMC), with the capacity to process 1.9 million tons of municipal solid waste and an installed power capacity of 200 MW, is expected to be operational by

2024.

The 2022 NDC projects a 26 percent reduction in emissions from the waste sector by 2030.

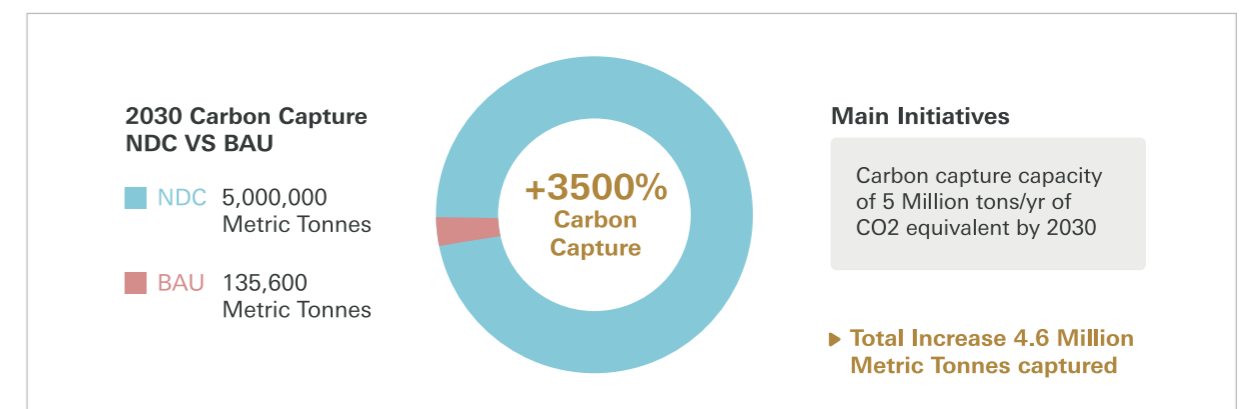


Oil & Gas

The UAE’s oil and gas sector has been at the global forefront of adopting climate-friendly industry practices, investing heavily in technologies to monitor and reduce energy-related emissions and increase energy efficiency. As a result, the carbon intensity of our Murban crude production is less than half the global industry average.

move will strengthen its position as one of the world’s least carbon-intensive oil and gas producers. The company has also developed the region’s first industrial-scale carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) network with a current installed capacity of 800,000 tons per year that will grow to five million tons per year as part of the UAE’s commitments under its 2022 NDC. CCUS technology is critical for carbon abatement and climate change mitigation. And in 2022, ADNOC became the first oil and gas producer in the world to source 100 percent of its grid power from nuclear and solar energy.

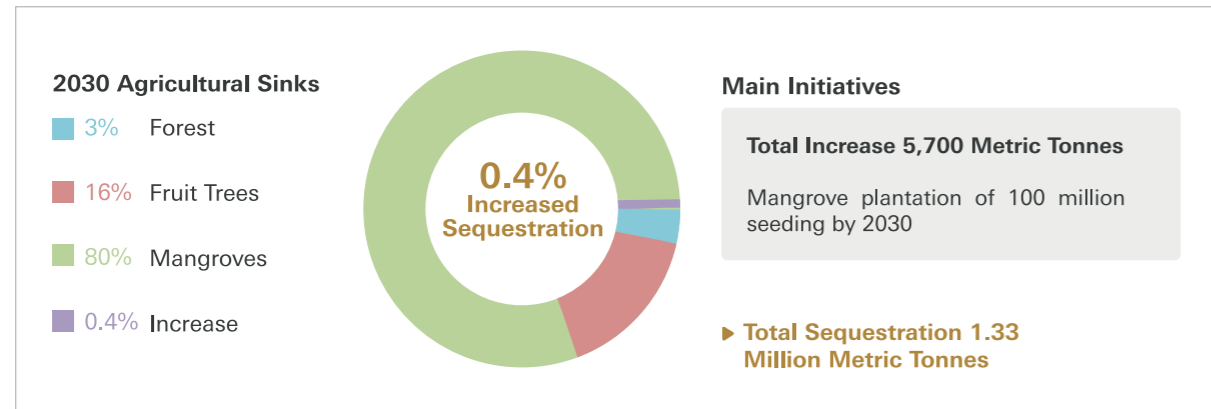
A prime example in this regard is Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) that has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2030. The



Environment

As part of its commitment to conserving coastal blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, which provide nature-based

climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits, the UAE set a target to plant an additional 100 million mangrove seedlings by 2030 as part of its 2022 NDC.



Agriculture

To address the challenges climate change poses for food systems, the country is adopting sustainable and climate-smart agricultural methods and promoting sustainable production and consumption habits. For more information, see A Guide to Food Security in the UAE.

green and sustainable investments in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, and the wider region and supports the UAE's effort to attain the SDGs.

At COP26 in November 2021, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) and Majid Al Futtaim introduced the Climate Tech Venture Capital & Incubator – the region's first impact-driven VC fund that works in a co-investment model with major regional corporations to support and scale up clean tech startups in the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Finance

Governments have the responsibility to spearhead the development of a resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and efficient green economy. However, the scale of the investment required is well beyond the capacity of the public sector alone. Therefore, we have launched the UAE Sustainable Finance Framework 2021-2031 to step up cooperation between the public and private sectors, and channel capital towards climate-resilient and environment-friendly investments.

The Dubai Declaration on Sustainable Finance and the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration commit UAE-based financial institutions to supporting the country's green economy transition through financing sustainable projects.

Meanwhile, the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) Sustainable Finance Agenda sets out a roadmap to develop a sustainable finance hub in the UAE. This promotes

Other green finance initiatives include the Dubai Green Fund, established in 2016 with a value of US\$27 billion, which provides loans to clean energy companies

at reduced rates, and the Green Sukuk and Working Party that develops and promotes sharia-compliant financial products to invest in climate change solutions.

Nasdaq Dubai is the region's most prominent exchange for green, sustainability, and ESG issuances and listings, raising a record US\$7.75 billion from nine sukuk and conventional bonds.

A promising example of viable sustainable financing is Majid Al Futtaim's green sukuk in May 2019 – the first in the MENA region – with a value of US\$600 million. Another first in this space belongs to Etihad Airways, which issued the Transition Sukuk, the world's first sustainability-linked financing for sustainable aviation, in 2020. This US\$600 million transaction supports the airline's carbon reduction targets. And in 2021, Masdar launched the first Green Trade Finance line in the region. The US\$100 million issue is earmarked for renewable energy projects, including wind power, solar PV power, and concentrated solar power.

Research

Recognizing the need for countries of the region to work together to enhance the understanding of regional climate impacts and develop evidence-based adaptation plans, we have established the UAE Climate Change Research Network (CCRN). The platform brings together a group of committed scientists and researchers to advance climate data collection and policy-relevant research on climate change impacts and adaptation that will help define an informed climate agenda for the country.



In 2021, we issued the inaugural edition of The UAE State of Climate Report that provides an overview of historical and projected climatic changes and their potential impacts on the UAE and the wider Arabian Gulf region. The annual publication identifies knowledge gaps and offers guidance for further locally relevant climate research.



Meanwhile, the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium (SBRC), established in 2011, runs a unique flagship project. The Seawater Energy and Agriculture System (SEAS) is a first-of-its-kind research endeavor that combines an integrated system of aquaculture, halo-agriculture, and mangrove silviculture to produce sustainable biofuels for aviation and seafood. The first commercial flight powered by biofuel produced through SBRC's SEAS, combined with traditional jet fuel, successfully took off in January 2019.

Youth Engagement

Acknowledging the key role of the young generation in the environmental sustainability and climate action movement, we run several youth-oriented initiatives.

We launched the Emirates Youth Climate Strategy that aims to raise awareness about the climate crisis among the international youth community, develop environmental leadership skills among young people, and promote youth participation in decision making and climate action.

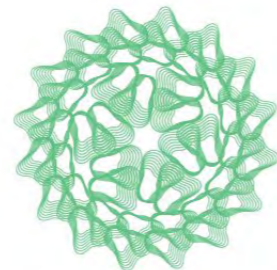
In line with the strategy, we have organized sustainability-oriented youth entrepreneurship and business accelerator programs. A prime example is the Youth Food Security Stations initiative that seeks to enable young people to become entrepreneurs in animal and crop agriculture, beekeeping, and aquaculture, and actively contribute to enhancing national food security.

The Federal Youth Authority, along with various youth councils across the UAE, aims to ensure young voices are heard while shaping the future of our nation.

Young people played a key role in reviewing the UAE's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and the National Climate Change Adaptation Program, and in the preparations for the Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting in 2019.

Our latest milestone in youth empowerment is the launch of the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change

(AYCCC), formed in 2021 in cooperation with our partners from the Arab League. The regional entity offers a platform for Arab youth climate champions to raise awareness, support climate action, and engage in developing innovative solutions to the climate change challenge.



مجلس
الشباب
العربي
للتغير
المناخي

ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Awards

Established in 2008, the Zayed Sustainability Prize recognizes youth achievements through its Global High Schools category across the areas of health, food, energy, and water. The initiative contributes to building a new generation of sustainability leaders, who leverage innovative approaches to address challenges and inspire positive change in their communities.

MULTILATERAL EFFORTS

AIM for Climate

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021 saw the launch of a major new joint initiative between the US and UAE – Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) – that aims to increase and accelerate investment in innovation and R&D in climate-smart agriculture by 2025.

The multi-stakeholder initiative seeks to fast-track the development and deployment of cutting-edge solutions in the vital sector worldwide. Its benefits include enhancing the productivity and sustainability of the agricultural sector, reducing its carbon footprint, boosting its climate resilience, conserving natural resources, and improving livelihoods.

To date, AIM for Climate has garnered the support of more than 500 government and non-government partners that have set the target to invest US\$ 13 billion in climate-resilient agriculture and food systems. The UAE alone pledged US\$ 1 billion to the initiative.



COP 26 - Glasgow, United Kingdom

ETAF

The UAE and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) established the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) platform, a new global climate finance vehicle that intends to fast-track the shift to renewable energy in developing countries.

The UAE committed US\$ 400 million in funding, provided by Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), for the initiative that seeks to raise US\$ 1 billion in total.



ETAF - COP 26

International Events

The UAE has a solid track record as a leading convener of global climate action.

In partnership with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, we organized the Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting in 2019 that laid the groundwork for the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

In 2021, we brought together high-level dignitaries from across the Arab world for the first UAE Regional Climate Dialogue with the participation of John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.

Ushering in a new era of regional climate

collaboration, we hosted the first-ever MENA Climate Week in March 2022 with the aim of boosting the momentum of climate action in the region and supporting the transition towards a new model of sustainable development.

Supporting grassroots innovation, we also run Climathon, an annual hackathon bringing together the brightest minds from around the world to present innovative cleantech ideas with a potential global impact that can help solve common challenges. The most promising ideas are incubated and developed to form climate tech startups.



MENA Climate Week - 2022

COP28

During the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat officially announced that the UAE will host COP28 in 2023.

COP28 is particularly important because it will provide a platform to present the results of the first global stocktake of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that aims to assess the world’s progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

By hosting the event, we seek to build an economic case for inclusive climate action and drive unified climate efforts through multilateral initiatives aimed at turning the climate crisis into an opportunity

to advance sustainable development worldwide. We plan to focus on advancing climate change adaptation, raising our collective climate ambition, and stepping up global climate finance commitments.

We intend to deliver a productive, accessible, and consultative event with high youth engagement that mobilizes countries to increase the scale and pace of their efforts to address climate change.

We see our role as a consensus builder promoting a just and inclusive transition to a sustainable way of life that truly leaves no one behind. We are committed to driving multilateral diplomacy aimed at preserving our planet for the next generations and shaping a better future for all humankind.



COP28 announcement

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For further information or feedback:

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