

COP28: Year's Biggest Climate Conference

(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

November 30, 2023

“Today the whole world believes that India is the only big economy, which has delivered in letter and spirit on the Paris Commitment. We are making every effort with determination, working hard, and showing results.”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

What is a COP?

COP stands for the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. It brings together the 198 Parties (197 nations plus the European Union) that have signed on to the Framework



Convention. The UN Climate Change conferences (or COPs) take place every year, and are the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change with almost complete membership of every country in the world.

To put it simply, the COP is where the world comes together to agree on ways to address the climate crisis, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.¹

- **The first COP was held in Berlin in 1995**, after a critical mass of nations ratified the climate convention. It was a milestone and set the stage for the **Kyoto Protocol**, two years later, which required wealthy, industrialized nations to curb emissions.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/un-climate-change-conference-united-arab-emirates-nov/dec-2023/about-cop-28>

- The [Kyoto Protocol](#) was adopted on December 11, 1997. Owing to a complex ratification process, it entered into force on February 16, 2005. Currently, there are [192 Parties](#) to the Kyoto Protocol. It only binds developed countries (Parties) to emission reduction targets, and places a heavier burden on them under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) and respective capabilities,” because it recognizes that they are largely responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere.
- The [Paris Agreement](#) is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on November 4, 2016. That agreement set the goal of limiting global warming to “well below” 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F), and preferably to 1.5 C (2.7 F), to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Why is COP important?

COPs serve as the formal meeting place each year for the Parties to negotiate and agree on how to tackle climate change, reduce emissions and limit global warming. A primary task at COPs is the examination of national reports and emission inventories submitted by participating countries. These reports offer essential insights into each country's actions and their progress toward achieving the overarching goals of the Convention.

What is the UNFCCC and what does it do?

The UNFCCC Secretariat is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. The Secretariat was established in 1992 when countries adopted the UNFCCC, and was originally based in Geneva, Switzerland before moving to Bonn in 1996.

The Secretariat initially focused on facilitating intergovernmental climate change negotiations. However, today, it plays a crucial role in supporting various bodies to implement the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement.

This support includes offering technical expertise, analysing climate change data reported by Parties, assisting with the Kyoto mechanisms' implementation, and maintaining the [registry for Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) under the Paris Agreement. The Secretariat also organises and supports multiple negotiating sessions each year, as well as COPs.

Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.²

How does the COP Presidency rotate?

The COP meets every year unless the Parties decide otherwise. The COP Presidency rotates among the five recognized UN regions - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and others. This rotation

² <https://unfccc.int/>

ensures that different corners of the world have the opportunity to host and showcase their commitment to addressing climate challenges.

[COP28](#)

The 28th United Nations Climate Change conference is to be held from November 30 to December 12, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Officially, COP 28 stands for the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC.

Host & Participants

The host government and [presidency of COP28](#) is the **United Arab Emirates**. Every COP is hosted in a different region based on a rotational schedule between the five United Nations regional groups: The African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group, the Eastern Europe Group, the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and the Western European and Others Group (WEOG). **Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber**, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and United Arab Emirates Special Envoy for Climate Change, has been appointed to serve as the **COP28 President**.

More than **70,000 delegates** are expected to attend COP28, including the member states (or Parties) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Business leaders, young people, climate scientists, Indigenous Peoples, journalists, and various other experts and stakeholders are also among the participants.

[Why is COP 28 important?](#)

With the most important details of the Paris Climate Change Agreement negotiated and agreed over the last few years, COP 28 is all about implementing the Agreement and ramping up ambition and action. The latest science from the UN's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43% by 2030, compared to 2019



levels. This is critical to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century and avoid the worst impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall.

COP 28 is an opportunity to identify global solutions for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, inform countries' preparations for revised and more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (national climate plans) due by 2025, accelerate

the green transition that is already happening and ultimately achieve the delivery of the Paris Agreement goals.³

India at COP 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Dubai, UAE from November 30 to attend the World Climate Action Summit. The Summit is the High-Level Segment of the COP28. During his visit, Prime Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with some of the Leaders participating in the Summit.

During COP-26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister had announced five specific targets, titled “*Panchamrit*”, as India’s unprecedented contribution to climate action. Prime Minister had also announced Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) on that occasion. Climate change has been an important priority area of India’s G20 Presidency, and significant new steps have been captured in the New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration and other outcomes during India's Presidency. COP28 will provide an opportunity to take these successes forward.⁴

COP28 President-Designate (UAE) Remarks during the G20 Ministerial-Chennai (July 26-28, 2023)

COP28 President-Designate (UAE) urged G20 nations to lead the way and demonstrate solidarity on climate action:

- There is still time for the G20 to show leadership, and I am calling on all of you to work with your leaders to drive global climate action in this critical decade.
- Right now, many of the indicators are going in the wrong direction. Temperature records continue to be broken, with this month officially recorded as the hottest in history.
- We are losing biodiversity. Agricultural land is being degraded. And food insecurity is increasing.
- If we are going to make progress on adaptation, we first have to define what success looks like in terms of stopping biodiversity loss, restoring agricultural land, preserving forests, protecting coastlines, ensuring no-one goes hungry and safeguarding lives and livelihoods everywhere.
- G20 nations should make transformation of food systems a top priority.
- Your national adaptation plans and strategies should promote sustainable land use, leverage technologies to increase crop resilience, enhance nutrition and reduce the climate impacts of farming.
- Doubling adaptation finance by 2025 is a critical first step but we need to look at directing a solid proportion of all climate finance toward adaptation responses.

³ <https://www.cop28.com/en/news-and-media/cop28-uae-everything-you-need-to-know-about-this-years-biggest-climate-conference>

⁴ <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=PM-Narendra-Modi-to-visit-UAE-to-attend-World-Climate-Action-Summit&id=471992>

- Yet we must acknowledge that many vulnerable countries - in particular small island developing states and least developed countries - are already experiencing consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to.

COP27

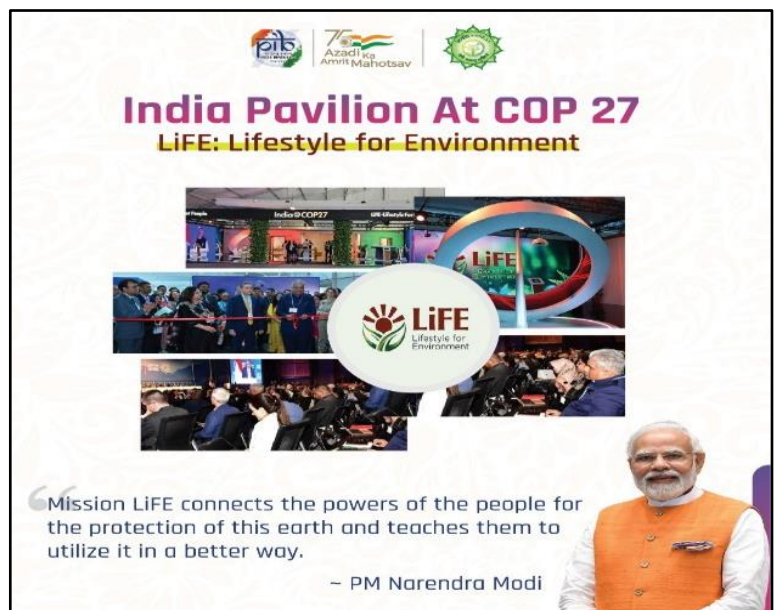
COP27 was held from November 6 to 18, 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The decisions taken at COP27 required all countries to make an extra effort to address the climate crisis. Or as UN Secretary-General António Guterres put it, “COP27 concludes with much homework and little time.”

Here are five key takeaways from the 2022 conference:⁵

1. Establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage
2. Maintaining a clear intention to keep 1.5°C within reach
3. Holding businesses and institutions to account
4. Mobilizing more financial support for developing countries
5. Making the pivot toward implementation

India at COP27

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav led the Indian delegation to attend the 27th session of COP. Welcoming the delegates from all countries to India Pavilion at COP27, he said that Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has provided a simple solution to the complex climate change problem. PM Modi gave the mantra of LiFE to the world in 2021 at COP 26 in Glasgow and this movement has since been widely supported by world leaders. India has spearheaded Mission LiFE as a global mass movement that harnesses the power of individual and collective action across the world to address the climate crisis.



To know more about Mission LiFE, click [HERE](#).

NR/HP/RK/PK/JA

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/sharm-el-sheikh-climate-change-conference-november-2022/five-key-takeaways-from-cop27>