

OUR THEMATIC PROGRAM



COP28UAE

From November 30 to December 12, 2023, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai.

The COP28 Presidency is pleased to share preliminary information on a first set of events planned for the thematic program at COP28 across the two weeks of the conference. The events are a product of guidance from a diverse set of stakeholders on the outcomes they would like to see under each thematic day, also reflecting inputs from the open consultation process earlier this year.

This draft program will be supplemented with additional events in several tranches over the coming months, including mandated events under the UNFCCC process. As the Presidency is looking into maximizing synergies, some event topics may change or be merged.

The COP28 thematic program is designed to unite a diverse range of stakeholders - all levels of governments, youth, business and investors, civil society, frontline communities, indigenous peoples, and others - around specific solutions that must be scaled up this decade to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, build resilience, and mobilize finance at scale. This set of solutions constitutes the response to the Global Stocktake, looking where the world stands on climate action and support, identifying the gaps, and working together to agree on solutions pathways to 2030 and beyond.

The Presidency together with the High-Level Champions, with the support from the Marrakech Partnership, and the UNFCCC secretariat aim to provide an integrated thematic program this year. It will notably be framed by the vision of the COP28 Presidency described in its [letter to the Parties](#), and take into account the Climate Action Pathways, the [Breakthrough Agenda](#), and the [Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#), in order to drive the systemic transformations needed in every thematic area to fulfill the Paris Agreement. The High-Level Champions and the UNFCCC secretariat will be soon announcing the Marrakech Partnership and the Global Climate Action program for COP 28, which will be part of this full two-week thematic program.



COP28 UAE

OUR PLAN OF ACTION

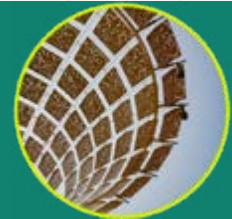
The COP28 Presidency has set out a plan of action, focused on matching the highest ambition for negotiated outcomes, with a robust action agenda to implement those ambitions in the real world.

The Presidency has called on governments and key climate stakeholders to take action in four areas:

- **Fast-track the energy;**
- **Fix climate finance;**
- **Focus on nature, people, lives, and livelihoods;**
- **Full inclusivity.**

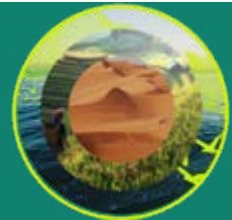
TWO WEEK SCHEDULE

Nov
30



Opening Day

Dec
1



World Climate Action Summit

Dec
2



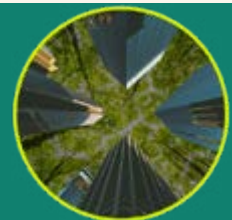
World Climate Action Summit

Dec
3



Health / Relief, Recovery and Peace

Dec
4



Finance / Trade /
Gender Equality / Accountability

Dec
5



Energy and Industry / Just Transition
/ Indigenous Peoples

Dec
6



Multilevel Action, Urbanization
and Built Environment/Transport

Dec
7



Day of Rest

Dec
8



Youth, Children, Education and Skills

Dec
9



Nature, Land Use, and Oceans

Dec
10



Food, Agriculture and Water

Dec
10-11



Final Negotiations

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Technology
and innovation



Inclusion



Frontline
communities



Finance





Dec
1-2

WORLD CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

The World Climate Action Summit convenes heads of state and government, alongside leaders from civil society business, youth, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, frontline communities, science and other sectors to discuss concrete actions and plans aimed at scaling climate action. The summit serves as an important platform for major announcements and is intended to provide momentum and guidance to the remainder of the COP.

Events

Dec
3

HEALTH / RELIEF, RECOVERY AND PEACE

These two themes - new for COPs - aim to boost policies and investments that protect lives and livelihoods and support community resilience and stability.

COP28 will host the first Health Day and climate-health ministerial that aims to build consensus on priority actions for the health system's response to climate change, paired with financing commitments for implementation. Relief, Recovery, and Peace Day will focus on accelerating adaptation, preventing and addressing loss and damage, including in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, which face severe barriers to accessing climate finance and strengthening climate action.

Events



Dec
4


FINANCE / TRADE / GENDER EQUALITY / ACCOUNTABILITY

COP28 has called on the relevant stakeholders to close outstanding commitments. It will work with others to articulate a vision going forward on scaling up climate finance.

To reach the scale that is needed and will put forward a Presidential agenda to showcase specific innovative approaches to close the finance gaps, especially where it is needed the most. This will include scaling up private financing for investing into climate transition to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

This thematic day at COP28 will focus on three key aspects: scaling up efforts, improving access, and enhancing affordability. This will involve reforms to the international financial system, the delivery of enhanced concessional support, the development of sustainable finance markets, and strengthening voluntary carbon markets. Additionally, COP28 will introduce trade as a means for climate-smart, equitable growth, including supply chain decarbonization, transition, and resilience.

We must also address the challenges that hinder financial support for women, girls, and marginalized groups. This includes ensuring a fair transition and finding solutions to broaden access to finance. The program will also examine accountability mechanisms to turn promises and ambition into tangible results.



Dec
4

FINANCE / TRADE / GENDER EQUALITY / ACCOUNTABILITY

The main objectives for this day are:

Showcase a coherent and ambitious action agenda on finance with a range of public, private, and blended finance solutions to accelerate action and close the climate finance gap. These solutions will involve actions in financial and carbon markets by UAE institutions and international partners, IFIs, and Philanthropies, building on efforts taking place both inside and outside the UNFCCC process, and generate new financing resources for climate transition, and specifically for developing economies. The initiatives are designed to highlight how climate finance must be structured moving forward to achieve real transformation.

Promote a gender-just transition by advocating for equal opportunities for decent work in impacted and emerging green sectors, supported by gender-disaggregated data and gender-responsive finance.

Establish accountability by reinforcing accountability measures at COPs. This includes defining common standards and creating a foundation for greater accountability, especially for the private sector, including a high-integrity net-zero accountability and recognition system.

Elevate the potential of international trade as a lever in climate action by setting the stage for the international trade community to step up their role in the design and delivery of solutions around climate action, especially around supporting a just transition and enabling market access policies for MSMEs to engage meaningfully with global supply chains and governments.

[Events](#)



Dec
5

ENERGY AND INDUSTRY / JUST TRANSITION / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This day will focus on levers and pathways for rapid decarbonization, job growth, and economic opportunity and just transition across the full energy and industrial value chains. While accelerating economic opportunity and job growth taking a holistic view of the just transition and the socio-economic considerations across all sectors, including energy.

Key topics in the energy and industry track will include massive deployment of renewable energy, greater energy efficiency, innovation and action for heavy-emitting sectors (including steel, cement, and aluminum), unlocking the potential of hydrogen, and decarbonization of oil and gas supplies, including through methane abatement and carbon management technologies.

The day will also address universal energy access and the needs of workers across the energy sector transition and will have an additional special focus on cooling as a critical mitigation and adaptation factor.

Indigenous Peoples Day will recognize the importance of Indigenous Peoples' intergenerational knowledge, practices, and leadership in climate action and in stewarding planetary health, as well as mechanisms to improve their direct access to finance. The day will notably strengthen the role of Indigenous Peoples - and reinforce the urgency of a fully inclusive, all-of-society approach - in the just transition.

Events



Dec
6

MULTILEVEL ACTION, URBANIZATION AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT / TRANSPORT

COP28 will feature a historic presence of local leaders, including mayors, governors, parliamentarians, business and civil society leaders, united to accelerate climate action across all levels of government and society. The day will also highlight solutions to transition to low-carbon and resilient built environments and infrastructure, sustainable and circular waste systems, and sustainable mobility and freight. The day will particularly look at action in urban areas, where population growth, economic activity and greenhouse gas emissions converge.

Events

Dec
7

DAY OF REST

COPs traditionally incorporate a 'day of rest' in the middle of the program for participants to reflect and recharge ahead of the second week. The presidency will not run programming on this day.

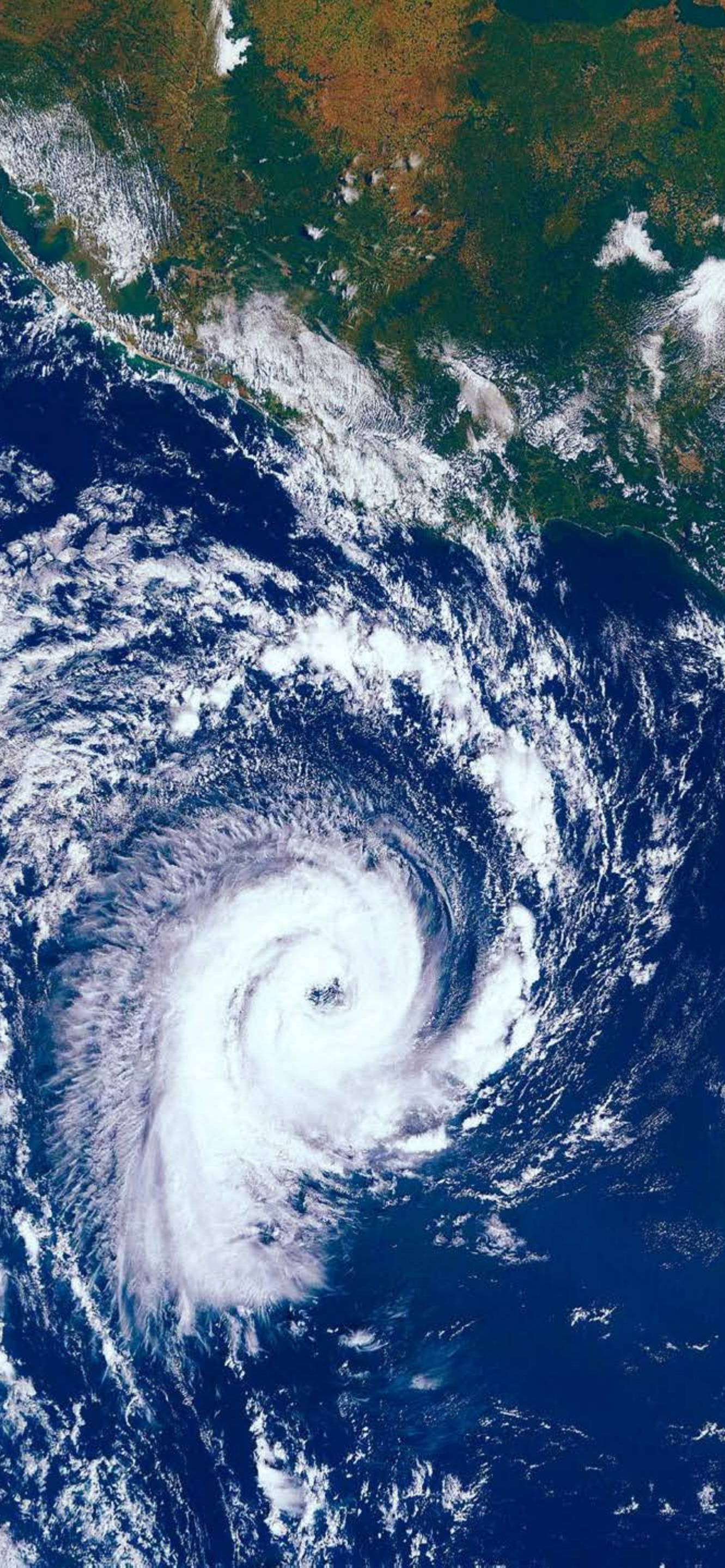


Dec
6

YOUTH, CHILDREN, EDUCATION, AND SKILLS

This day seeks to empower young people to shape the outcomes of COP28 and beyond, particularly considering the disproportionate risks and impacts from climate change for children and youth. The day will look at equitable representation, stronger engagement mechanisms, and resource allocation across the COP themes and policy tracks. Focuses will include investment in youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship, inclusion in policymaking processes capacity-building, and transforming education to close the skills gap for green jobs aligned with climate action.

Events



Dec
9

NATURE, LAND USE, AND OCEANS

The conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of nature is integral for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In seeking to transition land use and ocean systems to support climate-aligned and nature positive development, this thematic day will focus on scaling robust solutions that protect, restore and effectively manage natural ecosystems, address drivers of nature loss, empower Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and create resilient livelihoods. The day will also spotlight enabling actions that unlock new financial flows and mainstream climate-nature synergies across transition plans and reporting frameworks.

The day will additionally showcase efforts that accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the recently adopted agreement that provides a clear framework for halting and reversing nature loss – to help deliver a climate-safe future.

[Events](#)



Dec
10

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND WATER

Climate change is creating severe pressure and risks for the agri-food and water systems that underpin human well-being.

At the same time, these systems are also key contributors to climate change: one-third of all human-made GHG emissions derive from agri-food systems, and 70% of freshwater consumed worldwide is used for agricultural production.

Specific food and agriculture focuses include innovation investment, regenerative agriculture, and national transformation pathways, underpinned by financing mechanisms and project preparation. Water programming will also look at freshwater restoration and conservation, infrastructure for urban water resilience, and integrated governance and management of water-food systems.

Events

Dec
11-12

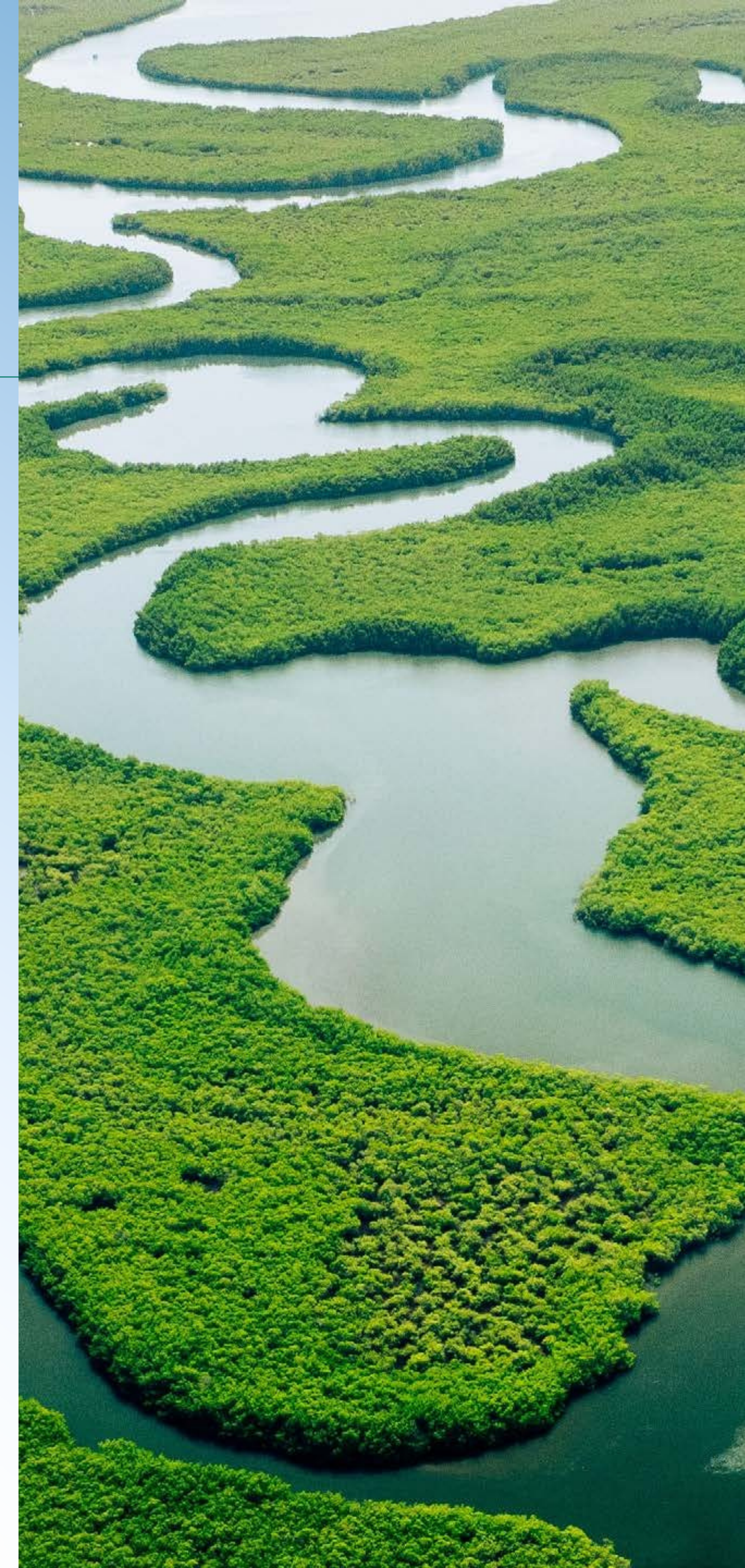
FINAL NEGOTIATIONS

On the final two days of COP28, there will be no thematic days to avoid extensive programming when the negotiation text is often being closed.

OUR SEQUENCING AND THEMES

Each day's programming incorporates four cross-cutting themes that underpin effective, interconnected delivery.

These are: Technology & Innovation, Inclusion, Frontline Communities and Finance. Programming will explicitly include these themes through both content and speakers.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

COP28 will act as a catalyst, mobilizing the ecosystem of governments, corporates, multilaterals, academia, investors and startups to drive a step-change in the development and deployment of climate solutions to bring the world back to a 1.5°C trajectory and reduce suffering for the most impacted populations and ecosystems. This will require a transformation greater than the industrial revolution. The theme of technology and innovation will be at the heart and center of everything we do.

FINANCE

At COP28, finance will emerge as a pivotal cross-cutting theme, intricately intertwined with Climate Transition & Adaptation. This multifaceted dimension encompasses critical issues ranging from water and food security to youth empowerment, gender equity, trade dynamics, renewable energy, and resilient relief systems. The mobilization of financial resources and innovative funding mechanisms will play a paramount role in realizing the sustainable transformation needed to combat climate change. As we convene for COP28, we recognize that effective financial strategies are key to building a more equitable and resilient world, where the impacts of climate change are met with adaptive solutions and sustainable prosperity.

INCLUSION

COP28 is focused on bringing everyone (including youth, entrepreneurs, gender groups, and Indigenous Peoples) to the table in a more inclusive process than previous COPs. The problem we are addressing is the lack of systematic inclusion, a lack of capacity building for smaller organizations on how to decarbonize and limited pathways on how to empower the next generation and those most impacted by the transition to a low carbon economy.

Equally important in the inclusion pillar is our next generation of workers, our youth. Ensuring that they are not only given the right skill sets to flourish but also the opportunity to have a seat at the table to create the conditions that they need at future COPs.

This is why we have a focus on the next generation _ ensuring that youth will be a formal part of COP's going forward and are represented within their country delegations_ in addition to a focus on harmonizing the climate education and green skills ecosystem to lay the groundwork for the skills demands of the economy of the future.

Transitioning a global economy is not only one of the climate imperative and the biggest commercial opportunities of our time, but it also will impact our workers, communities and supply chains. Bringing in the private sector, small and medium enterprises and shining a light of specific issues they face in particular in the region and global south _ and how the presidency is helping provide practical support - and collaboration as evidence of a COP of action. We will launch a specific capability building platform targeted for smaller businesses to support in their decarbonization journey.

OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

The COP28 thematic program results from a six-week public consultation process to receive inputs on the draft program released by the Presidency in May 2023.

We are grateful for the over 600 submissions we received from observers, Parties, and other stakeholders, as well as guidance from the Marrakech Partnership, UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, UNFCCC Secretariat, and UNFCCC observer constituencies.

Given the many contrasting perspectives on themes and sequencing, not all comments were able to be reflected in the final program, however where possible, feedback has informed our approach to operationalizing it.



OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

The six most frequent inputs were:

- Moving finance earlier in the program, to set the tone on increasing all available sources, particularly for implementation of climate action in developing countries and vulnerable communities.
- Including content on energy, industry, cities, regions, the built environment, and transport in a cluster, so that participants can hold interlinked events across two days.
- Similarly, maintaining the cluster of nature, land use, oceans, water, food, and agriculture for thematic synergies.
- Ensuring that the presidency's four proposed cross-cutting themes (especially on leadership and participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and frontline communities, among other groups) are realized.
- Either questioning or commending the presidency's proposal to link finance and gender equality.
- Explicitly recognizing agriculture alongside food and water.

- Given the high volume of environment and climate ministers who will be at COP during the second week, the Nature, Land Use, and Oceans Day and the Food, Agriculture, and Water Day have been moved to 9th and 10th December, respectively, and will be a major focus of attendance and programming.

- The Presidency and High-Level Champions will also design the World Climate Action Summit to feature thematic topics across both weeks, so that they benefit from leader-level consideration.