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Failure is not an option: COP28 head

AL JABER URGES NATIONS TO WORK FASTER, BE FLEXIBLE, COMPROMISE TO REACH CLIMATE DEAL

DUBAI
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN, Chief Reporter

The president of the COP28 climate summit yesterday urged negotiators to work harder to find consensus as the conference entered the final stage of talks focused on a proposed first-of-its-kind deal to phase out the world's use of oil, gas and coal.

"Now, the time has come for all parties to constructively engage," COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber told the conference. "Failure is not an option. What we are after is the common good. What we're after is what is in the best interest of everyone, everywhere," he said.

A coalition of more than 80 countries including the United States, the European Union and small island nations are pushing for an agreement at COP28 that includes language to phase out fossil fuels, the main source of greenhouse gas emissions that scientists blame for global warming.

Azerbaijan proposed as COP29 host

A draft text published yesterday proposed that next year's COP29 climate summit be hosted by Azerbaijan between November 11 and 22. The text will need to be adopted by the summit before it becomes official.

The latest version of the core negotiating text, released on Friday, shows countries were still considering a range of options - from agreeing to a "phase out of fossil fuels in line with best available science", to phasing out "unabated fossil fuels", to including no mention at all. Abating fossil fuels typically means reducing their climate impact by either capturing and storing their carbon dioxide emissions.

The conference has yielded a slew of other commitments from countries to hit targets like tripling renewable energy and nuclear power deployments, slash coal use, and curb emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane. The International Energy Agency (IEA) said these pledges would lower global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 4 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2030.

—(with inputs from agencies)
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UAE CABINET APPROVES 10 NEW INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE GOALS



■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrive at Expo City Dubai for the cabinet meeting yesterday which was held in conjunction with the UN climate conference.

The UAE yesterday approved 10 initiatives in support of environment and climate action during a cabinet meeting at Expo City Dubai, in conjunction with the COP28 climate conference of the UN.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who chaired the meeting, said: "We approved

10 new initiatives and decisions to achieve our national objectives on environment, including the framework of the National biodiversity strategy 2031 which aims to protect, monitor and develop ecosystems and local species, as well as raising the efficiency of our national cadres in this field."

He added: "We also approved a global initiative to decarbonise

waste; the national carbon credits registration system which enables government and private institutions to assess and document their contributions to reducing carbon emissions with government certificates." The UAE cabinet reviewed the outcomes of national efforts to boost sustainability and tackle climate change.

—WAM
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Dubai to become a 20-minute city

Essential daily services will be within a 20-minute walk or bike ride

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Roads and transport systems in Dubai will soon be developed to support the creation of a "20 minute city", Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced yesterday.

What this will mean is that 80 per cent of daily services will be accessible within a 20-minute journey either by walking or a cycle ride.

The focus, as revealed by the Higher Committee for Strategic Planning and Corporate Transformation, is part of the updated Strategic Plan 2024-2030.

The aim will be on improving accessibility, fostering better integration of multi-modal transport, expanding current and future mobility services, and charting smart mobility solutions.

Mattar Al Tayer, Direc-

tor General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, who endorsed the updated plan, said, "RTA had developed this strategic plan in response to the directives of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council."

The plan is aligned with Dubai Urban Plan 2040 aiming to make Dubai the world's best city for living, Dubai Plan 2030, Dubai Government Directives, and the UAE Government Vision, 'We the UAE 2031'.

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The aim will be on improving accessibility, fostering better integration of multi-modal transport, expanding current and future mobility services.



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