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NATIONS URGED TO CUT FOSSIL FUELS

COP28 draft outlines plans to achieve net zero by or before 2050

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter
SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

A new draft agreement of the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, shared by the UAE Presidency at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai yesterday, has outlined plans to 'reduce the consumption and production of fossil fuels by 2050'.

The proposal emphasised a 'just and equitable approach to achieve net-zero emissions in alignment with 'science'. The draft also recommended a phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Now, governments have until today to consider and agree to the draft's contents before a resolution is adopted. Notably, the draft has avoided using terms like 'phase out' or 'phase down' of fossil fuels, which have been points of contention during the conference.

UN chief's appeal

Ahead of the draft's release, UN Secretary-General António Guterres had said the success of COP28 hinges on the consensus of a fossil fuel phase-out. "COP covers many aspects, and it depends on the global balance. But a central aspect, in my opinion, of the success of COP will be for the COP to reach a consensus on the need to phase out fossil fuels in line with a time framework that is in line with the 1.5-degree limits," said Guterres.



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

■ Indigenous people from around the world whose lives are threatened by climate crisis have ensured that their voices are heard at the ongoing UN climate conference in Dubai.

On the other hand, Dr Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 President, acknowledged that there was still much work for countries to finalise an agreement on fossil fuels. He urged parties to deliver the highest ambition on all

items, including fossil fuel language, emphasising the need for flexibility.

Experts' concerns

Climate experts at COP have also raised concerns about the

exclusion of the term 'phase-out' about fossil fuels and are hopeful it will change in the next 24 hours. Catherine Abreu, founder of the non-profit climate agency Destination Zero, said while there is strong lan-



We must conclude the conference with an ambitious outcome that demonstrates decisive action and a credible plan to keep 1.5-degree goal alive, protecting those on the frontlines of the climate crisis."

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

guage around scaling up abatement technology, it cannot replace renewable technology.

Meanwhile, Colombian Minister of Environment María Susana Muhamad and French Energy Minister Agnès Panier-Runacher called for a just phase-out and orderly transition of fossil fuels while speaking on behalf of The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA).

The conference's outcome will be shaped by how civil societies, vulnerable countries, and developed nations respond to these critical issues, said Harjeet Singh, the Head of Global Political Strategy at Climate Action Network International.

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India's Supreme Court backs revocation of J&K's autonomy

Ruling directs central government to restore statehood, hold elections

DUBAI

BY SADIQ SHABAN
Opinion Editor

In a momentous verdict, the Supreme Court of India has upheld the Indian government's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

A five-judge Constitutional bench delivered this crucial judgement yesterday, addressing petitions challenging the government's scrapping of the provision and the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territories

of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In his verdict the Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud emphasised that J&K relinquished its internal sovereignty upon accession to India in 1947. The court asserted that there were no irregularities in

Chief Justice of India emphasised that J&K relinquished its internal sovereignty upon accession to India in 1947. The court instructed the Election Commission to conduct assembly elections in the province by September 30, 2024.

the exercise of power under Article 370(3) by the President in issuing the August 2019 order, deeming it valid.

In a noteworthy directive, the court instructed the Election Commission of India to conduct assembly elections in the province by September 30, 2024. Additionally, the ruling urged the Government of India to expeditiously restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

The deliberations of India's Supreme Court centred around the government's authority to amend Article 370, which revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomous status four years ago, marking a significant chapter in constitutional interpretation and the future of India's only Muslim-majority province.

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