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Nearly 200 countries agree to the first-ever call for the world to transition away from fossil fuels, which will help global efforts on climate action

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN Chief Reporter SHYAM A. KRISHNA

Senior Associate Editor

he world for the first time agreed to move away from fossil fuels. That was the thrust of the UAE Consensus at the end of protracted negotiations at the 28th session of the Conference of Parties - the UN Climate Summit - in the UAE.

It's a historic deal. At no time in the past 30 years of climate summits has there been a mention of fossil fuels. After 13 days of discussions in Dubai, representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed yesterday to the UAE Consensus, which will help limit global heating to 1.5°C above preindustrial

levels. UAE leaders welcomed the deal and praised international cooperation that contributed to the conference's success.

Sustainable future

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said: "The conference produced significant results, and we will continue to work hand-in-

hand with the global community to advance all efforts aimed at securing a more sustainable future for our planet and its people.

New benchmarks

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: "COP28 raised \$85 billion, ushering in a new era of global climate action. The summit succeeded in setting new benchmarks in climate action and cemented the UAE's position as a key player in building a sustainable future for the planet."

The UAE Consensus called on countries to "transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable man-

ner, accelerating action in this critical decade" to achieve net zero by 2050. An elated COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber said, "Together, we have confronted realities and set the world in the right direction."

Tangible action

He said the deal's true success lies in its implementation. "An agreement is only as good as its implementation. We are what we do, not what we say. We must take the steps necessary to turn this agreement into tangible action," Al Jaber added.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the deal has asked countries to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions – a key component of global stocktake, one of the main outcomes of COP28.

COP28 in funding setting the pace for a new era in climate action

New target

The UAE Consensus included a new target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030. Countries were also urged to "accelerate the efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power" and "substantially reduce noncarbon dioxide emissions, including methane emissions by 2030".

'Beginning of the end'

Reacting to the deal, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said: "Whilst we didn't fully turn the page on the fossil fuel era in Dubai, this is the beginning of the end."

EU climate chief Wopke Hoekstra said: "Humanity has finally done what is long overdue. Thirty years we've spent to arrive at the beginning of the end of fossil fuels."

Cause of optimism

US Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry said: "In a multilateral venue to have as strong a document as has been put together, I find this a cause of optimism. The fact is that this document sends a powerful message to the world."



Turn UAE Consensus COP28 is a mileinto action, urges Al Jaber **P6**



stone in climate action P7



must follow historic deal **P8**



'Beginning of the end' of fossil fuel era **P9**



Visit the website for more stories and perspectives on the historic COP28. Also check out the photo galleries and videos



Together, we have confronted the realities and we have set the world in the right direction. We should be proud of our historic achievement and the United Arab **Emirates, my country is rightly proud of its role** in helping to move this forward.

Sultan Al Jaber | COP28 President

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