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CLIMATE SUMMIT PLEDGES TO KEEP EARTH ALIVE



Reuters

■ UAE President Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan with world leaders and dignitaries during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai on Friday.

DUBAI

BY SHYAM A. KRISHNA,
Senior Associate Editor

DHANUSHA GOPALAN, Chief Reporter

SAJILA SASEENDRAN, Senior Reporter

COP28 UAE sees a raft of initiatives paving the way for energy transition and emission curbs as record 80,000 registered participants pool their minds to ensure a safer tomorrow

The race to save the planet from irreversible damage received a massive stimulus from the World Climate Action Summit on Friday and Saturday at COP28 UAE. World leaders negotiated intractable issues during the summit, yielding pledges to keep the global temperature increase under 1.5°C.

An early breakthrough was the ringing endorsement of the Loss and Dam-

age Fund to assist developing countries vulnerable to climate change. The draft of the first global stocktake — the comprehensive assessment of climate action efforts since the 2015 Paris Agreement — also took shape. The early adaptation of the agenda too was a victory.

COP28, which drew a record 80,000 registered participants, clicked into top gear with the summit on Friday. UAE

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan inaugurated it with a \$30 billion fund for global climate solutions and followed it up with more funds to help low-income and vulnerable countries and fight food security threats caused by climate change. Several countries followed suit.

The pivotal moment was the agreement to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030, which will

help phase out fossil fuels. Other decarbonisation moves included expanding nuclear power, slashing methane output, curbing coal use, and pledges from oil companies on emissions.

Living up to the promise

COP28, helmed by Dr Sultan Al Jaber, has lived up to the promise of putting people and nature at the heart of climate decisions with the declaration to pro-

tect people from polluted air and water. Food systems, youth and education also received attention at COP28, which also listened to developing countries' climate hurdles with the first G77 and China Leaders Summit.

As the 13-day COP28 continued after the summit, the UAE President committed \$100 million yesterday, paving the way for a \$777 million fund to fight Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Microsoft founder Bill Gates's foundation matched the pledge to fight a diverse group of 20 conditions that affect more than 1 billion people in tropical areas.

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