



Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada
Lobby Climatique des Citoyens

Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada Media Packet

The Dance of Unity at COP 28

December 26, 2023



Hora: The Unity Dance

by Romanian Artist Marius Diaconu.

An Art Installation at COP 28.

<https://www.mariusdiaconu.com/hora-the-unity-dance>

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Why do we attend the Conference of the Parties?

Civil society attends the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) not as mere spectators but as catalysts for transformation. In Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), we gathered to confront a critical moment: facing the hottest year on record and bracing for an even hotter year ahead due to the impact of El Niño intensified by global heating gasses and [sulfur termination shock](#). The voices echoing at COP, spanning from passionate youth activists to seasoned campaigners, financial experts, and committed politicians, are driving transformative change. It is not hard to imagine a world where civil society didn't hold leaders accountable or advocate for a sustainable and fair future for all. The presence of civil society catalyzes crucial progress; together, year after year, we unite to create a liveable future.

Who attended COP 28?

In total, 97,372 individuals registered for COP 28, including 3,972 media personnel and 14,338 observers from non-governmental organizations. Among these observers were nearly two dozen leaders from Citizens' Climate Lobby/International, representing countries including Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Canada, France, Ghana, India, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, the United States, and Zambia.

<https://unfccc.int/documents/634488>

The conference encountered significant criticism due to its controversial president, Sultan Al Jaber, and the presence of fossil fuel lobbyists.

Concerns were raised regarding Al Jaber's position as ADNOC's CEO, potential conflicts of interest, allegations of greenwashing across different platforms, and constraints on criticizing Emirati corporations..

As well [2,400 representatives and lobbyists](#) from the fossil fuel sector were registered for COP 28, quadrupling the attendance compared to last year's COP in Egypt, despite only a 2.5-fold increase in overall attendance this year.



Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Canada's Goals at COP 28



As observers we are there to ensure that all human rights are embedded in UNFCCC documents because a *livable future is a human right*.

Our CCL network, deeply rooted in democracy, champions citizen involvement—youth, indigenous groups, farmers, labour, women, and frontline communities—as vital for effective climate policy. "Nothing about us without us" echoes strongly at COP, propelling our focus on people-centric COP documents.

Aligned with numerous organizations and vocal politicians, we advocate redirecting financial flows towards a sustainable future. Our collective safety hinges on ensuring everyone's well-being.

We ardently pressed for fossil fuel phase-out and the 1.5°C goal at COP. We specifically track financial pathways. Although UNFCCC lacks authority for global taxes, we closely monitor Paris Agreement's Article 6.8, housing non-cap-and-trade mechanisms like [Climate Income](#), a policy we've championed in Canada since 2010, enacted by our government in 2018. The G77, which is the largest block of developing countries at the COPs, has [declared](#) that it is the lack of political will that is holding climate financing.

The COP experience offers unparalleled chances for lifelong learning, relationship-building, and networking.

Lobbying and oil lobbyist at COP 28

During COP 28, Cathy Orlando, our national director, shared coffee with a COP 28 oil lobbyist. Concerns arose about the "technology not taxes" trend in Canada. The crux? Fossil fuel pollution needs a \$175 CAD price for carbon capture's economic feasibility. Presently at \$65 per tonne with rebates benefiting citizens, threats loom to dismantle this system during elections. The lobbyist urged better education on rebates, advocating physical cheque distributions, applicable across Canada, save British Columbia and Quebec.

The Unexpected Change in Language on the Penultimate Day of COP

On what was anticipated to be the second last day of COP, the [Global Stock Take](#), a critical stream, saw a seismic shift in language. The phase out for fossil fuels was surreptitiously replaced with weaker terminology, such as "net zero by 2050," triggering widespread concern and cynicism among COP observers and media. This unprecedented alteration of language, so late in the negotiations, was akin to an "art of the deal" business maneuver instead of a diplomatic action—a departure from the norm. Many countries and civil society pushed back when the dramatic shift in language happened.

COP28 ended with a call to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels; United Nations Secretary General Antonia Guterres said phaseout is inevitable. The Saudis were not clapping and the AOSIS countries (Alliance Of Small Island States) [were not in the room](#) when the COP 28 conference was gavelled through.

Historic but Not Triumphant

The COP28 outcome brought important wins. There was the operationalization of the loss and damage fund, confirmation that the transition needs to occur in the context of a 1.5C, which was a hard fought win by the vulnerable countries and the first-ever global recognition that fossil fuels must be relegated to history. As well, because the “need to transition away from fossil fuels” was mentioned in a COP document, countries are now required to report on the transition from fossil fuels in their national climate targets.



COP 28 gave us another day to fight. And fight we must, for our governments to carefully manage the transition that is fast, fair and funded and for the Global North to finally deliver the financial and technical support needed to make this energy transition unstoppable. At the same time, as communities around the world are already facing the heart-wrenching impacts of the convergent climate and debt crises, Canada and other rich countries must live up to their responsibilities and step up on finance for adaptation and loss and damage.

Examples of problematic language in the final COP 28 document

Paragraph 26

There is no commitment or even an invitation for Parties to peak emissions by 2025.

Paragraph 28 (c)

What does it say? Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing zero-and low-carbon fuels well before or around mid-century

What does it mean? Low carbon-fuels are often industry greenwashing. We must align targets with 1.5C not net zero!

Paragraph 28 (d)

What does it say? Transitioning away from fossil fuel in energy systems ...

What does it mean? The qualifier “energy systems” makes the text vulnerable to attempts to limit scope. We must phase out fossil fuels in all systems and not allow for expansion of fossil fuels.

Paragraph 29

What does it say? ... transition fuels can play a role in facilitating the energy transition

What does it mean? This is fossil fuel industry spin for biofuels and methane gas (a.k.a. fossil gas and mistakenly called natural gas). This is a dangerous loophole designed to allow for fossil fuel expansion.

Read the full **global stocktake** decision text:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_L17_adv.pdf

Post-COP 28 Analysis by Climate Action Tracker

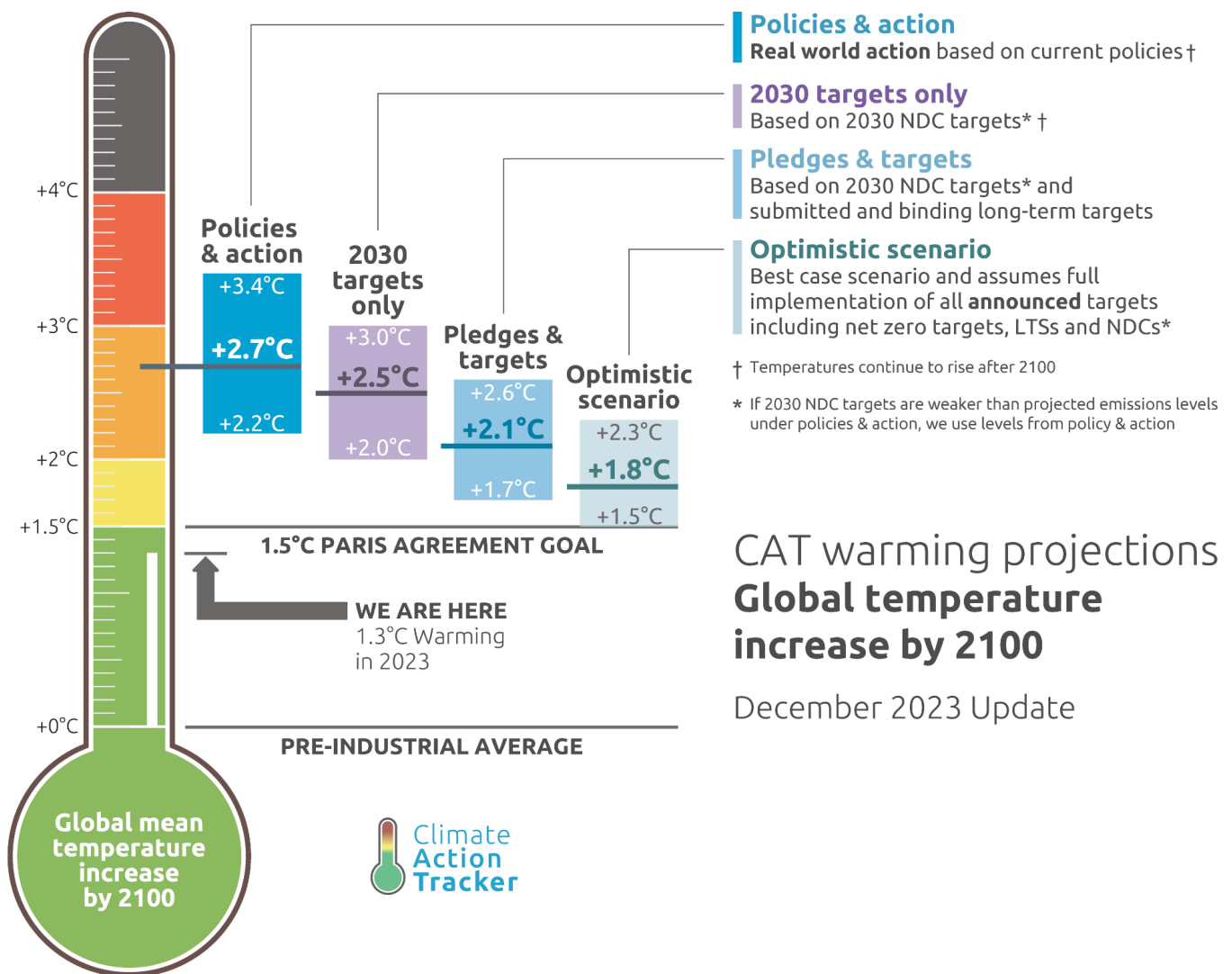


Image source: [Climate Action Tracker](#)

In a year where every continent experienced record-breaking heat, wildfires, tropical cyclones or some other extreme events, there has been no discernible shift in action. Despite government promises, warming projections have not improved since COP 26 in Glasgow two years ago. According to Climate Action Tracker, one of the main drivers of the slight rise in the temperature estimate to 2.5°C is Indonesia, whose expanding coal power fleet caused emissions to skyrocket by 21 percent last year.

Governments' 2030 targets will lead to 2.5°C of warming by the end of the century: 0.1°C higher than last year. This change is due to weak existing targets rather than any major shifts in new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) updates: the level of emissions anticipated under current policies for those countries is expected to overachieve their weak 2030 targets.

The core problem at the COP is 'unabated' echoes. Governments shouldn't adopt false solutions. Carbon capture and storage with fossil fuels prolongs industry life, evading the necessary fossil fuel phase-out - putting the stability of our climate and our financial systems at risk.

Where did COP 28 fail?

- **Full?** The existence of significant loopholes raises the likelihood of a substantial expansion in the fossil fuel industry.
- **Fair?** There is a profound lack of equity in the current approach.
- **Fast?** The target of achieving "net zero by 2050" is insufficiently fast and falls short of meeting the 1.5°C targets and associated timelines. It also leaves the door open for carbon capture and sequestration and offsets.
- **False-Solutions?** Carbon capture and sequestration, as well as offsets, have not live up to their advertised effectiveness. Phasing out remains the sole viable solution.
- **Financed?** Developing nations dependent on fossil fuels must be financially supported by wealthy nations!
- **Binding?** The absence of a binding strategy for halting expansion, phasing out existing stockpiles, and financing a global transition raises concerns about the plan's effectiveness.

With that all being said, it must be borne in mind that in when the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was established in 1992, and all countries committed *"to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development."* Thus, all of our countries have made the commitment,

Many pledges, alliances and partnerships were formed at COP 28. There is a unity that is developing among countries that will bring an end to the fossil fuel era and sustainable future for all.

Pledges, Alliances and Partnerships at COP 28

COP 28 UAE Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge

This pledge was made by 140 countries including Canada and they committed to:

- work together to triple the world's installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 GW by 2030, taking into consideration different starting points and national circumstances.
- work together in order to collectively double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from around 2% to over 4% every year until 2030.
- put the principle of energy efficiency as the "first fuel" at the core of policymaking, planning, and major investment decisions.

<https://www.cop28.com/en/global-renewables-and-energy-efficiency-pledge>

COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action.

Food systems made historic progress at COP28: 134 nations initially, including Canada, signed onto the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action. Subsequently, 25 more nations have signed on since, bringing the total to 159.

<https://www.cop28.com/en/news/2023/12/COP28-UAE-Presidency-puts-food-systems-transformation>

A striking series of statistics were highlighted in a [food finance seminar](#) at COP 28: roughly 30% of greenhouse gas emissions originate from the food sector, a figure inclusive of fossil fuel contributions. This leads to significant externalities, estimated to cost the global economy 10% of its GDP annually. These costs primarily stem from adverse impacts on human health, food wastage, water pollution, and climate impacts. However, despite these challenges, only about 2% of climate finance is allocated to food initiatives on an international

scale, receiving minimal attention in UNFCCC COP documents. A World Bank advisor in the [food finance seminar](#) emphasized the urgent need for significantly higher carbon pricing. This approach ensures that those contributing to pollution bear the cost, ultimately rewarding consumers transitioning their habits for the collective good. Also highlighted in the [food finance seminar](#) is that it is essential to recognize that ensuring a healthy diet for all requires elevating the poverty line from \$2 to \$5 per day.

Resources

- FAO Roadmap: <https://www.fao.org/interactive/sdg2-roadmap/en/>
- The Good Food Finance Facility: <https://goodfood.finance/workstreams/>
- The Pending Eat-Lancet 2 report: <https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/eat-lancet-commission-2-0/>

COP 28 Joint Statement on Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day

At the UNFCCC COP 28, 18 countries endorsed the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, uniting for nature and placing it at the center of climate action. Signatories included Belize, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Cabo Verde, Canada, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Costa Rica, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of France, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Rwanda, Independent State of Samoa, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Seychelles, Kingdom of Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

<https://www.cbd.int/article/climate-nature-people-statement-climatecop28-2023>

<https://www.cop28.com/en/joint-statement-on-climate-nature>

International coalition to phase out fossil fuel subsidies

During the UN Climate Conference in Dubai (COP28), the Netherlands launched an international coalition to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Countries joining the coalition include the Netherlands, Austria, the federal government of Belgium, Ireland, Spain, Finland, Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, France, Denmark, Costa Rica, Luxemburg.

<https://unfccc.int/event/the-netherlands-signing-joint-ministerial-statement-on-fossil-fuel-subsidies>

https://unfccc-events.azureedge.net/COP28_96616/agenda

COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health

In a historic milestone marking the inaugural Health Day at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), global leaders united in endorsing the health and climate change declaration, sounding the alarm on the severe health implications of climate change. Emphasizing the critical role of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the declaration underscores the urgent need to confront the connections between climate change and health. Signatories: 132 Countries and counting have signed on.

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/cop28-uae-declaration-on-climate-and-health>

COP 28 UAE on Climate Relief Recovery and Peace

This declaration offered immediate support to the most vulnerable countries and communities and those operating in fragile and conflict affected settings to address climate shocks and stressors. Signatories included Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Timor Leste, Uganda, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA, Venezuela, Yemen.

<https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-declaration-on-climate-relief-recovery-and-peace>

COP 28 UAE Declaration on Gender Balance and Just Transitions was endorsed by 71 countries. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 1.2 billion jobs, representing 40 percent of the global labor force, are at risk due to global warming and environmental degradation. Women are expected to be most severely affected due to their high representation in sectors particularly susceptible to climate change. By mid-century, it is predicted that climate change could push up to 158 million more women and girls into poverty globally (16 million more than the total number of men and boys). The countries that have endorsed the Partnership are:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, DRC, Dominican Republic, Finland, Fiji, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, UK, US, Uruguay, Venezuela.

https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/trends2021/WCMS_794452/lang--en/index.htm

<https://www.cop28.com/en/news/2023/12/COP28-launches-partnership-to-support-women-economic-empowerment>

The Global Cooling Pledge

Countries committed to take in passive cooling strategies -- such as insulation, natural shading, ventilation and reflective surfaces, higher energy efficiency standards and a rapid phase down of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants. Signatories included: Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

<https://www.cop28.com/en/global-cooling-pledge-for-cop28>

Joint taskforce on international taxation launched at COP28

On December 2, 2023, during the opening days of COP28, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, France, Kenya, Spain, and the African Union Commission, with the European Commission as an observer, jointly launched a new taskforce on international taxation. The taskforce is the result of discussions initiated at the June 2023 Paris Summit for a New Financing Pact and the September 2023 African Climate Summit, held in Nairobi. The taskforce was announced with the goal to identify innovative finance mechanisms and mobilize new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources for development, climate change and the protection of biodiversity. It is intended to ensure that all economic sectors, particularly those with a low tax burden, contribute a fair share to climate financing according to respective greenhouse gas emission levels. The taskforce is planned to analyze various taxation options, such as a global carbon tax regime, a carbon tax on the fossil fuel trade, shipping, and aviation, as well as a global Financial Transaction Tax. The members of the coalition mobilized around the taskforce stated their openness to cooperation with other countries and CSOs. The taskforce will be supported by the European Climate Foundation.

<https://focus2030.org/COP28-assessment-of-commitments-to-climate-and-development-financing-global#:>

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Just prior to COP 28, the EU Parliament calls for negotiation of a Fossil Fuel Treaty in formal COP28 position. At COP 28 Palau, Colombia, Samoa and Nauru COP 28 UAE Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge was endorsed by 140 countries and they commit to:- put the principle of energy efficiency as the "first fuel" at the core of policymaking, planning, and major investment decisions. became the 9th, 10 and 11th nation

states to formally join the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and while at COP 28 the historic milestone over 100 cities and subnational governments call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty was achieved. In order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, we need international cooperation to explicitly stop the expansion of fossil fuels and manage a global transition away from coal, oil and gas in a manner that is both fast and fair, so that no worker, community or country is left behind. <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/mission>

The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance

The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA) is an international alliance of governments and stakeholders working together to facilitate the managed phase-out of oil and gas production. The province of Quebec took a leadership role at the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance. Premiers and Governors at the subnational level should take note. <https://beyondoilandgasalliance.org/>

Carbon Pricing and COP 28

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen said December 1: *“Carbon pricing is the centrepiece of the European Green Deal. In the European Union, if you pollute, you have to pay a price for that. If you want to avoid paying that price, you innovate and invest in clean technologies. And it works. Since 2005, the EU ETS has reduced emissions in the sectors covered by over 37%, and raised more than €175 billion. Many countries around the world now embrace carbon pricing, with 73 instruments in place, covering a quarter of total global emissions. This is a good start, but we must go further and faster. The EU is ready to share its experience and help others in this noble task.”*

At the [EU-Canada Summit](#) on November 24, the EU formally joined Canada's [Global Carbon Pricing Challenge](#) which also includes Chile, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, and others.

The dynamic that fuels our determination

The relentless efforts of Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers in Canada and around the world plus many of our climate allies will continue to push for a full, fair, financed, and forever phase-out of fossil fuels.

At COP 26 in Glasgow an economist's words resonated with hope: *the transformation of the economy will not be linear.*

The March 2023 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Synthesis Report ([IPCC AR6](#)) was clear, there is sufficient global capital to transition our economy if barriers are reduced. We must redirect financial flows towards a thriving and equitable future. This includes subsidy reform, making polluters pay, regulating the banks, reforming the multilateral development banks and tax-reform to pay loss and damage, adaptation and climate debt relief. All of the actions above must be embedded in all human rights and citizen engagement.

No country will want to go first. Thus, we need a global treaty to unwind our economies from fossil fuels and that is why, alongside over 2500 civil society groups, Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada endorses the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

When all else fails, sue. And that is already happening because a liveable future is a human right.

This dance of unity will continue beyond COP 28 because we are becoming too connected to fail.

COP 28 Resources

Summary of Global Climate Action at COP 28:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_GCA_COP28.pdf

The COP 28 website: <https://www.cop28.com/>

UN Climate Change tracked climate action announcements made at COP 28

<https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Events/COP28>



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