



PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**OUTCOMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)
COP 28, HELD IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES,
FROM 30 NOVEMBER - 13 DECEMBER 2023**

DATE: 20 FEBRUARY 2024



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PURPOSE

- To update the Portfolio Committee on the outcomes of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28), held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30 November - 13 December 2023.



POLITICAL ASSESSMENT

- Our overall assessment, in consultation with DIRCO and based on feedback from the President, is that South Africa achieved its foreign policy objectives at COP28.
- COP28 delivered significant outcomes for the global South, despite the difficult geo-political context. Key outcomes include the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, the Global Stocktake (GST), Adaptation and Just Transitions.
- The narrative on climate change has been correctly contextualized as a sustainable development issue, respecting the right to development and right of developing countries to choose their own just transition pathways towards shared objectives, such as keeping the global aggregate temperature increase below 1,5 degrees. This is essential to climate justice.
- South Africa played a central role as a member of the G77&China, Africa Group of Negotiators and Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC) group, as well as in our national capacity. We held key facilitation roles supporting the UAE COP Presidency, including on GST, Loss and Damage Fund and Just Transitions.
- Cross-cutting issues discussed at the Summit attended by the President - reform of the global financial architecture, strategic minerals and carbon border taxes



EXPECTATIONS FOR THE DUBAI CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

- The 1st Global Stocktake (GST) under the Paris Agreement must consider equity and historical responsibility, including - pre-2020 ambition gaps of developed countries, 1.5° special report, Global Goal on Adaptation & Means of Implementation.
- Operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund and adoption of the Global Goal on Adaptation Framework.
- The mitigation and just transition work programmes for the urgent upscaling of mitigation ambition.
- Address the unfulfilled finance commitments by developed countries, in particular, the USD 100 billion per year by 2020.
- Progress towards setting the new collective quantified goal post-2025 beyond the current floor of USD 100 billion per year.
- Scaling up adaptation finance and ensuring parity between mitigation and adaptation financing.



KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP28 (6)

On the Global Stocktake

1) What did we aim to achieve:

- GST should provide a comprehensive stock taking assessment of implementation, with a clear set of recommendations on how to achieve all the goals in the Paris Agreement, under the Convention.
- GST should not be utilised to advance new interpretations of climate finance by developed countries or for the adoption of non-negotiated decisions on fossil fuels and energy.

2) What did we achieve:

- The adopted decision on the 1st GST includes key outcomes on finance, adaptation and mitigation.
- The decision refers to tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling energy efficiency annually until 2030.
- Parties also agreed to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a "just, orderly and equitable manner" and to "accelerate efforts" to phase down unabated coal power.



KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP28 (1)

On the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

1) What did we aim to achieve:

- Establishment of a GGA framework with a set of targets - measurable, time-bound, and outcome-based and focused on reducing the adverse impacts and risks of climate change.

2) What did we achieve:

- Adopted the UAE framework for Global Climate Resilience. This is the most important decision on adaptation since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015.
- Launched a two-year UAE-Belem work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the agreed targets.



KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP28 (2)

On the Loss and Damage

1) What did we aim to achieve:

- Operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund that meets the needs and priorities of developing countries.
- Fund should be separate from finance for Adaptation and not increase the debt burden of developing countries.

2) What did we achieve:

- Agreement on the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund.
- Pledges to the fund had risen to \$792 million by the end of the COP 28.



KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP28 (3)

On the Just Transition Work Programme

1) What did we aim to achieve:

- Establish a Just Transition Pathways Work Programme that recognises various stages of transitions and encompass a whole-of-society and whole-of-economy approach.

2) What did we achieve:

- A UAE five – year Just Transition Work Programme to discuss different just transition pathways, addressing all elements of the Paris Agreement and both the national and international dimensions of just transitions
- Decision underscores the importance of finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building support to achieve just and equitable transitions, nationally and globally.
- Importance of improving international cooperation on just transitions in developing countries.



KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP28 (4)

On the Mitigation Work Programme

1) What did we aim to achieve:

- Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) decision that assists countries to scale up their efforts to implement their NDCs by making available new financial resources and technology transfers to developing countries.

2) What did we achieve:

- Operationalisation of the MWP that complements the GST and enhances ambition through the Paris Agreement and NDCs.
- MWP will continue to focus on investment workshops that aim to unlock funding for developing countries.



KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP28 (5)

On the Finance

1) What did we aim to achieve:

- Step change on the New Finance Quantified Goal (NCQG).
- Roadmaps for full delivery on the 100\$ billion climate finance commitment as well as the doubling of adaptation finance by 2025.

2) What did we achieve:

- Developed countries insist that the \$100 billion was met in 2023, developing countries disagree. The decision notes with concern that this was not delivered on time (2020).
- New pledges were made to the Green Climate Fund which seeks to aid developing nations in their response to climate change. Pledges at the conference came to \$12.8 billion.
- The COP decided on the step change deliberation on NCQG- no more workshops rather text-based negotiations.



IMPLICATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

- COP28 contains the first-ever UNFCCC decision language on phasing down fossil fuels, but this is contextualised as a sustainable development issue and transition must happen in a just, orderly and equitable manner with enabling means of implementation support.
- Trade issues (minerals and carbon border taxes) require follow-up and coordination amongst developing countries.
- The progression in the international community's conceptualisation of just transitions beyond only energy/mitigation and immediate workforce towards a whole-of-society and whole-of-economy approach is key for Africa.
- The focus of COP29 in Azerbaijan in November will be finance and the first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to track implementation progress.



RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Portfolio Committee notes the outcomes of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28), held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30 November - 13 December 2023.



Thank You



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