



UN CLIMATE CHANGE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPION for COP28

# Achievements at COP28

## Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak



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## A big, big “Thank you!”

As the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, I am honored to share this report, a testament to the collective efforts and achievements that have marked a significant milestone in our ongoing journey towards a sustainable future. Central to our discussions and outcomes at COP28 was the **pivotal role of nature in addressing climate change**, a theme that resonates deeply with the values and vision of the United Arab Emirates.

# Foreword

As the *UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28*, it's my honor to present this report highlighting our progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement to deliver a net zero, just and resilient future.

**COP28 marked a significant turning point, signifying the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era and a convergence of the climate and nature agendas.** There were important achievements in the *UAE Consensus* such as agreement among all parties to end deforestation by 2030, a recognition that climate change cannot be addressed without protecting nature and biodiversity, and an urgent call to align existing international climate and nature policies and conventions.

On a practical, action-based level, COP28 mobilized more than \$2.7 billion for nature-related projects across forests, oceans and coastal ecosystems. More than 200 global businesses and financial institutions committed to nature focused targets, disclosures and investments.

We also focused on ensuring that climate discussions were inclusive, particularly by involving Indigenous Peoples and women, to shape fair and effective policies. Our approach at COP28 featured regionalization and multilevel action, recognizing the global nature of climate change and fostering varied, adaptable strategies.

COP28's achievements, especially in elevating nature in climate talks, reflect the UAE's commitment to balancing development with ecological preservation. This report shows how our emphasis on nature, inclusion, regionalization, and multilevel action has led to concrete outcomes during COP28 and lays the ground for a hopeful, sustainable roadmap that will guide us in the years to come.

I'm grateful to everyone who contributed to COP28's success, helping shape a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient world.

**Razan Al Mubarak**  
UN Climate Change  
High-Level Champion for COP28



# Snapshot of key achievements



## Nature in Global Stocktake

Watershed moment for nature in climate on political level

## Nature Finance

\$2.7bn finance for nature, biodiversity & climate

## Land and Forest actions

US\$1.7 billion unlocked for forests & land conservation

## Ocean-climate actions

Oceans, mangroves, corals, & seagrass action

## Nature Positive for Climate Action

+300 organisations & businesses align with nature positive transition



## Gender-responsive Transition

78 countries sign partnership to advance equality

## Climate Finance

Increase finance flows to women & girls in most climate vulnerable regions

## Mainstreaming and Representation

Gender mainstreamed throughout the COP28 agenda

## Gender and Data

Access to better quality, gender-disaggregated data



## IPs in Global Stocktake

Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' contributions and knowledge and land rights

## Climate Finance

Joint campaign with Indigenous Peoples Organizations to support direct access to finance

## Engagement

Champion the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

## Visibility

Meaningful representation & visibility throughout the 2-week programme



## Regional Delivery

US\$1.9 billion raised for 19 climate projects

## Energy

Global utilities for net zero alliance covering 300 million customers

## Industry and Transport

Responsible renewable hydrogen & demand for 641Mt of green steel

## Cities and Buildings

Cities action at global and local levels

## Resilience and Adaptation

\$10bn in private investment target & \$300m Quali Fund for smallholder farmers and SMEs

# COP28: A Landmark Event for Nature, People, and Multilevel Action

COP28 not only achieved strengthened political outcomes for global climate action, it also successfully brought together a diverse range of actors towards a unified vision of a sustainable and resilient future. The conference's outcomes emphasize the importance of inclusive and collaborative approaches in addressing global environmental challenges.

## UAE Consensus Emphasis on Biodiversity and Indigenous Communities

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) established a profound legacy for the conservation of nature, the betterment of people's lives, and the promotion of multilevel action. **The groundbreaking UAE Consensus, which sets an ambitious global goal to halt deforestation by 2030, has been widely celebrated by conservation groups and a broader constituency of nonstate actors and governments alike.** Additionally, the conference has been notable for its positive recognition of the vital role of Indigenous communities in environmental stewardship, highlighting the conference's comprehensive approach to ecological, social, and development issues.

## Global Work on Adaptation: Collaborative Efforts and Financial Mobilization

A pivotal aspect of COP28 was the *Global Work on Adaptation*, involving 34 partner initiatives and 647 members through the [Race to Resilience Campaign](#) and the [Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#). This initiative has successfully mobilized nearly **US\$40 billion to support adaptation efforts in 164 countries, 86 cities, and 78 regions.** The impact is substantial, enhancing resilience for about 1.8 billion people, with plans to extend this to more than 3 billion individuals in the coming years.

## Global Work on Mitigation: Forming the World's Largest Environmental Coalition

In the realm of mitigation, COP28 catalyzed significant global action. We witnessed the formation of the world's largest coalition of Non-State Actors (NSAs), uniting through the [Race to Zero Campaign](#) to achieve the goal of reaching net zero by 2050. **With over 13,500 members, this represents a major step in collaborative environmental action. Over**

**600 financial institutions have set interim net-zero targets, and a coalition of cities, representing a significant portion of the global GDP and population, has made net-zero commitments.**



### Race to Zero Campaign

With over 13,500 members, this represents a major step in collaborative environmental action. Over 600 financial institutions have set interim net-zero targets, and a coalition of cities, representing a significant portion of the global GDP and population, has made net-zero commitments.



# A COP for Nature: Delivering a Landmark Victory for the Environment

Nature currently absorbs 50% of overall emissions and has the potential to deliver 30% of our emission reduction targets by 2030, acting only second to renewable energy as a mechanism for mitigation. Nature directly supports the lives and livelihoods of over 1.8 billion people worldwide and therefore acts as a first line of defense against climate risks.



"The *Paris Agreement* mentions "ecosystems" 5 times and "natural resources" once, the *UAE Consensus* mentions "ecosystem" or "ecosystems" 15 times, and "nature" 8 times, truly reflecting the elevation of nature as a critical lever to achieve our global climate goals."

**Razan Al Mubarak**



## Political Wins: Elevating Nature in the Global Climate Agenda

The recent Conference of the Parties marked a watershed moment for nature in the realm of global climate policy. Nature was placed at the heart of the [Global Stocktake](#), with a strong call for zero deforestation by 2030 and alignment with the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and enhanced cooperation on the Rio Conventions. The UAE and People's Republic of China spearheaded a [Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People](#), which was joined by 16 countries and 11 partnerships to develop national climate-nature plans. Additionally, the [UAE-Brazil Nature Partnership](#) was announced, setting the stage for collaboration extending from COP28 to COP30 in Belem, Brazil in 2025.

## Global Actions for Nature: Financial Mobilization and Collaborative Efforts

The conference was notable for its significant achievements in mobilizing finance for nature, biodiversity, and climate initiatives. [A total of \\$2.7 billion was unlocked, including \\$100 million of new funding from the UAE.](#) Major development banks and international organizations signed a [Joint Declaration launching a global task force to boost sustainability-linked sovereign financing.](#) The release of the '[MDBs Common Principles for tracking nature-positive finance](#)' marked a step forward in enhancing tracking and accountability.

## Land and Forest Actions: Commitments to Conservation and Restoration

As part of the \$2.7 billion for nature that was mobilized at COP28, the conference successfully unlocked \$1.7 billion in nature conservation finance specifically for forests and land. Notably, the High-Level Champion brought together Indigenous Peoples' leaders and seven Heads of States to unveil this significant financial commitment for forest conservation in countries including Ghana, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Republic of the Congo.

Additionally, environment ministers from five countries, along with global Land Use non-State actors, announced over \$200 million committed and mobilized for land restoration.

## Ocean-Climate Actions: Prioritizing Marine Ecosystems

For the first time at a Head of State level in the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS), oceans, mangroves, corals, and seagrass were given significant attention as key ecosystems for climate action. The [Mangrove Alliance for Climate](#) saw 49 governments joining forces, with more than 50 non-State actors committed to the [Mangrove Breakthrough](#), aiming to conserve and restore 15 million hectares by 2030 with a \$4 billion investment. Additionally, \$450 million was announced to protect coral reefs and vulnerable marine life, and the [Seagrass Breakthrough](#) was launched.

## Nature Positive for Climate Action: A Global Movement

Over 300 organizations and businesses worldwide aligned with the nature-positive transition. More than 200 non-State actors signed the [Food Systems Call to Action](#), complementing the [UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture](#). Furthermore, over 200 businesses and financial institutions joined the call for [Nature Positive for Climate Action](#) (NP4CA), committing to nature-focused targets, disclosures, and investments. The [Urban Nature Program](#) was also launched by ICLEI and other global partners, emphasizing nature-focused investments in urban areas. The Program will be co-led by the [World Bank through its Global Platform for Sustainable Cities \(supported by the GEF\)](#), the [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in partnership with the [World Resources Institute](#), [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#), [C40 Cities and World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\)](#). The program is supported by the High-Level Climate Champions.



UAE and China Sign Joint Declaration on Nature, People, and Climate



Indigenous Peoples representatives of the seven socio-cultural regions of the United Nations

# Indigenous Peoples at COP28: Significant Strides and Achievements

Indigenous peoples steward 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity, yet make up only 5% of the world's population. Recent studies show that of climate funds intended for Indigenous peoples and local communities, only 17% reach them – and Indigenous women are the most left behind, only receiving 5% of funding.





## Political Wins: Integrating Indigenous Peoples in the Global Stocktake

The involvement of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in COP28 marked a significant political achievement. Their contributions, knowledge, and land rights received unprecedented recognition. The *UAE Consensus* mentioned Indigenous Peoples nine times, the most in any cover decision, underscoring the importance of their knowledge, views, and values. The [COP28 Dialogue on Just Transition](#), along with the *Just Transition Working Party (JTWP)* featuring UAE Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, High-Level Champion Razan Al Mubarak, and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, focused on unpacking expectations for negotiations with IPs. Additionally, concerted efforts were made to involve Indigenous youth, ensuring their perspectives were incorporated into the institutionalization of the Youth Climate Champion.

## Global Actions for Indigenous Peoples: Climate Finance Initiatives

A major focus at COP28 was to support direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples. This involved a joint campaign with Indigenous Peoples Organizations and collaboration with the *Forest Tenure Funder Group* for an IP Finance event, raising awareness of the need for increased financing. The [COP28 Global Data Study on Indigenous Peoples](#) was socialized with key partners to advocate for direct access to finance for IPs. The launch of the [Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative](#) marked a significant step in innovating direct finance to IPs in climate action, aiming to ensure that 85% of funds reach IP territories and communities. Furthermore, testimonies from Indigenous Peoples Fund were showcased to highlight the success of IP finance mechanisms.

## Engagement: Championing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and Ensuring Inclusive Participation

COP28 championed the *Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)*. The High-Level Champion, Razan Al Mubarak, facilitated the opening of the LCIPP Facilitative Working Group (FWG) ahead of COP28, with senior leadership engaging with LCIPP throughout the conference. Financial support was provided for interpretation services to ensure all Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) could participate effectively. Notably, this was the first time Indigenous Peoples were part of the official action agenda program, with representation from all the seven socio-cultural regions for IPs.

## Visibility: Amplifying Indigenous Voices and Perspectives

Ensuring meaningful representation and visibility of Indigenous Peoples was a priority throughout the two-week program. COP28 saw the inaugural *Indigenous Peoples Day* (December 5th) as part of the Action Agenda, featuring events co-curated with Indigenous Peoples Organizations. **Over 300 Indigenous Peoples attended the conference, with prominent representation in various segments, including the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS), the Business and Philanthropy Forum, Nature Day, and the Global Climate Action Agenda.** Additionally, resources were allocated for the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion in the Blue Zone and a ceremonial space in the Green Zone. The High-Level Champion for COP28 supported the *Indigenous Peoples Coordination* meeting ahead of COP28 and facilitated the attendance of IP elders through travel and accommodation support.



Mobilizing an Inclusive COP. Women's Leadership and Participation



# Women and Gender at COP28: Key Achievements and Initiatives

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) marked a significant milestone in advancing gender equality within the framework of global climate action. This year's conference saw unprecedented initiatives and achievements that focused on elevating the role and needs of women in the climate change discourse.

## HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE JUST TRANSITIONS & CLIMATE ACTION



Climate change is not gender-neutral - women and girls are disproportionately affected. And we see that the more that women and girls are included in efforts to tackle climate change and advance sustainable development, the faster we move towards a healthier, safer and more equitable society for all.



Representatives of the Gender Data Conference called for the collection of better gender and environmental data

### Political Wins: Advancing the Gender-Just Transition

A major political achievement at COP28 was the enhanced recognition of gender perspectives in climate action. This was highlighted by the launch of the [COP28 Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership](#), a groundbreaking initiative that received endorsement from 78 national governments. **This Partnership is poised to play a critical role in ensuring gender-responsive climate action, focusing on crucial aspects such as data collection, financial support, and creating equal opportunities for women.** The progress of this partnership will be closely monitored and is scheduled for a thorough review at COP31 in 2026.

### Global Actions for Women: Focusing on Climate Finance and Awareness

COP28 also placed a significant emphasis on increasing financial support for women and girls, particularly in regions severely affected by climate change. Events like the "Grassroots Gender Just Climate Financing Learning Event" were pivotal in this regard, bringing together gender focal points from various countries, philanthropy sectors, and government officials. This event, alongside the preparation for the 2024 launch of the *Joint Commitment Campaign*, marks a concerted effort to enhance direct access to finance for women in climate action.

### Mainstreaming and Representation: A Push Towards Greater Gender Balance

Another critical area of focus was the mainstreaming of gender across the COP28 agenda. Collaborative efforts by the Presidency and the High-Level Champion ensured the integration of gender perspectives throughout various segments of the conference, including the World Climate Action Summit, Blue Zone, and Green Zone. **Notably, there was an improvement in the gender balance of party delegations, and more than half of the speakers in over sixty HLC-affiliated events were women.** This increased representation was complemented by resources allocated for the *Women and Gender Pavilion* and the training provided at the [Women's Night School](#) for future women climate negotiators.

### Gender and Data: Prioritizing Quality and Accessibility

Access to quality, gender-disaggregated data was a primary focus, with the High-Level Champion and Presidency co-organizing the "Counting on a Sustainable Future: Gender and Environment Data Conference." This event aimed at ensuring that women, especially those on the frontlines, are included in the discourse and that their experiences inform policy and action. The conference concluded with a [Global Call to Action](#), appealing to world leaders and policymakers to utilize gender-environment data to drive gender-responsive climate commitments.

# Regionalisation and Multi-level Action: Comprehensive Progress at COP28

COP28 marked significant strides in regionalisation and multi-level action, particularly in the sectors of energy, industry, transport, cities, buildings, resilience, adaptation, and regional delivery. This comprehensive approach highlights the global commitment to diverse and impactful climate actions across various sectors and regions.



## Energy Sector: Advancing Towards Net Zero

The energy sector witnessed notable achievements with the launch of the [Global Utilities for Net Zero Alliance](#), co-developed by Taqa and IRENA, uniting 27 utilities and power companies serving 300 million customers globally. This alliance is a testament to the growing collaboration in the energy sector for achieving net-zero emissions.

The new [2030 Zero Methane Breakthrough](#) was also launched to align non-state actor action with COP28's call to action for states. Furthermore, the integration of 2030 cooling outcomes into the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda with UNEP marked a significant step towards sustainable cooling solutions.

## Industry and Transport: Pioneering Sustainable Practices

The industry and transport sectors made considerable progress, with the [Joint Agreement on Responsible Renewable-based Hydrogen](#) signed by global partners, focusing on renewable hydrogen development. The launch of the [Cement Breakthrough by the UAE and Canada](#), along with the mobilization of demand for 641Mt of green steel for shipping by 2050, underscored the commitment to green industry practices. The sector also saw the introduction of the [2030 Shipping Pact for People and Nature](#), signifying a concerted effort towards more sustainable shipping.



UAE leading developers act as first movers to support the transition of the sector

## Resilience and Adaptation: Financing and Innovation

In resilience and adaptation, a significant commitment of **\$10 billion in private investment was mobilized by Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda member Lightsmith Group**. The \$300 million Quali Fund for smallholder farmers and SMEs, launched by [Race to Resilience](#) partners under the Nairobi Declaration, is set to provide new sustainable insurance products for renewable energy and agriculture, highlighting the focus on vulnerable sectors and communities. The Race to Resilience launched its [2023 Campaign Progress Report](#) during COP28, highlighting that existing commitments made covered 3 billion people with action already delivered resulting in enhanced climate resilience of 1.8 billion people.

## Cities and Buildings: Local and Global Actions

Cities and buildings were at the forefront of climate action, with initiatives like the [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships \(CHAMP\)](#) co-chaired by Bloomberg and COP28, featuring during the Leaders Climate Action Summit (LCAS) which engaged over 70 countries. The [UAE Built Environment Sustainability Blueprint](#), launched by leading UAE real estate developers, and the launch of the Building Breakthrough endorsed by the UAE, were critical in promoting sustainable



Taskforce on Circular Economy was launched with the League of Arab States

urban development both at the national and international level. Additionally, a [circular economy taskforce](#) was launched with the League of Arab States, emphasizing the importance of acting on resource efficiency and the power of regional collaboration in delivering the transition.

## Regional Delivery: Financing Climate Projects

The conference also succeeded in raising **US\$1.9 billion for 19 climate projects,**

**demonstrating the efficacy of HLC-led Regional Platforms for Climate Projects.** The engagement of over 1,000 participants, including 200 financiers in 2023 forums, illustrates the expansive reach and impact of these initiatives. The growth of [Global Financial Alliance for Net Zero \(GFANZ\)](#) in regions like Africa and Latin America/Caribbean, along with the new Capacity-Building Coalition in developing countries, reflects the growing global commitment to regional climate action and financial mobilization.



Incubayt, local start-up incubators, listened to climate tech pitches



## Declarations, Partnerships, Calls to Action, and Breakthroughs

## Nature

### Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People

- **Description:** The joint statement by the UAE UNFCCC COP28 Presidency and the People's Republic of China CBD Presidency calls for adopting a synergetic approach, aligning national climate and biodiversity plans and strategies, to support the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Key Outcome:** The statement was endorsed by 18 countries. It signifies a unified commitment to coordinate and simultaneously implement nature and climate strategies, bridging efforts across forests, mangroves, and oceans. This agreement sets a comprehensive agenda for upcoming global conferences, particularly COP16 of the CBD and COP30 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency and Peoples' Republic of China
- **Event:** NDC-NBSAP Ministerial - Driving integrated implementation of national climate and biodiversity frameworks for 2030 action, 9 Dec. 14:00 - 15:30
- **Further Reading:** [Convention on Biological Diversity website.](#)
- **Collateral:** [Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People](#)



China and COP28 Presidency sign agreement to align Rio Conventions

## Nature

### Ministerial Roundtable on Enhancing Ambition and Cooperation on Nature for Climate Action

- **Description:** A ministerial meeting convening governments, representatives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, as well global non-state actors, around the importance of leveraging the first global stocktake to anchor the role of nature and biodiversity in delivering on the targets of the Paris Agreement. This helped confirm the interlinkages between the nature and climate agendas. The goal is to integrate the biodiversity conservation planning into national level climate action plans.
- **Key Outcome:** Open letter, signed by the governments of Colombia, Germany, Granada, and by the COP28 High Level Champion and the Executive Secretary of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity and the CBD Action Agenda Champion for Nature and People highlighting the importance of the GST as critical step in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the central role nature and biodiversity play in meeting the Paris Agreement.
- **Delivery Partners:** Government of Colombia, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Nature4Climate Coalition
- **Event:** Ministerial Roundtable on Enhancing Ambition and Cooperation on Nature for Climate Action
- **Further Reading:** [Ministers and UN climate leaders enhance ambition on nature for climate](#)
- **Collateral:** [Ministerial Open Letter](#)

## UAE-Brazil Nature Partnership

- **Description:** Brazilian President Lula da Silva and the COP28 Presidency announced a two- year partnership to mobilize new resources and political support for nature on the road to COP30 in Belém.
- **Key Outcome:** An opportunity to carry forward the many nature and indigenous peoples related outcomes and initiatives from COP28 to COP29 and to CO30.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency and Federative Republic of Brazil
- **Event:** World Climate Action Summit: Forest and Nature Leaders Moment, Dec. 2, 20023, 12:30 to 13:45.
- **Further Reading:** [Brazil and United Arab Emirates sign memorandum on climate change](#)



*Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, and Marina Silva, Minister of Environment, at WCAS Forest/Nature Leaders' Moment*

## Nature

# Call for Nature Positive for Climate Action

- **Description:** Nature Positive for Climate Action is a Call to Action that contributes to the delivery of the Sharm el Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and the 2030 Breakthroughs. It calls on non-Party stakeholders (NPS) to: (1) Put nature at the heart of climate transition plans; (2) Increase investments in nature-based solutions; (3) Set Science-based targets for Climate and Nature; (4) Assess, manage and disclose climate and nature-related risks, impacts and dependencies; (5) Address deforestation risk, without which, net zero targets will be out of reach.
- **Key Outcome:** More than 150 businesses and financial institutions joined the call for NP4CA, committing to nature focused targets, disclosure and investments.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency
- **Event:** Business and Philanthropy Climate Forum: December, 2023, 11:30am to 12:30pm.
- **Further Reading:** [Climate Champions Website](#)

## Nature

# Urban Nature Programme

- **Description:** The initiative showcases lighthouse cities that exemplify global leadership and will build a pipeline of ambitious cities that intend to leverage green urban infrastructure and nature-based solutions to address the impacts of climate change.
- **Key Outcome:** The Urban Nature Program will advance the call to action for "Nature Positive Development in cities and regions". This program will provide financial and technical assistance to accelerate investments in nature in urban areas.
- **Delivery Partners:** World Bank, UNEP, WRI, IUCN
- **Events:** Multiple Events Across COP28, including:
  - Local Climate Action Summit: Nurturing Nature - Bringing Nature Positive Cities to the Forefront of Urban Climate Action. 2 Dec 14:30 to 15:15.
  - Local Ecosystem Restoration for Nature Positive Cities and Regions. 6th December, 2023.
- **Further Reading:** [Global Platform for Sustainable Cities](#).



Nature Positive for Climate Action: Putting People at the Heart of Climate Solutions



Indigenous Peoples participated in the Business and Philanthropy Forum at COP28



## Ocean Breakthroughs

- **Description:** The Ocean Breakthroughs aim to inform the Global Stocktake to ensure the potential of ocean-based climate solutions are well recognized. Building on a whole-of-society approach, it must be all hands on deck to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and safeguard our Blue Planet. They are articulated around five key ocean sectors: marine conservation, ocean renewable energy, shipping, aquatic food, and coastal tourism. Accelerated action and investments in each will help unlock the potential of the ocean as a source of solutions to the pressing challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss.
- **Key Outcomes:**
  - **On Finance:** A coalition of philanthropic founders, including Bloomberg Philanthropies, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and Oceankind, [announced the formation of the Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance \(ORCA\) by leading climate and ocean institutions, along with an initial pledge of more than \\$USD 250 millions](#). This initiative will be dedicated to advancing ocean-based solutions to fight climate change – targeting protection for vulnerable marine areas, ocean-based mitigation efforts, and research on climate impacts.
  - **On Shipping:** [Thirty shipping sector leaders – including Maersk, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines – committed to accelerate the decarbonisation of the sector by scaling up zero-emissions fuel derived from renewables-based hydrogen to nearly 11 million tonnes by 2030](#). Additionally, on the eve of Nature Day, the '[2030 Shipping Pact for People and Nature \(SPPaN\)](#)' was launched, to address the interconnected challenges of pollution, biodiversity loss, and the climate crisis; and the potential co-benefits of shipping decarbonization for people and nature.
  - **On Marine Conservation:** COP28 saw considerable momentum for the Mangrove Breakthrough and the Coral Breakthrough through, respectively, the launch of the [Financial Roadmap for Mangrove protection and restoration](#) and [the announcement, by the Global Fund for Coral Reefs \(GFCR\), of the mobilisation of more than US\\$200 million of new direct investment to support coral conservation and protection](#).
  - **On Sustainable Ocean Plans:** 40 companies, including Ørsted, Iberostar Group and Thai Union signed a call for Sustainable Ocean Plans to catalyse markets, while underpinning the achievement of the Ocean Breakthroughs and the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda.
- **Delivery Partners:** High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Marrakesh Partnership, Ocean and Climate Platform
- **Event:** Powering Ocean Breakthroughs Through Sustainable Ocean Planning, Dec. 9 14:00 - 15:30.
- **Collateral:** [Ocean Breakthroughs Infographic](#).

## Mangrove Breakthrough

- **Description:** The Mangrove Breakthrough is a call to accelerate action and investment from governments, the private sector, and non-state actors for one of the most under-protected and threatened ecosystems on the planet. The Mangrove Breakthrough provides a framework for State and non-State Actors to work together towards a global science based target of securing the future of over 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030, underpinned by \$4bn of sustainable finance, in support of the Paris agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **Key Outcome:**
  - The Mangrove Alliance for Climate saw 49 governments joining forces, with more than 50 non-State actors committed to the Mangrove Breakthrough, aiming to conserve and restore 15 million hectares by 2030 with a \$4 billion investment.
  - [Financial Roadmap for Mangrove protection and restoration](#)
- **Delivery Partners:** Mangrove Alliance for Climate, Global Mangrove Alliance
- **Event:** A Breakthrough Moment for Mangroves: Delivering Global Action on Mangrove Restoration and Protection, 9 Dec. 12:30 to 13:30.
- **Collateral:** [A Breakthrough Moment for Mangroves](#).



UAE and Indonesia were Critical to the Success of the Mangroves Breakthrough

## Nature

# Coral Reef Breakthrough

- **Description:** Coral reefs support at least 25% of marine species, provide ecosystem services valued up to \$9.9 trillion and contribute directly or indirectly to the lives and livelihoods of around 1 billion people globally. They are however facing challenges due to climate change including sea level rise, increase in temperature and acidity of the seas amongst others. The Coral Reef Breakthrough aims to protect at least 125,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shallow-water tropical coral reefs supported by a minimum of US\$12 billion by 2030 directly enhancing the resilience of more than half a billion people.
- **Key Outcomes:** The breakthrough saw considerable commitment from states, including France, Canada, the United Kingdom and Brazil, a total of \$200 million USD was mobilised by global donors to directly support the Coral Reef Breakthrough, including €1 million granted by France to the Global Fund for Coral Reefs.
- **Delivery Partners:** The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)
- **Events:** Powering Ocean Breakthroughs Through Sustainable Ocean Planning, December 9, 2.00pm -3.30pm.
- **Collateral:** [Coral Reef Breakthrough](#)

## Nature

# Seagrass Breakthrough

- **Description:** The seagrass breakthrough sets targets of unlocking a minimum of \$122 million by 2030 to protect 150,000 km<sup>2</sup> of seagrass globally. This is important because seagrass meadows cover approximately 0.1% of the ocean surface, provide 18% of the ocean's carbon storage and support 20% of the world's largest fisheries, but are shrinking at a rate of 7% per year.
- **Key Outcomes:** The Seagrass Breakthrough Launch saw the announcement of the targets set, with strategic partners committing to join hands in the implementation of the Breakthrough, notably the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the Union for the Mediterranean which is an intergovernmental organization of 43 member states from Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.
- **Delivery Partners:** The Convention on Migratory Species
- **Events:** Seagrass Breakthrough Launch, December 12, 9:00am - 10:30am.
- **Collateral:** [2030 Seagrass Breakthrough](#); [the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough leaflet](#).



## Nature

### Non-State Actors Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate

- **Description:** The Call to Action mobilizes collective efforts around a shared vision of food systems that deliver significant, measurable progress for people, nature, and climate by 2030. Through this shared agenda, we aim to scale action, raise ambition, and unlock the potential of food systems as one of the main solutions for people, nature, and climate.
- **Key Outcomes:** More than 200 non-State actors signed the [Food Systems Call to Action](#), complementing the [Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture](#).
- **Delivery Partners:** many organisations and networks were involved, including the Just Rural Transition, WBCSD, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, C40, in addition to farmers groups, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, etc.
- **Event:** Accelerating Food Systems Transformation: Multi-stakeholder Action, Dec. 10 14:15 - 15:45.
- **Further Reading:** [Climate Champions Website](#)



NSA Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate

## Inclusion

### Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative

- **Description:** Podong, meaning basket in the indigenous Marma language of Bangladesh, symbolizes harvesting abundance and the role and contributions that Indigenous women play in conserving biodiversity and reducing the impacts of climate change in their communities. The Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative will provide funding directly to Indigenous Peoples, ensuring no less than 85% of funds reach Indigenous territories and communities.
- **Key Outcomes:** The Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative will support Indigenous-led initiatives to improve the management of landscapes and seascapes in biodiversity hotspots and wilderness areas where Indigenous Peoples and local communities hold customary or statutory tenure rights.
- **Delivery Partners:** IUCN and International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)
- **Events:**
  - UAE Changemaker Majlis: Podong Boma meeting with Donors. Dec 3 13:15 to 14:15
  - Launch of Podong Initiative: Support IPs access to finance for their implementation of the GBF and scale-up their contributions to achieving biodiversity conservation. Dec 5 14:30 to 15:45.
- **Collateral:** [Podong Brochure](#)



IUCN and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) launched the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative at COP28



# #ActOnTheGAP

Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership was signed by 78 nations

## Inclusion

### COP28 Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership

- **Description:** [This partnership](#) ensures gender equality in transitioning to a sustainable economy. It emphasizes the inclusion of women and girls in climate action initiatives. To achieve a just transition, the global community must reform the architecture of the global financial system and ensure finance flows to the regions and the people who need it the most.
- **Key Outcomes:** Endorsed by 78 countries to ensure more effective finance flows to women and girls and equal opportunities in the just transition required by the Paris Agreement.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency, UN Women, UN Climate Change, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Gender + Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Events:** Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership Ministerial. Dec. 4, 16:00 to 17:30.
- **Collateral:** [Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership](#)

## Inclusion

### Call to Action: Counting on a sustainable future for all through gender and environment data

- **Description:** [A Call to Action](#) aimed at fostering gender-responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation, this call to action underscores the importance of using gender-environment data to inform climate policies. It also aims to further empower women to participate in climate diplomacy.
- **Key Outcomes:** On the eve of COP28, the Global Conference on Gender and Environmental Data resulted in an urgent call for action to increase the collection and use of gender and environmental data to push gender-responsive climate and environmental action on a global scale. Over 200 participants, including representatives of Parties, international and local organizations, academia, among many others, came together for the event organized by COP28, UN Climate Change, UN Women, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Gender + Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency, UN Women, UN Climate Change, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Gender + Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Events:** Counting on a Sustainable Future: Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data, Nov 28 - Nov 29.
- **Collateral:** [Call to Action](#)



The Global Conference on Gender and Environmental Data called for action to increase the collection and use of gender and environmental data



A Call to Action highlighted the need for better gender and environment data

## Multi-level Action

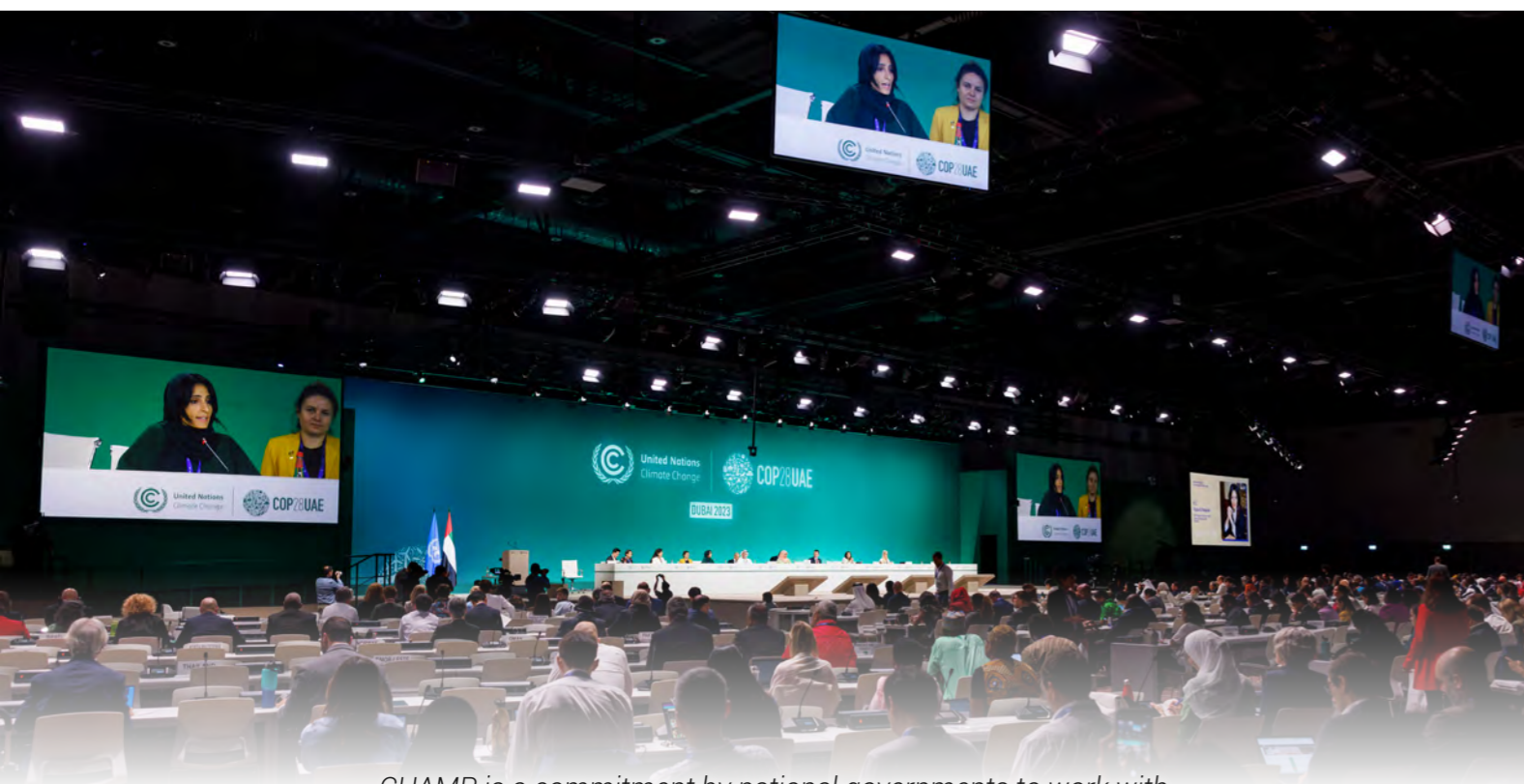
# Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP)

- **Description:** CHAMP is a commitment taken by national governments on a new way of working in partnership with their subnational governments, and in particular, on a new way of approaching the development and implementation of their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in time for COP30 in 2025.
- **Key Outcomes:** The COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies announced the groundbreaking Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge, endorsed by 71 countries, committing to partner with subnational governments on the next round of NDCs and other climate plans and strategies. In total, nearly \$500 million was mobilized toward urban climate action.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency, C40 Cities, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and UN Habitat
- **Event:** Urbanization and Climate Ministerial. Dec 6, 9:30 to 12:00
- **Collateral:** [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships](#)

## Multi-level Action

# Global Utilities for Net Zero Alliance

- **Description:** The Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) is a landmark joint commitment, led by the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), to advance electrification, renewables-ready grids, and clean energy deployment in line with 2030 Breakthrough goals and a net zero future by 2050.
- **Key Outcomes:** In total 31 partners, including 25 global utilities and power companies that collectively serve more than 250 million customers joined TAQA.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency, IRENA, Abu Dhabi National Energy Company
- **Event:** MP GCA Energy and Industry Action Event: Utilities for Net Zero Alliance Launch with IRENA and Taqa. Dec 5, 10:00 to 12:30
- **Collateral:** [UAE Declaration of Action: Utilities for Net-Zero Alliance](#)



CHAMP is a commitment by national governments to work with their subnational governments in time for COP30 in 2025.



Utilities for Net-Zero Alliance (UNEZA)

## Multi-level Action

# UAE Built Environment Sustainability Blueprint

- **Description:** In support of the effects of climate change on cities and the built environment, leading UAE developers and the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) launched the UAE Built Environment Sustainability Blueprint. The report sets out the key opportunities to enhance the transition of the UAE built environment sector to net zero.
- **Key Outcomes:** This led to the creation of a working group comprising representatives from the leading organizations, the Climate Champions Team and led by the Emirates Green Building Council, to map the challenges faced by local developers and find the key enablers to unlocking greater climate action.
- **Delivery Partners:** COP28 Presidency, Emirates Green Building Council, MASDAR
- **Event:** UAE Built Environment Blueprint, Dec 6, 12:00 to 13:00.
- **Collateral:** [UAE Built Environment Sustainability Blueprint](#)

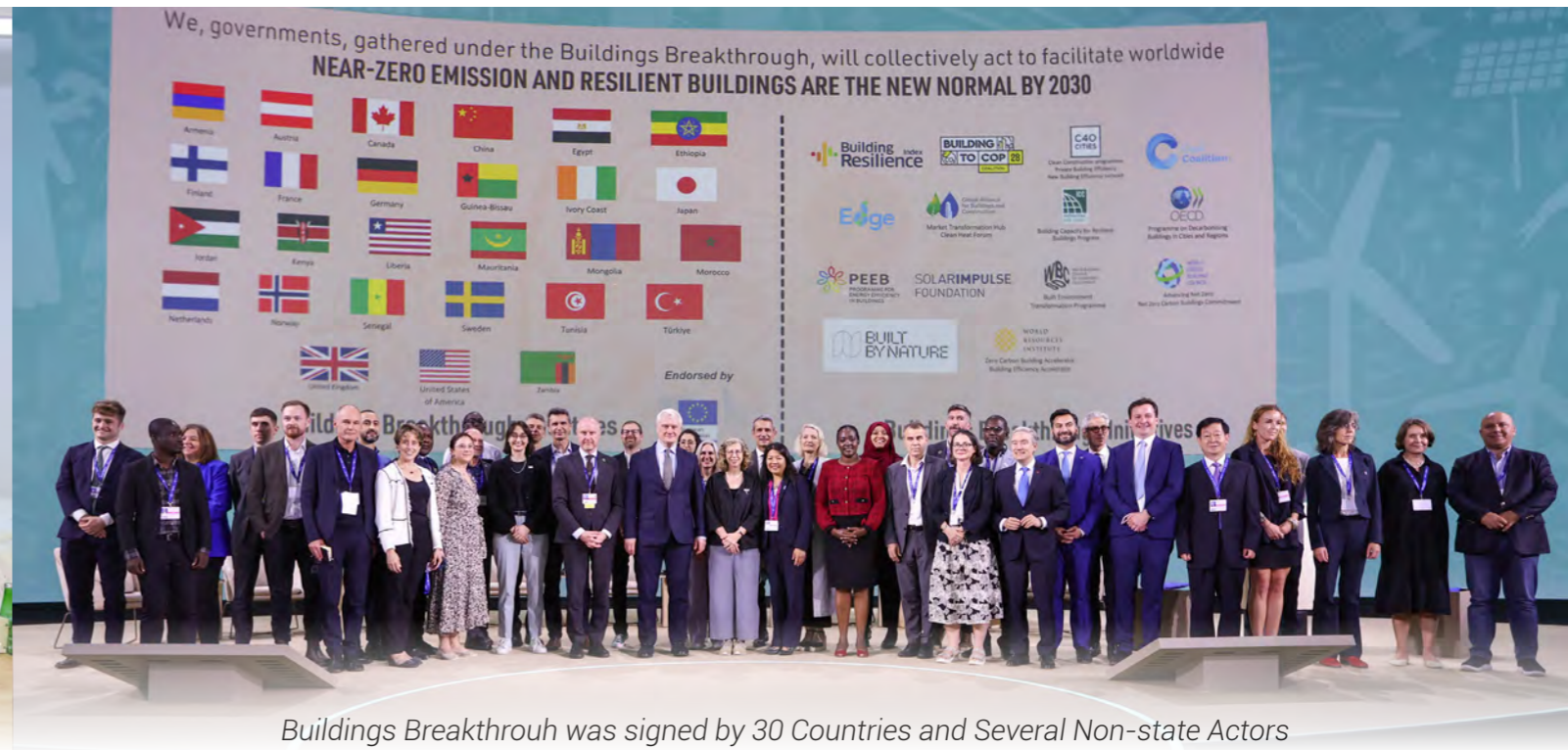


UAE developers and the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) launched the UAE Built Environment Sustainability Blueprint.

## Multi-level Action

# Cement and Concrete Breakthrough

- **Description:** The initiative, co-led by Canada and the UAE, will enable countries to share best practices on a range of policies and other measures to help the cement and concrete industry decarbonise. The initiative also commits to working with countries, businesses and other organizations, to accelerate investments in the technologies, tools and policies needed to help the industry achieve net zero by 2050.
- **Key Outcomes:** The Cement and Concrete Breakthrough is one of two Breakthroughs (the other is the Buildings Breakthrough) launched at COP28. The Breakthrough Agenda, which was first introduced at COP26, now covers seven sectors responsible for more than 60% of global emissions.
- **Delivery Partners:** Government of Canada, Government of the UAE
- **Event:** Buildings and Construction For Sustainable Cities: New Key Partnerships for Decarbonisation, Adaptation, and Resilience. Dec. 6, 12:30 to 14:15.
- **Further Reading:** [Global Cement Industry: Towards a net zero hard to abate sector](#)



Buildings Breakthrough was signed by 30 Countries and Several Non-state Actors

## Multi-level Action

# Buildings Breakthrough

- **Description:** The Buildings Breakthrough is part of the Breakthrough Agenda, which provides a framework for countries, businesses and civil society to join up and strengthen their actions every year in key emitting sectors, through a coalition of leading public, private and public-private global initiatives. It is co-led by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion of France and the Ministry of National Territory Planning, Land Planning, Housing, and City Policy of the Kingdom of Morocco, and coordinated under the auspices of the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).
- **Key Outcomes:** The Buildings Breakthrough is one of two Breakthroughs (the other is the Cement and Concrete Breakthrough) launched at COP28. The Breakthrough Agenda, which was first introduced at COP26, now covers seven sectors responsible for more than 60% of global emissions.
- **Delivery Partners:** Government of France, Government of Morocco
- **Event:** Buildings and Construction for Sustainable Cities: New Key Partnerships for Decarbonisation, Adaptation, and Resilience. Dec. 6, 12:30 to 14:15.
- **Further Reading:** [For a zero emission, efficient, and resilient Build Environment for Everyone, Everywhere.](#)







# Closing Reflections



## Aligning with UAE's Foundational Values and Leadership Vision

Reflecting on COP28, it is evident that our achievements deeply resonate with the foundational values of the United Arab Emirates, values instilled by the late Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan and actively championed by President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Sheikh Zayed's legacy as a pioneer in environmental conservation and his deep connection to nature have been pivotal in shaping our approach towards preserving natural habitats and biodiversity. This legacy is furthered by President Mohamed bin Zayed's

commitment to sustainable development, evident in our ambitious environmental goals and inclusive policies.

The ethos of COP28 - prioritizing nature, empowering diverse communities, and mobilizing global partnerships - mirrors the UAE's enduring dedication to harmonizing development with ecological preservation, a testament to our leaders' visions and a guiding light for our continued journey towards a sustainable future.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to every individual, community, and nation that contributed to the success of COP28. Your dedication, innovation, and collaboration have not only made this conference a landmark event but have also ignited a beacon of hope for our collective future. As we look ahead, let us carry forward the momentum from COP28, continually striving to turn our ambitious goals into tangible realities. Together, we are charting a course towards a more sustainable world, a journey that I am honored to be a part of.

# Acknowledgements

As we conclude this momentous report on COP28, I extend my deepest appreciation and acknowledgment to the myriad individuals and groups whose dedication and effort made this conference a resounding success.

## COP28 Higher Committee

I express my profound gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his exemplary leadership as the chair of the COP28 Higher Committee. His guidance, along with the unwavering dedication and expertise of all committee members, has been pivotal in steering COP28 towards success, demonstrating a unified commitment to advancing global environmental sustainability.

## COP28 Presidency

I extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the President of COP28, for his exemplary leadership, dedication, and commitment. Additionally, I am grateful to my colleague, Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazroui, whose tireless efforts have been instrumental in integrating youth into climate discussions, marking the beginning of a new era of inclusion.

## COP28 Organization and Participants

A special note of gratitude is extended to the entire COP28 organization – the teams and individuals who worked behind the scenes and on the frontlines. Their meticulous planning, execution, and passion for environmental sustainability were the backbone of this successful event.

## UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27

My esteemed recognition goes to the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27, Dr Mahmoud Mohieldin. Your wisdom, contributions, experience, and lessons shared have been a guiding light in my journey, helping to build a stronger, more cohesive climate action framework.

## Marrakesh Partnership

I extend my gratitude to the Marrakesh Partnership. Your collaborative spirit, sector expertise, and commitment to accelerating global climate action have significantly enhanced our collective efforts and impacts.

## Climate Champions Team

My heartfelt thanks go to the Climate Champions Team. Their tireless work, innovative ideas, and unwavering commitment were instrumental in driving forward our ambitious climate agenda. Their coordination and support in every facet of the process have been invaluable.

## UNFCCC

I must express profound appreciation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC). Their guidance, support, and global leadership in climate change negotiations have been pivotal in shaping the outcomes of COP28.

## Private Office of the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28

To my Private Office team, I am eternally grateful. Your strategic insights, logistical support, and constant encouragement have been crucial in navigating the complexities of this role and the conference.

## Various Affiliated Groups and Partners

Lastly, my thanks to the various affiliated groups, partners, NGOs, civil society organizations, Indigenous groups, youth representatives, and businesses. Your diverse perspectives, innovative solutions, and steadfast dedication to climate action have not only enriched our discussions but have also laid down a path towards a more sustainable and equitable world.

