



COP28:

2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference

Key Outcomes

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from November 30 to December 13, 2023. There were over 85,000 delegates from 197 countries with 154 heads of state and government.

This briefing note describes some of the [key outcomes](#) from COP28 and then focuses on the commitments made by Canada during the conference.



We are delighted that three members of our group Senators for Climate Solutions joined the Canadian delegation at COP28. From left to right: Senator Rosa Galvez, Senator Dawn Anderson and Senator Rob Black.

COP28 Outcome: Transition away from fossil fuels

In the final [agreement](#) - titled the **UAE Consensus** - nations agreed to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems. This is a monumental first international call to limit the usage of fossil fuels. Many nations argued for stronger language being used to call for a “phasing-out” of fossil fuels. This however was opposed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a major oil producers group led by Saudi Arabia that argued that specific natural gases did not need to be targeted in order to cut emissions.



Key Outcomes (continued)

What is the Global Stocktake?

The [Global Stocktake](#) (GST) is designed to 'take stock' of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and assess collective action towards achieving the pact's goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

The GST is a process designed for nations and stakeholders to see where they are making progress and where they are not. This assessment involves a comprehensive review of all aspects related to global climate action and support, enabling the identification of shortcomings and the development of solutions.

COP28 concluded with a final consensus that responds to the Global Stocktake and puts forward a plan to close the gaps to 2030. It calls on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels to reach net-zero and includes a new specific target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030.



Photo by Senator Rob Black

COP28 Outcome: Loss and Damages Fund

The Loss and Damages Fund agreed to at COP27 was officially launched during the early days of COP28. The UAE president announced the first investment to the fund of \$100 million. This fund will be used by nations to help rebuild and repair after harmful climate disasters cause damage in their countries. This fund will be held at the World Bank over the next four years and will be governed by a board of 26 members, most of whom will be representatives from developing nations. By the end of COP28, \$770.6 million dollars had been pledged to the fund, including [\\$16 million](#) from the Government of Canada.



Key Outcomes (continued)



Senator Galvez took part in a climate finance panel at the Canada Pavilion. She is pictured above with (left to right) Dr. Ben Caldecott - Director, UK Centre for Greening Finance & Investment, Catherine McKenna, UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities and Julie Segal, Senior Program Manager, Climate Finance, Environmental Defence Canada.

COP28 Outcome: New Targets to Triple Renewables and Double Energy Efficiency by 2030

Through the [Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge](#) 123 countries committed to tripling renewable energy generation to reach 11,000 gigawatts and to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from 2% to 4% annually by 2030.

COP28 Outcome: Adaptation Framework

Another development at COP28 was the completion of an adaptation framework. This framework was designed to help nations develop their own climate adaptation plans, guide how nations should invest in climate adaptation, and to monitor progress on completing the global adaptation goals. This framework has been widely supported by many nations, though some concerns were raised by developing nations that there was not enough commitment worldwide to achieving the goals of the framework, nor was there enough specification in the framework of the financial targets established.



Photo by Senator Dawn Anderson



Key Outcomes (continued)

COP28 Outcome: Declaration on Agriculture, Food Systems and Climate Action

During Food, Agriculture and Water Day at COP28, the [COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action](#) was signed by 159 nations. This declaration includes agreements to increase the funding and development of adaptation and resilience initiatives to decrease the vulnerability farmers and other food producers experience regarding climate change. Countries also agreed to provide additional support to agriculture workers whose employment may be at risk due to climate change, and to ensure the water management systems used in farming and food production are sustainably using water.

Other initiatives announced include: The Food and Agriculture Organization shared its [Roadmap for achieving 1.5 degrees and zero hunger](#). This is the first guide from the United Nations showing how to manage food systems in a way that aligns with climate action goals. Another resource that was shared was the [COP28 Agriculture, Food, and Climate Action toolkit](#) that was released to guide nations in the implementation of the climate and food commitments they made.



From left to right: Senator Anderson, Senator Black, Elizabeth May - Member of Parliament and Senator Galvez.

COP28 Outcome: Declaration on Climate and Health

During the first health day hosted at COP, the [COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health](#) was finalized, where 143 countries agreed to address the global health issues arising from climate change and to mitigate climate disaster consequences by strengthening health care systems worldwide. Other climate health initiatives announced include an agreement to support 14 countries across Africa, Asia, and Europe mitigate the health issues, and the Tropical Belt Initiative that was created to combat the challenges posed by climate change in the Tropical Belt region.



Focus on Canada

Canada's COP28 Delegation

[Canada's COP28 delegation](#) included 538 representatives including Senators Dawn Anderson, Rosa Galvez and Rob Black. Led by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault, the delegation had representation from a wide range of stakeholders, including parliamentarians, government, Indigenous governments and organizations, youth, labour, business, and civil society.

Canada's Commitments during COP28

During COP28 Minister Guilbeault made a series of announcements that are highlighted below:

- **Support for Climate Change Adaptation**

An international climate finance [commitment](#) from Canada of \$5 million over three years in the [Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience](#) to help lesser developed nations adopt a climate-resilient path by 2030 by reducing their climate vulnerabilities and encouraging innovation in climate adaptation.

- **Nature Accountability Legislation in 2024**

A [federal nature accountability bill](#) in 2024 that would instruct how the federal government will take steps to meet the requirements of the [Global Framework by 2030](#) and will mandate the development of the [Canadian 2030 Biodiversity Strategy](#). The goal of this bill would be to protect 30% of land and water in Canada by 2030.



Pictured above: Minister Steven Guilbeault, Senator Anderson and Senator Black

Watch: Pre-COP28 Briefing

A key member of the Canadian delegation was Michael Bonser, Canada's Chief Negotiator for Climate Change. Senators for Climate Solutions was pleased to hear from Mr. Bonser at a Pre-COP28 Briefing when he spoke about Canada's goals heading into COP28 and provided a description of the COP process. Click [here](#) to watch the briefing.



Focus on Canada (continued)

- **Framework to cap greenhouse gas pollution from oil and gas sector**

Minister Guilbeault and Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced Canada's new [framework](#) to cap pollution from the oil and gas sectors and to reduce emissions. The proposed cap would have industries limiting their pollution levels to 35-38% lower than what they were in 2019 by 2030. This framework was written in consultation with the affected industries, Indigenous leaders, provincial and territorial government, and other stakeholders.

- **Methane Regulations**

At the [Global Methane Pledge Ministerial](#) at COP28 Canada [announced](#) its goal that by 2030 it will have reduced oil and gas methane emissions by at least 75% of 2012 emissions levels. This is aligned with the methane release regulations established recently by the United States, creating a broadly similar policy for methane emissions reduction across most of North America. A \$30 million investment in a Methane Centre of Excellence was announced to be able to better understand and calculate methane emissions in Canada.



Photo by Senator Dawn Anderson

Canada's Statement on the UAE Consensus

On December 13th, 2023 Minister Guilbeault released a [statement](#) on Canada's participation at COP28. He shared that Canada joined nearly 200 nations in agreeing to make efforts to cut down greenhouse gas emissions, and that Canada would be providing \$16 million to the loss and damage fund started at COP28 to help nations in need address the impact that climate change has in their territories. He also highlighted Canada's recognition of labour rights in the final agreement, as well as Canada's commitment to develop and support ambitious climate adaptation strategies.

In addition to Canada's negotiations at COP28, over 70 events took place at the Canada Pavilion, hosted by Indigenous peoples, youth, NGOs, businesses, and municipalities to highlight Canada's commitment to a low-carbon future.