

COP 28 – DECEMBER 2023

Briefing note



COP (Conference of the Parties) is an international climate meeting held each year by the United Nations, where governments discuss how to limit and prepare for future climate change. This year's meeting (COP28) was held in the UAE in December – here is an overview of the commitments made at the conference.

Overview

- The final agreement text includes explicit language on fossil fuel mitigation for the first time, **calling on signatories to “contribute” to actions involving “transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner” and “accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve Net Zero by 2050 in keeping with the science”**
- **Around 118 countries – including the UK - promised to treble renewable energy use by 2030.**
- 50 oil and gas companies pledged to reach Net Zero by 2050 through the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge.
- **The agreement welcomes the increased role of the private sector in delivering Net Zero and calls for a strengthening of policy guidance and incentives to facilitate greater investment.**

Mitigation

The agreement commits to signatories – including the UK – to:

- Triple renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.
- Accelerate the phase out of coal-fuelled power.
- Promote low and zero emission energy systems “by mid-century”.
- Transition energy systems away from fossil fuels “justly and equitably”.
- Accelerate zero and low-emission technologies – specifically nuclear, carbon capture, and hydrogen production.
- Reduce non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, especially methane, by 2030.
- Reduce road transport emissions “on a rapid scale”.
- Phase out of fossil fuel subsidies.

Adaptation

The agreement commits to signatories:

- Ensuring climate-resilient water supply, sanitation, and access to safe and affordable water for all.
- Achieving climate-resilient food and agricultural production, supply and distribution.
- Reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity through the accelerated use of nature-based solutions.
- Enhancing the resilience of the built environment.

Additional UK Commitments

The UK has pledged £1.6billion of funding to tackle climate change, specifically:

- £85 million to protect rainforests
- £40 million to expand the UK's Climate Finance Accelerator
- £140 million to support developing countries reach Net Zero.
- £10 million to support smallholder farmers worldwide, through the United Nations.

The UK Government has also announced plans to include palm oil, cocoa, beef, leather and soy in new legislation to prevent products which have been produced on illegally deforested land from being sold in British supermarkets.