

OPENING STATEMENT

Further, faster, fairer:

Alliance2015 calls for courage in climate action at COP28

The COP28 Summit will take place from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Again this year ministerial delegates, ambassadors, Heads of State and Government will reconvene for the 28th annual Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Paris Agreement (COP28).

This meeting will unfold amidst a deeply worrying state of the world, faced with multiple and overlapping crises: the unprecedented combination of the climate crisis, the world's dire hunger situation and increasingly severe and protracted conflicts is aggravating inequalities and poverty, driving humanitarian needs and deepening funding gaps to record levels. The 2023 Global Humanitarian Overview projected more than 100 million people to be displaced as an effect of conflict and climate change. These UN climate negotiations will therefore, once again, undergo strong political pressure; yet they are more urgent than ever.

Alliance2015 shares the concerns expressed by many civil society and institutional actors about the high risk of conflicts of interest deriving from the participation of the powerful fossil fuel industry, backed by fossil energy-relying countries.

Alliance2015 members work with communities affected by long-term climate impacts and climate-induced disasters in over 90 countries of the Global South, sometimes scourged by prolonged conflicts and authoritarian oppression. Alliance2015 recognises UN Climate Conferences as the legitimate multilateral space where crucial commitments on climate action are negotiated. By attending, Alliance members will bring the reality of those countries on behalf of the affected communities, proposing solutions for climate resilient livelihoods and calling for environmental and social justice, while reaffirming the values of democratic dialogue, governance and civic space, and the defence of the most vulnerable.

Alliance2015 calls on all Parties, and in particular the EU to play a leading, constructive role towards collective progress on the Paris Agreement goals and objectives, in compliance with human rights standards and guided by the 2030 Agenda principles and SDGs.

Alliance2015 expects COP28 outcomes to:

- **Galvanize commitment to phasing out fossil fuels:** to maintain the 1.5°C pathway a fast, fair and governed phasing-out of fossil fuels is needed.
- **Accelerate transition to renewable energy** directly benefitting the most vulnerable local communities and protecting ecosystems to support a low-carbon development.
- **Deliberate a Global Goal on Adaptation** based on a comprehensive framework driven by the principles of locally led adaptation, and which includes means of support and enables better access, quantity and quality of adaptation finance, including traceability to the local level. Stronger language on adaptation should feature in the overall outcome decision.
- **Conclude the Global Stocktaking** process – whereby Parties and stakeholders will assess progress (or lack of) towards the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5°C – with an action-oriented roadmap to ensure that existing policy gaps and failures are addressed by adopting more ambitious targets and factoring in emissions from food systems.

Increased climate finance should be foreseen in the conclusions, in particular for adaptation.

- **Operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund** – established in 2022 to assist countries with least resources to respond to economic and non-economic loss and damage due to climate impacts - as an independent and autonomous institution adopting a human rights-based approach, that is gender responsive and to which communities have direct access. The Fund should be fed through new, additional, predictable and adequate contributions based on the polluter-pays-principle, mainly under the responsibility of industrialized countries, and be allocated on the basis of grants rather than loans (already excessively weighing on poorer countries) and easily disbursed to communities affected by both climate shocks and slow onset events, including food crises.
- **Prioritize fighting hunger and malnutrition**, protect and support small-scale food producers (including farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks, workers and indigenous communities) **in both its negotiated and non-negotiated outcomes**. Helping communities to adapt and build climate resilience must be pursued by putting the human right to adequate food and nutrition at the centre of food systems transformation, ensuring empowerment and equitable results, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - An agreed workplan for the *Sharm-el-Sheick Joint Program on Agriculture and Food Security* must deliver gender-responsive adaptation, prioritize vulnerable communities and promote the transition to agroecology, better nutrition and healthy diets, reduce food loss. Such a workplan should enable the participation of concerned actors, in particular the youth, and invest in their capacity to shape food systems.
 - Food systems transformation should be contemplated in a global framework to measure progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation, as well as in the Parties' revised climate pledges (Nationally Determined Contributions).
 - Voluntary pledges like the *Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action* should set leading examples through equitable investments benefiting local communities, countering corruption and corporate influence, inclusive value-chains and decent work, ecosystems integrity, fair and sound management of water resources in poorer areas, zero food waste.
 - The nexus between Nutrition and Climate Change must be visibly recognized. Nutrition, as the maker and marker of development, must be included as a cross-cutting and stand-alone issue in all climate programs deriving from COP28 decisions on food systems transformation.
- **Mark progress on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance**, starting to find common ground on scope and scale, and a timeline to ensure an agreement can be reached at COP29, in 2025.

For deeper analysis, you can visit:

<https://www.welthungerhilfe.org/news/publications/detail/cop28-international-climate-policy-at-a-crossroads>

To read our statement on COP27, see: [COP27 promises new climate finance, but underdelivers on ensuring climate resilient community building – Alliance \(alliance2015.org\)](#)