

Non Traditional Security Digest

COP 27: An Assessment

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

COP 27: An Assessment

Introduction

The United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) held its 27th meet from 6 November 2022 to 20 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The summit was [attended](#) by nearly 100 heads of state, over 35,000 delegates and representatives from 190 countries. The summit was branded as the ‘implementation COP.’

This edition of the Non-Traditional Security Centre’s Digest aims to explore the key developments of the summit.

Key Highlights

Loss and Damage Fund

The agreement on the [Loss and Damage Fund](#) for vulnerable countries was the summit’s key highlight. Hailed as a landmark agreement, it aims to provide funding to countries facing unavoidable climate catastrophes. These include heatwaves, desertification, floods, species extinction and crop failures. The agreement culminates the decade-long demand for the fund and advances the climate adaptation agenda.

A ‘[transitional committee](#)’ will make recommendations on the funding arrangements and the operations of the fund at COP 28 next year. To mitigate the climate-induced damages further, the negotiators operationalised the [Santiago Network](#) to facilitate technical assistance to the vulnerable states.

In line with the loss and damage fund plans, the G7 and the V20 (‘the Vulnerable Twenty’) countries launched the Global Shield against Climate Risks [initiative](#). In case of climate disasters, the collaboration aims to provide funding for immediate use, the amount for which will be pre-arranged.

\$200 million has been committed as initial funding.

\$100 billion Goal

The discussions at the COP summit this year mainly focused on climate finance and its central role in facilitating climate action plans.

The deliberations re-emphasised the need to establish a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance ([NCQG](#)). Through provision [1/CP.21, para. 53](#), the NCQG aims to set higher financial commitments by 2025 for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The new goal will augment the COP 15 commitment to mobilise \$100 billion per year by 2020.

Discussions at COP 27 also criticised the developed states regarding their failed commitments for climate funding.

The overall contributions are intertwined with the contribution status of individual countries. To illustrate the anomalies in the same, figure 1 depicts the annual average climate finance contributions of the developed states between 2016 and 2018.

Emissions

The COP 27 parties reaffirmed their intent to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and meet the net-zero target by 2050. During negotiations, India was a steadfast advocate for the phase-down of [all fossil fuels](#) and not just coal. The EU also agreed to support India's plea as long as it didn't weaken the previous coal-phasing arrangements. However, the "phase-down of coal" was still endorsed in the summit's final text.

Decarbonisation featured in several discussions at the summit. The [Breakthrough Agenda](#), first launched during COP 26 negotiations, led countries

to introduce a masterplan comprising 25 new collaborative actions aimed at decarbonisation in the power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture sectors. These sectoral ‘breakthroughs’ will be led by multiple coalitions of countries that account for more than 75% of the global GDP. The global count of countries endorsing the ‘Breakthrough Agenda’ stands at 47. The measures are in tandem with the COP 26 solicited annual [Breakthrough Agenda Report 2022](#) and aim to implement these collaborative agendas by COP 28.

The [IMF](#) also proposed a global \$75/ton carbon price in order to reduce use and emission rates. The United States launched the Energy Transition Accelerator, a carbon-credit market model that aims to finance the reduction of coal and facilitate the transition to clean energy in developing countries. However, a number of issues with the execution of these plans and the failure to fulfil prior pledges have been brought up.

Greenwashing and COP 27 Sponsors

In addition to ‘Loss and Damage’, ‘Greenwashing’ was another popular term at this year's climate debate. [Defined](#) as the tendency to claim all activities of the organisation as ‘climate-friendly’, it was officially acknowledged by the United Nations at this year’s conference. The [report](#) from the United Nations’ High-Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities prompted this [recognition](#). It provided a list of guidelines that non-state actors should adhere to in order to make sure their ‘climate-friendly’ assertions are reliable.

Peculiarly, the sponsors of the summit included companies accused of high emissions, plastic-pollution and greenwashing. Several concerns were raised about the high plastic-pollution activities of [Coca-Cola](#), which was a partner for this year’s conference.

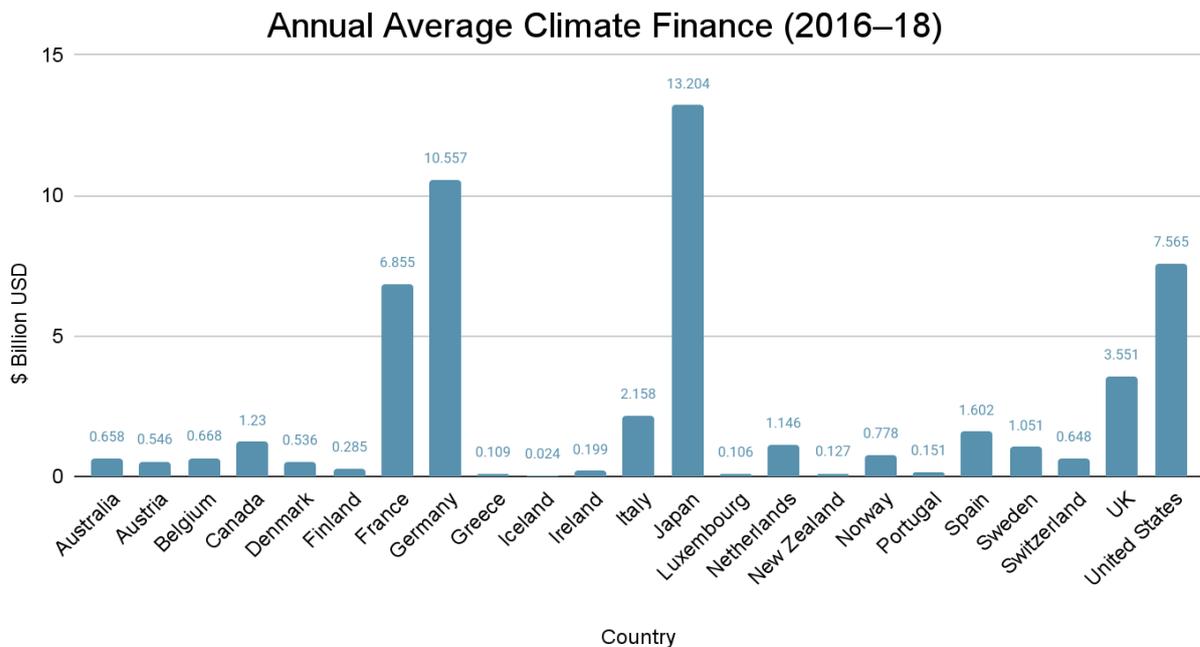


Figure 1: [A Breakdown of Developed Countries’ Public Climate Finance Contributions Towards The \\$100 Billion Goal \(2016-18\)](#)

Global Participation

Fossil Fuel lobbyists

This year's climate negotiations were attended by 636 oil and gas industry representatives. Recent [reports](#) suggest that nearly 200 of these fossil fuel lobbyists attended the conference as part of national delegations. The other 436 were members of trade associations, international organisations, or other non-governmental organisations. Their [participation](#) witnessed a 25% rise from COP 27, second only to the United Arab Emirates this year. The lobbyists also outnumbered the combined delegations from the 10 countries facing maximum climate impact (namely, Puerto Rico, Myanmar, Haiti, the Philippines, Mozambique, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, and Nepal).

The United Arab Emirates, which will host the COP 28 summit in 2023, sent 70 lobbyists as part of its national delegation. In addition, 35 representatives belonged to African delegations and 33 to Russia.

Their participation has been a contentious issue during the negotiations. Concerns have been raised about their potential to weaken climate promises and reduce the responsibility of the fossil fuel sector. In addition to the fossil fuel industry, the summit witnessed heavy participation from other [polluting industries](#), including, finance, agribusiness, and transportation.

African Countries

This year's COP negotiations also saw several African states increasingly deliberate in favour of oil and gas use for economic welfare. Known as the "[dash for gas](#)," countries such as Senegal expressed a desire to exploit their newly discovered gas

reserves and build supply networks to Europe.

The African position must be comprehended in the framework of rising energy demand, especially for EU member states who are battling to maintain energy security in the face of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The [side-lines](#) of a summit are as significant as the formal negotiations. The COP 27 summit saw an increasing informal convergence of several African states with oil and gas companies. For instance, the Ugandan representatives held several discussions with fossil fuel representatives attending the event and BP's chief executive, Bernard Looney, was listed as a COP 27 delegate from Mauritania.

European Union

Amidst an energy crisis and the increased use of coal to meet energy demands, the European Union's participation in the summit hinged on its revised push to declare [gas a 'green energy.'](#) India has opposed the proposal. Their Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ([CBAM](#)) also featured in the COP 27 discussions. The group of BASIC countries, which includes India, China, Brazil, and South Africa, strongly opposed the EU's proposal to tax carbon-intensive commodities such as iron, steel, cement, and aluminium from 2026. In a joint statement released at the summit, the countries termed the policy as "discriminatory" and an "unfair shifting of responsibilities from developed to developing countries."

The EU also signed a key Memorandum of Understanding ([MoU](#)) agreement with Egypt on a strategic partnership on renewable hydrogen.

Island Nations

The demands of [island nations](#) to include China and India in the list of developed countries paying climate funds is a unique consequence of this year's climate discussions. The prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, speaking on behalf of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS), remarked that highly polluting emerging economies like China and India should contribute to the climate compensation fund to aid nations in rebuilding after disasters brought on by climate change. The nations asserted that India and China cannot prevaricate on climate reparations and have a responsibility to pay.

India's Participation

LiFE Campaign

India's pavilion at COP 27 was themed around the country's newly-launched "Lifestyle for Environment" (LiFE) mission. The mission is a component of India's revised climate action plan for 2030. In his opening remarks at the conference, Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav expressed that a "consumption-oriented lifestyle is not sustainable." He highlighted that, of 190 countries, only 29—including India—have updated their climate actions.

The Indian pavilion also launched the "[In Our LiFE time](#)" campaign. Jointly led by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the campaign aims to encourage 18- to 23-year-olds to become ambassadors for sustainable living and climate consciousness.

Climate Financing

In line with the earlier summits, India ardently advocated the setting up of new climate finance targets on grant or concessional terms.

Addressing a High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance at COP 27, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, estimated "the current needs of developing countries to be in the order of [trillions](#)." He noted that transparency and trust are key for the efficient functioning of climate finance mechanisms.

India emphasised the critical role of developed countries in incentivizing the flow of resources from private and public entities to the developing states. The necessity of defining climate finance itself and developing a mutual understanding was also highlighted.

Role of Technology

India's participation at the summit was driven by a tech-centred approach. India strongly backed the launch of the [Executive Action Plan for Early Warnings for All](#) initiative. India [advanced](#) that the dissemination of early warnings, as a form of climate adaptation, is essential for protecting lives and livelihoods. India's end-to-end early warning systems for all hydro-meteorological hazards and the development of early warning systems for other dangers like heat waves also featured in the discussion.

India's stance placed a strong emphasis on technology transfer and technology accessibility, regardless of a country's financial resources. The Department of Science and Technology also hosted a panel discussion titled "Technology needs Assessment for Sustainable Life" at the India pavilion at COP 27.

Submission of Long-term Low Emission Development Strategy

India submitted its [Long-term Low Emission Development Strategy](#) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during the COP 27 Summit. The features of the strategy include:

1. Rational use of national resources and a smooth transition to renewable energy sources. Initiatives comprise the expansion of hydrogen and nuclear resources and increased electrolyser manufacturing capacity.
2. Enhance the use of biofuels, including ethanol blending and the use of electric vehicles.
3. Climate-resilient urban development.
4. Improving the energy efficiency of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives through the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme.
5. Fulfilling the NDC commitment of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030.

The submission further advances that India's low-carbon, low-emission future is centred on the principles of "Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respectful Capabilities" (CBDR-RC), climate justice, sustainable lifestyles and equity.

Infrastructure Resilient Accelerator Fund

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) announced the Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund ([IRAF](#)) at COP 27's India Pavilion. Supported by India, the United Kingdom,

Australia, and the European Union, the fund aims "to support global action on disaster resilience of infrastructure systems, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)." An initial funding commitment of \$50 million has been pledged. It is noteworthy that the CDRI was first launched by PM Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.

Other Noteworthy Initiatives

The Mangrove Alliance

Led by the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia, the Mangrove Alliance for Climate ([MAC](#)) was launched on the sidelines of the summit. India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain joined the alliance as partners. The voluntary intergovernmental alliance aims to spread awareness about the role of mangroves in assuaging climate change. It is noteworthy that India accounts for nearly 3% of the mangrove population and they can play a key role in meeting the country's carbon sink targets through afforestation.

'OPEC for Rainforests'

Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia formed a [trilateral alliance](#) to cooperate on forest conservation at the COP 27 Summit. The three nations account for more than half of the world's tropical rainforest population. Launched after a decade of discussions, the alliance aims to develop a flow of funds from developed countries for forest conservation and protection. The pact can also be contextualised in light of electoral promises made by Brazil's newly elected president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and his campaign against intensifying deforestation in the Amazon under former president Jair Bolsonaro.

Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Initiative

Agriculture and food security featured prominently in this year's climate negotiations. The inextricable link between climate change and food systems was central to several discussions at the summit. Within this context, the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Initiative ([FAST](#)) was launched by the agriculture ministers of 21 countries. It aims to improve climate finance contributions towards agriculture and food systems by 2030 and simultaneously support the adaptation of the 1.5-degree target. The dual approach will develop resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and synchronously ensure adaptation to climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Offshore Wind Alliance

First initiated in September 2022 by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Denmark and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), the Global Offshore Wind Alliance ([GOWA](#)) welcomed nine new countries during the COP 27 Summit. The countries included Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. In a bid to strengthen energy security, the signatories have pledged to rampantly increase offshore wind capacity.

GOWA estimates suggest that offshore wind capacity needs to increase to 2000 GW by 2050 from the existing 60 GW, in order to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius target.

Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership

As part of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanisms, several states came together to launch the [Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership](#) (FCLP) at COP 27. Led by the US and Ghana, the partnership has received support from 26 countries, which account for over 33% of the world's forests. With the aim to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030, the action plans for the partnership include obtaining funding, scaling carbon markets, supporting Indigenous peoples and preserving high-integrity forests.

Conclusion

The introduction of several new plans and projects at COP 27 implies that the task for COP 28 becomes further challenging. The specifics of the Loss and Damage Fund will be decided at the Summit in 2023. In addition, the COP 28 summit will mark the culmination of the first Global Stocktake process, a monitoring tool to assess climate initiatives. Finally, with the increasing participation of the fossil fuel industry, the UAE's role as COP 28's host will set the climate negotiations for a tumultuous ride.

For further Analysis:

- [Climate Trace](#) to track global emissions
- Climate Action Tracker [Report](#)
- Climate Adaptation Gap [Report](#) by UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Climate Emission Gap [Report](#) by UNEP
- Climate Funds [Update](#)

List of decisions taken at the COP 27 Summit		
Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan	Sharm El-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security	Implementation of the Global Climate Observing System
Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention	Common metrics used to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks	National Adaptation Plans
Matters relating to Action for Climate Empowerment	Revision of the modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis	Revision of the modalities and procedures for international assessment and review
Report of the Adaptation Committee for 2022 and review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage - Santiago network	Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
Long-term climate finance	Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	Terms of reference for the second review of the functions of the Standing
Committee on Finance	Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund	Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility
Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage	Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network	Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022
Matters relating to the least developed countries	Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures	Second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it
Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan	Dates and venues of future sessions	Administrative, financial and institutional matters from SBI 56, 57

Table 1: [Decisions taken at the Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Change Conference](#)

Non-Traditional Security Centre

This digest has been prepared by the Non-Traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.



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Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

No.1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi - 110 010

Tel.: (91-11) 2671-7983 Fax: (91-11) 2615 4191

Website: <http://www.idsa.in>