


COP28

THEMATIC DAY SUMMARY:

Dec 6: Multilevel Action Urbanization, Built Environment and Transport



COP28
UAE



Cities are estimated to be responsible for 75% of greenhouse gas emissions and tackling climate change alongside urbanization, transport, and built environment is key to meeting the Paris Agreement. **Multilevel Action, Urbanization & Built Environment/Transport Day** showcased how localizing climate action with key actors like parliamentarians, mayors, governors, businesses, service providers and civil society can transform the built environment, and support the reshaping of the transport infrastructure.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change** set out the trajectory for multilevel climate action and reinforced the support from 66 countries for the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) announced at the World Climate Action Summit.
- More than 40 housing and urban development ministers participated in the Ministerial Meeting, where a **10-point statement was put forward**, focused on boosting the inclusion of subnational governments in the climate change decision-making process, enhancing their access to climate finance, and strengthening multilevel partnerships to implement ambitious climate action.
- A number of cities and regions announced **plans to become nature positive**, supported by the SBTN Cities Hub Nature Program, the Urban Nature Program, and the UNEP Generation Restoration Project. The COP28 High-Level Champion, HE Razan Al Mubarak, also issued a call to action for cities worldwide, urging them to integrate nature within their climate plans.
- Over a thousand cities are committing to clear transparent and science-aligned net zero targets through the High-Level Champions' **Race to Zero**.
- More than 86 cities and 78 regions are implementing resilience actions across 164 countries through the High-Level Champions' **Cities Race to Resilience**.
- The **green cities session** underlined the pivotal role of cities in the response to the Global Stocktake and platformed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) totaling more than \$26 million between the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a Moroccan regional government, as an example of innovative urban financing.



GLOBAL STOCKTAKE RESPONSE:

Multilevel Action, Urbanization & Built Environment/Transport Day significantly broadened the stakeholder base of the COP process, by forging multilevel engagements, partnerships, and commitments that can provide a pragmatic pathway forward to ensure that sub-national actors' inputs are captured in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In addition, it provided clarity on mechanisms to finance sub-national action, allowing potential contributions to mitigation and adaptation to be reflected in the Global Stocktake.



MULTILEVEL ACTION

The critical role of partnerships and policy alignment across all levels of government and society, including national governments, parliaments, local and regional governments, highlighted what could be achieved by national and sub-national action.

KEY MOMENTS

- **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change:** Over 1,000 ministers, mayors, governors, financial institutions, and non-government stakeholders convened to agree on a suite of 10 multilevel, Paris-aligned actions for cooperation in the UNFCCC space. They focused on joint policy and finance for sustainable urbanization, as outlined in the Outcome Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change. The Minister of Cities from the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Jader Barbalho Filho, closed the meeting with an announcement of plans to further integrate local and urban climate action into the climate agenda at COP30.
- **Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly:** The IPU's Member Parliaments adopted an outcome statement reinforcing the role of local leaders in implementing the Paris Agreement and calling for legislative and financial action to combat climate change, including updating NDCs, promoting green economy initiatives, addressing climate finance gaps, and advocating for equitable climate strategies.

URBANIZATION

Cities are dynamic ecosystems where solutions to the climate crisis can be globally scaled up. On Dec 6, new initiatives and discussions demonstrated how the global community can drive forward greener urban mobility systems, promote low-carbon built environments and infrastructure, and redesign systems of production and consumption to ensure safer, healthier and greener human settlements for current and future generations.

KEY MOMENTS

- During the **No Time to Waste** session, the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), Abu Dhabi Waste Management Company (Tadweer), and Roland Berger, launched the Waste to Zero coalition, a voluntary coalition made up of governments of all levels, NGOs, and the private sector to decarbonize the waste management sector and transform waste into resources.
- The **Global Methane Hub** also launched the Waste MAP, the first-ever global platform to use satellite monitoring to track and measure methane emissions from waste, ready to go live in 20 global megacities, which are home to over 100 million people.

- The COP28 Presidency and the High-Level Champions launched the **Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda Working Group on Urban Water Resilience**, to protect cities against droughts, floods and other water shocks.
- Partners in the African Cities Water Adaptation Platform, including research institutions, civil society, development agencies, governments, the private sector, worked to implement \$20 million worth of donor-funded projects to **build urban water resilience** in three African cities.
- UN-Habitat, C40, United Cities and Local Governments, and Urban Partners launched a **Call to Action for Transformative Urban Planning**, committing to address climate change and associated impacts through actions, initiatives and tools dedicated to sustainable urban planning, with a particular focus on proximity planning and the 15-minute city concept.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT / TRANSPORT

The role of transport and the built environment in particular featured an emphasis on their nexus with energy, industry and just transition, also shining a light on last-mile delivery for urban freight.

KEY MOMENTS

- UAE and Canada launched the **Cement and Concrete Breakthrough** to accelerate investments in the technologies, tools and policies that the cement and concrete industry needs to realize net-zero solutions by 2050.
- France and Morocco launched the **Buildings Breakthrough** to make near-zero emission and resilient buildings the new normal by 2030, in partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Top UAE real estate developers delivered a **blueprint to decarbonize the built environment**, with support from the High-Level Champions. This includes a working group to support national ministries to enable decarbonization policies.
- **Road Transport Breakthrough:** A multilevel ministerial roundtable on the Road Transport Breakthrough was convened by the UK, US, India, and the Breakthrough Agenda.
- **Urban Transport:** Partners across the Avoid-Shift-Improve chain focused on ways to localize national targets on transport around active mobility, public and shared transport, and electric vehicles, through initiatives like LOTUS and others. It also included a stakeholder-led call to action by key COP28 partners like the SLOCAT Partnership, REN21, IDDRI, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, the International Union of Railways, the International Association of Public Transport and the World Resources Institute to double the share of energy efficient forms of land transport for people and goods by 2030.

- **Land Transport Roundtable:** Over 70 participants of the land transport roundtable stressed the importance of integrating transport in the decarbonization journey, highlighting the role of key enablers such as policy, finance, infrastructure, technology, and balancing supply and demand. A number of players, including Colombia, Rotterdam, RTA Dubai, among others, announced concrete projects, including the expansion of their public transport network as well as new sustainable transport strategies.
- **Transport Flagship:** For the first time ever at a UNFCCC COP, leaders from land, maritime and aviation transport came together in a joint effort to highlight the solutions being put forth by each of their sectors. Delivery partners including the SLOCAT Partnership, the International Transport Forum, the Air Transport Action Group and the High-Level Champions Team mobilized critical stakeholders from each mode, including civil society, think tanks, transport worker organizations, multilateral development banks (MDBs), UN agencies and national leaders, to chart a more coherent path forward for the transformation of transport. This event has helped lay the foundation for further collaboration among these modes around meaningful climate action and for ensuring stronger transport measures and targets in the next round of NDCs.
- **Commemoration of the first-ever annual UN World Sustainable Transport Day (Nov. 26):** Adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2023, the first World Sustainable Transport Day is a momentous occasion to celebrate the pivotal role of sustainable, low-carbon transport and mobility systems worldwide in shaping a more resilient future for people and the planet.
- **The SAFc Registry:** A multi-sector coalition including United Airlines, Microsoft, EDF, RMI and members of the Sustainable Aviation Buyers Alliance released a new tool seeking to promote the use of cleaner fuels and the tracking of their impact. The SAFc Registry tallies up the emissions benefits of new aviation fuels that airlines blend into jet kerosene on flights.
- **Green hydrogen for shipping:** Around 30 organizations including green hydrogen producers, cargo owners, ship operators, ports, and equipment manufacturers committed to enable the use of renewable hydrogen-derived shipping fuel this decade.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Google convened tech leaders to examine the transformative potential of technology in mitigating transportation's environmental impacts. The discussion explored real world sustainable travel choices and highlighted data transparency and partnership significance.
- **YOUNGO Global Youth Statement Majlis:** Representatives of YOUNGO, the official UNFCCC youth constituency, presented the Global Youth Statement and the outcomes of the 18th Conference of Youth, the largest youth event in the UAE ever, to COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber.
- **COP Connect by Artefact:** Artefact hosted a COP Connect event on the theme of “Artificial Intelligence for climate tech solutions”. The event brought together 150 climate tech players in the Green Zone, including influential thought leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, academia, government/civil society and corporates.
- African and Middle East leaders welcomed a \$10 billion SAFE initiative to tackle food security amid climate crisis. The Global Green Growth’s Institute (GGGI) initiative seeks to mobilize at least \$10 billion to implement proven climate-smart agricultural practices such as regenerative agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, and solar-powered irrigation. SAFE aims to mobilize strategic investments from public and private investors to address food security issues, improve livelihoods, and create green jobs.





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