

## **COP – Conference of the Parties**

COPs are convened under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>1</sup>, a multilateral treaty adopted in 1992.

The meetings serve as the formal meetings of the Conference of the Parties - hence the acronym. COPs are where Parties (governments) assess global efforts to advance the key Paris Agreement aim of limiting global warming to as close as possible to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Parties make decisions on ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions and on adapting to the impacts of climate change, on Loss and Damage (which refers to funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by floods, droughts, and other climate disasters), and on the means to help countries green their economies and build resilience to climate change (finance, technology, and capacity-building).

COPs are crucial in the battle against climate change. They see governments come together to measure progress and negotiate the best ways to address climate change while taking each other's circumstances into account. COPs offer an opportunity to raise the level of attention to the threat of climate change, reflecting the fact that without the private sector, civil society, industry, and individuals on board, the world will not be able to adequately tackle the climate crisis. There is no time to lose. As UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said: "Every tenth of a degree global heating matters. Every year matters. Every choice matters. Every COP matters<sup>2</sup>."

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements<sup>3</sup>.

A key task for the COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties. Based on this information, the COP assesses the effects of the measures taken by the Parties and the progress made in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. The COP meets every year unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March 1995. The COP meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session. Just as the COP Presidency rotates among the five recognized UN regions - that is, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe, and Others – there is a tendency for the venue of the COP to also shift among these groups.

**COP 28 will take place from 30 November until 12 December 2023. Throughout the Dubai conference, the incoming COP 28 Presidency will hold open consultations on thematic areas and sequencing, inviting inputs from the broad mix of stakeholders that will attend the conference.**

Visit the [COP 28 host country website](#).

COP28 UAE will be a milestone moment when the world will take stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement. The first Global Stocktake (GST) will provide a comprehensive assessment of progress since adopting the Paris Agreement. This will help align the efforts on climate action, including measures that need to be put in place to bridge the gaps in progress<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/the-big-picture/what-are-united-nations-climate-change-conferences/how-cops-are-organized-questions-and-answers>

<sup>3</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cop28.com/>