

COP28

THEMATIC DAY SUMMARY:

Dec 8: Youth, Children, Education, and Skills



COP28
UAE



Youth and children are at disproportionate risk of the harmful impacts of climate change but are systematically excluded from shaping climate policy that impacts their daily lives and future. For the first time in the history of COPs, Youth, Children Education and Skills Day brought children, youth, and educators to the center of COP, strategically leveraging their energy and inspiration to accelerate climate action. The day amplified children and youth voices and showcased demands in international climate policy negotiations, providing a platform for children and youth-led climate initiatives and solutions. The program for the day focused on greening schools and curricula, providing skill strengthening for young people, teachers and educational leaders, and working to ensure that schools and universities operate sustainably. A multi-stakeholder consortium of partners was also convened to strengthen the collaboration of universities and research centers to advance the climate action agenda.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 38 countries signed the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership, **Declaration on the common agenda for education and climate change at COP28**, committing to incorporate climate education into their Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. It represents 20% of the total number of nations in the UNFCCC.
- The **RewirEd Summit** brought together more than 1,000 participants, including two heads of state, 22 ministers, and 28 CEOs who led the discussion on climate education and showcased powerful solutions that exist at the intersection of climate and education. They also committed to transform the educational landscape in response to the current and future needs of the green economy.
- The first cohort of 100 International Youth Climate Delegates graduated from the program, marking the completion of a robust capacity-building curriculum in collaboration with YOUNGO, Harvard and UNFCCC.
- The first cohort of the UAE Youth Climate Delegates graduated, and a second iteration of the program was announced by the UAE Federal Youth Authority for 2024.
- **The Youth Stocktake Report** was officially launched by YOUNGO with support from the Youth Climate Champion. It represents the first-ever comprehensive analysis of youth engagement in the UNFCCC process and provides a roadmap to enhance youth inclusion moving forward.
- **The establishment of the first dedicated Youth Hub** in the Green Zone facilitated interactions between global climate leaders, children and youth, fostering a space for intergenerational dialogue and collaboration.



GLOBAL STOCKTAKE RESPONSE:

The outcomes of the day, particularly the Youth Stocktake report, and the renewed commitment to green education, charted a way forward for the inclusion of youth in climate action, laying the foundation for acknowledging and highlighting their role in the Global Stocktake.



YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Youth and Children Day at COP28 delivered groundbreaking programming and spaces for meaningful children youth engagement. It also saw a strong and clear support for permanent structures within the UNFCCC to ensure consistent inclusion of young people in decision-making processes, with a focus on marginalized and vulnerable youth and their communities. The day explored and demonstrated how climate change affects children disproportionately from a child perspective, and elevated the relationship between children's rights, and climate action, laying the foundation for an increased focus at future COPs.

KEY MOMENTS

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- The Dubai Youth Climate Dialogue marked the delivery of the second Mandated Youth Climate Forum.
- The first Presidency-led COP event on the linkages between youth, peace, security, and climate change took place, signifying the start of the global process to develop a framework on youth, peace and climate security.
- More than 1,000 children and youth had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of professional skills and opportunities to address climate change and expand their professional network at the green skills fair.
- Recommendations were made on how Parties can operationalize the Paris Agreement from a children's perspective, by using the General Comment 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change as a framework.
- At the event, HE Marina Silva from Brazil also stressed that COP30 must integrate children and youth and ensure that negotiators and decision makers consider their perspectives in the decisions that will impact the future of all.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

COP28 laid the groundwork for policy makers, institutions and students to finance a transition towards a green economy. This day empowered children and youth from around the world by increasing knowledge of green jobs' skills, and provided opportunities for skill-building and pitching for resources for youth-led projects and initiatives. Additionally, the day focused on highlighting the role of technology and innovation to empower young startup founders in the climate action landscape.

KEY MOMENTS

- 14 ministers participated in the Greening Education Partnership's first annual meeting and spoke in support of the **Declaration on the common agenda for education and climate change at COP28**.
- **54 University leaders** and global University Climate Networks (UCN) representing **1,500 global higher education institutions** convened to discuss building partnerships and to fund innovative research across key education pillars and the COP28 thematic agenda. They agreed on a framework on how to expand university impact in key sectors of the economy and society over the next three years.
- **35 UAE University Climate Network members** shared best practices and pledged to maintain the legacy and continuity of the network.
- COP28 established the first greening education hub, in partnership with UNESCO and the UAE Ministry of Education, which highlights and advocates for education's central role in tackling the climate emergency.
- More than **3,000 young people** visited the Green Skills Fair in partnership with Pupilar, Generation Unlimited, and LinkedIn. **1,000 guidebooks** were distributed within the first five hours, 634 individuals downloaded the Green Skills App, 880 people joined the LinkedIn Green Skills group, and 74 exhibitors registered to participate in the fair. The fair connected youth with climate-engaged companies to hear about in-demand green skills. Young people were able to increase their professional network and learned how to navigate the new green economy. The fair also advocated for young people to establish a digital presence on the largest professional network platform LinkedIn, which also provided free training on how best to develop professional pages on their platform.
- Six capacity-building workshops, organized by various entities and companies, aligned green skills with COP28's thematic program. The workshops provided industry-specific insights crucial for addressing climate change and equipped youth with practical knowledge for potential careers in the various sectors.
- Teach for All and Aga Khan Foundation launched Teachers for the Planet, the first global portal for teacher-led teacher-tested, and teachers-approved climate education solutions, with 100 teachers from 60 countries. Teachers from around the planet can join the portal and submit their climate education solutions.

- 120 teachers from 35 countries came together to develop climate-focused curriculum.
- Dubai Cares announced the spin-off of the RewirEd Summit as an independent stand-alone global platform led by a global board, with representation from three co-chairs, Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, and Dubai Cares.
- The Social Investment Program (SIP), an initiative led by Dubai Cares, with Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation, under the World Food Programme's School Meals Coalition, launched the first global social impact bond to scale up sustainable homegrown school feeding programs in Senegal.
- The Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC) in partnership with Dubai Cares announced the launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Online Training and Mentoring Program to empower youth in choosing careers that contribute to solving the climate crisis and enhance their potential in driving system transformation around Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on Climate Action, and other SDGs.

CROSS-CUTTING: TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Programming on the T&I Hub Stage focused on the Youth, Children, Education and Skills thematic. In particular, speakers discussed the role of technology in reducing the impact of climate change on the youth and the need to drive youth inclusion in climate action. In addition, COP28 in collaboration with the UNFCCC hosted a high-level event on the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism.

KEY MOMENTS

- **LinkedIn** hosted a session highlighting the most in demand skills for the green transition. Speakers examined technology solutions facilitating education and skills for climate, future-proofing education through tech literacy and empowering the youth through technology. They also explored the role played by open-knowledge sources and online platforms in enabling empowerment of the youth.
- **Uniting for Climate Actions - Calling for International Technology and Innovation Collaboration:** This high-level event hosted by the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism in collaboration with COP28 called for an enhanced international cooperation on technology development and transfer, and recognized the critical enabling role of technology, innovation and capacity building towards achieving accelerated climate actions. The event provided visibility on the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism in its first year and its achievements. In addition, the COP28-facilitated coalition "Innovate for Climate Tech" was recognized as an important effort to advance technology and innovation.
- **Startup village:** More than 70 new startups inaugurated the second week of COP in the COP28 start-up village, a dedicated space showcasing climate tech solutions.



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