

COP28 President-Designate Speech at 7th Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today at this very important Ministerial on Climate Action, at a pivotal moment in the run up to COP28.

Allow me to thank our co-hosts, the European Commission's Executive Vice President Franz Timmermans, Canada's Minister for Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault and China's Minister for Ecology and Environment, Huang Runqiu.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are at the midway point between Paris and 2030, but we are nowhere near close enough to our destination.

The science could not be clearer. The latest IPCC report has told us that we must cut emissions by 43% in the next seven years to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

Yet we do not need a report to tell us that our climate is already warming to unprecedented levels.

Just last week, the world broke average temperature records three times in a row.

We are seeing devastating droughts and floods around the world that are becoming more frequent and more severe.

Last week I was in Pakistan, where communities are still recovering from the flooding last year that took thousands of lives and has displaced 8 million people.

We have to face facts. While, I appreciate that progress has been made, the incremental steps taken so far to address the climate crisis are not meeting the urgency of the moment.

So, today I am calling on all of us to disrupt business as usual, unite around decisive action and achieve game-changing results.

We need to challenge old models that were built for the last century.

We need to break down silos that are slowing progress.

And we need to bridge divides that are blocking critical breakthroughs.

We need to include everyone committed to solving the problem, because everyone is affected by the problem.

We must have an honest conversation about what it will take to deliver a responsible and just transition that empowers climate positive development everywhere, in particular across the Global South.

We must ensure energy access, security and sustainability, while creating jobs and prosperity.

In short, we need to make climate and economic progress at the same time. It is not one or the other. It is both.

As you know, I have been involved in the COP process for over a

decade, but when I was appointed to this role, I made a point of broadening my understanding further.

Over the past 6 months, my team and I have engaged extensively with governments, businesses, civil society, NGOs, activists, young people and indigenous peoples.

This fact finding and listening tour has helped me and my team better understand the problems people are facing, helped us draw better conclusions and informed our thinking and our approach. And I want to thank all of you here today for your guidance, inputs, and advice.

Today, I'd like to walk you through our plan of action. This plan is guided by a single north star. And that is keeping 1.5 within reach. To do this, we aim to match the highest ambition for the negotiated outcomes with an equally strong and robust action agenda that can implement those outcomes in the real world.

Our approach starts with taking collective ownership of the global stocktake. And I have requested Ministers Creecy of South Africa and Jorgensen of Denmark to conduct political consultations on my behalf on critical elements of outcome of the stocktake from now until September.

We must be brutally honest about the gaps that need to be filled, the root causes and how we got here. Then we must apply a far reaching, forward-looking, action-oriented and comprehensive response to address these gaps.

This response is based on four pillars: Fast-tracking the transition, Fixing climate finance, Focusing on people, lives and livelihoods and underpinning everything with Full inclusivity.

On fast tracking the transition, we must be laser focused on building the energy system of the future, a system free of unabated fossil fuels, including coal, using all available technologies, while we rapidly decarbonize the system of today.

As I've said many times, the phase down of fossil fuels is inevitable. It is in fact essential. And it must also be responsible.

We must take a holistic approach that brings together both the supply and the demand side in an integrated response.

Let us end the reductive discussion of scope 1 versus scope 2 versus scope 3. We need to attack all emissions, everywhere. 1, 2 AND 3.

This will require us to redesign the relationship between policymakers, the biggest energy producers and the biggest industrial consumers.

That is why I will convene the IEA, together with the UNFCCC and IRENA on integrated dialogues including governments, major energy producers and heavy emitting industries.

We will co-create a practical action plan, based on the science, around pathways consistent with keeping 1.5 within reach.

On the supply side, we are partnering with governments in the north and south to double energy efficiency, triple renewable energy capacity to 11,000 GW, and double hydrogen production to 180 tons per year by 2030.

We must also decarbonize energy production. As you may recall, I've already called on IOCs and NOCs to zero out methane emissions by 2030, align around net zero by or before 2050 and commit significant capital investment to clean energies. This must

happen, and it must be underpinned by transparency and accountability.

At the same time I am calling on all countries to deploy capital at scale and build the necessary grid infrastructure to phase up clean energy solutions.

On the demand side, smart government policies are needed to shorten permitting timelines, commercialize the hydrogen value chain and incentivize other emerging and new technologies.

We need to use every emission-busting tool available, including nuclear, battery storage and carbon capture and removal technologies, especially for the hardest to abate sectors.

Strong demand signals must come from the top through NDCs.

The UAE just submitted a third update to its second NDC that pushes emission reductions to 40 per cent, compared to business as usual, with clearly defined targets for all domestic sectors.

That's an almost 10 per cent improvement on the previous disclosure. This aligns with our 2050 net zero initiative and our ambition to keep 1.5 within reach.

At the same time, we will invest 54 billion dollars to triple clean energy capacity by 2030, massively scale up hydrogen while maintaining zero coal in our energy mix.

And I call on all governments to update their NDCs by September of this year, ensuring alignment with the Paris Agreement.

Fixing climate finance is a critical imperative for enabling climate action. We all know that our current financial architecture is not making finance anywhere near available, accessible or affordable

enough.

IFIs and MDBs are not set-up to incentivize private capital with adequate concessional funds.

This is not a time for piecemeal reform. We need a comprehensive transformation. We need holistic solutions that move private capital at scale towards climate action in emerging and developing economies.

We are working with the G20 High Level expert group to design a path forward that is fit for the 21st century.

We are also working with the IMF, the World Bank and GFANZ to unlock the power of the capital markets, standardize voluntary carbon markets and incentivize private capital and finance at a multiple.

Building on the Paris Summit for a new global financing pact, we will look to advance the finance agenda at the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi in September. We will also convene a high-level business and philanthropy delivery forum during the world leaders' summit at COP28.

At the same time, restoring faith in multilateralism is crucial. Donor countries must honor the commitments of the past to rebuild trust in the future.

I am urging all donor countries to work with Germany and Canada to progress and provide assurances of the delivery of the 100 billion dollar commitment this year, well ahead of COP28.

In parallel, I am calling for donors to double adaptation finance by 2025 and ensure a strong replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.

It is also absolutely imperative that we fully operationalize the fund and funding arrangements for loss and damage at COP28, and activate it soon after, to meet the needs of the most vulnerable impacted by climate change. And I call for and welcome early pledges to demonstrate our political will.

Excellencies...COP28 will put lives and livelihoods at the heart of the climate process, with a human-centered approach that focuses on nature, food, health and resilience. At the core of this approach will be the adoption of a comprehensive and robust framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation.

This central piece of our agenda will prioritize the preservation of natural ecosystems, protect the most vulnerable communities and invest in practical solutions to save and improve lives.

We will promote all initiatives that enhance biodiversity and natural carbon sinks, including 30 by 30, and the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership, which I encourage all parties to sign up to.

Transforming food systems is an essential enabler of adaptation and mitigation goals. We will leverage all platforms, including AIM for Climate and others capable of improving crop yields, reducing climate impacts and strengthening the resilience of the entire food and agriculture value chain... from farmer to consumer.

We are calling on countries to integrate National Food System Transformation Plans into both their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans.

And we are looking forward to announcing our workstreams and key delivery partners at the UN Food Systems Summit later this month.

COP28 will be the first to devote a day to health and we will partner with the World Health Organization together with Germany, Kenya, the UK, Egypt, Brazil and Fiji to convene the first COP climate-health ministerial.

And I would like to encourage health, climate, and finance ministers from all countries to participate.

Our cross sectoral approach to Adaptation is designed to bring all stakeholders to the table from governments, businesses and civil society to ensure a practical, action-oriented and well-resourced adaptation response.

Colleagues, full inclusivity will be the hallmark of the COP28 Presidency.

Climate change is our greatest shared challenge, and we will only succeed in addressing it by engaging every person, every generation and every corner of society.

We are committed to working in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, faith-based organizations and youth to ensure their voices are heard throughout our programs and are aligned with outcomes.

COP28 has partnered with YOUNGO to establish the largest ever youth climate delegate program to ensure that young people, particularly from least developed and small island states, are well represented at the negotiating table.

We look forward to your support in making this a feature of all future COPs so that the voices of young people are heard and their ideas are given a platform.

COP28 will also include a pavilion for indigenous peoples. These communities make up 6 per cent of the global population, yet protect 80 per cent of our biodiversity. It is essential that their perspectives, their wisdom and their concerns are considered in the COP outcomes.

We will also host a historic number of mayors and local leaders, and we will feature the pioneering efforts of sustainable cities within the COP agenda.

We are inviting every segment of society to join us at COP28- policy makers and passionate advocates, engineers and entrepreneurs.

We need both activism and what I call actionism. We need everyone around the table to claim their rightful share of voice in the conversation and ready to deliver a truly inclusive COP.

And let me add this. Our efforts to meet and overcome the climate challenge should keep in mind that if we do the right things and take them to scale, we will create vast economic potential for everyone, north and south, east and west. We can and we must take this opportunity to put our economies on the path toward a new low carbon, high growth sustainable economic development model.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of this year, I made it clear that the UAE takes on the role of hosting COP28 with humility, a deep sense of responsibility and great sense of urgency.

We committed to bringing the world together to unite, act and deliver. As a nation and as a people, when we commit, we deliver.

Today, I am proud to lay out a plan that is science-based, action oriented and focused on a new way forward to solve the climate

crisis, by matching our passion with pragmatism, our ambition with realism.

And allow me to say this.

This plan came from listening to and engaging with all of you.. and can only be realized BY all of you.

The key to its success rests on what YOU do next.

I challenge you to act in solidarity, put differences aside and put the interest of humanity first.

That is the only way we can make transformational, practical progress that delivers for the climate, for our economies and for our people.

Let's partner around this shared opportunity.

Let's mobilize to deliver supercharged solutions and ambitious outcomes.

And let's restore hope through unity and collective action.

Thank you.