

Date: January 26, 2023

To:

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General  
Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
Parties to the UNFCCC—

On January 11, news broke that Sultan Al Jaber, the chief executive of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), will be overseeing the upcoming round of global climate negotiations as president of COP28, hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The [United States, the European Union](#), and even the [Executive Secretary](#) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) all applauded the news.

But let us be clear—this is no cause for celebration. This decision threatens the legitimacy and efficacy of COP28. If we have any hope of addressing the climate crisis, every COP must be free from the polluting influence of the fossil fuel industry.

ADNOC is the world's [12th largest](#) oil producer. As a major emitter [it ranks 14th](#) in the list of corporations most responsible for carbon emissions. ADNOC also ranked [2nd highest](#) in a global analysis of fossil fuel companies' oil & gas expansion plans, making it one of the fastest growing fossil fuel companies based on its project and construction approval for new fields and wells. It recently ramped up its [expansion plans](#) by committing to produce 5 million barrels per day by 2027, and it [partners closely](#) with other major polluters to continue to lock in a fossil-fueled future. Its plans are incompatible with the [International Energy Agency's scenario](#), which makes it clear that there can be no new oil and gas development to be on track to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Even before the appointment of Al Jaber, the UAE's track record demonstrates it is not serious about phasing out fossil fuel use and keeping global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Rather, its track record demonstrates it is central to causing the climate crisis, not solving it.

There is no honor in appointing a fossil fuel executive who profits immensely off of fueling the climate crisis to oversee the global response to climate change. That such a move could ever be seen to be legitimate amidst an intensifying climate crisis where millions of lives and ecosystems are on the line exemplifies just how insidious Big Polluters' stranglehold over climate policy is. It also points to a deeper problem—fossil fuel interests overrun the UNFCCC and threaten its credibility. At COP27 last November, [more than 630](#) fossil fuel lobbyists registered to attend the climate negotiations. The UAE, now hosting COP28, had [more fossil fuel lobbyists](#) on its delegation than any other country. The grim reality is that this appointment represents a tipping point in which the UNFCCC is rapidly losing any legitimacy and credibility.

[More than 450 organizations](#) have called on world governments to reset the system to ensure that it stops serving greed and profits and instead protects the people and communities who are paying for the world's fossil fuel addiction with their lives and livelihoods. Multiple UNFCCC constituencies—representing youth, women and gender, trade unions, and the climate justice movement—have [called on the UNFCCC](#) to finally pass an Accountability Framework that ends the ability of Big Polluters to unduly influence and undermine the global response to climate change. Yet despite this united demand, and as the climate crisis is being experienced all

around the world, world governments continue to treat the UNFCCC as an industry PR stunt and corporate trade show, despite the clear warnings delivered by the IPCC.

No COP overseen by a fossil fuel executive can be seen as legitimate. **COP Presidencies must be free and independent of fossil fuel influence. It's time for the UNFCCC to deliver the long overdue equitable phaseout of fossil fuels.** Critically, addressing the real problem of polluting interests only begins here. In addition, we demand:

1. **Big Polluters cannot write the rules.** Big Polluters must not be allowed to [unduly influence](#) climate policymaking. This allows them to continue [weaken](#) and [undermine](#) the global response to climate change, and it's why we are on the brink of extinction. The UNFCCC must urgently establish an [Accountability Framework](#), including a regime-wide conflict-of-interest policy, that systematically ends this corporate capture.
2. **No more Big Polluters' bankrolling climate action.** No Big Polluter partnership or sponsorships of climate talks or climate action. Not now. Not ever. Major polluters must not be allowed to [greenwash themselves](#) and literally [buy their way out of culpability](#) for a crisis they have caused. The UNFCCC will always fail to deliver so long as this is deemed acceptable.
3. **Polluters out and People in.** While civil society has always participated in the COP process, governments have made it more difficult each time for non-governmental organizations and climate justice movements to [have their voices heard](#). We need equitable, meaningful inclusion of civil society. Climate action must center the leadership and lived experience of the people, especially those on the frontlines of the climate crisis. With frontline communities in the lead, we must end the funding and validation of [dangerous distractions](#) and false solutions that [promote Big Polluters' profits](#), enable their abuses, and guarantee [decades more of fossil fuel use](#).
4. **Reset the system to protect people and the planet, not Big Polluters.** Big Polluters are destroying life as we know it. It's time to build [a new way of living and collaborating](#) that works for people, not polluters, and that restores, rather than destroys, nature. We need real, just, accountable, gender responsive, community-led, nature-restoring, and proven and transformative [solutions](#) to be implemented rapidly and justly. We need a total and equitable [transition off of fossil fuels](#). We need [real solutions](#) that center the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, workers, and the protection of those speaking up for justice. We need an end to the [impunity of corporate abuses](#).

Year after year, the UNFCCC has failed to deliver the needed climate equity and action to end the era of fossil fuels, and to rapidly and justly transition to a new global system. 2023 needs to be a breakthrough year. Will the UNFCCC keep undermining its own credibility and continue to avoid addressing the core driver of the climate crisis—fossil fuels? Or will it continue to give its executives a seat at the head of the table?

Sincerely,

**UNFCCC Constituencies:**

Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice - DCJ  
Climate Action Network - CAN  
Women and Gender Constituency  
Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO)

**Organizational endorsements:**

Launching organizations:

350.org  
Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development

Center for Biological Diversity  
Climate Justice Programme  
Corporate Accountability  
Corporate Europe Observatory  
Culture Unstained  
Friends of the Earth International  
Global Forest Coalition  
Greenpeace  
IBON International  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Reclame Fossielvrij  
Social Tippingpoint Coalition  
Union of People Affected by Chevron-Exaco – UDAPT

### International

ActionAid International  
AEGEAN FOREST FOUNDATION  
Africans Rising  
Alliance for the future Generation  
Alt in MH  
Amazon Watch  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy  
CIDSE  
Climate & Sustainability  
Climate Clock  
Cyrog Enterprise Ltd  
Debt Justice UK  
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)  
Dorcas Aid International  
EarthRights International  
EcoEquity  
EcoPravo-Kharkiv  
Ecovista  
Education International  
EnGen Collaborative  
FairClimateFund  
FIMCAP Europe  
Fòs Feminista  
Fundación Quantum  
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives  
Gallifrey Foundation  
Gastivists

Global Forest Coalition  
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
Global Network of Civil Society Organisation for Disaster Reduction  
Greenpeace  
Heinrich Boell Stiftung Washington, DC  
ICO "Environment - People - Law" (EPL)  
IICAT The International Institute of Climate Action & Theory  
International Climate Justice Program, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung (RLS)  
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)  
International helping for young  
International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)  
International Trade Union Confederation  
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)  
International Youth Task Force for Climate Change, Epidemics & Natural  
Disaster  
IWRAP Asia Pacific  
MADRE  
Margaret Pyke Trust  
MenEngage Global Alliance  
MISEREOR  
Oil Change International  
Oxfam  
Peoples Rising for Climate Justice  
Plastic Free Campus  
Polar Educators International  
Practical Action  
Razom We Stand  
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary NGO at the UN  
SHE Changes Climate  
Simavi  
SMC - Faith in Development  
Stand.earth  
Tearfund  
The Institute for Climate Policy Solutions (ICPS)  
Their Voices for Climate  
Third World Network  
TONATIERRA  
Transparency International  
Tropenbos International  
UNI Global UNION  
War on Want

Water Justice and Gender  
We Effect  
WECF International  
Women Deliver  
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)  
World Animal Protection  
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts  
YouthNet for Climate Justice

## Africa

Aalem for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, Inc.  
AbibiNsroma Foundation  
Actions pour la Réinsertion Sociale de la Femme "ARSF"  
Actions pour le Développement, l'Education et la Santé, ADESA RDC  
Africa Farmers Media Centre  
Africa Institute for Energy Governance  
Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger Sierra Leone  
Akina Mama wa Afrika  
Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (ATGWU)  
ANAD  
Associacao comunitaria Emmanuel  
CADIRE CAMEROON ASSOCIATION  
Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch-CAMGEW  
Candles Association for Equality / Morocco  
Centre for 21st Century Issues  
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)  
Centre for community Against Human Trafficking (CIAHT)  
Centre pour la Justice Environnementale - Togo  
Citizens network for community development Zambia  
Civil Society Action Coalition on Disaster Mitigation  
Cleannation Foundation  
Climate Action Network Africa (CAN Africa)  
CNTT  
Collectif Sénégalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l' Education Relative à l'Environnement (COSAPERRE)  
Community Agenda Support  
Community Technology Development Trust  
Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa  
DUKINGIRE ISI YACU  
Economic Justice Network Sierra Leone  
Educating Girls and Young Women for Development-EGYD

Endorois Welfare Council (EWC)  
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria  
FONAHD RDC  
Fridays for Future Kajiado  
Fridays For Future Kenya  
Fridays for Future Uganda  
GARDEN KID'S  
GenderCC Southern Africa  
Geo-Environmental Research Agency for Development (GERAD-LIBERIA) INC  
Green Living Movement  
Innovative Hub for Inclusiveness, Empowerment and Social Development (SieDi-Hub)  
International helping for young  
Jigawa State Government  
Karamoja Go Green  
Kikandwa Environmental Association  
KITUI PEACE NETWORK  
LAMU WOMEN ALLIANCE  
Lelewal Foundation  
Les Ecocitoyens  
Movement For Education And Advocacy Network Salone  
Natural Justice  
Natural Resource Women Platform  
NCDG  
Noble Delta Women for Peace and Development Intl.  
ONG KAWTAL  
Parents for Future Nigeria  
Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED) Cameroon  
Powering Young Initiatives  
RECODEF Sénégal AACJ  
Regional Centre for International Development Cooperation - RCIDC  
Rise to Inspire Africa Initiative  
SAF-TESO  
SHE Changes Climate  
Sierra Leone School Green Clubs (SLSGC)  
Simma Africa Creative Arts Foundation  
Somaliland Climate Action Initiative {SOCAI}  
Spring of the arid and semi-arid lands (SASAL)  
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)  
Sustainable Development Institute  
SustyVibes

Vision for Alternative Development - VALD Ghana  
Women for a Change  
You-lean Chad  
ZIMTA

## Asia & Pacific

350.org Japan  
ACTU  
Active Citizens Pacific  
AGHAM Advocates of Science and Technology for the People  
Alliance for Future Generations  
Anne's Christian Community Health School and Nursing Services  
APWLD  
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development  
Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament (Protiki Jubo Sangshad)  
Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation -BGF  
BIMBA (Kiribati)  
Blue Dian  
Bougainville Women's Federation  
CADME (Coastal Area Disaster Mitigation Efforts)  
Centre for Social Policy Development  
Climate Action Network Japan  
Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality  
DIVERSE VOICES AND ACTIONS FOR EQUALITY FIJI  
Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)  
FoE Japan  
Friends of the Earth Australia  
Friends of the Siberian Forests  
Ganochetona Bangladesh  
Grameena Vikas Samithi-GVS.  
Grata Fund  
House of Colors  
IDEAS For Nepal  
Indian National Trade Union Congress-INTUC  
Integrated Development Society Nepal  
International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific  
International Women's Development Agency  
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment  
Kapul Champions Inc.  
Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institute

Korea Federation for Environmental Movement  
KRuHA  
KSBSI  
Living All Inclusive In Belau Organization  
Lok Shakti Abhiyan  
Na i Soqosoqo Vakamarama i Taukei  
National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal  
National Fisheries Solidarity Movement  
National Forum for Advocacy Nepal (NAFAN)  
NDF Pakistan  
Nepalese Space Research Association(NESRA))  
NGO Forum on ADB  
NTFP EP Philippines  
NZEI Te Riu Roa  
Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee  
Papua New Guinea Teachers Association  
Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji  
Roots for Equity  
Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)  
Save & Plant Trees  
SERUNI  
Shifting the Power Coalition & Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate  
Justice  
SUKAAR WELFARE ORGANIZATION  
Tebtebba Foundation  
The Climate Reality Project Japan  
TI-Korea  
Tuvalu Climate Action Network  
Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition  
Vanuatu Young Women For Change  
Vatu Mauri Consortium  
Victorian Trades Hall Council  
Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines  
Youth Association for Development (YAD) Pakistan

## Europe

Adéquations  
Alliance Sud  
Asociación Española de Educación Ambiental  
Black Sea Women's Club  
Black2Nature



Campaign against Climate Change  
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development  
CCFD - Terre Solidaire  
Changemaker  
Climate 2025  
Climate Emergency UK  
Climáximo  
ČMOS PŠ  
Co-ordination Office of the Austrian Bishop's Conference for International Development and Mission (KOO)  
CONFEDERACION INTERSINDICAL  
Confederacion Sindical Comisiones Obreras España (CCOO)  
Cordaid  
Deutsche Umwelthilfe  
Earth Minutes  
Eco Action Families  
Ecologistas en Acción  
Element Four  
Extinction Rebellion  
FNV  
Food and Water Action Europe  
FridaysForFuture Thessaloniki  
Friends of the Earth Cyprus  
Friends of the Earth Europe  
Friends of the Earth Germany/ BUND  
Friends of the Earth Ireland  
Friends of the Earth Malta  
Friends of the Earth Norway (Naturvernforbundet)  
Global Justice Now  
Global Witness  
Grands-parents pour le cliamt/ Klima-Grosseltern Schweiz  
Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE)  
GREENPEACE  
KFUK-KFUM Global  
Klimadelegation e.V.  
Kmelnytskyi energy cluster  
Landelijk Netwerk Bossen- en Bomenbescherming.nl  
Les Amis de la Terre France  
Milieudéfensie  
Money Rebellion  
Mosaïque Bretagne

NEU Climate Change Network  
NGO Ekoltava  
Observatori DESC  
Parents for future  
Parents for Future - West London  
Parents For Future Austria  
Parents for Future Italy  
Parents for future Scotland  
Parents for Future Sweden  
Parents for Future Tortona  
Parents for Future UK  
Parents for future Waldviertel  
Planète Amazone  
Rapid Transition Alliance  
ReCommon  
Rodzice dla Klimatu - Parents For Future Poland  
Scottish Sustainable Schools Network  
SHE Changes Climate  
Shine Coaching and Consultancy  
Spire  
The Movements Trust  
Transport&Environment  
Trócaire  
UK Schools Sustainability Network  
UK Youth Climate Coalition  
Unión General de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores (UGT)  
Uplift  
Urgewald  
Vanguard SOS UK  
WeSmellGas  
ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável  
Zero Waste Society

### Latin America & Caribbean

5 Elementos - Instituto de Educação para Sustentabilidade  
Associação de Mulheres, agricultores, artesãos e amigos do Quilombo Santa Justina Santa Izabel - RJ  
do quil  
Associação de Preservação do Meio Ambiente e da Vida - Apremavi  
Casa del Protector Marcahuasi  
Centro de Estudios Heñói  
CESTA Friends of the Earth El Salvador

Coalición EcuMénica por el Cuidado de la Creación  
Coalición Evangélica por la Justicia Climática  
Coalición Nacional por la Tierra - Argentina  
Colectiva Zurciendo el planeta  
Colectivo CASA  
Colectivo VientoSur  
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
ECOMUNIDADES, Red Ecologista Autónoma de la Cuenca de México  
ECORE  
Entraide et Fraternité  
Familias Pelo Clima  
FirecircleTT To End ALL Abuse  
Fundacion Plurales  
Iepé - Instituto de Pesquisa e Formação Indígena  
Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos - Inesc  
Instituto de Referência Negra Peregum  
Instituto Ecologica  
Instituto Internacional de Educacao do Brasil  
IPÊ - Institute for Ecological Research  
La Ruta del Clima  
LATINDADD  
Memoria Indígena  
Nós na Criação  
Observatorio de Ecología Política de Venezuela  
Observatório do Clima (Climate Observatory)  
Otros Cruces  
Paz y Esperanza Ecuador  
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DEL PERÚ - PUCP  
Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)  
RCA. Rede de Cooperação Amazônica  
Reaccion Climatica  
Red de Estudios y Empoderamiento Afrodescendiente RedAfros  
Red Latinoamericana por Justicia Económica y Social - LATINDADD  
REDE GTA  
Salvaginas Colectiva Ecofeminista  
Sociedad civil Amigos del Viento meteorologia ambiente desarrollo  
Taller Ecologista  
The Breadfruit Collective  
Voces de Tibet

## Middle East

Arab Watch Coalition  
Arab Youth Climate Movement-Lebanon  
Dibeen For Environmental Development  
EIPR  
For bright yemen organization for  
development  
Parents For Climate - Israel  
RAWSA Alliance for African and Arab States  
Youth For Climate Turkey

## North America

Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action  
198 methods  
350 PDX  
350 Triangle  
350Brooklyn  
Action Environnement Basses-Laurentides, Québec  
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc  
Athens County's Future Action Network  
Beyond Extreme Energy  
Biofuelwatch  
Black Parents United Foundation  
Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Call to Action Colorado  
Canton Residents for a Sustainable Equitable Future  
CatholicNetwork US  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Citizen's Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood  
Citizens Climate Lobby Lancaster  
Clean Energy Action  
Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL)  
Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada  
Climate Families NYC  
Climate Generation  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Climate Justice Alliance  
ClimateMama  
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate  
ColorBrightonGreen  
Community for Sustainable Energy

Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, North Region  
Defend Our Future  
Empower Our Future  
Environmental Defence Canada  
Families for a Livable Climate  
Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada (Office for Systemic Justice)  
Friends of the Earth Canada  
Friends of the Earth US  
Grandmothers Advocacy Network  
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance  
Green House Collaboration Center  
Indivisible Ambassadors  
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program  
Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group  
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & Environment  
Le Centre Oblat - A Voice for Justice  
Littleton Business Alliance  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board  
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries  
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Nature Québec  
North Range Concerned Citizens  
Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)  
OC Sierra Club Climate Action Team  
Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology  
PACAN  
RapidShift Network  
Save the Environmental Protection Agency  
Southwest Organization for Sustainability  
Spirit of the Sun  
System Change Not Climate Change  
Talk Climate  
Texas Campaign for the Environment  
The Climate Reality Project Canada  
The Parents' Climate Community  
Third Act Ohio  
Unite North Metro Denver  
Wall of Women

West Vallehy Neighborhoods Coalition  
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Womxn from the Mountain  
Working for Racial Equity

### Other

Online Knowledge Society  
Research-Intellectual Club "Dialogue of  
Generations"  
Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice  
(RESURJ)  
Women United Together Marshall Islands  
Fiji Youth SRHR Alliance  
DIVA Central Hub