



COP28
UAE

Transport Community Engagement at COP28

2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28)

30th November – 12th December 2023 | Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)



Frequently Asked Questions

Table of contents

Background

1. What is the UNFCCC?
2. What is the UN Climate Change Conference COP?
 - What is the Paris Agreement?
 - Info on COP28
 - What is the Global Stocktake?
3. What is the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA)?

Transport community engagement in COPs

1. What is the SLOCAT Task Force on Transport Community Engagement in the UNFCCC?
 - SLOCAT Advocacy and Engagement Plan 2023-2024
 - SLOCAT Thematic Engagement in COPs
 - Submissions to the First Global Stocktake

Initiatives and commitments launched at COPs

1. What were the transport initiatives engaged in the UNFCCC via MPGCA?

Information on General COP activities and events

1. What is the Blue Zone at COP?
2. What is the Green Zone at COP?
3. What are the different types of activities organised around COPs?
 - Official side events and exhibits
 - Pavilions
 - Receptions and networking events
 - SLOCAT Transport Day

Communication and outreach activities towards COPs

1. What are the key communications and outreach activities towards COPs?
2. What is the SLOCAT Event Tracker?

Logistics

1. Who can attend COP and how do we get accredited?
 2. How is MPGCA stakeholder accreditation arranged?
- Contact Information

Background

1. What is the UNFCCC?

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an intergovernmental treaty developed to address climate change. The Convention entered into force in 1994. Currently, it has a near-universal membership and the countries that ratified the convention are referred to as Parties. The Parties under the UNFCCC continue to adopt decisions, review progress and consider further action through regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP). COP is also supported by two subsidiary bodies, the [Subsidiary Body for Implementation \(SBI\)](#) and [Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice \(SBSTA\)](#). The SBI was created to develop recommendations to assist the COP in reviewing and assessing implementation of the Convention and in preparing and implementing its decisions. The SBSTA supports COP by providing timely information and suggestions on scientific and technological matters.

2. What is the UN Climate Change Conference COP?

The Conference of the Parties, or COP, is the annual climate change conference organised by the United Nations since 1995. The COP is also the main decision making body of the UNFCCC. The Parties consist of the countries that are signatories to the UNFCCC. The decision making body of COP is assigned with the key task of reviewing the national commitments and emission inventories submitted by the parties to assess the effects of measures taken and progress made by the parties towards mitigating climate change. Further, an Adaptation Committee was also established by COP to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation. The first COP climate conference was held in 1995.

Read more about COP [here](#).

What is the Paris Agreement?

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. On 12 December 2015, it was adopted by 196 countries at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, and it entered into force on 4 November 2016. The overarching goal of the Paris Agreement is to curb 'the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels' and channel efforts 'to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.' The Paris Agreement is the latest effort to strengthen global action towards climate change. Before it, the Kyoto Protocol, which was ratified in 2005, agreed to set binding emission reduction targets.

The Conference of Parties serves as the meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). The CMA oversees the implementation of the Paris Agreement and takes decisions to promote its effective implementation.

Read more about the Paris Agreement [here](#).

Info on COP28

In 2023, COP28 will be hosted in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 30 November-12 December. The UAE COP28 Presidency's vision focuses on specific action on four paradigm shifts, namely:

- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030
- Transforming climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance
- Putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action
- Mobilising for the most inclusive COP ever

Further, the priorities of COP28 President-Designate Sultan Al-Jaber are just energy transition, affordable climate finance, and accelerating finance on loss and damage.

Read more about the COP28 Presidency [here](#).

What is the Global Stocktake?

The Global Stocktake (GST) is a process for Parties of the Paris Agreement to take stock of where they are making progress towards meeting the goals of the agreement and where they are not. The GST aims at identifying the gaps, and moving forwards to chart a better course forward to accelerate climate action. The stocktake takes place once every five years and the first stocktake is set to conclude at COP28. The First Global Stocktake (GST) on the Implementation of the Paris Agreement is critical to assessing progress under the Paris Agreement and addressing opportunities for enhanced action and support. The third Technical Dialogue during the Bonn sessions in June 2023 allowed stakeholders to provide vital inputs to improve understanding of global efforts and priority actions toward sustainable, low carbon transport.

Read more about the GST [here](#).

SLOCAT objectives towards the Global Stocktake:

- Emphasise need to focus on transport sector targets.
- Bridge technical to political phase of GST process, with transport a central element of political agreements.
- Move at the successive dialogues from 'what' (e.g. quantifying transport finance and capacity needs) to 'how' (e.g. pricing externalities of high-carbon transport) to 'what next?' (e.g. phase out fossil fuel subsidies).

SLOCAT submissions: [Technical Dialogue 1.1](#) | [Interventions at Technical Dialogue 1.1](#) | [Technical Dialogue 1.3](#) | [Outputs phase of GST1](#)

3. What is the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA)?

The [Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action \(MPGCA\)](#) supports implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and the cities, regions, businesses and investors that must act on climate change. The aim of the partnership is to strengthen collaboration between governments and key sectoral stakeholders to lower emissions and increase resilience against climate impacts. These actions are guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within the MPGCA, the [Climate Action Pathways](#) are a vital tool to enhance climate action. These Pathways consist of various thematic areas, including transport. SLOCAT is the official focal point for transport sector

engagement in MPGCA, along with the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD. SLOCAT was first appointed as focal point in 2016 and then re-appointed in the summer of 2020 following an open consultation by the UNFCCC with the transport stakeholders in the MPGCA. SLOCAT's role as co-focal point consists of the following:

- Providing a conduit for the exchange of information among transport stakeholders, the UNFCCC, and other thematic groups
- Facilitating high-impact inputs into the process
- Facilitating planning and activities of Thematic Group stakeholders

SLOCAT therefore facilitates the engagement of the wider transport sector, which also includes aviation and maritime transport.

Read more:

- [MPGCA Transport Thematic Group](#)
- [Marrakech Partnership Work Programme 2023](#)

Transport community engagement in COPs

SLOCAT has played a central role in the COP process for many years, supporting the overall engagement of the wider sustainable, low carbon transport community in key elements of the COP. Below are a number of mechanisms through which SLOCAT facilitates the engagement of partners and other actors within the ecosystem, in addition to its role in the above-mentioned MPGCA.

1. What is the SLOCAT Task Force on Transport Community Engagement in the UNFCCC?

The [SLOCAT Task Force on Transport Community Engagement in the UNFCCC](#) was established in 2021 jointly with SLOCAT partners. Its primary objective is to guide the work and engagement of SLOCAT in the wider climate change process.

Currently, the Task Force is guided by the *SLOCAT Five Year Strategy for Engagement in UNFCCC 2021-2025*, which does the following:

- Focuses on multiple interactions in the process and aligns activities with the five-year cycle of the Paris Agreement
- Operates on the basis of eight principles for *Consistent, Competent, Timely, Relevant, Related, Equitable, Inclusive* and *Robust* engagement
- Focuses on the whole year-long UNFCCC process rather than on specific meetings, with a wide variety of engagement methods
- Recognises that SLOCAT's role as co-Focal Point for the engagement of the transport sector in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action is separate but complementary to the strategy

SLOCAT Advocacy and Engagement Plan 2023-2024

This Plan outlines the areas of impact relevant towards a more robust engagement in the UNFCCC and wider sustainability processes and delivers on the *SLOCAT Five Year Strategy for Engagement in UNFCCC 2021-2025*. Through three core impact areas, the Plan seeks to enhance SLOCAT's engagement in intergovernmental processes through:

- Structured multi-stakeholder dialogue and political impact on the intersection between climate, sustainability and transport
- Capacity building towards the next round of NDCs (and LTS) for submission in 2025
- Alignment of transport and mobility investments with the principles of the Paris Agreement and SDGs

Read more about SLOCAT Advocacy and Engagement Plan 2023-2024 [here](#).

SLOCAT Thematic Engagement in COPs

Guided by the SLOCAT Task Force for Transport Community Engagement in the UNFCCC, as well as the thematic priorities of the Presidencies, SLOCAT provides avenues for transport engagement in COPs. These avenues include a variety of products, campaigns and platforms that seek to impact specific aspects of the transport dimension of the climate change process.

Examples of thematic engagement in COP28 include the following:

1. [SLOCAT Vision for Sustainable, Low Carbon Land Transport, including relevant regional perspectives](#)
2. [Asia-Pacific Voices Towards COP28 - A series by SLOCAT](#)
3. [Six actions to enable walking, cycling and public transport for people and planet - A call to action by SLOCAT](#)
4. [The NDCs Hall of Fame](#)

Read more about Transport Community Engagement at COP28 at www.slocat.net/cop28.

Initiatives and commitments launched at COPs

1. What were the transport initiatives engaged in the UNFCCC via MPGCA?

Inspired by the call to action by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in September 2014 and followed up by the Lima Paris Action Agenda, [15 transport initiatives](#) established by non-state actors in the transport sector were showcased at COP21 in 2015. COP21 also decided to appoint High-Level Champions to facilitate voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions. Following the appointment of the first two High-Level Champions and the COP22 in Marrakech, the action agenda was renamed as Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) in November 2016. From 2017 to 2018, 11 more transport initiatives have joined the initial core group showcased via the MPGCA. By 2018, 26 transport initiatives engaged in the UNFCCC via the MPGCA, covering both passenger and freight transport and touch on all transport sectors and modes.

An overview of the transport initiatives as of 2018 was included in the [Annex to the Climate Action Pathway: Transport](#). SLOCAT, on behalf of the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate, released progress reports on the transport initiatives in [2016](#), [2017](#) and [2018](#).

In 2021 at COP26 in Glasgow, the UK COP26 Presidency supported the launch of three transport related initiatives. These initiatives focused on [international aviation](#), [green shipping corridors](#), and [accelerating the transition to 100% zero emission cars and vans](#). Following this, in 2022, the Egyptian COP27 presidency launched the [Low Carbon Transport for Urban Sustainability \(LOTUS\)](#) initiative to ‘improve and decarbonise

the urban mobility systems.’ LOTUS has now become a part of the COP27 initiative [Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation \(SURGe\)](#).

Information on General COP activities and events

1. What is the Blue Zone at COP?

COPs are organised into two zones: the official Blue Zone and the public Green Zone. The Blue Zone is a high security area managed by the UN. Access to the Blue Zone is restricted to government officials, and individuals and organisations that are accredited as official observers to the UNFCCC. The primary purpose of the Blue Zone is to facilitate international negotiations over climate agreements and actions. Within the Blue Zone, Party and non-Party stakeholders organise pavilions where they showcase priorities for climate action.

2. What is the Green Zone at COP?

The Green Zone is the host-country managed space where the general public, youth groups and other civil society organisations can conduct events, workshops, and talks to promote climate action.

3. What are the different types of activities organised around COPs?

Official side events and exhibits

Side events and exhibits are organised by observer organisations (NGOs and IGOs), Parties partnering with observers, UNFCCC divisions, UN organisations and specialised agencies. Through side events, these organisations present their work or foster discussions on key issues, often engaging the audience in interactive sessions.

Exhibits, in turn, enable participants to network around many different climate-related topics in a dynamic and diverse environment.

Please refer to the [official side events page](#) for more information, as well as for details on the application process and procedures.

Pavilions

The Blue Zone pavilions serve as a space for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to host events, showcase their work, and hold informal conversations with COP attendees. Applications for Pavilion spaces are open for UNFCCC accredited parties and organisations through a portal usually six months prior to COP.

Receptions and networking events

Apart from the official events, Parties and non-Party stakeholders offer informal networking receptions either within one of the zones or off-site.

SLOCAT Transport Day

Since 2013, SLOCAT has been organising [SLOCAT Transport Day at COP](#) to curate multi-stakeholder trust spaces for peers within and beyond the transport community to exchange, learn from each other and collaborate. The annual event facilitates the interface between knowledge, policy and practice spheres of action and carries the voice of the movement from one COP into the next. Through Transport Days, the

SLOCAT Partnership is leveraged to set ambitious global agendas and catalyse new thinking and solutions for the urgent transformation of transport and mobility systems as a solution to many of the world's climate and sustainability challenges.

At COP27, the outcomes of Transport Day fed into SLOCAT's [work in support of ambitious national and subnational climate strategies](#), as well as into engagement in the [Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement](#). Moreover, they were conveyed to the Egyptian COP27 Presidency as a complement to their leadership towards their LOTUS initiative (outlined above).

Read more about SLOCAT Transport Days at www.slocat.net/cop-engagement.

Communication and outreach activities towards COPs

1. What are the key communications and outreach activities towards COPs?

The success of each COP requires strategic communication and outreach activities that start immediately after the previous COP. SLOCAT usually prepares a dedicated webpage for the event that is open to the public about 3 months before COP and which provides summary information not only on Transport Community Engagement at COP, but also on SLOCAT's specific role in the process with specific activities to be hosted or co-hosted. Some of SLOCAT's knowledge products that are quite recent and closely related to the themes to be discussed at the COP are also showcased on the webpage.

Visit our [Transport Community Engagement at COP28 webpage](#) and check out previous engagement webpages [here](#).

A dedicated Trello Board is also set up as a one-stop-shop for all information. The Trello Board evolves in real-time to provide partners and others with the latest information before, during and after COP. Read the [Trello Board on COP27 engagement](#) for reference.

The communication campaign is undertaken on our social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) through advocacy messages that follow a well-defined publishing schedule prepared by the communication and advocacy team. This communication campaign will be launched about 3 months before COP.

2. What is the SLOCAT Event Tracker?

The SLOCAT Event Tracker is an online platform board that keeps track and compiles transport-focused events at COPs, including SLOCAT-led and supported events, events organised by SLOCAT's partners, the wider transport community and the COP Presidency.

The SLOCAT Event Tracker will be featured on the SLOCAT COP28 webpage and will be available to the general public.

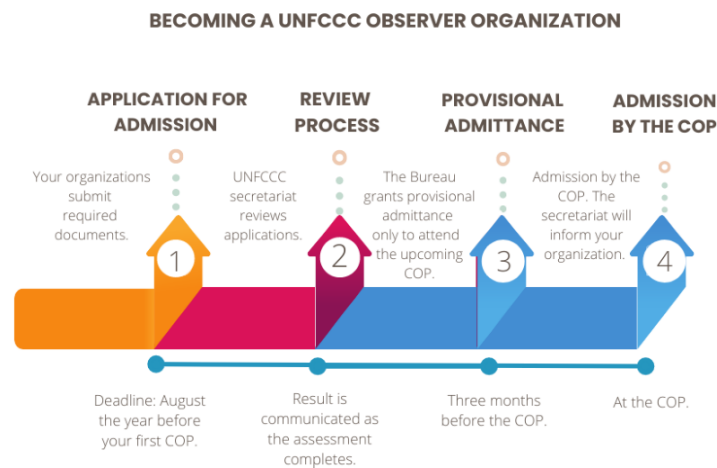
Logistics

1. Who can attend COP and how do we get accredited?

There are three categories of participants at meetings and conferences in the UNFCCC process: representatives of [Parties to the Convention and Observer States](#), members of the [press and media](#), and

representatives of observer organisations. Combating climate change requires the effort of everyone. That is why in adopting the Paris Agreement, Governments further recognised the importance of civil society and other stakeholders in finding solutions to the impact of climate change. These non-Party stakeholders or observers, whose inclusion dates back to [the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development \(Rio de Janeiro, 1992\)](#), play a crucial role in achieving global climate change objectives. Their roles include proposing and implementing more ambitious national climate plans, raising public awareness, analysing the impact of plans, accelerating climate finance, and developing and transferring technology.

Observers organisations in the UNFCCC process are diverse and categorised into three types: the [United Nations System and its Specialized Agencies](#), [intergovernmental organisations \(IGOs\)](#), and [non-governmental organisations \(NGOs\)](#). The NGOs represent a broad spectrum of interests, and include representatives from business and industry, environmental groups, farming and agriculture, indigenous populations, local governments and municipal authorities, research and academic institutes, labour unions, women and gender and youth groups. IGOs and NGOs can register delegates once they have received observer status. The figure below illustrates the steps to obtain an observer status.



For additional details on the procedure to obtain observer status, please refer to the UNFCCC [website](#).

ATTENDING EACH SESSION ONCE ADMITTED (OR PROVISIONALLY ADMITTED)



Once admitted as an Observer, every organisation can then nominate its staff member to the platform as soon as it is open. The call for nomination usually opens 2-3 months prior to COP. Around 1 week after the nomination deadline, quota will be assigned to the observer organisation. Based on the number of slots, the organisation can confirm the nominated delegation (or add new data).

2. How is MPGCA stakeholder accreditation arranged?

This is an entirely different process to the one for 'standard badges.' As co-Focal Point for transport in the process, SLOCAT can access a number of badges for transport stakeholders to support the further engagement of the sector in COPs. Still, the UNFCCC has vetting capacity and priority is given to the speakers and entourage of the Marrakech Partnership events who will not be able to be accredited otherwise. The final outcome is communicated by UNFCCC later than for the standard badges, which can create a certain climate of uncertainty.

Contact Information

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