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Global ESG & SRI

Eight Things to Look Out for at COP28 UAE

CITI'S TAKE

Citi's ESG Research Team followed the developments at recent New York Climate Week (\NYCW) and we outline topics to look out for later this year at UN COP28 talks hosted by the UAE in Dubai. The Citi ESG Research Team expects the key theme to be the development of technology to *reduce* emissions, rather than renewable alternatives, following a turbulent year of news flow.

- Results of <u>Global Stocktake</u>, established at COP21 to assess the collective progress toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. It will evaluate mitigation efforts, resilience and adaptation, and climate financing, as well as technology transfer from the global north to the global south.
- 2. Role of climate finance in a recessionary environment
 - The 2009 commitment to mobilise US\$100bn per year toward needs of developing countries expires in 2025 and will be replaced by the new collective quantified goal, focusing on mobilisation and provision of financial resources. Will there be a change in global financial architecture, and how the public sector provides catalytic capital to draw in private sector investment?
 - There remains the intention to encourage multilateral development banks (MDBs) to release additional capital for climate action; however, US Government has stated its <u>opposition to a near-term</u> <u>capital increase</u> for the World Bank (Reuters, 29 March 2023). Global shipping tax and tax on oil imports will also be discussed.
- 3. Together with Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership, COP28 aims to facilitate financing packages to protect and manage forest basins. COP28 is the first climate COP since the Global Biodiversity Framework – it is crucial to monitor any formal mechanisms that merge climate and nature concerns and processes.
- Expect partial operationalism of new Loss and Damage Fund, as agreed at COP27.
 - Likely to see limited progress: the US Climate Envoy has made clear that the US opposes the concept of 'climate reparations' (BBC, 14 July). COP28 may only discuss the governance system of the fund, rather than funding arrangements. Read more about COP27 here: Global ESG & SRI – COP27 Sharm El Sheikh: The Implementation COP
- 5. Expect creation of comprehensive framework for Global Goal on Adaptation, focused on enhanced resilience for the most climate-vulnerable communities by 2030. We will continue to assess whether this goal will become the equivalent of the 1.5°c goal for mitigation.
- 6. COP28 will discuss halving the oil and gas industry's Scope 1 and 2 emissions, including reaching near-zero methane emissions by 2030. There will also be discussions on phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, including in MENA specifically. It is key for energy transition awareness to assess whether the focus is on reducing/removing emissions of fossil fuels rather than a total phasedown of fossil fuels.

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- 7. G20 Leaders Summit September 2023 set out intentions to triple global renewable energy capacity
 - Assess progress of <u>The Breakthrough Agenda</u>: **25 new collaborative actions** developed to speed up decarbonisation across power, road transport, steel, hydrogen, and agriculture by COP28.
 - Buildings and cement in talks to be added. Notably, in January 2023, the UK and UAE set out <u>The Clean Energy Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</u> confirming joint ambitions for clean energy investment and cooperation; the UAE further announced a "ground-breaking move" to collaborate with the <u>Breakthrough Agenda</u> prior to COP28.
- 8. Call for companies to demonstrate scalable technology solutions related to key energy transition challenges, including heavy emitting sectors, low-carbon hydrogen, energy efficiency, renewables integration, CCS, and carbon dioxide removal.
 - Improving supply and demand for low-carbon cement, steel, and aluminium will be addressed (Initiative (IDDI) via **Green Public Procurement**). Aiming for greater commitment of private buyers toward low-carbon products, such as through **demand aggregation vehicles** (First Movers Coalition).
 - o New actions likely to be launched: Electricity Transition Framework and Hydrogen Breakthrough plans.

Read more:

- COP27 Cheat Sheet: Key Announcements and Resources Released
- Post-COP26 Our ESG Analysis Continues...
- COP26 We Have to Fight Gravity to Achieve Climate Outcomes*

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