

## **COP28: A Crucial Crossroads for Climate Action or a Mere Diversion**

As the first Global Stocktake since the Paris Agreement, COP28 in Dubai represented a pivotal moment in the global climate narrative. It posed a critical question: Was this gathering a genuine step towards mitigating global warming, or a diversion from the urgent climate action needed to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius?

- **Diverse Voices, Unified in Concern:** Climate justice advocates and members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) voiced disappointment over the weak implementation language and lack of concrete commitments, particularly on financial support and equitable responsibility. Criticisms were also directed at the endorsement of technologies like Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), which were perceived by many, including the European Commissioner for Climate Action, as distractions from the essential need to phase out fossil fuels.
- **Controversial Host, Ambitious Goals:** The UAE's role as host of COP28, a nation synonymous with oil wealth, was seen as both ironic and symbolic. This juxtaposition of being a major energy player and a proponent of sustainable solutions raised eyebrows and sparked global skepticism.
- **Incremental Progress Amidst Grand Aspirations:** The "UAE Consensus" at COP28, while historic in advocating a fossil fuel transition, was seen as too incremental and ambiguous, falling short of transformative actions. The Dubai Deal was hailed by some, like the European Union, as an end to fossil fuels, but others, including AOSIS and the United States, recognized it as significant yet incomplete. Critics highlighted loopholes and insufficient commitments, particularly in climate finance and emissions reduction.
- **Crossroads of Hope and Realism:** COP28 closed leaving a trail of questions about its efficacy in addressing the urgent issues of a sustainable future. The conference was a convergence of hope, ambition, and dialogue but also reflected the realities of geopolitical interests, economic disparities, and the challenge of aligning actions with scientific imperatives.
- **Climate Talks as a Geopolitical Chess Game:** In the climate negotiation chessboard, G20 nations often dominate the discourse, shaping renewable energy manufacturing to their advantage. Vulnerable countries, akin to pawns in this game, struggle to make significant moves amidst shifting powers.