UNEP COP28 Pavilion
Guidance for Events Application

1- Context and Objectives

UNEP will host its first-ever Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP28, taking place from 30 November to 12 December, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. COP28 will take place at the Expo City and the Pavilion will be located in the Blue Zone\(^1\), in one of the existing buildings shared with 2 to 5 organizations.

This dedicated pavilion space will provide our organization and partners an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the latest science, innovation, and solutions, demonstrating that a quantum leap in climate action is possible and happening.

To make real on the promise of the Paris Agreement, UNEP will be highlighting scalable solutions under six key sectors to reduce emissions in the scale of the gigatons, enough to keep the world below the 1.5°C mark, and to drive investments in climate adaptation. The Sector Solutions will cover: Energy, Industry, Agriculture and Food, Forests and Land Use, Transport, Buildings and Cities.

In addition, cross-cutting themes of science, transparency, finance and digital will be reflected throughout the programme.

The Pavilion will be a vector to showcase UNEP’s narrative on climate action:

1. **The science is clear**: Deepened awareness of latest climate science, solutions and partnerships that can help to close the adaptation, emission and finance gaps.

2. **Solutions exists across all sectors and need to be scaled**: It is possible to cut 30 gigatonnes greenhouse gas emissions annually by 2030 and massively invest in climate adaptation for our survival. Although solutions already exist across sectors to meet the Paris Agreement, they need to be rapidly scaled in order to close the gap. Solutions should also be measurable in order to effectively track progress. Let’s showcase solutions that are not only scalable but measurable.

3. **Partnerships are our strength**: Partnerships exists but need to be strengthened and expanded to allow for systemic shifts.

Why a Pavilion? What’s the objective?

- **Deepened awareness**: of the latest climate/scientific data, solutions and partnerships that can help to close the adaptation, emissions and finance gaps.

- **Greater impact**: making the case for scalable, measurable projects and programmes that have a proven track-record.

- **Resource mobilization and commitment**: a platform for engagement with partners and resource mobilization.

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\(^1\) The Blue Zone is the UNFCCC-managed space where negotiations are hosted and all attendees must be accredited with the UNFCCC Secretariat. On the other hand, the Green Zone is managed by the Government of the United Arab Emirates and open to the public.
- **Strengthened partnership:** an interactive space for cross-collaboration for a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, and bringing together UNEP and the MEAs to deliver as one.

### 2- A Call for Contributions across UNEP and the Secretariats of MEAs

A call for events to be hosted on UNEP’s Pavilion is open through this form until July 31 for all UNEP and Multilateral Environmental Agreements teams. Please submit one form per event and note that all UNEP-led events for COP28 are expected to take place on the Pavilion.

Applications received will form the basis of the UNEP Pavilion’s thematic programming. **Daily/multi-day themes** on mitigation and adaptation solutions across the six sectors will cover all angles, bringing the depth and breadth of UNEP’s Programme of Work to life and showcasing relevant work by the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Each day will thrive to tell a story, with a clear narrative, and feature at least one flagship/high-level event.

Teams across UNEP and Secretariats of MEAs are welcome to submit proposals that fit broadly with the overall narrative for the UNEP Pavilion. **Joint proposals across multiple teams are also encouraged** to ensure space for everyone and to utilize this opportunity to break silos and enhance cooperation across the organization.

### 3- Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be taken into consideration for the selection of events:

- Is the event’s concept aligned with UNEP's Programme of Work and the Pavilion’s objectives?
- Is the event jointly organized by multiple teams across UNEP and/or MEAs?
- Does the event demonstrate geographical diversity, gender balance and visibility of marginalized groups (e.g., indigenous peoples)?
- Is the event high-profile? (e.g., are there any high-level speakers? Any celebrities? Is the format engaging or innovative?)
- The financial contribution to the Pavilion to support this event
- The overall balance of themes across all events.
4- Priorities and Organization of COP28

**UAE Presidency Priorities for COP 28**

**UAE Goals and Vision**
In this decisive decade for climate action, the UAE will seek to unite the world towards agreement on bold, practical, and ambitious solutions to the most pressing global challenges of our time. The first Global Stocktake (GST) at COP28 will provide a comprehensive assessment of progress since adopting the Paris Agreement. As it is already clear that the world is off-track, COP28 will respond to the Stocktake with an action plan and measures to bridge the gaps in mitigation, adaptation, and finance. To deliver on its ambitious agenda, COP28 will be inclusive, transparent, pragmatic, and results-oriented.

**Mitigation**
This is the critical year in the critical decade for climate action. With the Paris Agreement at COP21 Parties agreed to keep the global average temperature increase well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. With the Global Stocktake during COP28, the progress through national emission reduction pledges towards this collective goal will be examined with the ambition to course correct. Going forward, national commitments and action for an overall emissions reduction of 43% by 2030 are required to achieve the implementation. The UAE Presidency aims to build consensus amongst parties for an inclusive climate action that “leaves no one behind” and makes tangible efforts to accelerate emission reductions through a pragmatic energy transition with an expansion of renewable energy generation and low-carbon hydrogen production, as well as transformations in food and agriculture systems to curb methane emissions.

**Adaptation**
With global temperatures continuously rising at a 0.2°C rate per decade, the impacts of climate change are already felt and are impacting lives and livelihoods. At COP 28, the Presidency aims to conclude the work of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal of Adaptation, one of the central outcomes of COP26. Having adequate capital is important for protecting vulnerable communities from extreme weather and building resilience through investments towards nature-based solutions and safeguarding biodiversity. Thus, the Presidency hopes to achieve an agreement to double adaptation finance (from $20B to $40B) by 2025.

**Loss & Damage**
COP 28 is an opportunity to accelerate the response to Loss and Damage (L&D). The establishment of funding arrangements for L&D was one of the significant outcomes of COP27. We must now make progress in operationalizing this decision and the work of the transitional committee into a full actionable fund to support developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Mobilizing additional funds to make the L&D fund operational as well as delivering on existing pledges and commitments is central to meeting the needs of the Global South.

**Finance**
Climate action today is an economic opportunity for investment in sustainable growth now and in the future. Finance is central to achieving the required climate action and as such
scaling up and accelerating climate finance is a key agenda item. At COP 28, the UAE Presidency is committed to supporting and facilitating the review of the international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, to scale up public financing, leverage private finance, and ensure more equitable access to climate finance. More needs to be done to ensure that finance is more affordable, accessible, and available to those most in need, especially vulnerable communities in the Global South.

**Just Transition**
The COP28 Presidency recognizes the need to reduce emissions whilst enabling inclusive growth and just transition that leaves no one behind. Thus, at COP28 the work of the Just Transition Work Programme, established at COP27, should be operationalized.

The COP28 Presidency will hold an **Opening Ceremony** on November 30, and a **World Climate Action Summit**, expected to gather Heads of State and Government, on December 1 and 2.

**Thematic** days have also started to be identified as follow:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme/Focus</th>
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<th>Theme/Focus</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Day of Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>World Climate Action Summit</td>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Youth, Education and Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>World Climate Action Summit</td>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Finance / Gender Equality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Health/Relief, Recovery and Peace</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Cities, Regions and Urbanization / Transport</td>
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<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Nature, Land Use and Oceans</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>No thematic day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Food and Water Systems</td>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>No thematic day</td>
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<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Just Transition/Industry/Trade</td>
<td>Energy</td>
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In addition, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC have notified that they will continue the practice of coordinating side-events organized at the COPs by UN Agencies. Proposals from UN agencies are to be submitted by 7 July 2023. However, this call for side-events only applies to official side-events and does not cover UN programming on Pavilions.

**UNEP proposals for side-events made through the UNFCCC process, and relayed by Climate Sub-Programme Coordinator, will be offered an opportunity to be hosted on the UNEP Pavilion.**

**5- Contact**

In case of questions regarding the call for events, please contact: Helene van Rossum (helene.vanrossum@un.org).
6- FAQ

a. Will the events on the Pavilion be fully in-person or hybrid? Will the events be streamed?

Having all speakers present in-person at the events will be preferred at this stage, to minimize technical challenges, and in light of the important attendance expected at COP28.

Events streaming is available at an additional cost and a decision on streaming is pending information from the provider on costs.

b. Will there be available Blue Zone accreditations for our partners, including speakers at the events?

Speakers that already have UNFCCC Blue Zone accreditations should be preferred for events on the Pavilion. However, we will explore securing additional accreditations for partners for the needs of the Pavilion.

c. Will team organizing events on the Pavilion be guaranteed to be part of the UNEP delegation for COP28?

Each team organizing an event on the Pavilion will have the opportunity to designate one staff member as part of the UNEP delegation at COP28 in charge of delivering the event on the ground.

d. Can I organize an exhibition for my work on the UNEP Pavilion?

Exhibition spaces on the Pavilion are so far limited to teams that have announced a financial contribution to the Pavilion and to corporate UNEP communications on climate change.