



LIVE Deal on climate costs inches closer at UN summit

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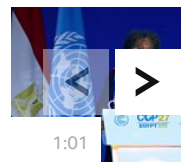
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Hopes are rising that a deal will be reached at the UN's COP27 climate summit in Egypt

Some negotiators say agreement is near on the key issue of "loss and damage" funding for countries hit by the effects of climate change

Talks have run into an extra day, as nearly 200 countries struggle to agree the next steps to tackle global warming

Earlier the Egyptian head of COP27 admitted there was dissatisfaction among negotiators but urged them to "rise to the occasion"

There are concerns over whether the target of limiting warming to the key threshold of 1.5C above pre-industrial times will be upheld

The UN says temperature rises above this level would expose millions more people to potentially devastating climate impacts

Live Reporting

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Edited by Jeremy Gahagan

NEW 8:56

Saudis and Russians won't budge on fossil fuels

One of the issues still to be resolved in these late night negotiations is whether to include stronger pledges on fossil fuels.

Last year at COP26, in Glasgow, nations agreed to "phase down" the use of coal.

There is now a proposal on the table to expand this to also include the two other major fossil fuels: oil and gas.

The burning of fossil fuels is the main source of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change.

But Carbon Brief [has reported](#) that Russia and Saudi Arabia are blocking this proposal.

What is climate change? A really simple guide



8:43

What's so important about 1.5C?

We've been hearing a lot about keeping the global temperature rise to 1.5C to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Here's a reminder of what it means.

The figure refers to how much higher, on average, global temperatures are than in the 19th Century, before the industrial revolution.

The planet has already warmed about 1.1C since then. The IPCC, the UN's panel of climate scientists says many impacts of global warming **are already "irreversible"**, with 40% of the world's population now "highly vulnerable" to climate change.

Also, the IPCC and Nasa say a rise of 2C, compared to 1.5C would mean:

- 10 million more people would be at risk of coastal flooding
- Up to twice as many people would struggle to access water because of climate change
- More than a third of the world's population would be exposed to severe heatwaves once every five years - compared to a seventh at 1.5C
- The Arctic would be free of sea-ice once a decade - compared to once per century at 1.5C
- Coral reefs would become virtually non-existent, compared to declining by 70-90% at 1.5C

Also, small island states have long argued that keeping temperatures below 1.5C is critical to their survival.



8:21

Could negotiations be back on track?

Could negotiations be back on track?



Georgina Rannard
Reporting from COP27



Sue Biniiaz is standing in for US climate envoy John Kerry who is isolating due to Covid

A few minutes ago it seemed like this could be veering off course again, as COP27 President Sarm Shoukry and the lead US negotiator Sue Biniiaz left a core meeting that is hammering out the final areas of contention.

But now it looks suddenly like it is back on track. I've just seen Shoukry and the US lead going back into the negotiations, suggesting they want to keep this moving forwards.

From what we know, the disputes are down to last-minute interventions, rather than major objections to the question of a fund paid by rich nations to poor nations to cover the cost of climate damage.



8:07

Deal could still be hours away



Justin Rowlatt
BBC Climate editor, reporting from COP27

A flurry of activity in the past hour gave journalists hope an agreement had nearly been reached.

We thought they'd be news in the next half hour or hour or so, but a few grim-faced negotiators have come out shaking their heads and saying it's probably hours away.

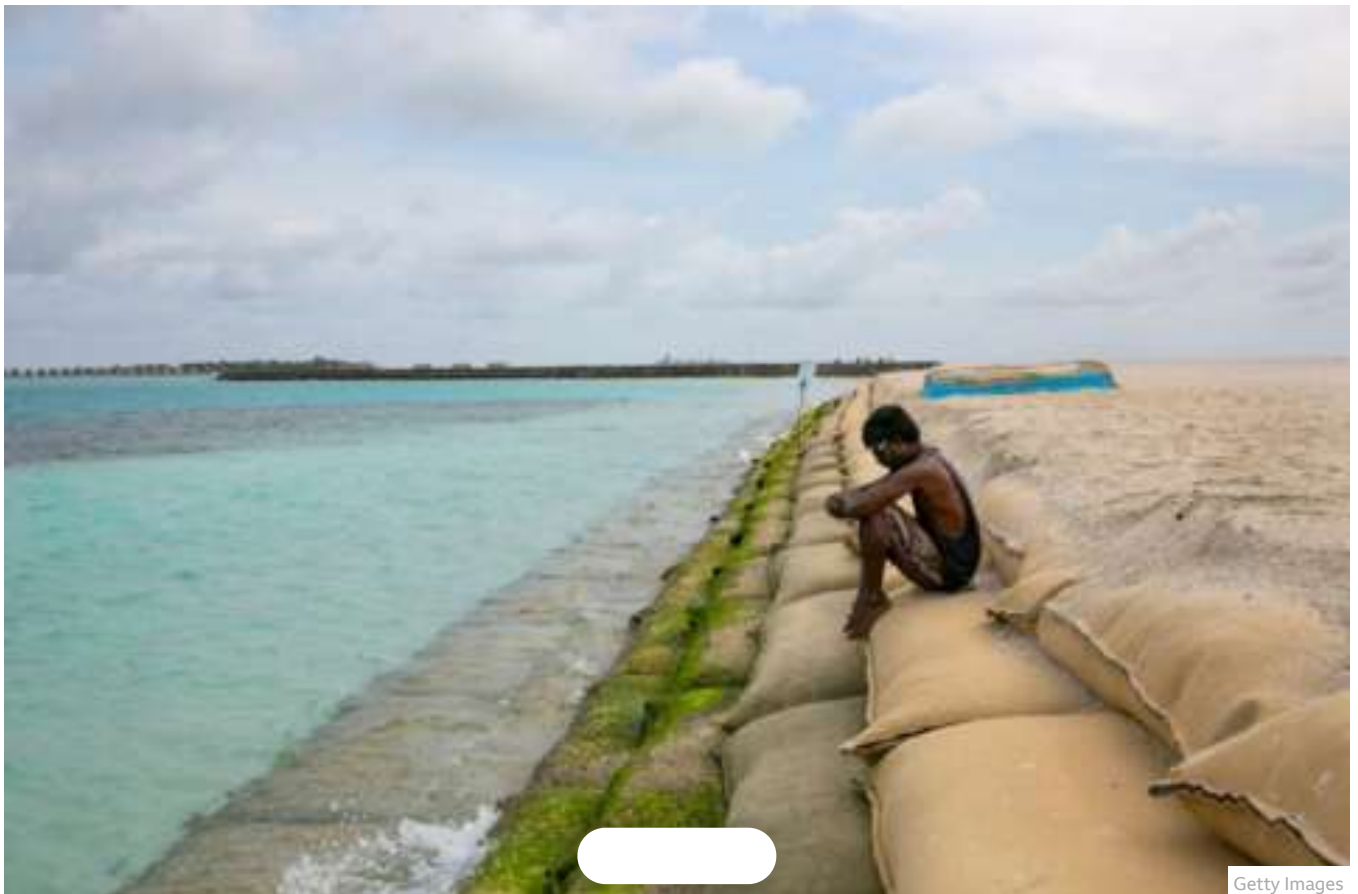
While the logjam on loss and damage has been broken, the issue of raising ambition on cutting carbon emissions seems to be proving a lot tougher than expected.



7:34

What is 'loss and damage'?

Greg Brosnan
BBC Climate team



Getty Images

The Maldives are threatened by rising ocean levels due to climate change

You'll have heard the words "loss and damage" over and over again today. It's the major sticking point holding up these talks.

But what does it mean?

Poorer countries on the front line of climate change are struggling to deal with its consequences – the losses and damages. That's things like destroyed homes from rising sea levels, damaged schools and hospitals from wildfires, and lost income from livestock that have starved. And they want richer nations to help them pay for these losses.

Countries like the US and those in Europe, they argue, are most to blame for our current levels of global warming. After all, they have been burning fossil fuels on a massive scale for more than 200 years. Coal fuelled the industrial revolution. Burning fossil fuels is one of the things that made them wealthy nations.

While many developed nations agree in principal with helping out financially, they are also very, very wary of picking up the tab for centuries to come.

That's one of the things that makes it a very tricky issue to resolve.



US looking for way to agree to 'loss and damage' deal

The US is working to find a way it can agree to proposals on creating a fund to help developing countries meet the cost of climate disasters, Reuters reports, citing a source close to the negotiations.

Another US source familiar with the negotiations said the US had been "deeply involved" in the negotiations on the "loss and damage" deal.



7:15

'Tiny things' to work out before deal - Egyptian official

There are just "tiny, tiny things" to resolve before a deal is finalised, an Egyptian official has said.

"We're doing our best. Tiny, tiny things to work out," Wael Aboulmagd, the special representative to COP27 president Sameh Shoukry, told Reuters.



It's beginning to feel a lot like... deal time



Georgina Rannard
Reporting from COP27





A sudden flurry of activity here outside a key meeting room. It looks like a deal is within sight. COP27 President Sameh Shoukry has just walked in. Journalists are waiting outside, keen to read the faces of delegates - do they look happy or sad? Will this end tonight?

They are tight-lipped though. I ask one how is it going - she says everything is still on the table. Another says we could be here all night.

Campaigners are waiting outside too, holding signs.

"We need to show leaders that we are watching them - that young people are expecting serious climate action," says Sean Curries from Scotland.



6:49

Last minute intervention from UK and other nations

The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) - a group of 30 ministers including the UK's COP26 President Alok Sharma - has held **an emergency press conference** calling on other nations to not water down promises to reduce emissions in negotiations.

The coalition's main aim is to support the 1.5C temperature goal and to push countries to reduce their emissions to net zero.

In their statement, the HAC said: "As we watch the devastating impacts of climate change this year...we come together to say that we must emerge from COP27 with a package of outcomes that keeps 1.5C alive and protects the world's vulnerable."

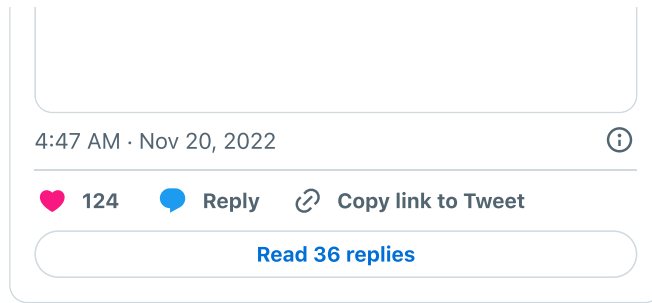
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We cannot backslide on the
[#GlasgowClimatePact](#)

We must emerge from [#COP27](#) with a
package of outcomes that keeps 1.5 alive and
protects the world's most vulnerable

Pleased to join [@HACoalition](#) ministers to call
for greater progress in final push at [#COP27](#)
highambitioncoalition.org/statements



Report

Tina Stege, the Marshall Islands' climate envoy, who read out the statement on behalf of the ministers, said that the final text must reflect "that we hold fast to our commitment to 1.5C".

The coalition also wants the final text to make clear that global emissions must peak before 2025.

In the UN's **latest assessment of global emissions** [↗](#), a week before COP27 started, it warned that greenhouse gases are expected to rise more than 10% by 2030.

Read more here about what 1.5C means in a warming world.



6:27

Climate deniers at COP27 'a whole other level of madness'

Merlyn Thomas
Climate Change Disinformation Specialist

While the number of fossil fuel lobbyists at COP27 increased by 25% this year, there's another notable presence: climate deniers.

The Washington-based think tank, Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT), describes itself as an "alternative voice on issues of environment and development".

Blogging throughout their time at COP, the group's six members said CFACT would be there "demanding actual facts and challenging the climate gospel."

The **group falsely argues** the real reasons for climate change are:

- the earth's orbit
- varying distance from the sun
- sunspot activity
- ocean current; and
- volcanic activity

The group also 'spoof' glued their hands to an artefact in the Egyptian museum in "protest against net zero, green energy mandates".





CFAT was previously funded by fossil fuel giants, and the group and its members hold significant influence. Some of them have separately claimed to have influenced Trump's withdrawal from the Paris agreement.

CFACT said it “engages in climate policy to ensure decisions of such great magnitude, including the cost-benefit are fully vetted.”

A spokesperson for Global Witness - an environmental campaign group - said “giving oil and gas companies a seat at the table at climate negotiations makes no sense at all but allowing climate deniers into COP27 is a whole other level of madness”.



6:02

'We cannot afford COP to fail'



Georgina Rannard
Reporting from COP27





Medical student Amit Singh called out world leaders who he says are blocking key decisions

A group of about 15 young activists have just gathered outside one of the main meeting halls here with a message for leaders.

"We demand that leaders deliver... we cannot afford COP to fail," they say.

Amit Singh, a UK medical student who says his home is India, shouted: "Shame, shame!"

"We're shouting at world leaders who are blocking these decisions. I'm shouting shame at the world leaders that are polluting the most," he told me as the protest continued.

He said leaders should not choose between more money to help countries pay for climate disaster and ambition to urgently tackle climate change.

While the most famous of climate youth activists, Greta Thunberg, didn't attend COP27, **many others did and have made waves at the summit.** Most activists have now left but these campaigners are staying because they want their voices reflected.

Asked about how COP rests on compromise and nations agreeing, Singh said: "Everyone has to be happy. The sad part is that we're not happy. I will not compromise on life."



5:40

What did the G20 say about climate change?



COP27 isn't the only major gathering of the world's r _____ ce this week. Leaders also flew to Indonesia for the G20 summit in Indonesia, where they made a commitment to pursue efforts to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5C

There they recognised the need to speed up efforts to phase down coal use in tackling climate change.

Delegates at the COP27 summit in Egypt kept a keen eye on events at the G20 meeting in Bali, for signs that developed nations are willing to make new commitments on climate.

A declaration issued at the end of the G20 said its leaders reaffirmed its commitments, in “pursuit of the objective of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goal”.

The Paris Agreement saw almost all the world's nations - for the first time - support a common strategy to cut the greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming.

Adopted by 194 parties (193 countries plus the EU) in the French capital on 12 December 2015, the treaty came into force **on 4 November 2016**. The G20 declaration also urged delegates at the COP summit to “urgently scale up” efforts of mitigating and adapting to climate change.



5:19

New loss and damage draft 'offers hope to vulnerable people'

Developing nations came to Egypt with a key aim; to get an agreement on loss and damage funding - money that would be allocated to those countries already struggling with the impact of climate change.

A draft text on this crucial issue has been published - and various sources suggest there is an agreement but we have yet to get confirmation of this. However, it's already been met with some positive reaction:

Alpha Kaloga, lead negotiator for the Africa Group, tweeted: "30 years of patience. The day has arrived. It is done. YES a new Fund for responding Loss and Damage in developing countries....This is a unique moment a win for all citizens of the world."

Dr Siobhan McDonnell, a negotiator for the Pacific islands: "This is a major moment in getting technical assistance for loss and damage on the ground in developing countries. The overwhelming feeling amongst negotiators is relief."

And from **Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy of Climate Action Network International**, which represents more than 1900 organisations: "The draft decision on **L**oss and damage finance offers hope to the vulnerable people that they will get adequate help to recover from climate disasters and rebuild their lives."



Sun sets on Sharm el-Sheikh. And on COP27?



Georgina Rannard
Reporting from COP27





We're being treated to this gorgeous sunset here that's bathing everything in an orange glow. There are signs the sun may also be setting on the conference as a final deal inches closer into sight.

There's a lot more optimism now than this morning that there will be a deal here, with some potentially historic commitments on loss and damage funding. But it's not over until it's over.



4:35

India may be faced with contributions for fund it demanded



Navin Singh Khadka
Environment Correspondent, BBC World Service

India is now faced with what it had demanded for at the very beginning of COP27: money for loss and damage.

Even before COP27, Indian officials had been arguing that the country was a victim of climate losses and damages and needed reparations.

They say severe impacts of climate change are seen everywhere – from the Himalayas to coastal areas to deserts.

And now they face the condition from developed countries for a loss and damage fund that new major economies like India and China should contribute too, although details are yet to be decided.

There has been no public comment from Indian officials but sources in the Indian delegation said this would change the fundamental of the UN climate convention that differentiates developing countries from developed countries and forms the basis of “common but differentiated responsibilities” principle while dealing with climate change.

Developed countries have argued the definition dates back to 1992 and some of the developing countries have now become major economies.





India's environment minister addressed COP27 earlier in the week



4:17

What are the big negotiation sticking points?



Among the many areas being wrangled over in Sharm el-Sheikh, four topics have dominated this year's discussions:

- **Loss and damage financing for vulnerable countries:** Calls for a new fund to help countries deal with the immediate impacts of climate change. But who's going to pay for it?
- **Phasing out the use of all fossil fuels, particularly coal:** Last year's summit agreed to the "phase down" of the use of coal - now some countries want to extend the "phase down" to oil and gas too
- **Keeping the target of only 1.5C of global warming alive:** There are concerns that the commitment to this threshold might be watered down
- **Relations over climate issues between the US and China:** A lack of concrete areas of co-operation between the two countries is hampering the UN climate process

Need a bit more explanation? Here's [a rundown of the four by the BBC's environment correspondent Matt McGrath.](#)



3:58

How does COP actually agree something?



Georgina Rannard
Reporting from COP27



To those of us outside the negotiating rooms, it's a mysterious and confusing process. But it's no mean feat getting almost 200 nations to agree on a single text - everyone has to agree or there's no deal.

Negotiators and ministers are installed in small offices in tents in the conference centre, working late into the night to write deals, argue over language, and make overtures to other countries.

We see them in small groups talking, and rushing between delegations.

The UN is notorious too for its legalese - technical language that is almost incomprehensible to anyone who is not a lawyer. But the difference between words like "encourage" and "urge" can be make or break in getting a deal that everyone is happy with.

Once the action really heats up, we should see "huddles" of people talking in the plenary room - taking suggestions to nations that may be putting their feet down over a core issue.

It will be more complicated this year by the fact that US climate envoy John Kerry has Covid. He was instrumental at the Glasgow COP26 last year and has been at the heart of these talks. But today the US says he is working from his hotel room.



3:39

'We want compensation for people who lost homes' - Ugandan activist

Patrick Hughes
Climate reporter



Raul de Lima

Nyombi Morris is a climate activist from Uganda. He began to learn about climate change after floods washed away his home in 2008. "Since that time, things have never been easy for my family. When I heard the floods that hit us were linked to climate change, I had to read more about it."

He says he's attending COP27 to share his story as a climate migrant and to demand compensation for communities that have lost their homes.

Nyombi came armed with a report from Fridays for Future Uganda, full of young Ugandan voices. But he says he hasn't had the opportunity to present it at the summit and has found it hard to make his voice heard, although he has observer status which allows him to participate in side events.

He's not hopeful that strong enough plans for financing loss and damage - to help countries affected by the impacts of climate change - will be established at this year's summit.

“This has been a polluter’s COP,” he adds - in reference to [the number of fossil fuel lobbyists](#) who have been present.



3:04

What's happened so far today?

After a long night of negotiations, talks have run into an extra day between the nearly 200 countries at the UN's COP27 summit in Egypt. They're aiming to try to reach an agreement on the next steps for tackling climate change, but there are deep divisions, largely between rich and poor countries.

Here's a breakdown of what's gone on so far:

- We're hearing a deal may be on the cards on the issue of **loss and damage** - funds allocated for countries already struggling with the impact of climate change - although this is yet to be confirmed. A draft text has been released, but still needs to be passed at the final session of COP27.
- Canada, New Zealand and Norway have all weighed in to say they would not compromise on the target of limiting warming to the **key threshold of 1.5C** - the degree of warming that scientists agree is necessary to avoid the worst of climate change
- Earlier the EU said **it would walk away** from any deal if it was a bad one, with its lead negotiator saying "we cannot accept that 1.5C dies here and today"
- The **Egyptian host of COP27** has admitted member nations are dissatisfied in negotiations but is urging them to "to rise to the occasion" to strike a deal

Stay with us for live updates and analysis.



2:40

'We aren't able to feed our people' - Pakistani activist

Patrick Hughes
Climate reporter



Pervez Ali

Pervez Ali, aged 19, was displaced as a child when flash floods wiped out his village in Ghizer, Pakistan in 2010.

Now he is a lead organiser with the campaign movement Fridays for Future. "It wasn't a choice, it was do or die for me," he says.

He is disappointed with the lack of progress on finance for loss and damage - to help countries deal with climate impacts - at COP27.

The support Pakistan currently receives is just a small fraction of the cost of the damage to Pakistan's economy from this year's record flooding, he says.

"You're losing this from your economy, you're hopeless... your people are dying, asking for a meal just once a day," he says. "We aren't even able to feed our people or provide a roof where they can sleep a peaceful night," he adds..

The floods put a third of the country under water, leaving 1,700 people dead and millions homeless. Scientists says **it's likely they were made worse** by climate change.

With negotiators working today to reach a deal on loss and damage, Pervez says that funding for it shouldn't be voluntary, but compulsory..

"There ought to be a proper channel through which they allocate the fund so that it's delivered to victims in the form of investments, raw cash and basic living facilities."

He says he doesn't feel voices like his are being listened to at the summit. "We just want the policies not to be made for us. We want to be at the table," he says. "That's what the youth of Pakistan want."

"COP27 is nothing – just a lavish place for some privileged people to come and enjoy and go back to their homes," he adds.

Read more: **['We'd never seen this much water' - Pakistan flood survivors](#)**



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