

**Joint Statement by
Climate Action Network and Local Governments and Municipalities
constituency at Pre-COP, Abu Dhabi
31 October 2023**

Dear Distinguished Delegates and Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity! I am Harjeet Singh from CAN International, speaking to you jointly on behalf of Climate Action Network, and Local Governments and Municipalities constituency.

Now, more than ever, the global community anticipates a commitment that goes beyond mere mentions and narratives.

We stand united in our call for a fossil fuel phase out, that is fast, fair, equitable, and funded. The critical need is not only to agree on the urgency of phasing out fossil fuels but also to lay out a robust roadmap for a Just Transition to accompany and enable the profound transformation that is necessary.

This roadmap must be anchored in principles of justice, equity, gender equality, human and labour rights, respect of the Indigenous Peoples lands and territories, international cooperation, and solidarity and stakeholder engagement.

The vast challenge of climate change surpasses the capabilities of individual nations. Only by meeting our obligations based on CBDR, historical responsibility, fair shares, and a mutual cooperation and shared vision, can we champion this cause.

GST, as an accountability mechanism of the Paris Agreement, is an opportunity to course-correct our collective actions.

A successful GST outcome at COP28 should emphasize that countries urgently need to significantly increase climate finance. This would guide new targets for 2035, aligning them with plans to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C.

The outcome must emphasise to parties the imperative for systemic change. This change is not only vital to address the climate crisis and its associated injustices but also to ensure equity, equality, social, and economic justice. All of these are essential for the well-being of both people and the planet, without further deepening the debt burden of developing countries.

We also hope GST outcomes could also help UNFCCC secretariat and Parties to enhance the engagement processes at all levels in the new era of global climate action after COP28. We welcome the Chair and the COP Presidency, to ensure the continued commitment to multi-level action, and inclusivity through initiatives such as Local Climate Action Summit and endorsement for stocktaking at the local and community level.

Furthermore, operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund is not just a policy measure but a moral commitment to help the affected people who had no role in causing the climate crisis. The proposal to designate the World Bank as the host on a "take it or leave it" basis is not acceptable.

Entrusted with safeguarding the rights and well-being of countless vulnerable communities, this fund should reflect our shared values. It's crucial that the fund embodies principles of human rights, gender responsiveness, and holistically caters to the multifaceted needs of vulnerable populations in the developing world.

Mere promises will not do; immediate capitalization is vital, and the pledges must genuinely reflect the magnitude of the need. Loss & Damage finance must stand differently and must be called Loss & Damage Fund. The governance body must be inclusive and respect people's rights.

We urge all stakeholders, regardless of national interests or ideological divides, to unite for the greater good. Let's prioritize the rights of people and the sanctity of our planet in our deliberations and actions.

People power, climate justice!