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What is COP28 in Dubai and why is it important?

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Why is COP28 important?

It is hoped COP28 will help keep alive the goal of limiting long-term global temperature rises to 1.5C. This was agreed by nearly 200 countries in Paris in 2015.

The 1.5C target is crucial to avoid the most damaging impacts of climate change, according to the UN's climate body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Long-term warming currently stands at about 1.1C or 1.2C compared with pre-industrial times — the period before humans started burning fossil fuels at scale.

However, recent estimates suggest the world is currently on track for about 2.4C to 2.7C of warming by 2100.

As a result, the window for keeping the 1.5C limit in reach is "rapidly narrowing", the UN says.

What are COP28 sticking points likely to be?

There is likely to be disagreement about the future of "unabated" fossil fuels — coal, oil and gas which are burned without technologies to capture their emissions.

Mr Jaber has called for a "phase down" in their use, meaning a reduction



over time, but not a complete end. However, the European Union is expected to push for a full "phase out".

Money will also be an issue.

At COP27, a "loss and damage" fund was agreed for richer countries to pay poorer countries facing the effects of climate change.

But exactly how this will work is still unclear. The US, for example, has ruled out paying climate reparations for its historical emissions.

In 2009, developed countries committed to give \$100bn (£82bn) a year, by 2020, to developing countries to help them reduce emissions and prepare for climate change.

The target was missed but is expected to be reached in 2023.

Will COP28 make any difference?

Critics of previous COPs, including campaigner Greta Thunberg, accuse the summits of "greenwashing": that is, countries and businesses promote their climate credentials without making the changes needed.

But as world leaders gather, the summits offer potential for global agreements that go beyond national measures.

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