

There is no more time to waste! COP28 must deliver an ambitious result. The consequences of climate change are already here, and they will only get worse if we don't act now.

Today, the UN climate summit, COP28, begins. World leaders are convening after a year marked by alarming temperature records, devastating weather events, and reports documenting a lack of action. The recent Emission Gap Report from UNEP stresses that global temperatures may increase by 2.9 degrees if existing commitments are turned into action.

The General Secretary of DanChurchAid, Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, comments

“The prospects of the current temperature increase are horrifying. We are already witnessing the devastating consequences of climate change, consequences that will only worsen if we do not alter the current trajectory. And while world leaders meet in Dubai, people are facing displacement due to flooding and drought. The consequences of climate change are real, immediate, and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

This climate summit in Dubai must be the moment where world leaders acknowledge their failure and recognize the need for a new, more ambitious development.”

UN Climate summits always have a busy agenda, and this year is no exception. However, Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen highlights three essential topics, where the international society needs to collaborate and find a solution:

“Firstly, the loss and damage fund promised in last year's climate summit must now become a reality and, more importantly, be adequately funded. People are already facing climate related loss and damage, and it is important that money starts to flow.

Secondly, this summit must set a framework for the global goal on adaptation. The goal will guide decisionmakers and investors around the world, and it must ensure that vulnerable communities receive support to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

Thirdly, we need to phase out fossil fuels. Global temperatures will continue to increase unless all parties take the climate crisis seriously. Phasing out all fossil fuels should therefore not be controversial. It should be an obvious step towards a just and green transition.”

The coming two weeks will be important, and the agreements at COP28 are crucial for the people around the globe. Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen says:

“Political decisions affect people's lives, and decision-makers have a responsibility. I hope leaders at COP28 take their responsibility seriously, and that they make the necessary decisions when shaping our future”.

For questions, please contact the DanChurchAid Global Climate Lead, Mattias Söderberg at +45-29 70 06 09.