



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- Philippines Gets Increased Support From Canada Through \$5.3B Climate Pledge
- UN climate chief slams 'posturing' in COP28 talks

## ECO BUSINESS

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## FINANCIAL TIMES

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By: Kenza Bryan

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## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

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## **MANILA STANDARD**

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## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[Climate change battle 'won or lost' in Asia, says AIIB executive](#)**

By: Sayumi Take

The battle against climate change will be decided in Asia with new infrastructure playing a "crucial part" in mitigating the damage done by rising temperatures, said Danny Alexander, a senior executive at the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB).

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Nuclear energy can help address climate change issues — DOST](#)**

By: Adrian Parungao

Nuclear energy can be used to alleviate the effects of climate change, according to Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum.

## **Pro-environment groups air concerns over climate damage fund**

By: Zeus Legaspi

Several Philippines-based environmental groups expressed concern on Wednesday over the operationality of the loss and damage fund (LDF) at the COP28 United Nations (UN) climate summit in Dubai.

### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

## **Climate change surged 'alarmingly' in 2011-2020: UN**

The rate of climate change surged "alarmingly" between 2011 and 2020, the warmest decade on record, the UN weather agency said in a report Tuesday.

### **POLITIKO**

## **Philippines Gets Increased Support From Canada Through \$5.3B Climate Pledge**

By: Prince Golez

The Philippines and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are collaborating with Canada to close the climate finance gap through nature-based solutions projects that will be funded through a \$5.3-billion climate finance commitment.

### **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

## **UN climate chief slams 'posturing' in COP28 talks**

UN climate chief Simon Stiell accused nations of "posturing" at the COP28 talks in Dubai on Wednesday and urged them to reach an ambitious deal to ensure the world meets its targets against global warming.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## ECO BUSINESS

### [Gurīn Energy achieves financial close for 75MW solar project in the Philippines](#)

Gurīn Energy, a Singapore-based pan-Asian renewable energy developer, owner and operator, today announced the financial close for its 75 megawatt (MW) solar farm in the Philippines. Located in the municipality of Palauig, Zambales Province, the 80-hectare farm will deploy up to 136,363 ground-mounted, energy-efficient solar photovoltaic panels.

Initial on-site preparatory work began earlier in 2023 and groundbreaking will take place in the middle of this month, with commissioning expected in Q3 2024. The project will create more than 550 jobs throughout the project lifecycle.

Once operational, the solar farm will produce enough clean and zero-emission electricity to power more than 35,500 homes each year and avoid 53,100 metric tons of climate-changing emissions annually, which is equivalent to taking 11,500 combustion-engine cars off the road per year. Today's announcement demonstrates Gurīn Energy's commitment to its mission of taking tangible action to move Asia to 100 per cent renewable energy, which is critical to fighting climate change.

Reden Garcia Rodriguez, Country Manager – Philippines at Gurīn Energy, said: "We are pleased to have achieved financial close for our 75MW solar farm, a milestone for Gurīn Energy in the Philippines. We are grateful to all our partners, our lender Union Bank of the Philippines, and to the national, provincial and municipal authorities for their confidence and ongoing support."

The financial close, achieved through a robust partnership approach and exhaustive investment process, will lead to a total investment of USD 60 million.

The Palauig Solar Power Plant is the first of Gurīn Energy's solar projects in the Philippines to achieve financial close, and part of the company's growing 7-gigawatt pipeline of projects across Asia.

#### About Gurīn Energy

Gurīn Energy Pte Ltd is a Singapore-headquartered renewable energy developer. Its team of approximately 70 people across Asia is focused on the development, ownership and operation of solar, wind and storage assets.

Gurīn Energy was founded by its senior management team together with Infracore Ltd, a listed infrastructure investment company which has also established renewable energy

platforms in the United States, Europe and Australia, holding a development pipeline of over 30GW across four continents and 29 markets. Infratil Ltd is managed by Morrison & Co, a global infrastructure investment company with over USD 30 billion of assets under management.

Gurīn Energy currently has 7GW of solar, wind and storage projects in various stages of development in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan.

## FINANCIAL TIMES

### [COP28 finance leaders try to revive decimated carbon credits market](#)

By: Kenza Bryan

Banks, regulators and top officials at the COP28 climate summit have thrown their weight behind efforts to revive the global trade in voluntary carbon credits, battered by allegations of a lack of credibility.

Independent certification bodies that have suffered from a collapse in the market have also joined the effort. One of the organisations, Verra, said it would aim to meet standards laid out by the independent governance body, the Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets.

In theory, each credit represents a tonne of carbon avoided or removed from the atmosphere, but the lack of verification and credibility of the credits has undermined the system.

Conservation projects that aimed to reduce deforestation relative to a hypothetical future scenario in which trees are chopped down, for example in Zimbabwe and Peru, have faced particular scrutiny over accurately accounting for the carbon saved or emissions avoided.

The standards to be put in place include checking that emissions reduction is credible and durable and ensuring there is no double-counting between countries and companies claiming the credit.

Carbon credit purchases linked to cuts in the carbon dioxide emitted by burning fossil fuels and deforestation could create “the largest marketplace the world will have ever known”, said US climate envoy John Kerry.

“Fly-by-night operations” touting cheap carbon credits in voluntary markets in recent years have “done an injustice to everybody”, he added.

Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and Standard Chartered were among the companies to back a US state department-led scheme dubbed the Energy Transition Accelerator this week, alongside Amazon, Boston Consulting Group, Mastercard, McDonald’s, Morgan Stanley, PepsiCo, Salesforce and Schneider Electric.

The ETA plans to create a framework for countries and power sectors, including in Chile and Nigeria, to start selling emission reductions from next April to help fund a move away from polluting power sources.

It is meant to improve on existing voluntary models by using high-level national data and measuring emission reductions in relation to the past, rather than hypothetical future emission savings.

Other top officials were hopeful the market could help raise the estimated seven-fold increase in annual clean energy investment needed to finance emerging markets' shift away from polluting forms of energy.

Leaders from coal-dependent countries including Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines pitched carbon finance as a crucial top-up to existing capital commitments for their energy transitions on Monday. The Rockefeller Foundation said it aimed to facilitate the first closure of a coal-fired power plant using carbon credits in the Philippines by 2030.

The push to revive a decimated market that was estimated at just \$2bn at its peak comes as investors continue to question the accounting and integrity standards that underpin it.

Jean-Paul Servais, chair of the International Organization of Securities Commissions, proposed a set of measures to prevent fraud and promote greater liquidity, with the goal of bringing "financial integrity".

Voluntary carbon credits lack "some characteristics of fair, efficient and transparent markets that protect investors", "in addition to environmental integrity vulnerabilities", said Verena Ross, chair of the European Securities and Markets Authority.

The World Bank has also waded into the discussions, with the aim of delivering 24mn carbon credits to market in the next two years, including from projects in Vietnam, Guatemala and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The intellectual argument about this issue is holding up the production of credits," Ajay Banga, president of the World Bank, told the Financial Times. "But we need all the sources of money [for the transition] we can get."

Climate experts fear that schemes linked to carbon reduction in some countries could be used by companies and governments to cut their own emissions more slowly.

“Voluntary markets cannot substitute for robust internal emission cuts by the private sector,” said Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the UN’s climate body.



## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **Canada allots \$3.5B for PH climate finance**

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

The Canadian government has allotted \$3.5 billion in climate funds to support the promotion of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience programs in the Philippines.

The Presidential Communications Office, in a news release, said the Philippine government is working with the United Nations Development Program and the Canadian government to reduce the climate finance gap through nature-based solutions projects.

Andrew Hurst, Global Affairs Canada Climate Finance executive director, said the joint projects include research and knowledge sharing and activities that promote “biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience with consideration for gender equality.”

The collaboration and finance commitment will run until 2026.

Hurst, however, said some of the projects being undertaken “can really generate some ideas and form some creative solutions that themselves may have a life beyond the end of the project.”

He said Canada will stay engaged in the Philippines both in climate finance and bilateral assistance programs.

Hurst said they are also looking at ways to encourage the private sector, both international and Philippines investors, who are looking for opportunities to invest in climate change solutions.

He said apart from mitigating the impact of climate change, the joint efforts would also help address or contribute to addressing “a number of persistent issues” such as poverty, gender inequality and the need to “support communities that are often dependent on nature for their livelihoods while also looking to conserve and sustain...biodiversity.”

On Monday, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has programmed \$10 billion in climate finance for the Philippines for the period of 2024 to 2029.

The support, announced by ADB president Masatsugu Asakawa at a high-level dialogue on financing coalitions at COP28 in Dubai, will help the Philippines implement its commitments to climate action under the Paris Agreement.

The high-level dialogue was organized by ADB and attended by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and ministers from other countries.

ADB is currently preparing its country partnership strategy for the Philippines for 2024 to 2029, which will prioritize climate action and promote inclusive growth.

The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, topped last year's World Risk Index that assesses which populations are most at risk to earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and sea-level rise.

Capital-intensive industries and the agriculture sector were likely to suffer most due to economic damage brought about by intense and more frequent extreme weather events, the Washington-based lender said.

The World Bank said in its report many actions do not require investments, such as ensuring that new construction does not occur in areas at risk of floods, storm surges or rising sea levels.

Support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and for building smart cities, should be scaled up to mitigate the impact of climate change, the report said.

## DA to tap science, modern tech

Now that Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel has been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, we can expect a much more permanent and forward-looking management and operation of the Department of Agriculture.

Secretary Laurel may now freely put to good use all his plans and ideas on how to make the DA a proactive agency with projects and programs that are responsive to the people's needs.

We noticed that recent announcements from the department were still about importation of onions and fish, aside from rice, which to us are more of the same policies and stop-gap measures and do not push forward the attainment of more desirable objectives such as food self-sufficiency and food security.

Even before Laurel took over, the department has firmed up plans and science-based tools to help farmers increase their productivity.

The DA's Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO) has launched an updated version of its National Color-Coded Agricultural Guide (NCCAG) Map which is expected to further help raise farmers' productivity and income as a science-based decision-support tool.

The DA said the map "is a database of map overlays that shows the natural suitability of economically important crops and eight major hazards based on projected climate scenarios for 2050" and "overlays data on soil properties, elevation, slope, rainfall pattern, temperature and climate change-induced multi-hazards."

The database also features maps that are vital to crop growth and survivability such as water availability and climate data, as well as location-specific information on socio-economic conditions.

CRAO Director Alicia Ilaga said updating the NCCAG Map which was first launched in 2017 is crucial to maintaining the system's accuracy and reliability.

Some farm experts have pointed out before, and are still saying it now, that one of Philippine agriculture's problems is that it is too rice-centric. We have focused much of our research, energy and funding on producing rice, and yet we have not been so successful since we still have to import this staple food of Filipinos from India, Vietnam and Thailand. It is time, they say, to focus on other crops.

This may well be served by the latest version of NCCAG, which features updated crop suitability, increasing it from the previous 20 to 21. As listed, the economically important crops featured in the database are abaca, banana, cacao, cassava, coconut, coffee, corn, garlic/onion, legumes, mango, palm oil, papaya, pineapple, rice, rubber, sugarcane, sweet potato, taro, vegetables, yam and bamboo.

With the new crop map, farmers will be able to match their areas with crops to be planted, guided by scientific studies on the type of soil, availability of water, weather and climate patterns, etc. CRAO said this initiative aligns with the department's commitment to assist farmers by providing valuable insights and facilitate well-informed planning and decision-making processes regarding agricultural suitability, climate hazards and land cover data.

It was reported that the latest version of the map also integrates the Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment Maps of 63 provinces nationwide. This allows users to choose from three distinct types of statistical data – crops suitability and multi-hazards, crops suitability and land cover, and multi-hazards – to provide a tailored and more user-friendly experience.

Last but not the least, the NCCAG also has utility for rice farming as it introduces a new layer called Rice Suitability Zones which identifies current and potential expansion areas for rice cultivation and provides information on soil properties vital to rice growth.

As Secretary Laurel begins his work today with full authority from the President and the Commission on Appointments, we hope to see more projects such as the NCCAG that uses science and technology in the service of agriculture.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Canada vows to raise support for PH climate change projects](#)

By: Rey E. Requejo

The Philippines, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Canada teamed up to address global warming and biodiversity loss through nature-based solutions funded under a \$5.3-billion climate finance commitment.

Global Affairs Canada executive director of climate finance Andrew Hurst revealed his government's increased support for the Philippines in promoting biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation and resilience, while prioritizing gender equality.

Hurst said Canada would stay engaged in climate finance and bilateral assistance programs in the Philippines.

"To the extent that good things come out of this project, then the results that are generated will continue to look for opportunities to build on and also work together in the future," he said.

The project, which runs until 2026, aims to address multiple challenges through a single intervention or in an integrated way.

"That includes trying to reduce poverty, trying to address gender inequality...trying to support communities that are often dependent on nature for their livelihoods while also looking to conserve and sustain...biodiversity," he said.

The project covers research and knowledge-sharing activities, he said.

"It's also looking at ways to encourage the private sector, both international and Filipino investors looking for opportunities to invest in these kinds of solutions," Hurst said.

Hurst expressed hope the project would generate ideas and form creative solutions that would be sustained beyond the end of the project.

He also highlighted the diversity of stakeholders involved in the project including communities, national government and private sector. He said the uniqueness of arrangements would hopefully "stimulate some more efforts on cooperation in the future."

## NIKKEI ASIA

### [Climate change battle 'won or lost' in Asia, says AIIB executive](#)

By: Sayumi Take

The battle against climate change will be decided in Asia with new infrastructure playing a "crucial part" in mitigating the damage done by rising temperatures, said Danny Alexander, a senior executive at the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB).

The Beijing-based multilateral lender this year committed to earmarking at least half its annual financing approvals to climate-related projects.

Now, the priority will be on deploying renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, ramping up the adoption of emerging technologies and helping communities become more resilient to climate change impacts, said Alexander, vice president for policy and strategy at the AIIB and former chief secretary to the U.K. Treasury.

China is the world's biggest producer of the carbon emissions largely blamed for causing climate change, while countries across Asia are under pressure to cut their reliance on coal-fired power plants.

"Asia is the place where the battle against climate change will be won or lost," Alexander told Nikkei Asia on the sidelines of United Nations climate talks in Dubai. "Infrastructure is the critical part of the climate transition, as most emissions come through infrastructure of various kinds."

The AIIB, viewed as an alternative to Western-backed lenders like the World Bank, started operations in 2016 with a focus on funding sustainable, green infrastructure in developing countries. The organization has so far financed more than 200 projects worth over \$40 billion in dozens of countries.

China is the biggest funder among its more than 100 member nations, which include Germany, France and the U.K. Neither the U.S. nor Japan are members.

Alexander said the AIIB was exploring "new tools" to mobilize climate-change financing, including approaching the private sector and securitizing projects to "help move infrastructure into something that can be invested in as an asset class."

Developing country members "want AIIB to really support them to make that transition ... in a way that is about also helping to achieve their development goals," Alexander said. "Tackling climate change needs to be the way to achieve good development and future."

Earlier this year, Nikkei reported that the bank was planning an emergency relief fund for member countries affected by natural disasters and climate change.

The AIIB made global headlines in June when its communications director, a Canadian, resigned from his post as he claimed the lender had a "toxic" work environment and was infiltrated by China's ruling Communist Party. Beijing dismissed the accusations, which prompted Ottawa to freeze ties with the bank, as "pure sensational hype and outright lies."

This week, Alexander also rejected the allegations as "nonsense."

The AIIB is led by a board with a dozen directors from different countries and decisions must be "broadly agreed by a wide range of our members to go forward," he added.

An internal review report of the allegations concluded in July that "there was no evidence of undue influence on decisions taken by the board of directors or management."

Deteriorating relations between China and the West are an issue, but multilateral lenders need to focus on global challenges of mutual concern such as climate change, Alexander said.

"Geopolitical tensions are greater in the world than they have been for many years," he added. The AIIB is "a place where countries have agreed to come together ... [they] are able to carry forward cooperation even when other parts of the system are not working so well."

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Nuclear energy can help address climate change issues — DOST](#)

By: Adrian Parungao

Nuclear energy can be used to alleviate the effects of climate change, according to Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum.

“A week ago, we participated in the Conference of Parties (COP) 28 held in Dubai, and the message is clear. Climate change is a problem that we all need to look into. We will be victims of global warming, so we need to act, and nuclear technology would play crucial roles in addressing our concerns on this,” Solidum said.

Solidum issued the statement at the opening of the 51st Atomic Energy Week (AEW) on Monday.

Solidum said that the Philippines’ science department expressed support for Senate Bill No. 2498, or the Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety Act, filed by Senator Francis Escudero on November 29.

“This is the reason why the country’s science department has its full support for the efforts of the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee (NEP-IAC), as well as the establishment of a unified independent regulatory body for ionizing radiation sources through the bill for the Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety Act pending in Congress,” he added.

The measure will propose a legal framework for the use of nuclear energy in the country, which it will only be used for peaceful purposes.

Meanwhile, DOST- Philippine Nuclear Research Institute Director Carlo Arcilla hoped that the AEW will clear misconceptions about nuclear energy among the youth.

“With a still-stigmatized perception of the word ‘nuclear,’ it is best that we slowly change such notions by educating and fully informing our young generation. In this day and age, when misinformation is easily proliferated by certain individuals who undermine and disregard the impact they can make on our country’s future, it is my hope that through AEW, we will be able to shed light on this crucial and social topic of nuclear science and technology,” Arcilla said.



## Pro-environment groups air concerns over climate damage fund

By: Zeus Legaspi

Several Philippines-based environmental groups expressed concern on Wednesday over the operationality of the loss and damage fund (LDF) at the COP28 United Nations (UN) climate summit in Dubai.

The fund, which was launched on the summit's first day (November 30), sought to help vulnerable countries cope with the costly and damaging impact of climate disasters.

IBON International, however, assailed the summit's decision to let the World Bank host the fund for the next four years despite resistance from developing nations.

"Our position as IBON International is that the World Bank is not fit as host of the LDF given its history of financing fossil fuel projects, donor-driven lending model and undemocratic governance structure," the group told Inquirer.net.

IBON noted that the LDF should instead be hosted by a stand-alone operating entity with a board composed of delegates from developing countries, affected communities, and civil society organizations.

In its opening statement at Cop28, the group, along with other Philippines-based organizations, pointed out that developing countries contribute the least to climate change but suffer the most.

This disproportionate impact, therefore, justifies the move to give a bigger role to vulnerable countries in the management of the fund, the group stressed.

For fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), the previous pledges for the LDF is not enough.

"The amount pledged so far is actually a drop in the ocean compared to the extent of damage by disasters to the vulnerable communities over the past decades," Pamalakaya said in a statement on Wednesday.

A UN report estimated that \$387 billion is needed annually for the climate change adaptation measures of developing countries.

So far, initial pledges from the United Arab Emirates, Germany, United Kingdom, United States, and Japan have amounted to \$420 million – not even one percent of the target.

Pamalakaya also pointed out that the fund-raising mechanism for the LDF should be mandatory, not voluntary, in respect to historical climate accountability.

This means that countries who contribute more to the climate crisis would be obliged to pledge more money for the fund.

“We will be vigilant on the crucial climate finance and demand that this should directly go to communities that have been devastated by climate change-induced disasters such as drought, sea-level rise, storm surges, and other ecological disturbances that affect economic activities,” the fishers’ group added.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lauded other countries present at COP28 for agreeing to launch the LDF.

In a previous statement, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said that the LDF is a “hard-fought outcome that would enable us to catalyze assistance for the irreversible impacts of climate change such as extreme weather conditions and slow-onset events which are beyond our ability to finance.”

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Climate change surged 'alarmingly' in 2011-2020: UN

The rate of climate change surged “alarmingly” between 2011 and 2020, the warmest decade on record, the UN weather agency said in a report Tuesday.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report, released at the Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, said that it is much harder to try to limit the global temperature increase to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius than it was in the pre-industrial period (1850-1900).

It was emphasized that effective climate actions are needed.

“Public and private climate finance almost doubled between 2011 and 2020,” it said.

“However, it needs to increase at least seven times by the end of this decade to achieve climate objectives.”

The report was based on physical data analyses and impact assessments from dozens of experts at National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Regional Climate Centers, National Statistics Offices and UN partners.

#### Ice sheet loss

The reports said that in the 2011-2020 period glacier and ice sheet loss was unprecedented, sea level rises accelerated, and ocean heat and acidification damaged marine ecosystems.

It also said extreme weather undermined sustainable development, but the ozone layer was on track to recovery.

Providing a glimmer of hope, the report said the Antarctic ozone hole was smaller in the 2011-2020 period than during the two previous decades.

This was due to successful and concerted international action to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals, an indication of the success of the Montreal Protocol.

“Each decade since the 1990s has been warmer than the previous one and we see no immediate sign of this trend reversing,” WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said.

#### Accumulated heat

Around 90 percent of the accumulated heat in the Earth system is stored in the ocean, the report said.

Ocean warming rates show a particularly strong increase in the past two decades.

A consequence of the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the ocean is its acidification—a drop in the oceanic pH, which makes it more challenging for marine organisms to build and maintain their shells and skeletons.

During the 2011-2020 decade, Greenland lost a lot of mass and reached a new record mass loss.

“The Antarctic continental ice sheet lost ice at an average rate of 143 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> during this decade, with more than three-quarters of this mass loss coming from West Antarctica,” the report said.

“Compared to the previous decade (2001-2010), this represents an increase of nearly 75 percent in ice losses. This is not the same as Antarctic sea ice.”

## POLITIKO

### [Philippines Gets Increased Support From Canada Through \\$5.3B Climate Pledge](#)

By: Prince Golez

The Philippines and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are collaborating with Canada to close the climate finance gap through nature-based solutions projects that will be funded through a \$5.3-billion climate finance commitment.

According to Global Affairs Canada Climate Finance Executive Director Andrew Hurst, Canada has increased its assistance to the Philippines in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, with a focus on gender equality.

Their project includes activities such as research and knowledge sharing, said Hurst, adding that they are exploring ways to encourage international and Philippine investors to invest in these kinds of solutions.

The collaboration and finance commitment will last until 2026 but Global Affairs Canada hoped that “some of the efforts that are undertaken in this project can really generate some ideas and form some creative solutions that themselves may have a life beyond the end of the project” while also committing that Canada will remain engaged in the Philippines in terms of climate finance and bilateral assistance.

“To the extent that good things come out of this project, then the results that are generated will continue to look for opportunities to build on and also work together in the future,” said Hurst.

He also expanded on the goal of the project, saying that it is a way of addressing a number of persistent issues through a single intervention or in an integrated manner.

“That includes trying to reduce poverty, trying to address gender inequality...trying to support communities that are often dependent on nature for their livelihoods while also looking to conserve and sustain...biodiversity,” according to him.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [UN climate chief slams 'posturing' in COP28 talks](#)

UN climate chief Simon Stiell accused nations of "posturing" at the COP28 talks in Dubai on Wednesday and urged them to reach an ambitious deal to ensure the world meets its targets against global warming.

Stiell called a brief press conference as countries were sharply divided over the fate of fossil fuels in a new draft agreement, with a week left for negotiators to reach a deal.

"We have a starting text on the table, but it's a grab bag of ... wish lists and heavy on posturing," Stiell said.

"The key now is to sort the wheat from the chaff," he added.

The latest text includes a new phrase calling for an "orderly and just" phase-out of fossil fuels.

The language could signal a consensus candidate as it would give countries different timelines to cut emissions depending on their level of development and reliance on fossil fuels.

But there is another option: no mention at all of fossil fuels, which reflects opposition from nations including Saudi Arabia, Russia and China, according to several observers who attended the closed meetings.

India on Tuesday evening also opposed naming specific sectors or energy sources, one observer said.

The language could signal a consensus candidate as it would give countries different timelines to cut emissions depending on their level of development and reliance on fossil fuels.

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Scaling up renewable energy and phasing out fossil fuels is crucial to the world's goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"If we want to save lives now and keep (the) 1.5C goal within reach, the highest ambition COP outcomes must stay front and centre," Stiell said.

"At the end of next week, we need COP to deliver a bullet train to speed up climate action. We currently have an old caboose chugging over rickety tracks," he added.

"The tools are all there on the table. The technologies and solutions exist. It's time for governments and negotiators to pick them up and put them to work."

**=END=**