



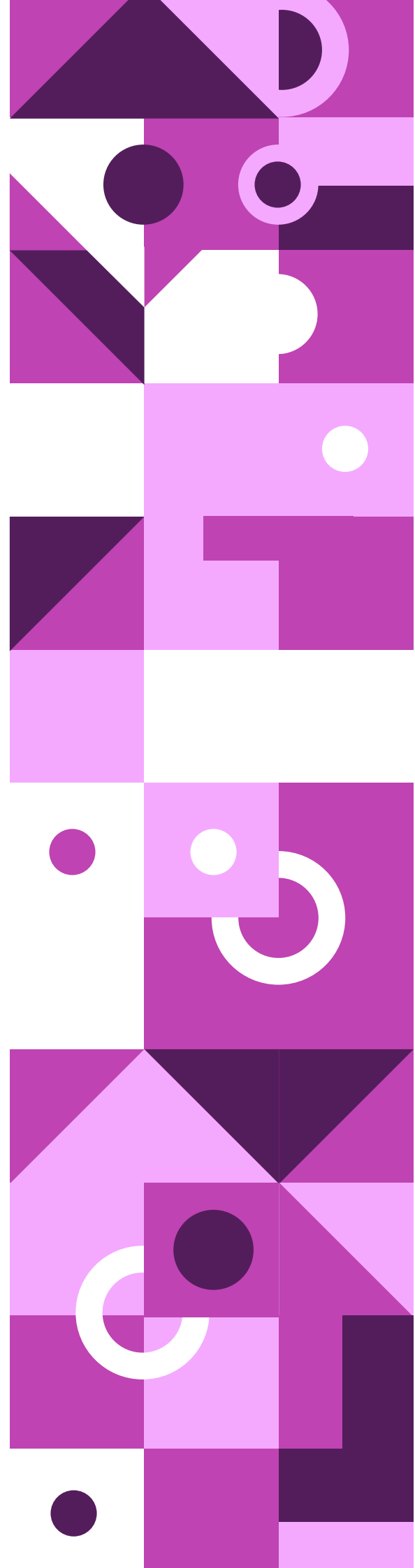
# COP 28 REPORT

# 2023

In-person Attendance report at COP28  
from 31st November to 12th December 2023  
representing Gufasha Girls Foundation

---

By Joan Kembabazi

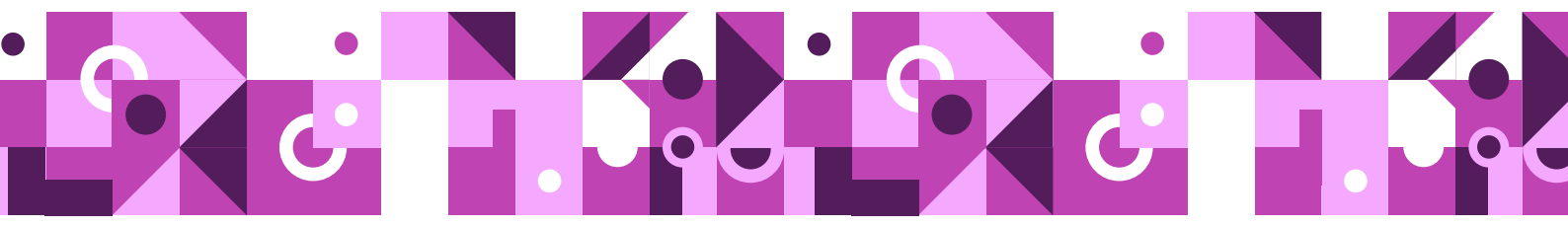


# INTRODUCTION

From 31st November- 12th December, world leaders, negotiators, scientists, youth activists, and civil society leaders gathered in Dubai for the United Nations Climate Change Conference ,COP28(The 28th Conference of Parties) to discuss the climate emergency and the need for the immediate phase out of fossil fuels and transitioning to greener economies in order to save the people and the planet. COP28 was the first biggest-ever Climate conference with a record of 84,000 registered attendees according to UNFCCC.

Amidst escalating climate crises and increasing urgency, the United Nations COP28 conference emerged as a pivotal moment for nations to reaffirm commitments made under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The conference aimed to drive ambitious actions, innovative solutions, and tangible strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Climate funding was a central point of discussion at this year's COP28. The COP28 thematic program was geared towards responding to the Global Stocktake and closing the gaps to 2030.

Gufasha Girls Foundation was proudly represented by our Team leader, Miss Joan Kembabazi who fully participated in different sessions, side events, actions as well as high level events for two weeks while at the Conference.



# Key themes and discussions

- 01 Finance
- 02 Inclusion
- 03 Technology and Innovation
- 04 Frontline communities

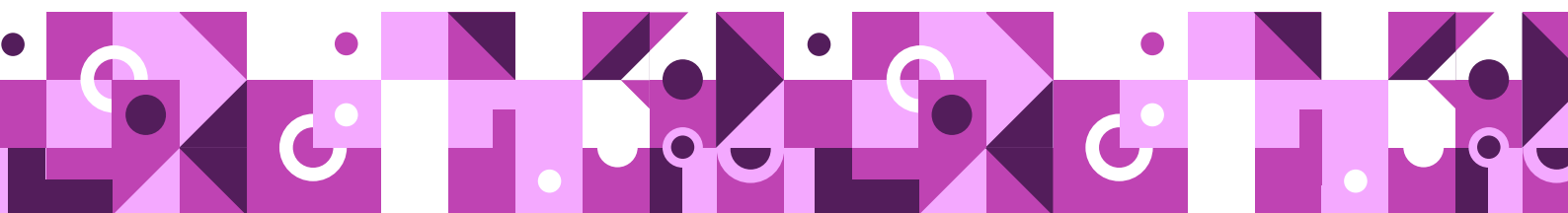
## Conference Highlights

### Climate finance:

During COP28, the UAE unveiled an impressive \$30 billion fund dedicated to supporting climate-friendly projects worldwide, with an additional allocation of \$5 billion specifically earmarked for countries in the Global South. In alignment with the efforts of the World Bank, it is committed to elevating its climate funding to encompass 45% of its total lending. The United Nations has stressed the urgency of mobilizing climate finance for developing nations and ensuring their critical needs and priorities are addressed.

### Loss and Damage Fund:

COP28 began with a historic agreement of the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund which totaled up to USD 700 million to date, which is an essential tool to deliver climate justice. The fund will aim to support the most vulnerable and poorest countries to keep up with the rising costs associated though the pledged fund is less than 0.2% of the needed amount.



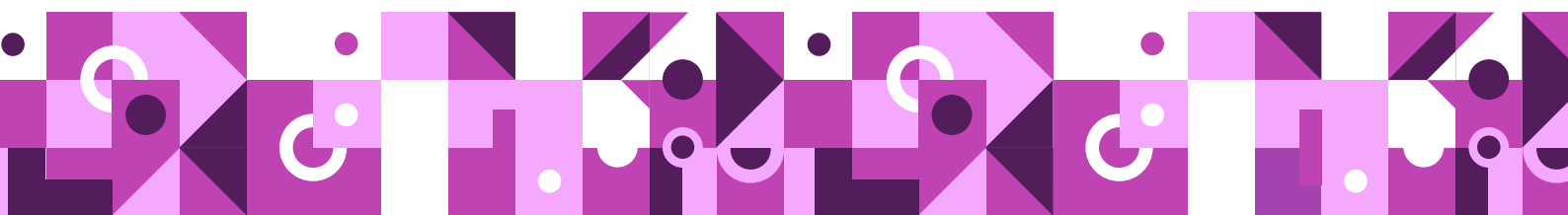
# Conference Highlights

## Just Energy Transition:

The transition to clean energy emerged as a central theme during COP28. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres underscored the importance of achieving consensus on the phase-out of fossil fuels as a key measure of COP28—s success. The COP28 Presidency launched the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership on the Gender Equality Day aiming to build upon progress made through the enhanced UN Climate Change Lima Work Programme and its Gender Action Plan.

The 78 national governments that signed the Partnership commit to working collaboratively to support just and inclusive transitions that advance gender equality and the goals of the enhanced Lima Work Program on Gender and its Gender Action Plan and to reconvene for dialogue at COP 32 to report on the implementation of the commitments of the Partnership.

The Partnership included a package of commitments on finance, data and equal opportunities.. In a high level dialogue on Gender-Responsive Just Transition and Climate Action, Hillary Clinton emphasized that now more than ever, the challenges faced by women in the transition to a sustainable economy must be recognized and environmental policies must consider and address gender disparities. Women leaders must also be at the forefront of the just energy transition to ensure clean energy access for all.



# Conference Highlights

## Just Energy Transition – continued:

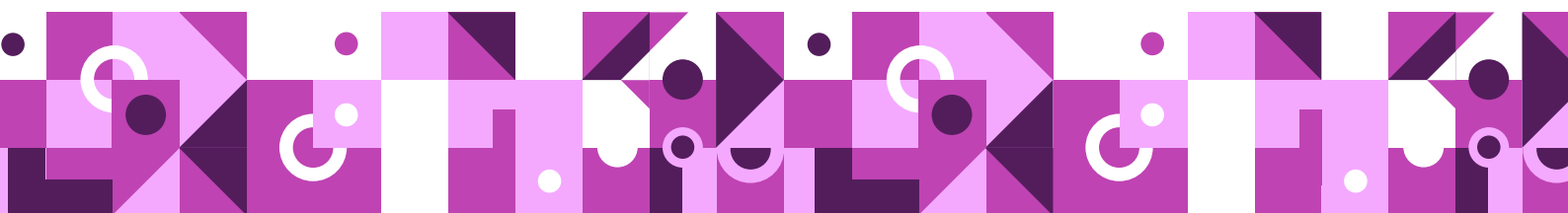
Notably, 118 countries committed to a renewable energy pledge, pledging to triple renewable energy capacity to reach 11,000 GW by 2030. Simultaneously, they vowed to double energy efficiency within the same timeframe. For instance, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) has taken proactive steps to enhance energy efficiency through collaborative efforts with the US.

## Our side event:

Gufasha Girls Foundation being a girls and women’s rights-focused organization, Our Team leader Joan Kembabazi organized a side event of a panel discussion that was titled ***‘Harnessing the Power of Gender Equality in achieving A Just Transition***, on the Gender Day at COP28, which brought together young people to discuss the potential that girls and women have in enabling the World to achieve an equitable and Just Transition.

During the session, we also discussed on how we can involve women and girls most especially responding to their most needs and demands through education and empowerment to enable them fully participate in a gender-responsive just transition for the people and the planet.

Joan also attended other events that focused on The Intersection of Gender Equality and Climate Justice and those that were highlighting the investment in girls and women to achieve climate justice.



# Conference Highlights

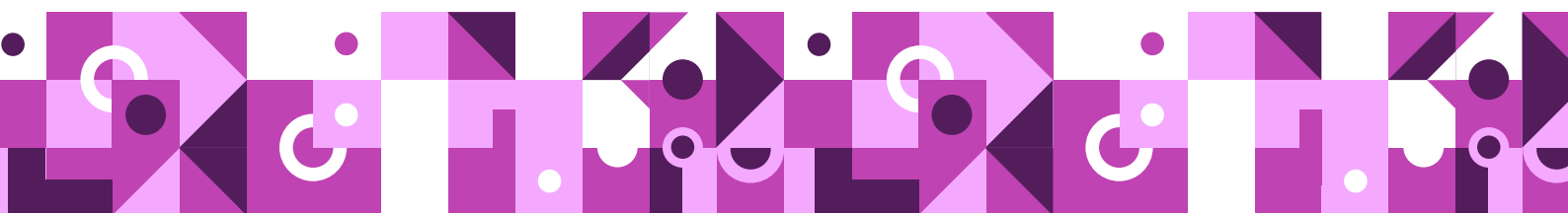
## Education:

On the Education Day, discussions focused on how to ensure that all learning institutions, from early childhood are climate-ready ,mobilize,strengthen political commitment on greening education,share good practice and solutions on climate change education and generate opportunities for synergetic action on greening school, curriculum, the capacities of teachers and systems and communities.

Thirty-eight countries committed to climate education in their NDCs, with the 'UNESCO Greening Education Partnership Declaration'. And many young people including Joan called for investing in gender-transformative climate change education because of the power that girls— education has in solving the climate crisis and enabling them be climate resilient.

## Health:

The climate crisis is a health crisis, but for too long, health has been a footnote in climate discussions. However this year ,COP28 hosted the first ever Health Day which highlighted the severe health implications of climate change, and the urgent need for governments to prepare healthcare systems to cope with climate-related impacts such as extreme heat, air pollution and infectious diseases. However, the gaps remain on issues like Sexual and Reproductive health of girls and women globally, yet ensuring the SRHR of girls and women supports their bodily autonomy and ability to control their life choices, building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change, which in turn can facilitate engagement in climate action.



# Conference Highlights

## Global Stocktake:

The COP28 also adopted the first ever Global Stock take which for the first time recognized the need to transition away from fossil fuels, one of the main goals of the Global Stocktake is to help the world dramatically cut down on its greenhouse gas emissions and make true progress in developing a more sustainable world.

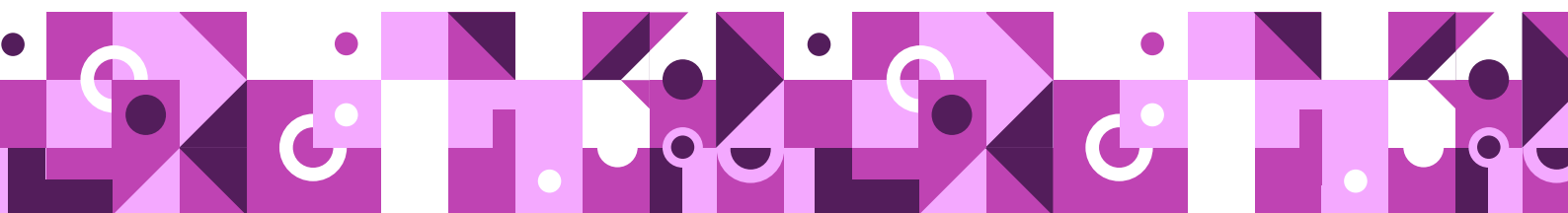
The Stocktake text included transitioning away from fossil fuels, tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, and accelerating efforts for net-zero emission energy systems.

## Media engagements:

Joan Kembabazi also had several media interviews with different international media stations on the nexus of Gender and Climate Justice as well as Gender and A Just Transition.

## Networking:

Joan also met amazing and phenomenal leaders and incredible people from around the World who are doing incredibly amazing work in championing the rights of girls and women—s including the right to Education, Sexual and Reproductive Health who inspired her to keep on doing the the work we do in our communities back in Uganda.



# Shortcomings of COP28

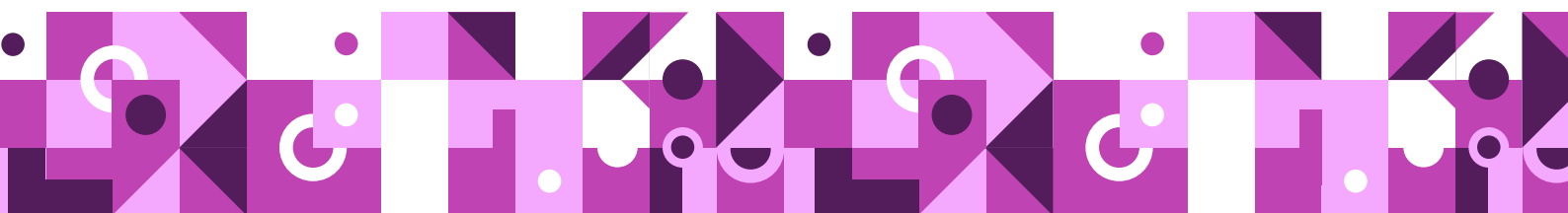
There was lack of meaningful inclusion of women at COP28 and environmental policy making as only 15 of the 133 world leaders were women. Thus, women didn't get a full say in the environmental policymaking that will influence decisions that affect their lives and their communities.

The issue of climate justice emerged as a significant challenge, with calls for fair and equitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of climate action, especially for vulnerable communities.

The issues of equity and climate justice major challenges for climate finance. The potential legal consequences for developed countries, which are historically the largest greenhouse gas emitters, could further exacerbate divisions between developing and developed nations regarding their contributions to the loss and damage fund.

Despite positive discussions and commitments, the challenge lies in translating pledges into concrete actions.

The Global Stocktake text is weak on finance and equity is nonexistent and also failed to secure implementation of real human rights-based climate action.





## Key takeaways

Without an immediate and total phaseout of fossil fuels, we are failing the world—s most vulnerable and marginalised groups of people, who are already facing the brutal impacts of the crisis and a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future shall continue to be out of their reach.

There is no Just Transition without Gender Equality.

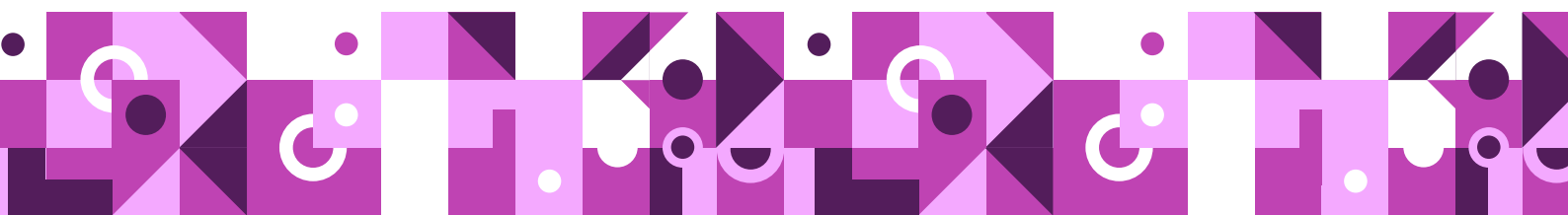
Climate education is essential to help people understand and address the impacts of the climate crisis, empowering them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to act as agents of change.

There is so much that is needed to improve women's opportunities to participate in and shape the green economy, including their education and empowerment to meet their most needs and prepare them for the green jobs that are being created, strengthening inclusive decision-making so that the voices of feminists, youth, Indigenous Peoples and others are considered at the global level.

COP28 sparked a renewed sense of urgency and enthusiasm among young people in addressing climate change and leading climate action projects and initiatives in their communities.

COP28 developed an International Youth Climate Delegate Program to expand youth participation from underrepresented groups in climate policy-making.

Funding and substantial support is needed for technology transfer, knowledge development, and innovation to achieve climate justice during a just transition.



## Key takeaways

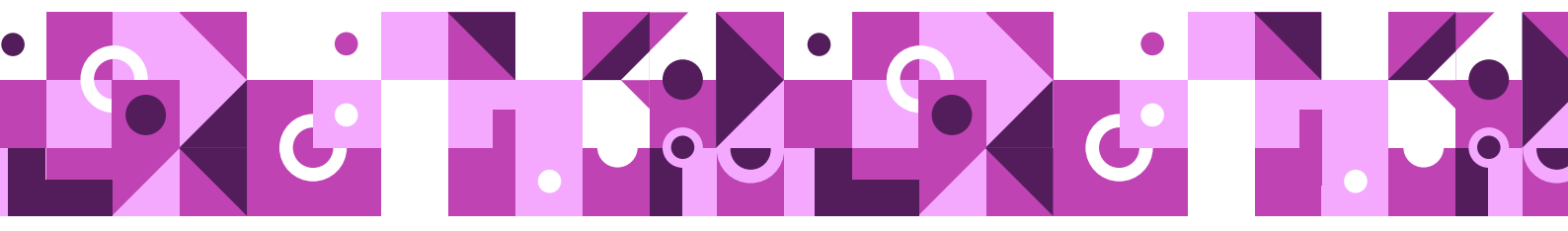
Several countries presented updated and more ambitious National Determined Contributions (NDCs) demonstrating a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate impacts.

The conference provided ample opportunities for networking and connecting with change-makers and organizations allowing us all to form and forge valuable partnerships and collaborations for future initiatives

## Conclusion

COP28 marked a significant step forward in the global fight against climate change. The commitments made and agreements reached reflect a collective recognition of the urgency and severity of the climate crisis, paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.

The success of COP28 will depend on the swift and effective implementation of the commitments, declarations and pledges made by the international community and progress made should be reported and expanded towards their goals.



# Event Gallery

