



**Guide to COP27**  
**6th - 18th November 2022**  
A Cicero/amo briefing

**cicero/amo**  
strategic advisors

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**While many governments have stepped up their action, and others will hopefully follow suit in the near future, the fact remains that this global effort requires contributions from and collaboration with all non-party stakeholders across the board.**



Dr Sameh Shoukry, COP27 President-Designate

## Presidency goals

Looking ahead to Sharm El-Sheikh, the Egyptian Government has made clear its intention for COP27 to signal a turn in the road. Moving on from the emphasis on raising targets to cut emissions to support the Paris temperature goal, the focus is expected to settle squarely on delivery and implementation, nationally and internationally, which will emphasise climate finance and adaptation.



At a national level, the Egyptian Presidency will be looking to prompt global delegates to turn nationally determined contributions (NDCs) – the individual country pledges – into tangible action. The publication of their own National Climate Change Strategy 2050 earlier this year, which pledges investments of US\$211bn for mitigation and US\$112bn for adaptation, marks a step forward in Egypt's own ambition.

Where COP27 will set itself apart from other landmark summits will be in its commitment to bringing African voices to the forefront of the proceedings. The recent [Africa Strategy for Climate Change and Resilience 2022-32](#) has been hailed as the cornerstone to ensure a united African voice ahead of the conference, launched during this year's Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). The Egyptian Presidency has made clear that their aim is to ensure the consensus achieved allows all Parties to benefit, but particularly considers issues felt most acutely in Africa.

The forthcoming summit will mark the fifth time a COP has taken place on African soil; most recently, Marrakech hosted the 22nd Summit in 2016, setting out adaptation, agriculture and, critically, Africa as its triplet of priorities.

Now, Egypt is looking to take up the mantle and will use the forthcoming summit to focus on the impact of climate change on the continent, which remains one of the most vulnerable to climate related risks. As a developing country, the focus of the Egyptian Government is on climate finance and adaptation because it remains in need of the technical and financial support to adapt. The diminished focus on carbon reduction pledges in comparison to previous years has caused concern among some observers, but the Government has emphasised that they continue to work towards their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and securing the transition to clean energy.

## COP explained

A COP, or Conference of the Parties, has taken place every year since the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. It is a unique occasion during which around 165 countries, or 'Parties', convene to discuss how to adapt and combat the effects of climate change.

Last November, the UK hosted COP26 in Glasgow at a significant moment, marking the first time since the Paris Agreement that Parties had made enhanced commitments towards mitigating climate change – part of the all-important "ratchet mechanism" that was agreed in Paris in 2015. The 2021 summit culminated in the signing of the Glasgow Climate Pact, which contained a range of pledges, including strengthened efforts to build global resilience, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance to underpin these aims.

## Presidency Programme

The COP27 Presidency Programme will cover several themes. While the exact date for World Leaders' Day is yet to be confirmed – although expected at the opening of the summit – the structure of the week is, so far, as follows:



### Finance Day - Wednesday 9 November

Finance Day will address several aspects of the climate finance ecosystem, including innovative financial instruments and finance for developing countries. It will also feature a Ministerial finance roundtable.



### Science Day – Thursday 10 November

Science Day will comprise of panel discussions and events to bring forward the outcomes of scientific reports and their recommendations. It will further enhance engagement between the climate science community and different stakeholders.



### Decarbonisation Day – Friday 11 November

Decarbonisation Day will provide an opportunity to discuss decarbonisation policies, and to showcase technologies with an aim to encourage and facilitate the transition towards a low-carbon economy.



### Adaptation and Agriculture Day – Saturday 12 November

Adaptation Day will provide an opportunity to discuss a range of adaptation-related issues including agriculture, nutrition, protection of livelihoods in coastal areas, and disaster risk reduction; as well as solutions to building resilience of agriculture and food systems to adverse climate impacts, such as droughts and floods.



### Water Day – Monday 14 November

Water Day will cover all issues related to sustainable water resource management. It will also examine the water scarcity, drought, cross-boundary cooperation, and the improvement of early warning systems.



### Energy Day – Tuesday 15 November

Energy Day will deal with all aspects of energy and climate change, including renewable energy and energy transformation, with a specific focus on the private sector's significant investments in wind, solar energy, and green hydrogen.



### Biodiversity Day – Wednesday 16 November

Biodiversity Day will cover nature-based solutions, allowing for an examination of how to mobilise global action to halt biodiversity loss and to reduce the impacts of climate change and pollution.



### Solution Day – Thursday 17 November

Solutions Day will bring together governments, businesses, and innovators to share their experiences and ideas. The aim is to spread awareness, share experiences and best practice, and build future alliances and collaborations.



### Gender Day - TBC

Gender Day will examine the further work needed to ensure considerations of gender are fully integrated into the processes of formulating and implementing policies.



### Youth and Future Generations Day - TBC

Youth and Future Generations Day will provide an opportunity to showcase youth success stories and challenges related to climate action. It will allow for interaction with policymakers and practitioners, as well as a dialogue with the UN High-Level Champions and non-party stakeholders.

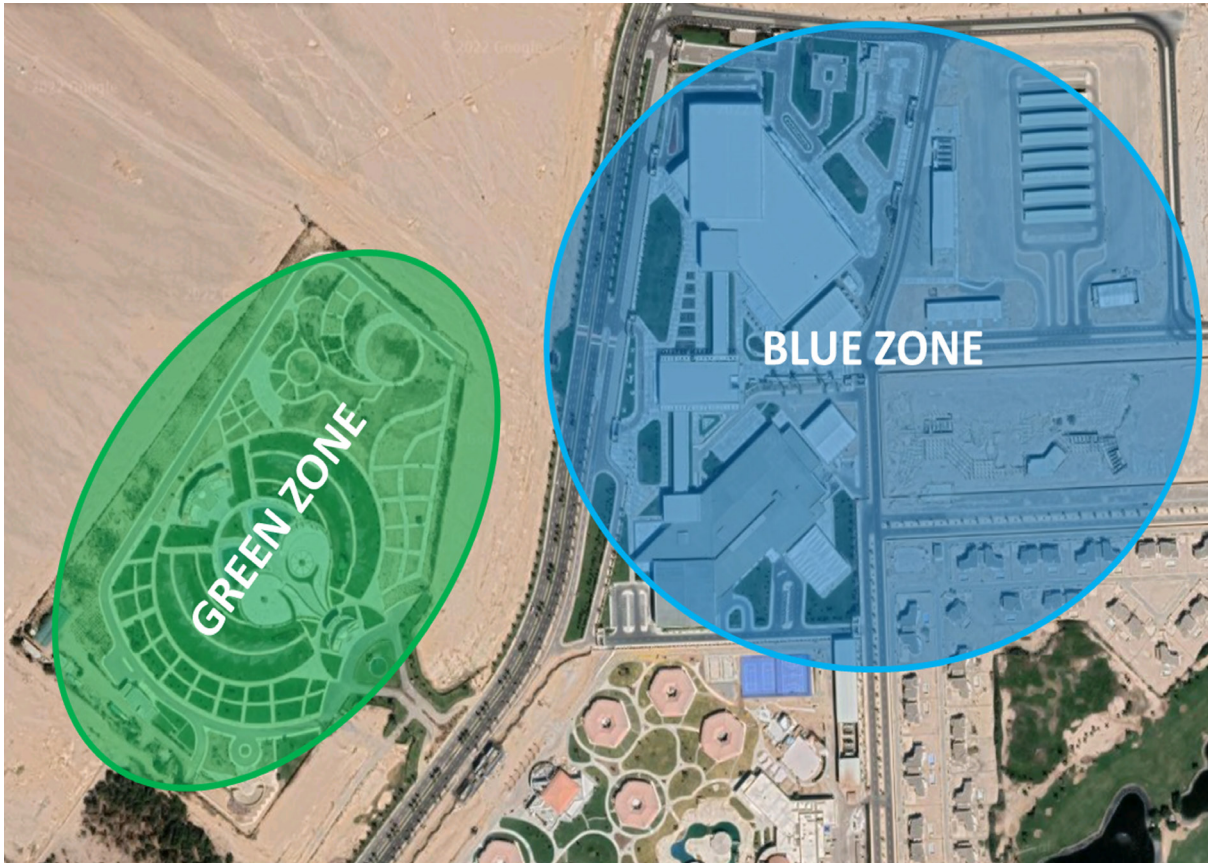


### Civil Society Day - TBC

Civil Society Day will allow participants to have a platform for sharing best practice and identifying challenges, as well as networking and developing multi-stakeholder partnership opportunities. It will showcase the role and contribution of civil society in both climate action and policy response.

## Location

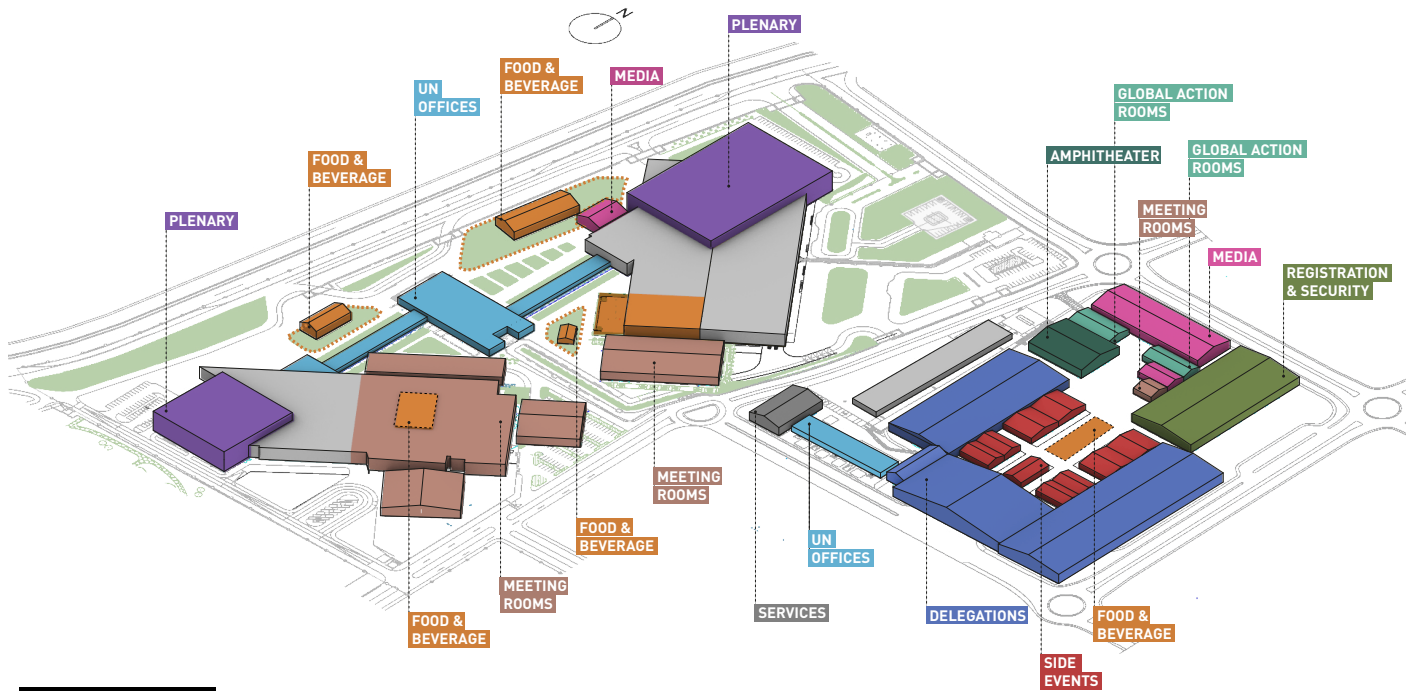
The conference will be hosted at the Sharm El-Sheikh International Convention Centre (SHICC), which is touted as one of the largest and most innovative conference centres in the Middle East and Africa. The complex will host the Blue Zone, an UN-managed space that hosts the official negotiations and is not open to the public. The Green Zone will be hosted opposite the SHICC and is managed by the Egyptian Government. This zone is open to the public and media, and is a platform for civil society, academia, youth groups, businesses, and others to raise awareness through events, exhibitions, workshops and talks.



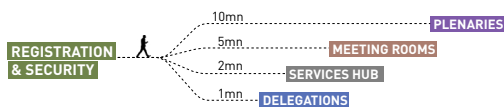
The Green Zone will include a special initiative that will target African companies working in the fields of energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy usage, and circular economy projects. This is to reflect Egypt's current presidency of The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) grouping, which they took over from Madagascar in November 2021. The Egyptian Government will also be eager to showcase the work being done by Egyptian businesses.

The atmosphere and the approach in Egypt will be different to what we saw in the UK at COP26. It is particularly notable that, this year, the world's foremost conference on climate change and sustainability will be held in one of the globe's fastest warming regions. Huge sums of money are being driven towards the summit by the Egyptian Government – and with the eyes of the world on COP27 – the event presents a huge opportunity for a soft power drive for the country.

## Venue Map (Blue Zone)



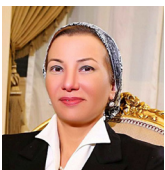
### WALKING DISTANCE



## Key players



COP27 President Designate and Foreign Minister, **Sameh Shoukry** ([@COP27P](#)) will be responsible for presiding over the conference and will steer the direction of the talks. He has prior experience working within UN processes, having worked as Egypt's permanent representative in New York for a number of years until he was appointed Ambassador to the United States in 2008. Some have raised concerns over his lack of significant experience or lack of interest previously expressed on climate change, but the breadth of his governmental and diplomatic experience will be well suited to the negotiating process.



On the other hand, his deputy **Yasmine Fouad** ([@EGY\\_Environment](#)) brings a wealth of experience and has been appointed COP27 Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy. Fouad is a veteran of the Egyptian Environment Ministry and was promoted to Minister in 2018. Amongst other qualifications, she authored a chapter on land degradation in the 2017 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [special report on desertification](#). She also emerged as a key figure in Glasgow, where she co-chaired finance talks. Working closely alongside Yasmine is **Nevine Gamea**, Minister of Industry and Trade, and **Ambassador Mohamed Nasr**, Director of the Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Development Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lead Negotiator.



**Kevin Kariuki** ([@AfDB\\_Group](#)), Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank, is also set to play a key role in Sharm El-Sheikh. On a visit to Egypt in March 2022, Kariuki reiterated his organisation's commitment to supporting the Government of Egypt in its preparations. During the Summit, the Bank will be co-organising the COP27 Africa Pavilion and is due to launch the Alliance for Green Infrastructure alongside other financial institutions.



When **Alok Sharma** ([@AlokSharma\\_RDG](#)) was appointed COP26 President Designate in January 2020, he had little relevant experience, but has since established himself as a key player in the global arena on climate change. The skills and expertise he has acquired over the course of the last two years will be an invaluable resource for his counterparts in Egypt and the UAE (the host of COP28), who Sharma has committed to working with and supporting throughout their respective presidencies. Beyond this, Sharma will also be looking to secure the legacy of the Glasgow Climate Deal, having left Glasgow frustrated by last minute manoeuvres which saw the deal's commitments on coal watered down.



Turning to the US, **John Kerry** ([@JohnKerry](#)), President Biden's Special Envoy for Climate, has long been a key player at the COP summits. Kerry was instrumental in the landmark Paris Agreement at COP21 in 2015 and, in Glasgow, he negotiated the fragile US relationship with China to secure a pledge for increased climate cooperation over the next decade. Ahead of November, Kerry has taken steps to deepen the bilateral ties between the US and Egypt. He recently announced the launch of the US-Egypt joint working group on COP27, which will likely carve out a role for the US in determining the direction of the talks.



Representing the EU in Sharm El-Sheikh will be the European Commission's Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, **Frans Timmermans** ([@TimmermansEU](#)), who is charged with overseeing the bloc's green transformation. Top of the agenda for Timmermans in 2022 is delivery and implementation of existing global climate commitments.

## Sponsorship and engagement opportunities

The Government of Egypt has recently opened sponsorship applications, inviting interested parties to submit their Expression of Interest, along with their climate credentials. Sponsor organisations benefit from opportunities to host side events and exhibitions, as well as promote their own climate ambitions and projects. You can find more information [here](#).

In the UK, a scaled-down version of the COP Unit continues to work within the Cabinet Office, largely focusing on how to deliver on the commitments of the Glasgow Climate Pact and ensure that climate action remains at the forefront of domestic and international agendas. British-Egyptian business organisations are also collaborating with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and others to bring UK and Egyptian Ministers together with UK businesses ahead of COP27.

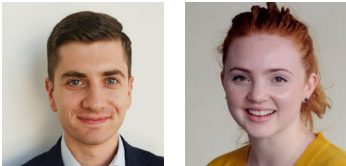
Governments will also have individual pavilions at COP27, where they will showcase their country's climate action and how this supports the Egyptian Presidency's goals. For example, the Canadian Government has recently opened a ['call for event proposals'](#) for Canadian organisations to demonstrate their own action. As the outgoing Presidency, it is likely the UK will have a pavilion, although this is yet to be confirmed.

There are also several externally organised events that will take place alongside the summit in Sharm El-Sheikh. The World Climate Summit, for example, has organised the ['Investment COP'](#) each year since 2018 and boasts a range of former speakers, including:

- Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
- Marco Morelli, Executive Chairman, AXA IM
- Matt Christensen, Global Head of Sustainable and Impact Investing, Allianz Global Investors

Organisations such as the We Mean Business Coalition will also be applying to host a pavilion in Sharm El-Sheikh to "bring an ambitious and coordinated business voice to COP27 on climate ambition, action, accountability and advocacy". There are opportunities to [sponsor](#) this pavilion, which saw the support of those including Facebook, Google and National Grid at COP26.

## Notable contacts



Recently appointed Special Adviser to Alok Sharma, **Eamonn Ives** [top left] has a strong background in sustainability policy for Conservative-leaning think-tanks, including the Centre for Policy Studies and Bright Blue. Working alongside him is **Natasha Adkins** [top right] ([@NatashaAdkinsUK](#)), the Policy Adviser to COP26 President, who has been a key aide to Alok Sharma throughout his ministerial career. In the Egyptian Presidency team, the team of advisers and supporting diplomats are based in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A key member of the team is **Mariam Allam** [middle] ([@\\_MariamAllam](#)), who is COP27 Presidency Adviser and has been Co-Chair of the UNFCCC's Adaptation Committee for the past two years, mainly focusing on mitigation and adaptation on the African continent.



**Matt Toombs** [left] is Director of Finance and Business for the COP26 Presidency team. He has recently been working alongside **Ambassador Wael Aboulmagd** [right] ([@Wael\\_Aboulmagd](#)), Special Representative of the COP27 President Designate, to set up an independent 'High-Level Expert Group' on 'Scaling up investment and finance to deliver on climate ambition and development goals'. The focus of their work will primarily be on the delivery of climate finance to achieve UNFCCC goals.



**Nigel Topping** [left] ([@topnigel](#)) is the UK's High-Level Climate Action Champion, appointed by Boris Johnson in January 2020. Nigel works alongside the Egyptian High-Level Climate Action Champion, **Mahmoud Mohieldin** [right] ([@UNenvoyMM](#)). Mahmoud is a veteran economist and UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. The role of the High-Level Champion is to strengthen collaboration and drive action from non-state actors and coordinate this work with governments and parties to the UNFCCC.

## What's next?

After COP27 has concluded, focus will shift to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who will be hosting COP28 in 2023. Preparations have already begun for COP28, as the Government is committed to demonstrating to Western countries that the Middle East is committed to meaningful climate action. It will also mark the conclusion of the first ever global stocktaking procedure, which aims to review global – rather than state-specific – progress towards the Paris goals. This process began during COP26 and is due to conclude in November 2023. As the UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Sultan Al Jaber ([@uaeclimateenvoy](#)) recently noted that, "it will set the roadmap for 2030 and beyond".

The conference will be held at the newly built Expo City Dubai and will run for 12 days from 6-17 November 2023.





## Timeline



## Annex I: Logistics

### How to register

COP attendees are required to be accredited by the UNFCCC. Participants are split into the following categories: representatives of Parties to the Convention and Observer States, members of the press and media, and representatives of observer organisations. You can find more details on how to register [here](#).

It is also possible to attend as part of an accredited delegation, for example with an NGO or charity.

### Visas

All foreign participants entering Egypt must have a valid passport and will be required to apply for an entry visa. Applications are expected to take around 30 days to process and must be done well in advance. You can find more details [here](#).

### Meeting rooms

For those who wish to book meeting rooms during the conference, electronic requests are accepted from 23 October to 4 November **only**. The completed Meeting Room Assignment form should be sent to [meetingrequest@unfccc.int](mailto:meetingrequest@unfccc.int) (this is yet to be published).

During the conference, there will be a Meeting Room Assignment (MRA) counter located within the venue. Meeting rooms can be requested free of charge for a maximum duration of 55 minutes by Parties and observer organisations for meetings between 08:00 and 18:00.

Meeting rooms cannot be booked for side events.

## Annex II: Useful links

- [COP27 website](#)
- [Information for COP27 participants](#)
- [Updates from UK Government](#)
- [International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\) summary of the Glasgow Climate Pact](#)



## Get in touch



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**August 2022**