

Powering Past Coal Alliance Statement: A Call to Action on Coal

At COP28 this December, the world will take stock on the progress that has been made towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. A historic agreement to 'phase down coal' was achieved at COP26 and COP27, but further action is needed to put humanity on a path consistent with limiting climate change to 1.5°C.

The science on coal phase-out is clear and has been reaffirmed by the Global Stocktake Synthesis Report and the International Energy Agency's updated Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap. As pillars of his Climate Action Acceleration Agenda, the United Nations Secretary-General has called for an immediate end to new coal power, and coal power phase-out by 2030 in developed countries and by 2040 globally. The world must now collectively respond to accelerate action on coal.

The transition from coal to clean power must be delivered in a way that expands access to safe, secure, and affordable energy, and safeguards the livelihoods of workers and communities. This is enshrined in the Powering Past Coal Alliance Declaration which commits members to support the rapid scale-up of clean power generation domestically and internationally, and to work together to build a robust framework of financial, technical, and social support. We encourage all others, across national and subnational governments, financial institutions, companies, and civil society to do the same.

Towards these goals at COP28, the Powering Past Coal Alliance calls upon all Parties to:

1. Commit to accelerating the phase-out of unabated coal power generation in a manner consistent with keeping a limit of 1.5°C temperature rise within reach and to ending new unabated coal power generation in the final Global Stocktake decision text.
2. Recognise in the Mitigation Work Programme science-based 1.5°C-aligned timelines for the phase-out of coal power emissions and commit to working together to accelerate the implementation of coal phase-out under the Mitigation Work Programme and the Paris Agreement, addressing barriers and challenges to 2030 in line with keeping 1.5°C in reach.

We further call on national and subnational governments, financial institutions, and companies to come to COP28 with ambitious new commitments in support of the United Arab Emirates Presidency's Action Agenda to accelerate the phase-out of emissions from coal power on timelines consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

These commitments may encompass any or all of the following elements:

1. Ending the new approvals or new construction of unabated coal power in grid-connected applications or off-grid applications,
2. Urgently accelerating the managed phase-out of existing unabated coal power, through rapid closure, retirement, or repurposing of these assets.
3. Setting ambitious dates for the complete phase-out of unabated coal power, underpinned by national policies that are aligned with science-based targets, ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term net-zero strategies as needed to keep 1.5°C in reach.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance stands ready to work with partners showing ambition on coal, and invites all national and subnational governments, financial institutions, companies, and organisations to join us by endorsing the Powering Past Coal Alliance Declaration.