

# COP28 host planned to use event for oil deals

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*High stakes: Sultan Al Jaber is the head of UAE state energy giant ADNOC.*

**Should delegates boycott the event? Today marks the beginning of COP28. But whilst conference-goers debate the best ways to stamp out fossil fuels, the meetings's host wants more oil, not less.**

## What's happening?

The COP28 climate meeting will get underway today in the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE). COP, or Conference of the Parties, is a yearly meeting attended by many world leaders. The aim is to find ways to lower the impacts of **climate change**.

But not everyone is happy about this year's event.

## Find out more

Sultan Al Jaber is the man who has been chosen to lead COP28. Al Jaber is the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company — a big **fossil fuel** company.

Fossil fuels such as oil produce lots of **greenhouse gases**, which cause **global warming**. Critics say he is the wrong person to lead such an important meeting to try to stop climate change.

Now, **leaked** papers suggest that the UAE planned to use the COP28 meeting to talk about fossil fuel deals with 15 countries.

**Delegates** from countries and organisations around the world will be at COP28. But some think they should refuse to go in **protest**.

Others say that it does not really matter who is in charge — meeting is still an important chance to talk about climate change with some of the world's most important people.

Yes! World leaders need to be made to take climate change seriously. Al Jaber is clearly the wrong man to lead COP28. Delegates should refuse to go until someone else is put in charge.

## Should delegates boycott the event?

### Some say

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### Others think

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No! The meeting is the most important climate event of the year. We need everyone who has something to say to go to the event.

### Some people say

*"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."*

**Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), German-born theoretical physicist**

*What do you think?*

### Six steps to discovery

#### 1. **Connect**

**How do you feel about this story?** - Do you have hopes for COP28?

#### 2. **Wonder**

**What questions do you have?** - For example: Is the UAE doing anything to lower its greenhouse gas emissions?

#### 3. **Investigate**

**What are the facts?** - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure about this story.

#### 4. **Construct**

**What is your point of view?** - Imagine that you are a delegate at COP28. Would you boycott the event?

#### 5. **Express**

**What do others believe?** - In a small group, host your own global climate summit. Each of you should choose one country to represent. Deliver one short speech each and then come up with a list of resolutions.

#### 6. **Reflect**

**What might happen next?** - Imagine that you are delivering a speech at COP28. It will be televised across the world. Write your speech.

### Glossary

**United Arab Emirates** - A country in the Middle East, and the location of Dubai.

**Climate change** - Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human action is a major cause of climate change.

**Fossil fuel** - Fossil fuels, including coal, crude oil and natural gas, are made from decomposing plants and other organisms. The non-renewable fuels are burned for energy, emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

**Greenhouse gases** - Greenhouse gases, which increase the atmosphere's capacity to hold heat, are vital to life on Earth: without them the planet would be freezing. But human activity is disturbing the delicate balance that created the conditions for life as we know it. Carbon dioxide is responsible for 60% of the manmade greenhouse effect, but we also produce smaller quantities of methane, ozone and nitrous oxide, which are even more damaging.

**Global warming** - The Earth is getting hotter due to climate change.

**Leaked** - Shown to people without permission.

**Delegates** - People who represent groups or countries at conferences.

**Protest** - Around 500,000 people attended the Women's March on Washington on January 21st. Similar marches took place in cities around the world; it is thought that around 5m people took part.