GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE CENTRE

Annual Meeting

*Abu Dhabi, UAE*

*13 JAN 2025*

# Annual Meeting *White Paper*

*Climate meets* capital.

GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE CENTRE

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# *A Word from our CEO*


## *Dear Partners & Colleagues,*

The inaugural Annual Meeting of the Global Climate Finance Center (GCFC) was a pivotal moment in our mission to embed climate finance into the global financial system. We confronted barriers such as public-private sector fragmentation, complex investment landscapes in emerging markets, and slow institutional processes, charting a bold course forward.

At GCFC, our mission is to make climate finance **Available, Accessible, and Affordable,** establishing it as a mainstream investment strategy. This is not just a moral imperative - it is the greatest investment opportunity of our time. With an estimated $2.4 trillion required annually in emerging markets alone, climate finance is central to the future of global capital allocation.

Our discussions at the meeting reinforced the UAE's position as a global hub for climate finance. The UAE, with its unique combination of vision, leadership, and resources, is proving that climate and capital are not just compatible - they are complementary. From advancing best-in-class policy frameworks to scaling climate tech innovation across the Global South, GCFC is driving systemic change to ensure ambition translates into measurable outcomes.

We are already seeing results: initiatives like the ALTERRA Fund, the world's largest private climate investment fund, are delivering impact, and ADGM's rapid growth underscores the UAE's readiness to lead this transformation. Through strengthened collaboration between MDBs, DFIs, private investors, and policymakers, GCFC is creating the connections and tools needed to mainstream climate finance as the defining investment of this century.

The task ahead is monumental, but so is the opportunity. Together with our board, knowledge partners, and the broader ecosystem, we can reshape global finance. Their expertise and commitment are fundamental to advancing our work, and I extend my deepest gratitude to them. By embedding climate finance into every investment decision, we are not only addressing the climate crisis but building a foundation for sustainable prosperity.

**Sincerely,**
**Mercedes Vela Monserrate**
**CEO, Global Climate Finance Centre**


# Executive Summary

Marking one year after its inception at COP28, the inaugural GCFC Annual Meeting set the tone for the goals and objectives for 2025. It reinforced Abu Dhabi's role as the "capital of capital" where "**climate meets capital**" and demonstrated the UAE's commitment to addressing the urgent financial needs of the global economic transition.

The event welcomed over **300 participants** from a wide array of stakeholders, such as governments, multilateral financial institutions, regulatory bodies, non-governmental organisations, and private companies leading sustainability efforts.

This high-profile attendance underscored the urgency of addressing the financing gaps in global climate action and set the stage to position UAE as the hub to deploy at scale transformational capital.

Following the GCFC main pillars: **Available, Accessible, and Affordable,** the meetings facilitated discussions among participants on investment opportunities in the economic transition toward carbon neutrality, with a focus on policy frameworks, transaction structures, and innovative financing mechanisms.

**The main topics discussed:**

- **Transition Finance:** Exploring innovative financing solutions to unlock the capital required to scale and accelerate the adoption of transition business models, aligning financial flows with real-world implementation to achieve critical climate goals.

- **The Legacy of COP28:** Building on the collaborative efforts initiated at COP28 to drive lasting impact by mobilizing capital and establishing accountability mechanisms, including climate finance initiatives such as the Global Climate Finance Framework (GCFF[1]) and the Africa Green Investment Initiative (AGII[2]).

- **Scaling Climate Solutions:** Highlighted transformative technologies and strategic partnerships that are accelerating decarbonization across heavy industries.

- **Doing Transformation Business in the UAE:** Highlighting the UAE's unique value proposition for transition-focused enterprises, showcasing how the country fosters innovation, facilitates access to capital, and creates a business-friendly regulatory environment to drive sustainable growth - particularly in mobilizing capital deployment in EMDCs.

1. https://www.cop28.com/en/climate_finance_framework
2. https://www.cop28.com/en/african-green-investment

# *Key Takeaways*

THEME

## *Climate meets* capital.

KEY PILLARS

*Available, Accessible, Affordable (AAA)*

PARTICIPANTS

**300+**

SPEAKERS

**25+**

PANELS & DISCUSSIONS

**8+**

MILESTONE

The meeting marked one year since COP28 and set the agenda for 2025, reinforcing UAE's role as a hub where "climate meets capital."

Over 300 stakeholders participated, emphasizing global collaboration. The centre is now fully equipped, capitalized, and ready to deliver on its ambitious agenda.

## TAKEAWAYS

- UAE banks committed **$272 billion**, with significant deployment led by FAB.
- ALTÉRRA, a $30 billion private climate investment fund, **catalyzing $6.5 billion in investments globally.**
- Masdar expanding renewable energy capacity to **over 32 GW.**
- **Innovative Solutions:** Introduction of tools like the Climate Finance Reform Compass to track progress and de-risk investments.
- **UAE's Competitive Edge:** Strategic location, regulatory environment, and a thriving innovation ecosystem position the UAE as a testbed for climate solutions.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Challenges**: Project pipeline readiness, risk distribution, and enabling policy landscapes.
- **Opportunities**: Leveraging blended finance, concessionality, and cross-sector collaboration to unlock capital.

## CALL TO ACTION

The GCFC is uniquely positioned to unite stakeholders and drive impactful solutions, making the UAE a pivotal hub for climate finance and global economic transition.

GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE CENTRE

Annual Meeting
Abu Dhabi, UAE
13 JAN 2025

*Availability*

# Making climate finance scalable

*Availability*

# Making climate finance scalable

**H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan** (President & CEO, UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators and GCFC Board Member) set the stage with a powerful reminder in her Opening Remarks: "No single sector, country, or institution can address the scale of the climate crisis alone. Breaking down silos and working across borders is the only way forward". **The message is clear: partnership is non-negotiable for the future of climate finance**. H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan laid out two pillars that partnership stands on: **accountability** to build trust and **collaboration** to bring diverse stakeholders together.

At the Annual Meeting, discussions were not just lofty numbers that reiterate the scale of the climate challenge that has already been made clear. It focused on the specifics: how many green industrial projects have reached Final Investment Decision (FID)? How many gigawatts of clean energy have been produced as a result of climate finance? How much of the 272bn USD commitment made at COP28 by the UAE Banking sector has been deployed?

> *"No single sector, country, or institution can address the scale of the climate crisis alone. Breaking down silos and working across borders is the only way forward.*
>
> **H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan**
> President & CEO, UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators & GCFC Board Member

# From Vision to Action: COP28's Legacy

With the meeting feeling almost like post-COP28 stocktake, where many of the participants sitting at those panels are eager to collaborate to build initiatives off the energy that stemmed out of COP28 and demonstrate **incremental progress**, present milestones, and outline the path ahead to achieve our common climate goals.

**H.E. Abdulla Ahmed Balalaa,** Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy & Sustainability, UAE, opened his Keynote Address by reminding us the clear mission of the GCFC: "to mobilize the capital needed for climate action and to position the UAE as a global leader in climate finance". As the GCFC is founded on the ambitious goals set during COP28, the question now is: what tangible progress has been made?

> *The choices we make today will determine the world we leave behind for future generations.*
>
> **H.E. Abdulla Ahmed Balalaa**
>
> Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy & Sustainability

## Some of the initiatives discussed during the Annual Meeting are the following:

**Global Climate Finance Framework (GCFF)[1]:** At COP28, 15 global leaders representing 40% of the world's GDP united with a shared mission: to capitalize on the unprecedented economic opportunities presented by the transition to carbon neutrality, foster shared prosperity, and secure a prominent role for the private sector in international climate finance discussions. These efforts focused on advancing flagship initiatives such as the Paris Pact for People and Planet (4P), the Bridgetown Initiative, the Accra Marrakesh Agenda, the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, and the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate and Call to Action.

This vision was shaped by the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance (IHLEG), which convened 30 renowned economists to produce their second report, launched at COP28. Commissioned by the UAE COP28 Presidency and Egypt COP27 Presidency, the report presented a unified vision for a comprehensive "**A climate finance framework.**"

A standout moment from the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the **Climate Finance Reform Compass,** developed by the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) and recognised as the official tracking mechanism of the Framework. Building on IHLEG's **"State of Delivery"** analysis, this action-oriented tool focuses on key principles of the Framework as priority areas for reform. It offers policymakers and financial institutions a clear roadmap to measure progress and channel funding where it is most needed.

Beyond COP28, signatories of the Global Climate Finance Framework (GCFF) have taken a leading role in aligning climate finance discussions across global forums, including COP29, G7, G20, and BRICS. Their efforts ensure commitments are tracked, reported, and delivered. Looking ahead to COP30 under the Brazilian Presidency, the Framework will continue to be central to advancing climate finance reform and driving tangible progress[2].

**Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA)[3]:** Launched at COP28 with philanthropic funding, the ITA aims to fast-track green industrial projects to reach Final Investment Decision (FID) by working closely with project developers. To date, 150 projects have achieved FID with ITA's support, and 700 new projects were announced last year. Progress can be tracked through the Mission Possible Partnership.



1. https://www.cop28.com/en/climate_finance_framework
2. https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2024/11/27/27-11-2024-UAE-brazil
3. https://ita.missionpossiblepartnership.org/


Currently operating in the UAE and Brazil, ITA is set to expand its work to Bahrain and Egypt to tackle a critical challenge: the lack of contracted long-term off-take demand. Simply put, this refers to the hesitation of financial institutions to fund industrial-scale projects that have yet to prove their outputs are attractive to the market.

ITA's solution? Driving policy changes, aggregating demand, and orchestrating upstream value chains to ensure projects receive the green light for development and operation.

**Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC)**: a global industry effort dedicated to speeding up climate action and achieving high-scale impact across the oil and gas sector. Launched at COP28, the OGDC now includes 55 companies from 104 countries, representing nearly 45% of global oil and gas production. Two-thirds of OGDC members are National Oil Companies (NOCs), the largest number of NOCs to commit to a decarbonization initiative. All signatory companies to the Charter have agreed to the following aims:

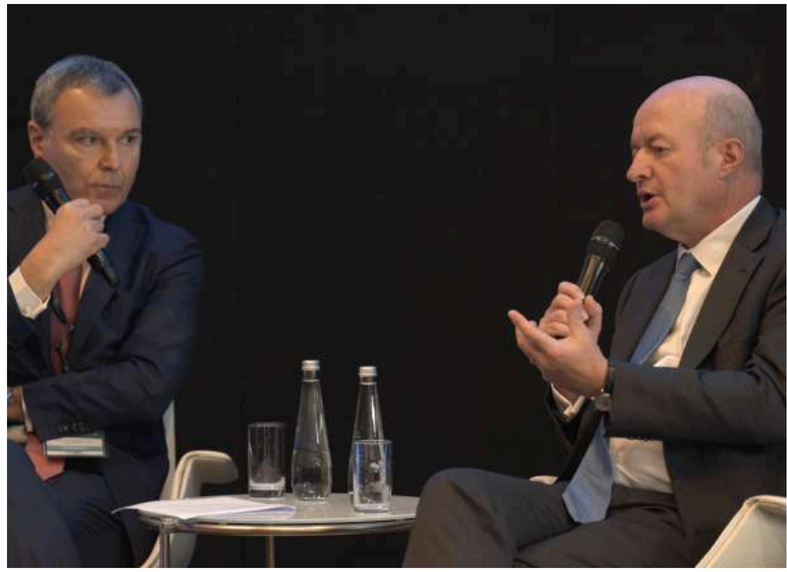
- Net-zero operations by or before 2050;
- Near-zero upstream methane emissions by 2030;
- Zero routine flaring by 2030;
- Set and share 2030 Scope 1 & 2 emissions ambition

The OGDC Secretariat is made up of a dedicated team within the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI). Three rotating CEO champions – currently the CEOs of ADNOC, Aramco and TotalEnergies – lead the initiative and are supported by a Signatories Committee comprised of senior representatives from select signatory companies. OGDC aims to accelerate knowledge sharing and foster collaboration among peer and industry partners to achieve collective impact at scale. It is focused on delivering notable climate action across all continents, according to ADNOC Group Chief Sustainability & ESG Officer, Ibrahim Al Zu'bi: **"solutions for the industry, led by the industry".**

# UAE's Progress in Achieving Commitments & Goals

Zooming in on the UAE, huge strides have been taken by banks, fund managers, and industry players, under the leadership of the country, to turn its ambitious goals and commitments into tangible actions.

**Martin Tricaud, Group Head of Investment Banking at First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB),** shared how FAB takes charge in pushing forward the climate finance agenda in the region. As the first GCC-based bank to issue green bonds back in 2017 and a member of the Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) since 2021, FAB is setting an example in sustainability-related disclosures, reporting ~90% of its direct and financed emissions. At COP28, the UAE's banking sector committed to 1tr AED (272bn USD) for sustainable finance; FAB took on 50% of that (500bn AED, or 136bn USD). Today, FAB is well ahead of schedule, having financed 45bn USD (41% of its commitment) in sustainable projects and renewable energy in the UAE and the broader region.

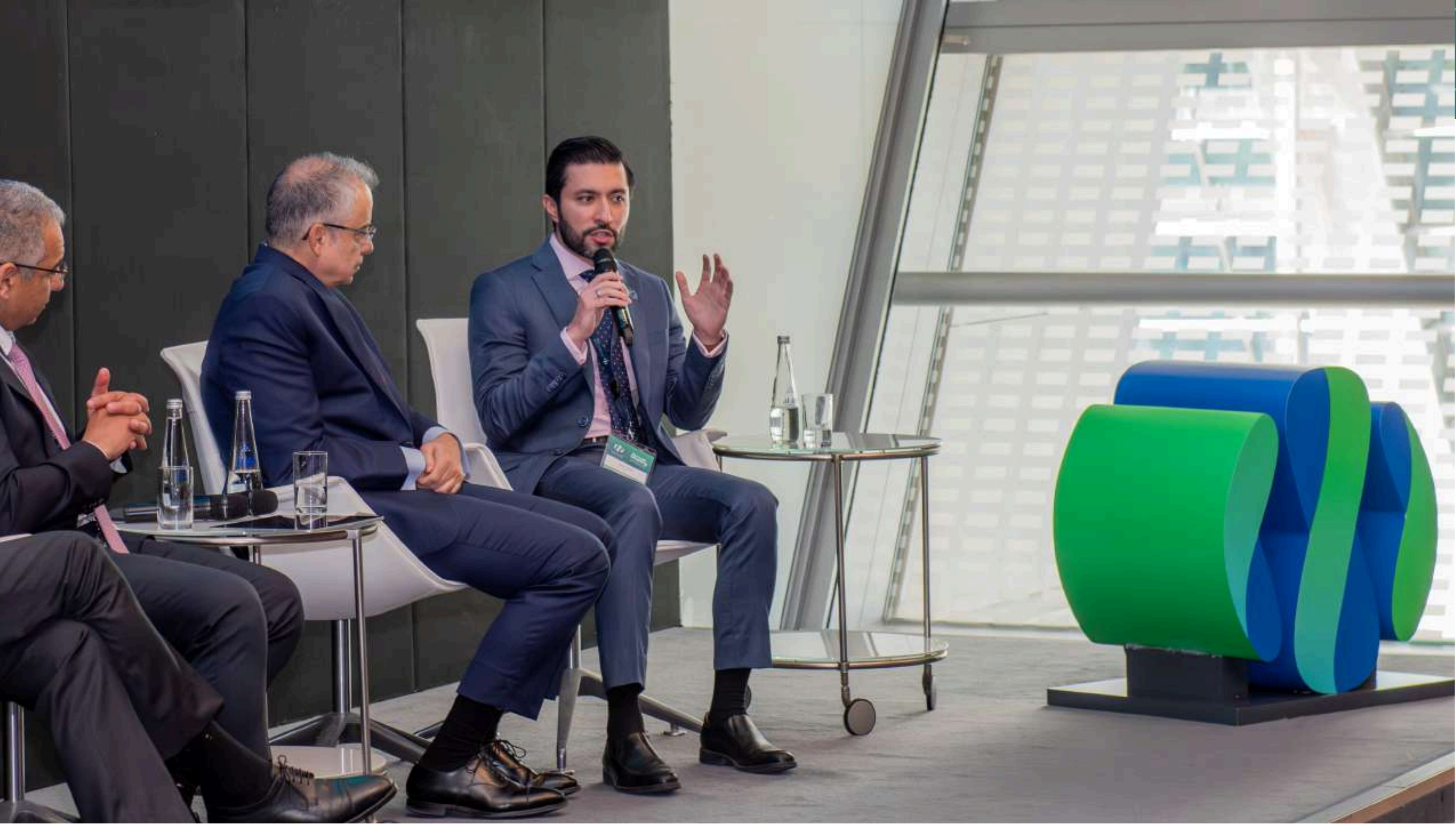


> *It's no exaggeration to say that Abu Dhabi is ground zero for the new climate economy.*
>
> **Majid Al Suwaidi**
>
> CEO of Alterra

Conceptualised by the UAE COP28 presidency, launched through the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and led by **H.E. Majid Al Suwaidi** under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, ALTÉRRA is the world's largest private climate investment fund, with a commitment of 30bn USD and a goal to mobilize 250bn USD by 2030.

ALTÉRRA has, thus far, committed 6.5 billion USD to seven strategies across its partners BlackRock, TPG and Brookfield. This capital is already mobilizing many multiples of the initial investment and delivering over **40 Gigawatts of clean energy** across 5 continents. Additionally, ALTÉRRA has helped create two wholly new Emerging Market climate strategies with Brookfield and TPG and seeding a third with BlackRock, using innovative capped return models to draw investors to underserved markets and help unlock climate finance at scale into developing countries.

This was emphasised by **Mohamed Al Marzooqi, UAE Chief Executive Officer of HSBC:** "MDBs and initiatives like ALTÉRRA are essential to bridging the risk gaps in developing markets." This not only exemplifies innovation in climate finance but reaffirms ALTÉRRA's role as a leader in mobilizing climate-focused investments.



**Mazin Khan, Chief Financial Officer at Masdar,** highlighted how the UAE's renewable energy champion goes beyond aspirations to actively shape the climate finance dialog. Masdar builds, owns, and operates utility-scale solar, wind, and energy storage projects across more than 40 countries, boasting a portfolio capacity of over 32 gigawatts - a remarkable 3.2x growth compared to just two years ago.

Recent milestones include deploying **over $6 billion into projects**, resulting in **11 gigawatts of renewable energy** capacity from scratch.

Additionally, Masdar issued over **$1 billion in green bonds,** which were nearly five times oversubscribed, underscoring the market's strong appetite for innovative and impactful financing solutions.

Masdar has demonstrated that unlocking climate solutions requires more than one approach: success lies in curating a pipeline of viable projects, mobilizing capital through innovative mechanisms, and collaborating with key players such as commercial banks, development finance institutions (DFIs), and other stakeholders.

*Accessibility*

# Making Climate Finance about Green Growth

*Accessibility*

# Making Climate Finance about Green Growth

The GCFC has been instrumental in bringing diverse stakeholders together to seize opportunities in the transition to a sustainable economy. **Positioned as a global hub for climate finance, the UAE is where partnerships take shape and progress is realised.** This meeting highlighted how stakeholders have collaborated to achieve climate finance goals- and how these efforts are rooted right here in the UAE.

## Different Stakeholders at the table

As **Kate Hampton**, Chief Executive Officer of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, put it: "we often have conversations about climate finance as if it is about financial engineering and it is all about smart guys sitting in a room sending money around the world".

Indeed, the reality is that climate finance is a melting pot of diverse voices - stakeholders from different sectors and countries, all coming together to tackle a shared global challenge.

As highlighted by **Mohamed Al Marzooqi**, UAE Chief Executive Officer of HSBC : "There's no shortage of capital in the UAE; every green project here is oversubscribed."
The UAE embraced a "whole-of-government perspective" in COP28. It ensured that it was not only the environment ministers who had seats at the table. It brought in finance, energy, agriculture, and health ministries, among others– not just from the UAE but from other nations, too. This created a holistic representation at the discussion tables and meeting rooms of COP28.

Taking a step back, including diverse countries in the conversation is equally important as bringing in different sectors. **The Country Platforms**, one of the principles of the Global Climate Finance Framework, **is a country-owned process that drives finance of different sorts into a country-led investment plan**. Effectively, what this does is for countries to start taking ownership of their transition and say: "This is what we want financing for." The diverse voices at the table, coupled with mechanisms for stakeholders to be held accountable, circles back to the need to connect stakeholders to help foster climate finance partnerships.

> *"There's no shortage of capital in the UAE; every green project here is oversubscribed.*
>
> **Mohamed Al Marzooqi**
> UAE Chief Executive Officer of HSBC

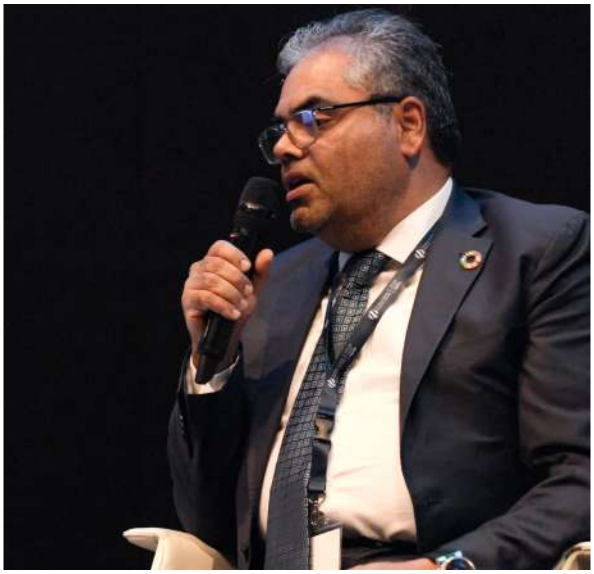
# UAE as a Global Climate Finance Hub

Today, the UAE is recognised as one of the **world's leading hubs for climate and transition finance**. The key ingredients? Geography, resource availability and the regulatory environment of the UAE.

**Martin Tricaud** explained why the UAE's geographical location positions it perfectly as the place where climate meets capital. Located at the crossroads of the Indian ocean - the new centre of gravity in the global economy - the UAE is strategically surrounded by two massive markets: 1.4 billion people to the East (India) and 1.4 billion people to the West (Sub-Saharan Africa).

This unique position not only opens up immense market opportunities but also attracts rich human capital, fostering innovation and driving growth right here in the UAE.

**Rishi Kapoor**, Chief Investment Officer of Investcorp, added onto the financial and market layer: "The ability to deploy capital at scale into innovation and let it accelerate is not a new phenomenon" but the true driver is that it is "the perfect test market for many of these companies." With the UAE's relatively high GDP per capita, purchasing power, and discretionary spending power, this is the perfect place for innovators to test their products to make sure that it is relevant to a local problem. At the same time, the UAE offers innovators the perfect sandbox to test the commercial viability of their products, scale up, and eventually bring price points down. **The importance of this is obvious: affordability of products is critical to scale climate solutions in the Global South, where the need for these innovations is greatest, and they must come at the right price.**



> *"The ability to deploy capital at scale into innovation and let it accelerate is not a new phenomenon.*
>
> **Rishi Kapoor**
> Chief Investment Officer, Investcorp

# Challenges & Opportunities for Collaboration

The collaborative efforts surrounding climate finance come with both immense opportunities and critical challenges that must be addressed to unlock its full potential.

**Opportunities:** Rachel Kyte**,** UK Special Representative for Climate, highlights 4 opportunities to be undertaken in mobilizing capital into the climate space.

- **Defragmentation:** There are amounts of capital that are not "working that hard." By merging some things and moving things under each other to create larger pools of capital, we can collectively "lean" into these global challenges with greater impact.
- **Understanding Risk:** With the Global Emerging Markets Risk Database (GEMs) released by the IFC, it is time for development finance and private finance players to learn about the real returns and real risks over many years of investing. Not the "perceived risks, but the real risks."
- **Leveraging Concessionality:** There is great room for partnerships between development finance players, sovereigns, and wealth funds to use concessionality to unlock commercial investments.
- **First-Loss Capital:** For institutional investors and sovereign wealth, "high-risk projects" may need a safety net. First-loss capital can absorb risks to give commercial investors the confidence to step in. This is not about subsidizing projects with 9% returns to make them look 16%, but it is to finance these high-return, 16% projects as a buffer for sovereign wealth and institutional capital to flow in.

**Challenges:** Rodrigo Salvado, Director General for Operational Partnerships at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), when discussing the climate finance gap, emphasized challenges surrounding project pipelines, risk environments, and policy landscapes.

- **Project Preparation Pipeline:** Too often, projects are prepared in silos, leading to conflicts in timeline or logistics which are only discovered when stakeholders try to sell their projects. Early collaboration, with participation from the private sector, is crucial for aligning efforts in building a healthy pipeline of bankable projects.
- **Risk Distribution**: There is a need for a more efficient way of risk-sharing across stakeholders, including philanthropy capital, impact investors, NDBs, insurance, etc.
- **Policy-Enabling Environment:** Policy-based lending can play a big role in incentivizing institutional investment, as brought up earlier. Understanding how collaboration could be struck between NDBs, UN agencies, and governments would be critical in unlocking capital.

# Tangible Outcomes in the field of water solutions

In one of the more fast-paced sections of the meeting, and in the context of the UAE co-organising the UN Water Conference in 2026, four innovative projects and two initiatives were showcased to the audience, demonstrating the critical role of collaboration in addressing global challenges like water scarcity and how the right mix of innovation, policy, and financing can lead to groundbreaking solutions.

**Ayesha Al Ateeqi** leading the Mohammed Bin Zayed Water Initiative states : "Tackling water scarcity will require collective action from government leaders, private sector innovators, and community advocates working together to create a more water-secure future," emphasizing the need for collaboration between governments, private sector actors, and communities to address water scarcity effectively.

**Shaima Gargash**, Director of Energy and Sustainability Affairs at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs directly points to the necessity of multi-sectoral collaboration to make tangible progress on water-related challenges, saying : "We are here to learn and to co-create solutions that maximize synergies, not duplicate efforts."

Finally, **Rahma Alshamsi,** Director of Portfolio & Ventures at BEEAH, highlights the feasibility of achieving sustainable outcomes and the potential of successful projects to breed and inspire similar action by private and or public entities when he says : "We are a commercial entity and we are pursuing partnerships in sustainability, without it affecting business interests. So that means, the rest of us can do it too. We are working closely with a few of the people here today to see how we can do more, and how we can bring more public-private collaborations forward."

> *"Tackling water scarcity will require collective action from government leaders, private sector innovators, and community advocates working together to create a more water-secure future.*
>
> **Ayesha Al Ateeqi**
> Executive Director, Mohammed Bin Zayed Water Initiative

*Affordability*

# Making Climate Finance Accessible for All

The GCFC views affordability as a key pillar in supporting the Vision for Climate Finance. Through discussions on policy frameworks, cutting-edge regulations, and the development of human capital, the centre plays a vital role in helping countries meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

# ADGM Regulatory Milestones

**Emmanuel Givanakis**, Chief Executive Officer of ADGM Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), spotlighted the key milestones the ADGM has achieved over the years to follow its agenda of creating an ecosystem to drive sustainable finance to the future.

- **Sustainable Finance Working Group:** Regulators across the UAE–the Central Bank, the Emirates Securities & Commodities Authority (ESCA), Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), and Dubai Financial Market (DFM), among others–joined forces to enhance how climate-related financial risks are managed, improve sustainability-related disclosures, and standardise the language of sustainability across the UAE.
- **Carbon Markets Framework:** Since its launch in 2022, the framework has supported both cap-and-trade and voluntary carbon markets, creating an environment for robust carbon trading.
- **ESG Disclosure Framework:** In 2023, the framework was rolled out, along with several other legislations; the full ESG disclosure framework has been operating and implemented, and statistics is being collected to ensure accountability and guide improvements.
- **Framework for Transition Finance:** From green funds to sustainability-linked bonds and Sukuks, this framework paved the way for innovative products to finance climate solutions in the region.
- **Greenwashing Guidelines:** As greenwashing remains a big concern globally in climate finance, where players use ambiguous language in marketing to promote these so-called "green products", ADGM focuses on disclosures to ensure that the ecosystem is built on trust and transparency.

# Ingredients to the UAE Knowledge Ecosystem

**Sonia Weymuller**, Co-Founder of VentureSouq, stresses the importance of activating the local knowledge and innovative ecosystem to accurately address the relevant problems: "We need to focus on the founders who are based in the local markets [...] who are building products for their local ecosystem". The UAE has been doing just that over the past 10-15 years.

> *We need to focus on the founders [...] who are building products for their local ecosystem.*
>
> **Sonia Weymuller**
> Co-Founder, VentureSouq

**Medea Nocentini**, Senior Partner at Global Ventures, guided us through the ingredients that were key to the UAE's success.

1. **Localising Innovators:** Similar to what Weymuller alluded to, the UAE is not just a pitstop for innovators. Founders have not only been here for a long time but are more so based out of here, with patents and initiatives that are for the local markets and local problems.
2. **Unique Regulatory Framework:** The regulations here have been set up and advancing more rapidly than anywhere else. These regulations are not "copies" of what is already being done elsewhere. These are our own regulations, for our region.
3. **Universities, Patents, and Research Labs:** We are seeing support for collaboration across academia and industry to bridge the gap between research and real-world impact.

# The UAE's Model: An Exportable Blueprint

The UAE's success in building a robust regulatory and financial ecosystem was no accident. It is the result of careful planning that began in the early 2000s. **John Podgore**, Partner at ADG Legal, took us on a journey through time to show **how the UAE paved its path, and how this model can be exported to other emerging markets around the world.**

The foundation of this environment lies in the mega projects for electricity production and water desalination that emerged in the early 2000s.

At that time, the UAE looked to both Western and Eastern global financial markets, as well as international developers, to bring these projects to fruition. This set the stage for creating a welcoming environment for investors and developers to build these large-scale projects.

Fast forward to today, and this exportable model has expanded to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the rest of the GCC, and gradually into the broader MENA region and Sub-Saharan Africa. The UAE and the GCC now serve as guides for emerging economies, helping them "take the best practices model developed in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and the GCC and lend them a hand to follow the path we've taken."

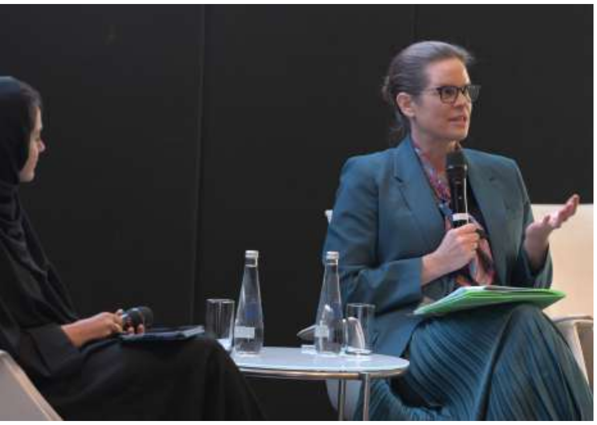
> *"The UAE and the GCC now serve as guides for emerging economies, helping them take the best practices model developed in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and the GCC...*
>
> **John Podgore**
> Partner, ADG Legal

# Lesson Learned for Global Regulators: Sequence & Order

In supporting countries with coming forward with ambitious NDCs and speeding up transition through regulatory frameworks, technical support, and finance flows, "We sometimes got things in the wrong order and put emphasis on the wrong piece." **Rachel Kyte** takes on a forward-looking perspective to make sense of the work that still needs to be done. What makes transition difficult for countries is the inability to imagine this change in an orderly fashion. When this roadmap is blurry for the country, it is difficult to manage the domestic politics around the incumbents and the old way of doing things, as "they will put up resistance to any change."

Then, what is the solution? The solution is sequence and order. There should be:

1. **Country-by-country diagnosis** to understand the obstacles, identify an ambition for change, and figure out the domestic and political economy, which is ignored too many times.
2. **Ordered planning of key factors** to equip the environment with relevant regulatory frameworks, technical support, and financing to be injected into a robust pipeline of projects across different parts of the reform process.
3. **Consideration of other issues** to be prepared for issues like trade, industrial revolution, and technological impact as we go down the road of progression.
4. **Most importantly, collaboration** is very much present in this process. As Kyte said, "We need to be able to show that the international community, private sector, public sector, and MDBs are lined up and coordinated behind those countries whose ambition is in the NDCs."



> *"Every dollar we spend sends a signal to the market, and collectively, these signals can drive transformative change.*
>
> **Kate Hampton**
> CEO of CIFF

# *Recommendations* & Call for Action

The inaugural meeting of the Global Climate Finance Center (GCFC) delivered a critical message: climate finance must be **available, affordable, and accessible** for us to turn ambitious goals into tangible results.

The meeting united stakeholders across sectors and geographies in Abu Dhabi, where climate meets capital, to spotlight progress made since COP28, discuss ways to both direct capital and accelerate the development of climate solutions, and emphasize the regulatory environment of the UAE to drive sustainable growth.

Drawing on key insights and deliberations, this chapter consolidates the principal recommendations, offering a strategic roadmap to enhance the efficacy of climate finance initiatives globally.

# Key Recommendations

1 **Scaling Climate Finance**

To address the substantial funding gaps required to achieve global climate goals, the following measures are prioritized:

- **Defragment capital pools:** Create larger pools of capital for each dollar to create a greater, more efficient, impact.
- **Mobilize diverse capital sources:** Encourage partnerships between development finance players, sovereigns, and institutional investors to attract commercial investments into the climate finance space.
- **Innovate climate finance solutions:** Explore innovative climate finance solutions to tap into the demonstrated appetite for such products.
- **De-risk investments:** Understand the real, rather than perceived, risks of investment opportunities and leverage first-loss capital, blended finance, and efficient risk-sharing across stakeholders to provide institutional investors with the confidence to step into high-return climate projects.

> *Climate finance is the biggest investment opportunity of our time, and we need to ensure that we establish climate finance as a mainstream investment strategy.*
>
> **Mercedes Vela Monserrate**
> CEO of GCFC

2 **Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships**

Recognizing the transformative potential of multi-stakeholder collaboration, the following actions are recommended:

- **Policy alignment and incentives:** Foster cooperation between governments, regulators, and private sector actors to establish policy frameworks that incentivize investment in green infrastructure and clean technologies.
- P**latform-based collaboration:** Utilize the GCFC to convene diverse stakeholders, identify systemic barriers, and co-create solutions to accelerate climate finance deployment.

3 **Advancing Technological Innovation and Accelerate Project Development**

Technological innovation is identified as a cornerstone of the global climate transition. To this end, the following strategies are proposed:

- Investment in breakthrough technologies: Prioritize funding for renewable energy, carbon capture and storage (CCS), water, circularity, sustainable agriculture, and other transformative technologies.
- Testbed for innovation: Leverage the UAE's advanced infrastructure and strategic location to serve as a testing ground for scalable climate solutions.
- Cross-sectoral integration: Enhance collaboration between industries, academia, and financial institutions to support research, development, and deployment of innovative climate technologies.

4 **Enhancing Policy and Regulatory Frameworks**

To create an enabling environment for climate finance, the following recommendations are made:

- Adoption of green finance mechanisms: Implement tools such as carbon pricing, sustainability-linked bonds, and green taxonomies to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Executive training and knowledge sharing: Promote global knowledge exchange to replicate successful regulatory models and foster innovation across jurisdictions.

5 **Expanding Regional and Global Influence**

The UAE's leadership role in climate finance is emphasized through the following initiatives:

- Strengthening regional connectivity: Position the UAE as a hub for climate finance by enhancing its role as a bridge between developed and developing economies.
- Leveraging multilateral partnerships: Collaborate with multilateral development banks (MDBs) to address currency and geopolitical risks, particularly in underserved regions such as Central Asia and Africa.
- Showcasing global leadership: Use platforms such as COP28 and the GCFC to demonstrate progress and facilitate international cooperation on climate finance.

*“Through initiatives like the GCFC, the UAE is cementing its role as a global hub for climate finance.*

**Mohamed Abdelbary**

Group CEO, ADIB

GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE CENTRE

# Annual Meeting

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