

## **Climate Summit fails to adequately respond to gravity of climate crisis**

From November 30 to December 13, 2023, representatives from 200 nations participated in COP (Conference of the Parties) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. These are the nations that signed onto the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. They meet almost every year to assess progress toward the Convention's goals.

This year's meeting, the 28th such gathering, came on the heels of a year that may well turn out to be the hottest in the last 125,000 years. However, even in a year marked by numerous climate disasters, COP28 failed to respond in a manner commensurate with the gravity of the crisis.

In a recent article published on [the TomDispatch website](#), University of Michigan professor Juan Cole examines some of the factors that militated against a stronger response. Foremost among these is the undue influence of the fossil fuel industry. The conference was held in a major oil-producing country and chaired by the CEO of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company. Conference participants included at least 1,300 fossil fuel company lobbyists.

Professor Cole notes that every day the major oil companies "resist investing their obscene profits in truly innovative green energy technology is a day they come closer to future financial ruin. In the meantime, they are, of course, wreaking historically unprecedented harm on the planet."