



**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of the Parties 28th Meeting, 30th November – 13th December 2023
Dubai**

Report and Summary for the Liquid Gas Industry

COP28 Overview and Background:

The 28th annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held from 30th November to 13th December 2023 in Dubai, just after the release of the first Global Stocktake, the main mechanism through which progress under the Paris Agreement was assessed. This was the first time a UNFCCC negotiation was held in United Arab Emirates (UAE). It was attended by more than 150 heads of state and a record breaking 85,000 delegates including lobbyists, activists, journalists, and ministers, from 190 countries. Controversially an estimated 2,500 fossil fuel representatives and lobbyists also attended the negotiations. This unprecedented level of engagement by organisations such as the World Liquid Gas Association (WLGA) shows that the COP process is attracting the attention of other stakeholders in the energy sector.

The choice of Dubai as a venue was widely criticised in the run up to the event and in particular the choice of Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as President of the negotiations. Mr Al Jaber is the Minister of industry and advanced technology of UAE, as well as head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and chairman of Masdar. However, the venue itself, though vast, turned out to be well suited to this kind of large gathering and the basics of the event were well managed. COP veterans understand that there's a correlation between the organisation of the event and the outcome.

COP28 Outcomes: The UAE Consensus

The meetings were finally gavelled to a close on the morning of 13th December after a long night of sometimes heated negotiations. Dubbed "The UAE Consensus" the agreement reached by negotiators covers the full scope of climate challenges. Two main issues stood out as potentially important for the Liquid Gas industry.

Acceptable transitional fuels

The most contentious part of the negotiation centred around how to refer to fossil fuels. The decision to use the terminology "transition away from fossil fuels" was the first time this type of language appeared in a COP's formal outcome since UN climate negotiations began 30 years ago. This phraseology which many are hailing as "the end of fossil fuels" could have impacts in respective national energy policies in the future. However, the negotiated text also references "acceptable transitional fuels". These are left undefined but almost certainly include Liquid Gas, especially LPG. While seen as a loophole by some, the language has reassured developing and transitioning countries reliant on fossil fuels that they will be allowed to follow paths to net zero that suit their national realities. Environmental activists are already challenging the idea that any fossil fuel could be



designated a transitional fuel. However, this language gives the Liquid Gas industry more space to solidify its position as a fuel of choice for domestic applications in developing countries (AKA: The Global South) and to develop and deploy more renewable forms of Liquid Gas for more mature markets (AKA: The Global North).

Clean cooking

Another positive development for the Liquid Gas industry is that COP28 placed clean cooking at the forefront of discussions around climate change, environmental sustainability, carbon finance, investment, gender equality, food systems, and sustainable cities. This is the first time the global community acknowledged the importance of clean cooking in so many different and crucial areas of development and environmental impact. This issue was driven by the leaders of organisations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The head of the AfDB, Akinwumi Adesina, said it would dedicate 20% of annual funding for energy programmes to clean cooking. The AfDB, IEA, and CCA (Clean Cooking Alliance) announced they were forming the Africa Clean Cooking Consortium during COP28, and they highlighted investment needs to reach \$4 billion annually to achieve universal access to clean cooking in sub-Saharan Africa. This is all positive news for the Liquid Gas industry as all three organisations have publicly recognised the important role that Liquid Gas, and specifically LPG, plays in increasing energy access in developing countries as a clean cooking fuel.

WLGA Recommendations:

COP28 was the biggest and most media intense climate negotiation in history. It achieved a significant number of outcomes, including the phrase “transition away from fossil fuels” in the final negotiated text, which essentially demonstrates that there is global consensus on the need to find alternatives to fossil fuels. At the same time the text also included the term “acceptable transition fuels” which is a nod to the reality that countries at different stages of development have different energy needs and will follow different paths to net zero. This acknowledgment along with the unprecedented focus on clean cooking and recognition of Liquid Gas’ benefits in this area, are all positive developments for the Liquid Gas industry.

The Liquid Gas industry must expand its efforts to position our energy as one that will fit into the low carbon future in both developed and developing markets, whether through mitigating deforestation by substituting biomass for cooking, or through the development of renewable alternatives. WLGA recommends continued engagement in the UNFCCC process with a focus on raising the awareness of WLGA members about this issue while also providing them with communications and messaging tools that can be deployed in educating their respective stakeholders.