



As KlimaX Editorial team, we spoke to Hajar Al-Beltaji from Egypt about her perspectives on COP28 as a MAPA (Most Affected Areas and People) activist - we were moved by the question: What can we expect from such a conference?



### **Hey Hajar, so now the COP28 world climate conference is starting in Dubai - what do you expect from the conference?**

So firstly, the question about my expectations for COP 28. Well, firstly, I will give my background: As an interdisciplinary researcher, academic staff and active advocate and urban activist as a climate advocate i am working for the climate justice movement for over five years. So my expectations for this particular COP23 are actually rooted in a holistic approach. So I anticipate the conference this year can address the urgent need for implementation for the Loss and damage fund.

As we see the loss and damage fund last year of 27 has been addressed and has been agreed on. Well, like this year, I expect nothing but a real action plan that can address the meticulous aspects of that loss and damage fund by details and different aspects. Actually referring to who gets that funding, what does that funding cover, and who will take that responsibility.

And also I'm like, I'm expecting that during this year we would have effective quantitative measures for the damage that should be proportionally suitable to the fund assigned. Like, for instance, what I mean by that, like different countries do not get impacted by climate change the

same way. So also that means that the funding for that damage should be proportionate and should be suitable for that damage.

So I really hope for this year's COP is that we can have a more meticulous detailed action plan about that funding and real quantifiable measures otherwise it would be just reiterating like inter promises and we would not be moving forward. And also in addition to that, I also anticipated that during this call we would focus more on equitable phasing out of fossil fuel.

And besides stopping any militarization action that destroyed and killed Indigenous people worldwide, especially in countries such as Palestine, Sudan, Congo, Armenia, and the list goes on and on. And we cannot actually talk about climate justice without addressing ending occupation and stop using the money in the world to destroy the planet and kill innocent people and kill in indigenous peoples.

In addition to that, I also expect that the outcome of this year would address comprehensive and inclusive climate solutions, incorporating perspectives from diverse fields such as architecture, urbanism, environmental design, heritage conservation. Like, I believe those aspects are crucially important to be addressed, like we will continue building cities. So we really need to address certain aspects as well.

And also I look forward to during this call for fruitful discussions and transcend disciplinary boundaries, fostering innovative and sustainable solutions to pressing challenges boosted both by climate change.

### **What is your role as MAPA Activists in Dubai, what perspective do you want to bring to the table?**

So actually, as one of the MAPA delegation and MAPA activists in Cop25 this year, actually my perspective aims to amplify our voices, especially the voices of marginalized communities, particularly those who are coming from central city of major urban areas, people who are living in a offline, communities who cannot be represented at such a gathering.

So drawing also from my experience as a community architect in the region, I also intend to shed light on unique challenges faced by marginalized end of life communities and also involving in and my role. This year, I would really like to advocate for inclusivity in climate policies, ensuring that the perspective and the agony of most affected people and areas are actively considered in the decision making processes, especially like the perspective on needs and demands from people who live in a marginalized community, as I said earlier, or are coming from offline communities.

Yeah, and also additionally to that, as I was also a global leader, the climate justice movement, I also aim to foster different collaboration and mobilization among youth from different countries, especially in countries in the most affected areas and the world. To emphasize within that

collaboration, I aim and we aim to emphasize the importance of being unified and having a unified approach to address global climate issues.

Most importantly, as a MAPA delegation. Also this year, I aim to address false solutions and work with my colleagues to address the false solutions that are happening within climate policies. And how does and how is the impact of false solutions impacting our future? So I believe that false solutions mean more pollution. So.

### **What is your strategy as climate justice activists at COP28, what are your goals?**

So our goals or strategies this year revolve around impactful engagement by firstly actively participating in negotiation side events, advocating for policies and to try at the need of the most affected people and areas and bring their perspective to spaces like calm and also include and promote implementation of loss and damage.

Stop militarization, actions, and work effectively to implement those policies not only giving us empty promises. And also during COP this year, we also aim to mobilize youth activists to address false solutions and mobilize youth through different actions through our mobilization and strategy. We also aim to be more inclusive, more resilient. And of course, within that, we mean inclusive to include everyone and do not leave anyone behind.

And also our strategy. This year's also focusing on pushing for the UN and enhancing the innovation tools for climate education and climate research and empower youth, especially women\* within the climate, education and research, and give them the access for recent technologies that they can use within their flights. Furthermore, we also plan to leverage media campaigns and social platforms to disseminate information and raise awareness.

Of course, globally, not only for people, those who are attending college and also within that we're aiming for sharing different experiences and insights daily from diverse communities, emphasizing, emphasizing the human aspects of climate change. And also we're aiming for and sharing daily updates about things like the updates from different negotiations and different climate policies. Last but not least, we also aim for creating a collaboration and fostering collaboration between youth led organizations globally, not only locally, but also globally.

And within that, we're aiming for creating an integral strategy that we can together build a collective action and collective mobilization that can also we also seek to build collective force advocating for climate justice and influencing radical solutions. And as I mentioned earlier, state the full solutions very boldly. So yeah, within that last one at least, again, we also aim for within different groups to have ongoing meetings and concert reflections and assure the effective communication between us to stay focused and aligned to our goals and our mobilization actions during this year.