

Ambitious fossil fuel pact on paper

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By Roberto Morejón

After two weeks of intense and not always comfortable debates, representatives of almost 200 nations initialed an agreement at the Climate Summit, which has become the first forum in which a transition away from fossil fuels is enunciated.

An issue that had been a hot topic until now, given the dependence of oil and gas producing countries, was resolved at the last minute, in what some delegates described as an unprecedented pact.

This was based on the fact that for the first time the need to move away from oil, gas and coal was clearly stated.

They also agreed to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to do everything possible to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5° C. In other words, in Dubai, they called for a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

In other words, the challenge of fossil fuels was comprehensively addressed in Dubai after many years in which the issue had been blocked at conferences such as this one.

Of course, more than a few delegates and observers warned that it would be a mistake to consider that the fossil fuel era ended in Dubai, but they note that the world has reached the beginning of its end.

The Dubai compromise aims to achieve net zero by 2050, but respecting the different circumstances of each country, an aspect that leaves a margin for nations dependent on energy production.

However, a group of countries, mainly those most affected by climate change, considered that the text agreed in Dubai did not reflect the scientific mandate to limit global warming as they had hoped.

In the same vein, the global South insisted that there is still insufficient support for tangible funding to help poor nations, victims of climate anarchy, cope with catastrophic losses.

However, all is not lost as the Dubai meeting created a fund to be implemented from 2024 to compensate the countries suffering most from the effects of environmental damage.

In spite of the applause and the "historic" adjectives in relation to the Dubai agreement, the participants decided to ask the UN to convene annual meetings to examine the fulfillment of the commitments made in the fight against climate change.

Many demand tangible proof.

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