BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 9.12.2023
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Behind the 'unabated' fossil fuels conundrum

M Ramesh
Chennai

One phrase that has crept into the climate lingo is 'abated' (or, conversely, 'unabated') fossil fuels use. There are calls for 'phasing out' or 'phasing down' of unabated fossil fuels use and much controversy revolves around the idea of abatement. The final text of the COP28 climate talks, currently underway in Dubai, is expected to focus heavily on unabated fossil fuels.

But what are abated or unabated fossil fuels?

'Abated fossil fuels use' refers to the burning of fossil fuels while simultaneously picking up and neutralising the carbon dioxide emissions, either by using them or securely storing the gas underground—forever. 'Unabated' refers to burning fossil fuels and letting the emissions to be released into the atmosphere.

Developed countries want coal to be phased out. In the concluding moments of the Glasgow Conference of 2021 (COP26), India—much to the chagrin of developed countries—forced the COP Presidency (UK) to change the language from "phase out" to "phase down" unabated coal. So, phasing down has come to be accepted as the standard language, but much debate is around whether the phase down should apply only to coal (as the developed countries want) or to all fossil fuels, including oil and gas (which India and other developing countries favour).

GREEN DILEMMA. While phase down has been accepted with mumbles and moans, many discussions are around whether only coal should be phased down or all fossil fuels REUTERS

Secondly, the definition of 'abatement' itself is a key issue. What level of carbon capture should qualify as 'abated' use? If a thermal power plant captures and sequesters, say, 10 per cent of the carbon dioxide it emits, would it still be considered "unabated coal" burning?

So, the present situation is that while 'phase down' has been accepted with mumbles and moans, many discussions are around whether only coal should be phased down or all fossil fuels, and the definition of abatement.

WHAT IS ABATEMENT?

But pushing aside all of this are questions arising over the very concept of abatement—many shrill voices are saying that 'carbon capture and sequestration' itself is hardly anything. Among the many voices are those of two well-known climate experts—Laurence Tubiana and Emmanuel Guérin. Tubiana is the CEO of the European Climate Foundation and was France's climate change ambassador and special representative for COP21, which resulted in the Paris Agreement. Guerin is the executive director for global policies at the European Climate Foundation (ECF).

Writing in Climatechangenews.com, a respected online publication dedicated to climate change, Tubiana and Guerin tell readers, "Don't be fooled: CCS is no solution to oil and gas emissions."

CCS, at best, might be helpful "at the margins", but "cannot possibly deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on the scale needed to avert climate disaster," they say, adding that CCS might deliver "less than a tenth" of the cumulative carbon dioxide emissions over 2023-2050 period.

Climate activists fear that CCS might be used by fossil fuel companies as a smokescreen to continue producing and selling fossil fuels. Dr Al Khourdajie, a research fellow at Imperial College London, notes that the vague definition of "abated" fossil fuel gives a "false, if not dangerous, sense of security" that could lead to inadequate policy measures and investment decisions."

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 9.12.2023
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Ethanol blending: Just a 'pause', 20% target intact: Oil secretary

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, December 8

A DAY AFTER the government directed sugar mills to stop using cane juice for the production of ethanol for the 2023-24 season, petroleum secretary Pankaj Jain said on Friday that it is just a "temporary" pause in the programme for blending the biofuel with petrol for the auto industry, and the same would be reviewed periodically.

He asserted that there would not be any dilution in the ethanol blending programme, which aims at achieving 20% bio-fuel blending in petrol by ethanol supply years (ESY) 2025-26.

Apart from reviewing the supply of sugar regularly, the government will also push ethanol production from other feedstocks, particularly maize. "Plans to boost maize production as well as its supply to ethanol manufacturers are already afoot", he said.

Under a plan approved, the farmers cooperative Nafed and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) will purchase maize from the farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and supply it to companies for ethanol production.

The agriculture ministry is currently working with the Indian Institute of Maize Research, Punjab to boost maize production by developing high-yielding varieties which have higher recovery for ethanol.

The maize output is estimated at 38 million tonne (MT) in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) and about 60% of the output is used as poultry feed.

In ESY 2022-23, the country has achieved 12% ethanol blending in petrol by production of 5 billion litres of ethanol. The target for blending aim for ESY 2023-24 is 15%, for which the oil marketing companies (OMCs) would need to acquire around 7 billion litres of ethanol.

Petroleum secretary Pankaj Jain

According to industry sources, around 25% of ethanol is produced from sugarcane juice and sugar syrup, while around 45% comes from B-heavy molasses–a sugar processing byproduct with substantial sugar content. Around 25% of ethanol is produced from grain-based sources.

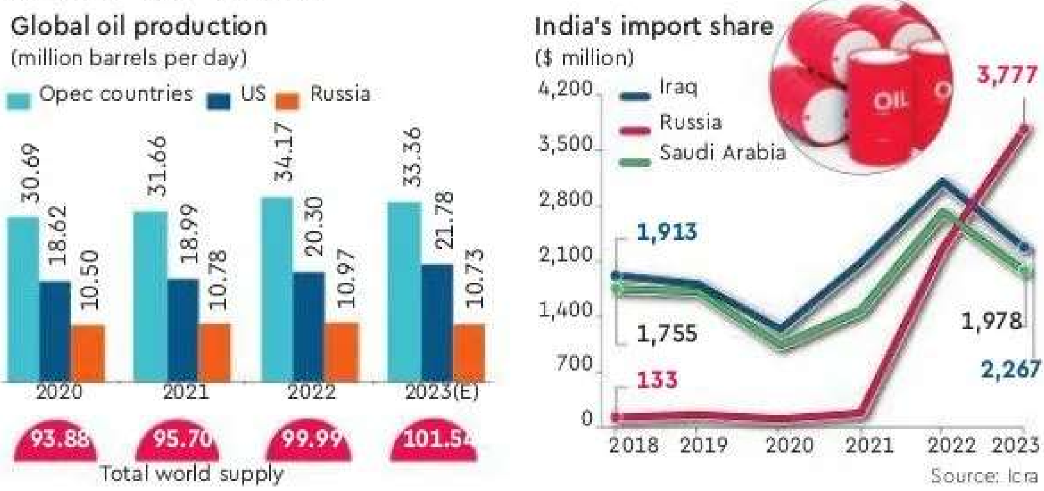
The Union food ministry on Thursday directed all sugar mills and distilleries to stop using sugarcane juice for the production of ethanol for the 2023-24 season, in order to ensure an adequate supply of sweetener for domestic consumption and prevent any hike in its retail prices.

This move is expected to release 1.8-2 million tonne (MT) of sugar additionally in the domestic market which would help curb rise in prices amidst reports of a fall in sweetener output in Maharashtra and Karnataka this season.

Crude prices may bounce back on stronger demand

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, December 8

RELIEF TO OMCs



EVEN AS THE Opec+ decided to cut oil output, prices failed to rally as the market remained sceptical about the bloc's adherence to the announcement. The situation also reflects the reduced market power of the bloc that has dominated for long, with the diversification of the production base, particularly the rise of the US as a major supplier.

Meanwhile, lower crude oil prices have once again come as a relief to India's state-run oil marketing companies. Their gross refining margins could improve on the back of healthier diesel crack spread, analysts say.

"Currently, the gross refining margins (of OMCs) are healthy because diesel cracks have been high," said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president & co-group head, corporate ratings, Icra. "Crack spread of diesel has been healthy at around $20 per barrel, which is higher than the historical average."

However, experts believe that crude prices would bounce back not because of production cuts, but on expectations of demand recovery from China, the top consumer of crude. If prices start to rise again, OMCs might have to incur higher costs on the raw material, said Gnanasekar Thiagarajan, director, Commtrendz Research.

"Demand will pickup. Recovery in China has been less buoyant but there will be a pick," said Andrea Goldstein, head of India/Indonesia, economics department, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (France). "Prices will bounce back."

Crude prices hit a five-month low on Thursday as investors posed doubt regarding Opec+ production cuts amid a rise in the US oil exports. Moreover, Moody's cutting China's sovereign bond rating outlook to negative further weighed on prices.

"There is a sense that the Federal Reserve might give some indication towards cutting rates in 2024 and that will be seen as a positive side for macroeconomic sentiment and crude demand," said Thiagarajan. "So because of that prices may bounce and not because of Opec cuts as these are not making any difference."

While analysts pose doubt over Opec's adherence to the cuts announced, they still believe that it might come out with another announcement if crude prices continue to decline.

"There is some dilly-dallying among members of Opec on cuts. However, there could be some recovery in prices of crude as we have rarely seen crude going below $75 a barrel in the last 1-1.5 years. So, there will be some reaction from Opec+ which could get prices higher," Vasisht said.

"Opec will maintain these cuts for some more time and may review it before the US elections somewhere in mid 2024," Thiagarajan said. "Also, winter season demand is coming from both Europe and the US. So in all likelihood, the prices will rise."

Crude oil prices have also come down on the back of higher gasoline inventories in the US. The share of Opec in the global oil production, on the other hand, has declined in the past few years.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 9.12.2023
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Fuel Demand Falls 2% in Nov

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's overall fuel demand dropped 2% year-on-year in November, driven by a 3% decline in diesel sales, petroleum ministry data showed.

Petrol and jet fuel sales, however, grew around 9% and 12%, respectively, in November over the same period last year, aided by increased leisure travel in the festive season. Strong vehicle sales also contributed to petrol sales, which accounts for 17% of the country's overall refined products sales volume. Sales of diesel, which make up 40% of the overall volumes, contracted in November after rising by 6.6% in the April-October period. Diesel sales are driven more by commercial mobility as the share of diesel vehicles in passenger cars has significantly declined over the years.

The demand for diesel usually rises ahead of the festival season as factories work overtime to produce goods, and retailers use trucks to stock up. This year both Diwali and Durga Puja were a little delayed, stretching up to the middle of November, unlike last year when both festivals were celebrated in October. This brings variance in fuel demand and leads to imperfect monthly sales comparisons. The timing and intensity of rainfall also affect diesel demand.

The demand for bitumen, used for building roads, fell 31% in November while the sales of more polluting but cheaper petcoke and fuel oil dropped 5% and 11%, respectively.

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 9.12.2023
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India: Need clear definition of 'climate finance' for trust

'Finance Flow Has To Be Along With Tech Access'

Vishwa.Mohan
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INDIA IN TOP 10 FOR 5TH YR IN A ROW

Where do countries stand in CCPI ranking in 2023

Rank	Country
1	None achieved 1-3 rank*
2	
3	
4	Denmark
5	Estonia
6	Philippines
7	**India**
8	Netherlands
9	Morocco
10	Sweden

*No country performs well enough in all four assessed categories to achieve perfect score on CCPI

India's track record

Year	India's rank
2023	7
2022	8
2021	10
2020	10
2019	9
2018	11
2017	14
2016	20
2015	25
2014	31

(Source: CCPI 2024)

Dubai: Calling out rich nations for their failure to mobilise adequate resources for developing countries, India on Friday asked for clarity in the very definition of 'climate finance' and said the absence of it leads to lack of trust and transparency.

"In my view, the minimum short-term action that we need to prioritise and

TOI @ COP 28

work together for is the very definition of 'climate finance'. I strongly feel that it is the most fundamental outcome we all can aim for that will automatically lay out the pathways for subsequent action towards appropriate climate financing," said environment minister Bhupender Yadav while articulating India's views during high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance at the UN climate summit (COP28) in Dubai.

The issue has been a major irritant during the ongoing negotiation process where the developing countries pointed out how the rich nations failed to fulfil their promise of mobilising $100 billion per year for climate action in poor countries. The rich nations, on the other hand, quoted OECD's estimates and claimed to have mobilised enough finance to begin with. It was, however, contested by developing countries' negotiators who pointed out that the OECD estimated even loans as climate finance.

According to the OECD, the estimate of climate finance provided and mobilised by developed countries in 2020 was about $83 billion whereas Oxfam in its 'climate finance shadow report' noted that the amount was merely $21-24.5 billion.

Citing this example, Yadav said, "The lack of definition leads to a lack of trust and transparency on a matter that should be as clear as crystal... The definition of climate finance that takes into account climate specificity, new and additional flows at highly concessional terms is imperative."

Emphasising on the need to scale up the resource flow "several times" through enhanced provision and mobilisation by the developed countries, the minister said, "The flow of finance has to be along with access to technology... In the absence of these, it would not be possible for the developing countries to meet their commitments on the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement."

In an intervention during COP28 plenary, India aligned itself with the common position of the developing countries, including China, and pitched for an ambitious global goal on adaptation (GGA) to help billions of climate vulnerable people. The GGA is meant for developing a framework that can drive political action and mobilise finance for adaptation on the same scale as mitigation (emission reduction).

The COP28 presidency, meanwhile, started ministerial pairing, giving responsibilities to different countries (two each) to come out with suggestions on different contentious issues, including language on the role of fossil fuels, which may be acceptable to all for the final negotiated text.

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 9.12.2023
Page No. 20, Size:(21.56)cms X (22.03)cms.

'Fossil fuels, finance and inequality profoundly shape climate action. COP28 saw progress here'

***Sunita Narain** is director general of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at **Times Evoke**, she discusses how COP28 has evolved:*

Photos: iStock

WHOSE FOSSIL FUEL IS IT ANYWAY? Climate science stresses phasing out coal (R), mostly used in developing nations — proponents of climate justice then question the continued use of oil and natural gas (L) by developed economies

You are participating at Dubai's COP28 — what are the most important directions emerging there?

■ Three key things have happened. The first is how parties agreed on the loss and damage fund — there is around half a billion dollars in this now. The fact that the world came together, in what are very divisive and polarised times, to agree on this is positive. The poorest people are the greatest victims of climate change — it's only fair they get compensation for the losses they are suffering.

The second is a change in narrative on climate finance — till a COP ago, we were only counting the money and asking if we'd reached the promised $100 billion or not. The understanding which has now emerged is that it's not just the quantum of money but also the quality — the $100 billion coming earlier was loans and equity, which meant the Global South, already under huge debt burdens, received a double whammy, facing extreme weather events, rising costs of development and then, climate finance overburdening them in debt.

At this COP, I saw a new understanding about concessional, grant-based climate financing and blended finance to lower the risk and high cost of these projects. There were discussions about how special drawing rights (SDRs) need to be provided by rich countries to the IMF to give as low concessional finance. It's a good start — finance is the make or break part of the climate agreement. The Global South needs development but it wants to grow differently for which money and technology are required. That's been the biggest stumbling block. Now, for the first time, there is a paragraph in the Global Stocktake draft on the quality of finance.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS: Extreme weather events batter the poorest

The third is fossil fuels. IPCC science says unabated coal must be phased out by 2050, oil must come down by 60% and gas by 45%. My problem here is the large focus on coal which is used by the developing world as opposed to gas. But, for the moment, let's sidestep that and agree that the science says fossil fuels are the heart of the climate problem. However, it also says a certain amount can be allowed in oil and gas by 2050 — so, who should use that?

India or the African continent should have the right to use the remaining quota. Until now, the Western narrative has mostly been a convenient one about phasing down coal — but what happens to developing economies which need energy? We also haven't talked enough about phasing up renewable energy technologies which can't happen without climate financing.

All these challenging aspects were raised at COP28. Other issues also emerged like how the US is the world's largest exporter of natural gas — producing around 13 million barrels of oil, it even overtakes Saudi Arabia. Yet, we are told the US is on track to meet its climate commitments. In my view, this doesn't add up and we need to talk about it — COP28 was a good start.

You emphasise greater transparency in carbon markets — why?

■ The world feels private finance isn't coming in adequately for climate action and the only way for this is the carbon market where you have a price on carbon which is traded. Governments and companies which are emitting today need to show they have offset their emissions. For that, they buy credits which come from countries like ours by planting trees, investing in renewables, etc. The problem, as our investigation shows, is that the market is not working for people or the planet. Emissions said to be offset are often over-accounted for while many reductions aren't happening.

The market must work within certain rules — the first is transparency. If such a project were established in India, the credit claimed will be deducted from India's account — so, transparency is imperative. At COP28, an understanding was reached for very high integrity markets which will be accountable, equitable and with real and tangible credits, not just creative carbon accounting.

Why do you highlight the issue of inequality in climate change?

■ Climate is the one forum which must discuss inequality. Normally, 'justice' or 'fairness' become wordplay, akin to incidental moral issues. With climate change, there is no choice but to engage with it intensely as this is all about the global commons, the rich polluting in the past and the poor possibly polluting in the future. Without a cooperative agreement with equity, you won't get ambitious action.

One aspect seen worldwide now is extreme weather events breaking the backs of the poorest people.

THAT RISING TIDE: Migration driven by environmental distress is poised to grow

They are often left with no choice but to migrate. Increased migration is becoming one of the toughest global political issues. Data shows natural disaster-related migration globally is more than even migration driven by war and conflict. Such distress will grow — this again highlights the responsibility of the rich to address it.

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

Thank you for your highly interesting article on the Panamanian golden frog (2nd December). It is shocking that yet another beautiful species which once thrived in its natural environment has to now be cleaned, fed and raised in captivity. Blessings on the rescuers and the hotel that became a frog conservatory. Dear TOI, your Times Evoke is the best part of the newspaper!

— Natasha Sequeira, Mumbai

TE's wonderful article on the golden frogs of Panama showed how it is so important to preserve ecosystems. The incredible work by environmentalists, zoologists and volunteers to save the frog is commendable. I've seen many species of birds and animals become endangered and some disappear. With this intervention, at least future generations will have these frogs. This article encourages us to do our bit.

— Shreyasi Verma Rodricks, Hyderabad

Each TE article gives us in-depth knowledge and wonderful expert explanations. I'm a regular TE reader as this gives us real and thought-provoking revelations. The article on Panama's frogs was beautiful! I greatly appreciate Heidi Ross and Edgardo Griffith's wonderful work in fighting this massive extinction crisis.

— Vinayak Goradwar, Pune

TE's interview with Paul Wignall on mass extinctions was amazing. My hearty thanks for featuring his deep knowledge. Human activities are destroying the animal world. But animals keep our environment intact. So, we must preserve them for our own survival. We humans must become conscious about this. Many thanks to the TE team for such an attractive, educative and highly praiseworthy page.

— Biswabhudsan Rath, Nachuni, Odisha

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गेल GAIL

STATESMAN, Delhi, 9.12.2023

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Oil dynamics

The recent joint statement from Russia and Saudi Arabia resonates as a crucial thread, weaving through the intricate dynamics of oil markets and international relations. The call for all OPEC+ members to join forces in implementing output cuts reflects not only economic considerations but also unveils the geopolitical chessboard where these two oil giants play a strategic game. At the heart of the matter is the quest for stability in global oil markets. The joint statement, emerging from a hastily arranged meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh, underscores their commitment to cooperation within the OPEC+ framework. The voluntary cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, demonstrate a shared interest in bolstering oil prices for the economic well-being of both nations. The choice of words in the statement is noteworthy. While the Russian version uses "join," the English translation opts for "adhere." This subtle difference may be an attempt to send a clear message to OPEC+ members who have either not made significant cuts or resisted them altogether. It reflects a coordinated effort to rally the oil-producing nations towards a common goal, showcasing the importance of unity in navigating the challenges posed by fluctuating oil prices. A conspicuous absence from the cuts is Iran, a country grappling with long-standing US sanctions. The joint statement's emphasis on 'joining' or 'adhering' to the agreement could be interpreted as a diplomatic move to bring Iran back into the fold. However, given Iran's ambitions to boost production in the face of sanctions, achieving a consensus within OPEC+ may prove challenging. The geopolitical dimensions extend beyond the economic realm. The meeting between Mr Putin and Prince Salman touched upon various conflicts and global issues, ranging from Gaza and Ukraine to Yemen and the Iran nuclear programme. The discussions highlight the interconnectedness of energy policies and geopolitical strategies, as these nations with significant oil influence wield their power not just at the bargaining table but also in shaping the broader geopolitical landscape. The mystery surrounding Mr Putin's overseas trip, escorted by fighter jets, adds an air of intrigue. While the joint statement sheds light on discussions about crises in different parts of the world, the nature of the 'particular issue' that prompted Mr Putin's visit remains undisclosed. This secrecy fuels speculation and underscores the delicate nature of international relations, where certain matters are best left veiled in ambiguity. The agreement on output cuts, while pivotal for stabilising oil markets, also serves as a backdrop for the broader narrative of Russia's strategic moves. Mr Putin, engaged in what he perceives as an 'existential battle' with the West, seeks alliances across West Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The rendezvous with Prince Salman symbolises the pursuit of such partnerships amid Western attempts to isolate Moscow.

The Statesman
PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION
Sat, 09 December 2023
https://epaper.thestatesman.

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Nayara Energy to expand in India

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

After setting up 6,500 fuel stations in India, Russian firm Nayara Energy will set up a polypropylene plant next year. "We plan to operationalise 4,50,000 tonne per annum polypropylene plant during H1 2024, when we expect the demand to accelerate and margins to kick in," the company said. — TNS

The Tribune

'Green Hydrogen Policy to help convert Agri-residue into assets from liability'

MPOST BUREAU

CHANDIGARH: In a bid to make Punjab a front-runner state in green & clean energy production across the country, New and Renewable Energy Sources Minister, Aman Arora on Friday said that Punjab Green Hydrogen Policy drafted by Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), will help to convert the agriculture residues, which is now considered as a liability, into green energy assets.

Presiding over a half-day Open-House Session on the Draft Green Hydrogen Policy for the State of Punjab organised here at CII, Aman Arora said that the Policy aims to make Punjab a Green Hydrogen/Ammonia producer with a production capacity of 100 Kilo tonnes per annum by the year 2030, besides, developing innovative manufacturing capacities of producing Hydrogen such as biomass gasification, steam methane reforming, electrolysis of waste water, Hydrogen fuel blending etc.

> This initiative will pave a way to explore the technologies for producing green hydrogen from biomass

This initiative will pave a way to explore the technologies for producing green hydrogen from biomass. Punjab has been mainly focusing on the production of green hydrogen from biomass, which is an attractive option for transition to a zero-carbon future as 20 million tonnes of paddy straw is being generated annually, he added.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, Delhi, 9.12.2023
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Talks on fossil fuels ramp up at COP28

Jayashree Nandi
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DUBAI: A third draft of one of the most important documents on which governments will need to come to a consensus was released during the COP28 climate conference on Friday, with experts saying the latest version was still too wide open, even those representing developing nations such as India stressed on the need to ensure equity in climate action commitments.

The COP28 entered its second and final week on Friday, with the phasing out of fossil fuels becoming one of the most divisive issues that need to be agreed upon for what will be the first Global Stocktake (GST) document.

The draft released on Friday gave new options for a phase-out of fossil fuels, with four of the five choices including some ways in which one of the leading causes of carbon emissions is abandoned.

"It is still a long way to go because there are lot of options. Everything is on the table. There are some problematic options including the no text option," one of the observers said, asking not to be named.

Fossil fuels is one of the sharpest lines dividing the negotiations. Developed countries, including the European Union (EU) and the United States are pushing for a phaseout of unabated fossil fuels and a commitment that no new coal projects are initiated.

Developing countries have called such an approach highly inequitable since the cheaper coal power was critical for poorer nations, especially in the absence of adequate climate finance to transition away from fossil fuels.

India's chief negotiator Naresh Pal Gangwar intervened during the plenary and said: "India is second to none in the desire for an ambitious outcome but that should be founded on equity and feasibility in a nationally determined manner."

"During the first week, we have shared frankly in what we believe in. This is important to achieve the objectives of the Convention and goals of its Paris Agreement. We believe in the principles of the Convention and its Paris Agreement and sanctity of processes under them," Gangwar added.

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav made a strong intervention at a high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance, saying the lack of definition of climate finance also leads to a lack of trust and transparency among parties. He raised concerns about the transparency in the reporting of whether the long promised USD 100 billion has been really delivered.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has said that $100 billion has been likely delivered last year as per the COP15 climate pact struck in 2009. But that is yet to be delivered, according to developing country parties.

"The lack of definition leads to a lack of trust and transparency on a matter that should be as clear as crystal. According to the OECD, the estimate of climate finance provided and mobilized by developed countries in 2020 was about USD 83 billion as against an amount of USD 21 to 24.5 billion if the Oxfam estimates from their Climate Finance Shadow Report are taken," Yadav said during the meeting.

Bolivia, representing the grouping of developing nations under the Like Minded Developing Countries collective, said processes from previous week must be corrected since "in most cases, it did not capture our views in draft texts". "This is a party-driven process and progress requires the agreement of all parties," said Diego Pacheco, Bolivia's climate negotiator.

Bolivia also stressed that "any outcome that does not respect the principles and provisions of the Convention, an outcome without equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) in particular... would not fulfil the purpose of the Paris Agreement. Such an outcome would not be acceptable to our group (LMDC)."

Gangwar added that that direct negotiation between parties will help resolve impasses in the coming days.

During the plenary, COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber announced minister pairings -- Dan Jørgensen of Denmark and Barbara Creecy of South Africa were assigned to lead the talks on GST; Yasmine Fouad of Egypt and Steven Guilbeault of Canada on finance; Espen Barth Eide of Norway and Grace Fu of Singapore on mitigation and Maisa Rojas of Chile and Jenny McAllister of Australia leading the talks on adaptation.

Jaber said he expects an "unprecedented" outcome from Dubai next week.

Responding to a question by HT on how the principle of CBDR will be reflected in fossil fuel phase out/phase down language, Jorgensen said: "CBDR is a very important principle of Paris Agreement. We all have a responsibility to act but that responsibility is differentiated. Some countries need to do more than others. I come from a country that needs to do more than others. Why? Because we have been part of the problem for more than 100 years and we have a certain level of wealth. Developing countries have much lower per capita emissions than my country. This needs to be reflected in phaseout of fossils but also other tracks."

Creecy of South Africa added: "Ambition is essentially driven by means of implementation. Many developing countries would say that they are severely impacted by climate change, they want to keep 1.5°C within reach and that they are asking developed countries for technology and financial mechanisms to achieve it. This is a party-driven process, having listened very carefully to all the parties that will consult with us to find those landing zones to find that interface between science and equity."

The third version of the draft – called the "refined textual building blocks" --- relating to the GST continued to have too many options, ran into 27 pages, and had placeholder on global goal of adaptation outcome. It has mostly fleshed out language on contentious issues such as fossil fuels, equity and the depleting carbon budget.

Adaptation refers to preparing for current and future trajectories of the climate crisis, a plan that involves wealthier countries to chip in with climate finance.

The section on fossil fuels contained options to phase out fossil fuels "in line with best available science; or to do so in line with best available science on the 1.5°C pathway; or a "phase-out of unabated fossil fuels recognising the need for a peak" in this decade and entirely abandoning them by 2050; or "phasing out" to achieve net-zero CO2 in energy systems by or around mid-century. A fifth option was "no text."

No text essentially means that you either agree on them or they disappear from the final text completely.

Even on the issue of equity and historical responsibility there is a lot to reckon with, observers said, adding that said developed country parties were still very uncomfortable on the language.

For example, one of the options is to acknowledge that the carbon budgets consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal are now small and being rapidly depleted, and expresses concern that historical cumulative net CO2 emissions between 1850-2019 amounted to about four fifths of the total carbon budget for a 50% probability of limiting global warming to under the Paris Agreement threshold of 1.5°C.

The other option is to say that parties are undertaking climate action from different contexts and starting points, and this implies that there will be differentiated and equitable pathways to achieve the goals of Paris Agreement based on equitable access to the global carbon budget. No text is also an option.

On finance, there are diverse options which shows the differences among developed and developing country parties have very different views on the delivery of the long promised USD 100 billion by developed nations. Among the options is an acknowledgment that there remains a gap in promised funding, and talks about arears, while another appears to acknowledge that adequate funding may have been made available.

"Previous COP declarations have referred to phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, but this draft text makes special exception for subsidies that address energy poverty. This acknowledges the ground realities in countries like India which subsidies clean cooking fuels that reduce indoor air pollution," said Ashwini Hinge, associate program director in the climate program at World Resources Institute India.

A second expert said the options on GST are helpful as they focus on the need to phaseout fossil fuel use. "But that ambition risks being undermined by the call for a massive scale-up of risky and speculative carbon capture and removal technologies, which would not only blow a loophole into the energy package but also greenwash new fossil fuel (mostly gas) infrastructure," Lili Fuhr, Center for International Environmental Law's Fossil Economy Program director.

"The task remains that governments must agree to a full, fast, fair, and funded phaseout of all fossil fuels and reject dangerous distractions. 'Abated' fossil fuels are a myth and a code word for inaction and new fossil fuel subsidies. For the energy package to be agreed here in Dubai, wealthy polluters must not only commit to move first and fastest but also deliver on their obligations and commitments for finance and support to developing countries. Equity is the key to ambition," Fuhr added.

Refined "textual building blocks" of Global Stocktake

The UN climate agency published a new draft of its COP28 agreement on Friday that included options for a historic phase out of fossil fuels

The options in the new draft deal include:

1. Phasing out fossil fuels in line with the best available science
2. Phasing out fossil fuels in line with the best available science, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 1.5 pathways and principles and provisions of the Paris Agreement
3. Phasing out unabated fossil fuels recognising the need for a peak in their consumption in this decade, underlining the importance for the energy sector to be predominantly free of fossil fuels ahead of 2050
4. Phasing out unabated fossil fuels, rapidly reducing their use to achieve net-zero CO2 in energy systems by or around mid-century
5. "No text", which means you either agree on them or they disappear from the final text completely

Nayara to start polypropylene plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nayara Energy, India's second-largest private oil firm, on Friday said it will start operations of a new polypropylene plant in the first half of next year, marking its entry into the lucrative petrochemical sector.

In the last financial year (April 2022 to March 2023), India's consumption of polypropylene stood at 6.4 million tonnes, of which around 1.6 million tonnes or around 25 per cent was imported.

With wide applications in segments like packaging, automotive applications, consumer durables and lifestyle products, the demand for polypropylene (PP) is projected to rise.

"Nayara is well on track for its entry into the petrochemicals sector with its upcoming 4,50,000 tonnes per annum polypropylene plant expected to be commercially operational during H1 2024 - when Nayara expects the demand to accelerate and margins to kick in," the firm said.

As India's GDP grows, the demand for polypropylene is expected to grow to around 7.5 million tonnes in the next two years, creating sufficient room for new and upcoming domestic capacities.

Nayara said it will be the first polypropylene (PP) producer in the country using the latest phthalate-free catalyst for the entire PP production. Phthalate-free grades will provide cleaner PP for pharma, health and hygiene applications.

"Our customers are also expected to achieve higher throughput, quality consistency and smooth processing with our PP grades produced using advanced catalyst and technology platform," it said. "We will be packaging our products in pilferage-contamination proof HDSS bags. Our customers will also have the advantage of our all-India sales distribution network and strong technical support. We believe it will be the best product in India for food applications."

Presently, refinery-based PP economics are lower due to strong fuel cracks and lower PP prices (which have fallen significantly in the last 18 months). This is the cyclical nature of the business and the long-term prospects of the industry remain bright.

Importantly, integrated refineries with Petchem portfolios are expected to achieve margin resilience through business cycles as compared to standalone refiners.

"At the same time, we are actively considering increasing investment in the India growth story, especially in the petchem sector," Nayara said.

With its strategically located refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat, which is the largest petrochemical consumption region in the country, the company is positioned to make a strong entry into this high growth segment.

Nayara operates a 20 million tonnes a year oil refinery at Vadinar and also has more than 6,500 petrol pumps in the country. It delivers about 8 per cent of India's refining output.

NAV-BHARAT, Mumbai, 9.12.2023
Page No. 13, Size:(3.80)cms X (7.12)cms.

दहिसर में गैस की पाइपलाइन फटी

■ दहिसर, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. उपनगर मुंबई के दहिसर पूर्व जरीमरी गार्डन के किनारे फुटपाथ की खुदाई के दौरान गैस के पाइप लाइन फटने की घटना सामने आते ही पूरे इलाके में दहशत का माहौल व्याप्त हो गया. दअरसल मामला शुक्रवार दोपहर करीब 3 बजे के दरम्यान का है. जहा फुटपाथ को खोदकर नए नया फुटपाथ बनाने के लिए जेसीबी से जमीन की खुदाई की जा रही थी कि तभी अचानक जमीन के नीचे से गई गैस की पाइप लाइन फट गई और गैस का रिसाव होने लगा, जिसे देख जेसीबी चालक भाग खड़ा हुआ.

बड़ा हादसा टला, फायर ब्रिगेड के कर्मियों ने संभाला मोर्चा

स्थानिकों और अन्य कर्मचारियों द्वारा घटना की जानकारी फायर ब्रिगेड और पुलिस को दी गईं. पुलिस ने गार्डन की तरफ आने-जाने वाले सड़क को कुछ घंटों के लिए बंद कर दिया. कोई बड़ी घटनाघटित होती, इससे पहले फायर ब्रिगेड के कर्मचारियों द्वारा गैस की पाइप लाइन को बंद कर दिया गया. हालांकि इस मामले में कोई भी अप्रिय घटना घटित नहीं हुई है. फायर ब्रिगेड और पुलिस इस मामले में पंचनामा कर आगे की कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं.