

Ukraine at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27)

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) was held at Sharm EL Sheikh International Convention Center in Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022. COP27 designed to contribute to the global fight against climate change and the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

More than 190 countries took part in COP27, including Ukraine. The conference program is packed with events and covers a wide range of issues, such as: policies and actions for sustainable development, approaches to reducing CO2 emissions, climate change mitigation, community support, funding mechanisms, R&D, innovations and technologies.

Ukraine, which had previously participated in the event for many years, was represented by its own pavilion for the first time. The main task was to demonstrate the devastating effects of the war to the whole world and to gain support for the revival of the country, as well as tell the world about Ukraine's commitment to climate goals and aspirations for development. Decarbonization, energy efficiency, digitization of administrative services, resource and waste management became important topics from the point of view of work prospects in Ukraine.

The main issues raised by Ukraine at the COP27 concern:

- **Protection of fundamental human rights, especially of the indigenous population (due to the prism of the temporarily occupied Crimea and the persecution of the Crimean Tatar population);**
- **Ecocide and damage to the environment as a result of military operations.**

There is intensive exploitation of natural resources, destruction of ecosystems for the creation of new highway connections or housing estates, which was outlined by the term "ecocide".

- **Energy independence and security through the decentralization of energy sources and the development of renewable energy.**

It is critical in the future to put policies in place to help scale up hybrid renewable solutions in communities to enable them to reap social, economic and climate benefits. RES in communities are the main source of energy security and sustainability now. Energy efficiency and energy saving measures have great potential.

- **Post-war reconstruction of Ukraine**

Possible principles of sustainable construction that can be used in the reconstruction of cities were presented, as well as examples of reconstruction projects and methodologies in other countries were shown. In the reconstruction of destroyed cities, it is proposed to follow the approach of circular economy Resilience Building and Recovery (RBR) - which is based on the approach of maximum conservation and reuse of available natural resources.

More information could be found at the report "GREEN POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF UKRAINE: VISION AND MODELS" https://dixigroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/green-post-war-reconstruction-of-ukraine_n-1.pdf

- **Abandonment of fossil energy sources**

At the press conference, the current data of the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) regarding the export of Russian energy carriers were presented https://energyandcleanair.org/october-update-eu-fossil-fuel-payments-to-russia-in-first-fall-below-pre-invasion-level-in-october/?fbclid=IwAR0YamOV6nRzGUQu2knuAR3s7QLRg85iLqNBWK70fWyneSDYHAHx47KX_F8

It is recommended to strengthen the ban on the purchase of Russian energy products, ban the import of processed petroleum products from countries that continue to buy oil from Russia, set price limits for Russian energy products and switch to renewable energy sources.

During the UNDP UKRAINE PANEL DISCUSSION GREEN AND RESILIENT RECOVERY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT climate goals of Ukraine in the field of energy were presented <https://ucn.org.ua/?p=8915>

- Ukraine undertook to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65%.

It is now recorded that CO2 emissions in Ukraine have increased by 23% compared to 2021.

- Ukraine has declared a transition to climate neutrality by 2060
- It is planned to receive 25% of electricity from RES by 2030 - "green recovery". In general, during the hostilities, the country lost about 90% of the wind power located in the occupied territory, and about 30% of the solar power. There were calls for energy transition for Ukraine: to ensure appropriate legislative regulation and a favorable investment climate for the creation of new truly peaceful energy capacities - based on renewable energy.

The strategic task of Ukraine is the integration of climate goals into all sectors of the state's activity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

▪ **Food crisis and water supply**

The cases of grain delivery, damage to the objects of the agro-industrial complex of Ukraine and the consequences for the environment (34% of the territory of the agro-industrial complex at risk, 70 000 hectares burned in July 2022), pollution of land resources and water systems as a result of military actions were discussed.

The "Green Grain Paths" initiative was presented, which raises the issue of the global threat to world food security and the creation of partnerships at each stage of the grain supply chain.

In the context of the post-war recovery of the agro-industrial complex and irrigation systems, it was stated that this area should be rebuilt according to the newly created plans for the restoration of water systems.

▪ **Recovery and maintenance of peace**

The most significant result of the COP27 was agreed the Fund for Financing Losses and Damages from Climate Change. Ukraine also presented the initiative of the Global Platform for Environmental Damage Assessment as a result of war. It is expected that the platform will become an instrument for international expert cooperation. Within its framework, unified approaches to determining damage to the environment and climate as a result of armed conflicts will be developed.

6 main risks groups for the environment of Ukraine have been identified:

- Damage to fuel-related infrastructure.
- Overloading the waste management system.
- Ammunition that is in an unexploded condition.
- Damage to infrastructure, especially critical infrastructure.
- Uncertainty regarding damage to the agro-industrial sphere (in particular, as a result of damage caused to chernozems).
- Ukrainian national heritage.

Ukraine's immediate task is to adopt an Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, taking into account the new challenges brought by the war, and to develop specific mechanisms for the green transformation of the energy industry to abandon fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions during recovery.

Source: <https://ucn.org.ua/?p=8824&fbclid=IwAR3vnP7v3CD-IR9Q3IBqX01FFNXTN3XUKgR91P-HtHVCp01zdjVRgUoP78Y>