

# COP28: Record number of fossil fuel delegates at climate talks

Around 2,400 people connected to the coal, oil and gas industries have been registered for the COP28 climate talks.

This record number is more than the total attendees from the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The jump is partly due to registration changes with attendees now required to be open about their employment.

The analysis was carried out by a coalition of green groups opposed to the presence of delegates linked to coal, oil and gas at the talks.

COP28 is the biggest climate conference ever held with some 97,000 politicians, diplomats, journalists and campaigners registered for the meeting.

But this new analysis suggests that 2,456 representatives of the coal, oil and gas industries and related organisations are also at the gathering in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

At COP26, in Glasgow, there were some 500 delegates with fossil fuel backgrounds. Last year at COP27 in Egypt, the numbers had swollen by a quarter, with more than 600 representatives there.

But this year more than four times that number have registered for COP28. Ahead of this year's talks, the UN introduced tougher registration procedures, meaning that more people had to state clearly who they worked for.

As a result of this greater transparency the numbers have shot up significantly. But campaigners say it is not the only reason for the rise.

"This does not account for the entire, significant uptick in lobbyist presence," said George Carew-Jones, from the Kick Big Polluters Out coalition.

"These talks are rumoured to deliver progress on a phase out of fossil fuels, and the fossil fuel industry is here to influence that outcome as much as possible," he said. Campaigners go through the list of registered attendees at each COP and analyse the affiliations that participants self-disclose. (...)

The future of fossil fuels is very much on the agenda at this meeting, with COP president Sultan al-Jaber seeking to land a deal that might refer to the phasing out or phasing down of these energy sources.

His appointment has been controversial as he is also the CEO of Adnoc, the UAE's state oil company.

Mr Jaber has had to defend himself after making statements that appeared to cast doubt on the science behind the idea of ending fossil fuels. (...)

1. Summarize the text (What does this analysis reveal? What are the reasons and possible consequences?)
2. Do you think it's necessary to include representatives of the oil and gas industries to make decisions concerning climate change?