



COP28 REFLECTIONS

Marcelo Mena

As I return from a whirlwind COP28, one thought sits at the forefront of my mind: methane has gone from being a moment to a movement in the climate change fight. In just a few years, the world has undergone a remarkable shift from relegating methane emissions to the sidelines to weaving it in as a central piece of our plan of defense to combat the detrimental environmental and public health impacts of climate change.

Much of this shift happened with the signing of the Global Methane Pledge by over 120 nations at COP26 in Glasgow two years ago, which set the groundwork for targeted and aggressive global action on methane. COP28 this year went further by showcasing the important progress by the international community in meeting the goals of the Global Methane Pledge and setting the tone on methane and other super pollutants.



For the second year in a row, methane mitigation took center stage as a leading topic for addressing climate change, reflecting the collective diligence by the public and private sector to address climate change head-on by reducing one of the most potent greenhouse gases that contribute to over a third of current warming. Leaders within government, business, philanthropy, and environment groups convened in Dubai and committed to reducing fossil fuel dependency, curbing emissions in the highest emitting sectors such as agriculture, and implementing comprehensive national and international mitigation policies. In an incredible win, the Global Methane Pledge secured over \$1 billion in grant funding and welcomed new countries, including

Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Romania, and Angola; bringing us to a total of 155 signatories who have pledged to address methane. This united effort exemplifies the persistent dedication by the international community to reducing methane emissions.

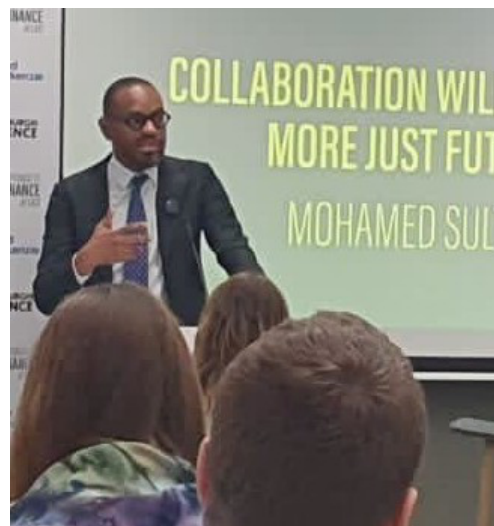


Some of the biggest and most surprising actions came from the oil and gas sector, which contributes over a third of the world's methane emissions. Fifty of the world's biggest oil companies pledged to reach near-zero methane emissions by 2030, marking a significant step forward in the fight against climate change and underscoring the importance of the energy industry's role in cutting emissions.

The Global Methane Hub was there through it all at COP28, staying true to our role as a convener, facilitator, educator, and advocate. We brought together a diverse range of government officials, industry leaders, environmental groups, scientists and civil society to discuss strategy for achieving shared climate objectives and averting the

climate catastrophe. We also unveiled several major initiatives that will make a long term and substantive impact on methane emissions reduction.

One of those groundbreaking initiatives was the Enteric Fermentation Research and Development Accelerator, a \$200 million funding initiative to tackle methane emissions in the agriculture sector, which we launched at a panel at the Climate and Business Philanthropy Forum in conjunction with our partners at the Bezos Earth Fund, High Tide Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Zegar Family Foundation, and Danone. The Accelerator is the largest-ever, and first-of-its-kind globally coordinated funding investment into R&D technologies to meaningfully address and reduce methane emissions from livestock.



Another initiative we launched was the Waste Methane Assessment Platform (Waste MAP), a pioneering global initiative in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute and Clean Air Task Force and with support from Google.org. The Waste MAP utilizes satellite monitoring to track and measure methane emissions from landfills, enhancing transparency and allowing local authorities to pinpoint emission sources. The project aims to address public health emergencies caused by methane, including fires and air pollution.

Alongside our project launches, we announced additional funding initiatives that will deliver necessary and critical resources to governments, businesses, and local climate organizations as they implement their methane mitigation strategies. One initiative was the Data to Methane Action Campaign on which we collaborated with UNEP's IMEO and its partners. GMH provided \$10 million in funding to help support governments and businesses identify and reduce methane leaks through better data monitoring. GMH also supported the International Fund for Agriculture Development's Reducing Agricultural Methane Program (RAMP), along with the U.S. State Department, which will develop agricultural methane strategies in 25 countries, helping pave a path forward for more sustainable agriculture.

One thing that really stood out to me this year was the attention and conversation around environmental justice. There was a greater and more diverse range of voices and people present at COP this year. There was compelling dialogue that highlighted the pressing need to center communities in climate work.





While we commemorate these achievements, it's important to acknowledge the critical work that still needs to be done. The urgency for methane reduction has never been sharper. The Global Methane Hub is set for long-term, ambitious transformation. We are committed to regranting at least \$100 million annually to high-impact initiatives such as addressing critical funding gaps for methane-detecting satellites and prioritizing capacity-building in emission-heavy countries in the Global South, especially in India and China, by providing technical assistance, fostering cross-cutting coalitions, and supporting countries dramatically reducing methane emissions by 2030.



I will leave you with these final thoughts. One, COP28 showed us the world is paying attention to, and beginning to focus on, super pollutants like methane. Two, it also reminded us that the battle isn't just against global warming. Climate change is inextricably linked to public health, economic development and food security. The work we do is so critical, not just for rolling back the clock on the global temperature rise, but for creating a better and more sustainable way of living for billions of people around the world.

With thanks to our partners, GMH comes out of COP28 with a renewed energy to accelerate action by governments, civil society, researchers, investors and the private sector to develop and implement strategies that will catalyze systemic rapid reductions in methane emissions in the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors. The international community stands on the verge of a more sustainable future, and I am confident that our work can turn these ambitious goals into a reality.

Sincerely,
Marcelo Mena
CEO, Global Methane Hub