

An aerial photograph of a coastal area that has been flooded. A grid-like structure of raised walkways or levees is visible, creating a series of rectangular plots. Small, white, box-like structures, possibly houses or storage units, are situated within these plots. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the overall scene suggests a resilient infrastructure designed to withstand flooding.

COP26 Resilience Hub Synthesis Report

Key messages and future directions

**RESILIENCE
HUB**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION

The Resilience Hub is the home of the UNFCCC's [Race to Resilience](#) that is driving action by non-state actors, showcasing the partner initiatives.

The Resilience Hub Steering Committee includes the [COP26 Presidency](#), [FCDO](#), [UNFCCC](#) and the High Level Champions team. It is managed by the [Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center](#) at the Atlantic Council, the [Global Resilience Partnership](#) and [The Resilience Shift](#).

The programme was led by Hubs from around the globe – South Asia, Latin America, Africa, South East and East Asia, Pacific, and of course from the heart of Glasgow in the COP26 Blue Zone and at [Glasgow Caledonian University](#). The COP26 programme was organised with the help of over 30 private and public organisations.

It is largely financed by private sector and philanthropy support. Thank you to our sponsors who include: [FCDO](#), [JPMorgan Chase](#), [UNFCCC](#), [Deloitte](#), [Google](#), [IBM](#), [PWC](#), [Arup](#), [AXA XL](#), [Jupiter Intelligence](#), [Mott MacDonald](#), [SPARC](#), [Willis Towers Watson](#), [WSP](#), [Stockholm Hub on Environment](#), [Climate and Security](#), [Anglian Water](#), and the [Climate Justice Resilience Fund](#).

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PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Finance and Investment

InsuResilience Global Partnership · Willis Towers Watson (WTW) · International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Nature: Water

Anglian Water Services · Mott MacDonald
Water Pavilion partners working closely with Resilience Hub, including: Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) · Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) · Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) · The World Conservation Union (IUCN) · Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Food and Agriculture

Just Rural Transition (JRT) (Meridian Institute) · Avina · International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) · Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security – CGIAR (CCAFS)

Energy Access and Resilience

Efficiency for Access Coalition · ICF · International Energy Agency (IEA)

Cities, Regions, Built Environment

Arup · Build Change · Sniffer

Resilient Infrastructure

Infrastructure Operators Adaptation Forum (IOAF) · Strengthening Infrastructure Risk Management in the Atlantic Area (SIRMA) · Climate Sense · Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment (CCRI) · Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Early Warning Early Action & Disaster Risk Reduction

Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) · Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) · United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) · Willis Towers Watson (WTW)

Locally Led Adaptation and Just Transition

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) · International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) · International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) · World Resources Institute (WRI)

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Climate Heritage Network · Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment (CCRI) · British Council · PRAXIS · Arts and Humanities Research Council · UKRI

Health and Wellbeing

Atlantic Council · Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance · Mott MacDonald

CROSS CUTTING CHAMPION ROLE

Getting Knowledge into Use

Resilience Knowledge Coalition: Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) · Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) · International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

Climate Justice and Inequality

Centre for Climate Justice · Glasgow Caledonian University

Nature Based Solutions (NbS)

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

REGIONAL HUB LEADS

South Asia: International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

South East and East Asia: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Pacific: Asian Development Bank (ADB) · Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Africa: World Resources Institute (WRI)

PILLAR LEADS

Coastal Pillar

Van Oord · Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)

Rural Pillar

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience (MRR) at University of California, Davis

Urban Pillar

International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED) · Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

ABOUT THIS REPORT

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Cover image: Waduk Cirata, the Cirata reservoir, in West Java, Indonesia, one of many man-made reservoirs that aim to support sustainable fish farming. Photo Credit: Pramod Kanakath / [Climate Visuals Countdown](#)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first [Resilience Hub](#), the home of UNFCCC's [Race to Resilience](#) at COP26, sought to advance action on adaptation and resilience at COP26 and beyond, and to help provide a strong collective voice on resilience for all those globally who are working to build a more climate resilient world.

This report synthesises the main messages from the Resilience Hub and aims to help set the direction for future action towards COP27 and beyond. The report first provides an overview of the key adaptation and resilience decisions and announcements that took place during COP26; it then presents the key messages resulting from the events of the Resilience Hub and offers concluding remarks on next steps towards COP27 and beyond.

Five main messages emerged:

1. **Locally Led Adaptation is essential for transformative and equitable adaptation and is ripe for scaling, subject to finance access.**
2. **There is an urgent need to increase the overall availability of quality finance for adaptation and resilience, as well as to diversify financial instruments through emphasising grant-based rather than loan-based models.**
3. **Transformative adaptation and resilience require bridging the gaps between knowledge and implementation through knowledge brokering and advancing measurement and learning.**
4. **Nature based Solutions are key to transforming risk into resilience through integrated urban, coastal and rural climate actions.**
5. **Pragmatic and equitable adaptation and resilience action requires women, youth, disabled, displaced, and Indigenous peoples to be at the heart of design, decision-making, and implementation.**

Besides summarising the key overarching messages, the synthesis report presents findings and insights from the three pillars of Race to Resilience (urban, coastal, and rural), as well as from the ten themes explored in the Resilience Hub: Finance and Investment; Water; Food and Agriculture; Energy Access and Resilience; Cities, Regions, and Built Environment; Resilient Infrastructure; Early Warning Early Action and Disaster Risk Reduction; Locally Led Adaptation and Just Transition; Arts, Culture, and Heritage; and Health and Wellbeing.



ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE AT COP26

Adaptation and resilience were a visible and prominent theme in a way not seen before in the climate COPs. Prior to COP26, adaptation only featured on the formal agenda under the technical reporting work of the [Adaptation Committee](#). However, in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and of the increasing and uneven effects of climate change, COP26 witnessed growing global consensus of the need for adaptation and resilience to be addressed on par with the mitigation agenda. Adaptation and resilience featured highly in both the formal negotiations, as well as in the campaign demands of non-state actors, with adaptation finance widely seen as a key priority. The Glasgow decision known as the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) gives prominence to adaptation with sections II and III respectively on adaptation and adaptation finance, ahead of mitigation in the text. Relevant decisions endorsed by all Parties include:

- Setting up a two year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on a global goal for adaptation;
- Setting a target of doubling climate finance (based on a 2019 baseline) by 2025 including a balance between adaptation and mitigation and a call for innovative financial instruments;
- Instructing the COP Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to prepare informal summary reports on both land and climate change adaptation, and on ways to integrate and strengthen ocean based actions.

The doubling of finance for adaptation alongside substantial commitments by several donors is significant. The [Adaptation Fund](#) has seen a record increase in pledges, from US\$129m at COP24 to US\$356m at COP26, while the [Least Developed Countries Fund](#) (which supports climate adaptation action) received a record US\$413m in new pledges. The commitment of 450 banks, asset managers and others (with total asset value of US\$130tn) to the [Glasgow Finance Alliance to Net Zero \(GFANZ\)](#) is an indication that financial institutions have grasped that climate resilience is about risk, security, and competitiveness. In an event at the Resilience Hub, the [Champions Group on Adaptation Finance](#), an informal group of ten countries championing finance solutions for the Least Developed Countries, together with representatives from the UN Secretary-General's office, took stock of progress on adaptation finance and committed to further action heading into 2022. In addition, companies and investors are committing to becoming "nature positive", through initiatives such as the [Natural Capital Investment Alliance](#), which pledged to invest US\$10bn of private capital in nature

based solutions, as well as through multi-stakeholder collaborations such as the [Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#), which aims to drive US\$500 million of investment into coastal and marine nature based solutions, positively impacting the resilience of at least 250 million people in coastal areas around the world.

According to OECD analysis, by 2025, the mobilisation of adaptation finance is on track to raise US\$40bn. However, the provision for developing countries is insufficient in view of worsening climate impacts. The [UNEP 2021 Adaptation Gap Report](#) (also launched during COP26) evidences that adaptation finance needs are five to ten times greater than current finance flows, and that the gap has been widening since the previous [2020 AGR](#) due to an increase in adaptation costs and needs, while funding flows have remained stable or decreased. Indebtedness, which has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, presents an additional challenge, which has seen states and negotiation blocks as well as non-state actors expressing the need for grant-based rather than loan-based adaptation finance.

During COP26, Loss and Damage, term which refers to the impacts to climate change that we cannot adapt to, has emerged as a key focus of the negotiations. Alongside mitigation and adaptation, it had been recognised since the 2015 Paris Agreement as the 'third pillar' of climate policy and international cooperation, however to date no standalone funding mechanism has been agreed. Responding to the impacts of climate change requires joined-up and scaled-up action to enhance resilience across a spectrum of transformative adaptation and loss and damage support for the communities and regions facing impacts that cannot be adapted to. Securing Loss and Damage finance is key to tackling the permanent loss of lives and livelihoods, and the ensuing migration and displacement.

Beyond formal negotiations and decisions, there was a strong focus on recognising the different roles and capabilities that are required to adapt and deliver solutions locally. Non-state actors led this agenda through the [Race to Resilience](#) and the [Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action](#). Adaptation and resilience are key climate justice issues and at COP26 this link was strengthened through the increasing recognition that women, youth, disabled, displaced, and Indigenous peoples must be at the heart of decision-making and implementation processes.



“The Race to Resilience allowed us to put mitigation at the level of urgency of adaptation and resilience – and not the other way around.”

— Gonzalo Muñoz, High-Level Climate Action Champion of Chile for UN COP26, during the Resilience Hub Reflective Event at the end of week 2

“The Resilience Hub has been a real success and we hope that it goes from strength to strength to draw more attention and direct more resources.”

— Nigel Topping, High Level Champion for Climate Action at COP26, during a High-level Plenary session at the end of week 2

“I want to acknowledge what an important milestone it was to be part of this journey with you [the Champions] and how it has given agency and voice to communities that felt they were the poster children of other people’s agendas.”

— Sheela Patel, Founder Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) India, during the Resilience Hub Reflective Event at the end of week 2



THE RESILIENCE HUB AT COP26

As the home of the [Race to Resilience](#) at COP26, the Resilience Hub played a key part in advancing dialogue and action on adaptation and resilience through demonstrating what non-state and state actors are doing to build a resilient future where people, communities, businesses, and cities thrive in the face of the impacts of climate change.

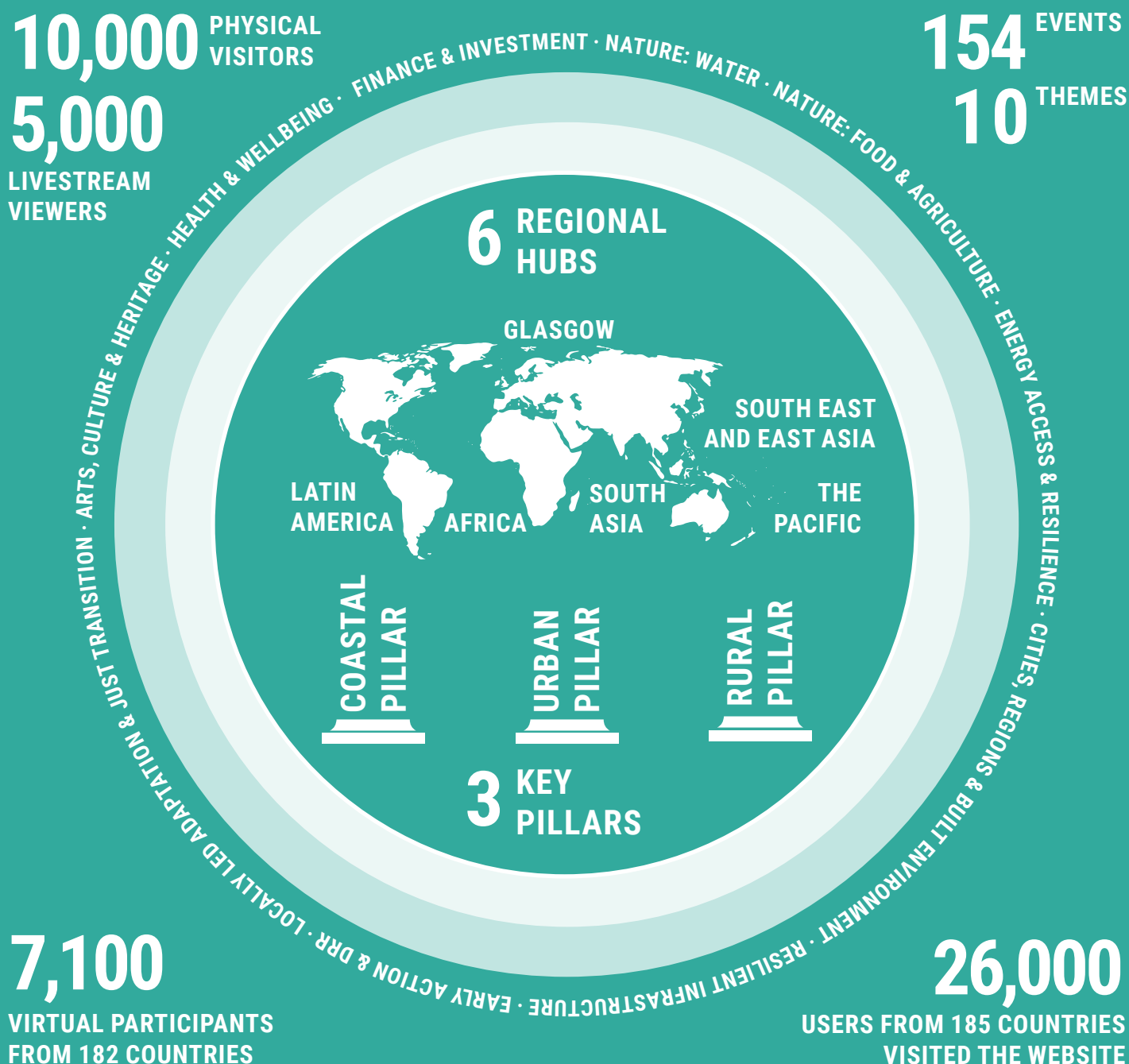
While previous COPs have seen an increase in focus on resilience and adaptation, it has been spread across different initiatives, spaces and events inside and outside the COP. Adaptation and resilience was “everywhere but nowhere”, lacking a focal point. The Resilience Hub was designed to meet this challenge.

The Resilience Hub provided a unique convening, learning, and connecting platform. With six geographic hubs (five virtual, Africa, South Asia, South East and East Asia, Pacific, Latin America, as well as an in person one in Glasgow), 154 events from 80 event partners featuring 176 participating organisations, and 21 sponsors, the first ever COP Resilience Hub brought together a community of state and non-state actors.

The following key messages and thematic summaries were developed through a qualitative analysis of 50 Resilience Hub event summaries produced by event leads, and through reflective conversations between the report authors, the Resilience Hub team, as well as pillar, theme, and regional leads.

10,000 PHYSICAL VISITORS
5,000 LIVESTREAM VIEWERS

154 EVENTS
10 THEMES



KEY MESSAGES

1. Locally Led Adaptation is essential for transformative and equitable adaptation and is ripe for scaling subject to finance access.

2. There is an urgent need to increase the overall availability of quality finance for adaptation and resilience, as well as to diversify financial instruments through emphasising grant-based rather than loan-based models.

3. Transformative adaptation and resilience require bridging the gaps between knowledge and implementation through knowledge brokering and advancing measurement and learning.

For communities on the frontlines of climate change, resilience and adaptation are critical present needs that must be urgently addressed. Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) is an effective model to ensure that these communities have a voice in decisions that directly affect their lives and livelihoods. It has been successfully piloted in different contexts and it is ready for scaling. Scaling LLA requires the alignment of finance commitments to the eight [Principles for Locally Led Adaptation](#), a widely endorsed codification of good practice to which over 70 governments, leading global institutions, and local and international NGOs have signed up. LLA requires: the integration of generational knowledge systems (local, traditional, and Indigenous) with technical and scientific insights to improve adaptation planning, investment, and learning.

In line with the [Principles for Locally Led Adaptation](#), the needs of end users in local communities must be at the heart of designing financial solutions and policies. As the speed and accessibility of financial instruments needs to rapidly increase, the private sector, financial institutions, insurers, and asset managers need to integrate climate risk as a core part of risk management. Initiatives such as the [Glasgow Finance Alliance to Net Zero \(GFANZ\)](#) are demonstrating that this shift is materialising. Taking a holistic approach to finance requires connecting development, humanitarian, and climate finance to respond more effectively. Collaboration between academia, civil society, multilaterals and implementing programmes, as well as the private sector is required to learn from failure and scale successful financial approaches.

Capacity building initiatives such as knowledge brokering and communities of practice are key to strengthening knowledge-policy-practice-investment linkages. The importance of action research and transdisciplinarity has become increasingly recognised, as they can surface and integrate different knowledge systems. Progress is being made on the longstanding challenge of measuring resilience through the [Race to Resilience Metrics Framework](#) and the [Sustainable Asset Valuation \(SAVi\)](#). Digital tools, quantitative approaches, codes, and standards can inform better decision-making, however, their success relies on trust and communication. Integrating these successfully and equitably requires building new partnerships, mediating power dynamics, and strengthening South-South and South-North linkages.



4. Nature based Solutions provide a key opportunity to transform risk into resilience through integrated urban, coastal, and rural climate actions.

5. Pragmatic and equitable action requires women, youth, disabled, displaced, and Indigenous peoples to be at the heart of design, decision-making, and implementation processes.

Increased investment in high-quality Nature based Solutions (NbS) needs to be implemented in partnership with and full respect of Indigenous peoples and local communities' rights and knowledge. NbS should aim to protect tangible and intangible heritage, avoid only focusing on one type of ecosystem, support or enhance biodiversity, and start from a measured baseline. Integrating NbS in agri-food systems needs to ensure that farmers are paid, reimbursed, and insured to transition towards resilient and regenerative practices. In urban areas, NbS can improve health and wellbeing while providing vital resilience buffers. Coastal and marine NbS, such as mangrove replanting or coral reef repair, can strengthen the food security and socio-economic resilience of coastal communities worldwide.

Youth movements have been key in shaping the narrative of climate emergency and justice, through calls such as the [Youth4Pacific Declaration on Climate Change](#), and now action must follow up ahead of COP27 and beyond. Cutting across the different Resilience Hub activities was a growing consensus of the need for pragmatic and equitable action to scale [Locally Led Adaptation](#) and Nature based Solutions, to scale and diversify adaptation and resilience finance, to advance knowledge brokering, to progress the development and application of the [Race to Resilience Metrics Framework](#), and to use arts and culture to inspire change at all levels. Taking action through putting women, youth, disabled, displaced, and Indigenous peoples at the heart of decision-making is key for COP27 not to succumb to more “blah, blah, blah”.

Opposite page: Seaweed farming in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Zanzibar is the world's third largest exporter of seaweed and 90% of the farmers are women.

Photo credit: Natalija Gormalova / Climate Visuals Countdown

This page: Rewilding initiative by Colombia Reserva Ambiental to recover the paramo of Guerrero, a special Andean ecosystem located 3.400 m above sea level and one of the most important water sources for the capital Bogota.

Photo credit: Ivan Camilo Ospina / Climate Visuals Countdown



REFLECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS TOWARDS COP27 AND BEYOND

COP26 has seen the adaptation and resilience agenda coming to the fore. The first Resilience Hub provided a physical and virtual space for the global adaptation and resilience community to take stock, strengthen our collective voice, and identify our shared next steps as we keep building momentum towards COP27 and beyond. The Resilience Hub, as the home of the Race to Resilience, will build on the UK COP26 [Glasgow Imperative on Closing the adaptation gap and responding to climate impacts](#) on the pathway to Sharm el-Sheikh. Cutting across the [Glasgow Imperative](#) as well as the different Resilience Hub themes, pillar, and activities is a growing consensus of the need for pragmatic and equitable action to scale [Locally Led Adaptation](#) and Nature based Solutions, to scale and diversify adaptation and resilience finance, to advance knowledge brokering initiatives, to progress the development and application of the [Race to Resilience Metrics Framework](#), and to use arts and culture to inspire change at all levels.

We all have a part to play in putting this into practice. Whether we are funders of adaptation and resilience (donors, financial institutions, asset owners, investors, trusts, and foundations), regulators and policy makers (international, national, subnational, and local level), private sector organisations (technology providers, innovators, business and service providers), practitioners (civil society organisations, community-based organisations, faith organisations, subject-matter experts), or researchers (academic institutions, think tanks, policy institutes), it is upon all of us to ensure that adaptation and resilience action follows at pace.

“We’re really just at the beginning and we have a lot more work to do. Resilience is a key theme under the Egyptian presidency and a huge theme for the African continent. I’m excited to put more emphasis on the Race to Resilience next year, especially as one of our commitments to the future of the Marrakech partnership is to regionalise and bring in local voices and work with partners on local solutions.”

— Nigel Topping, High Level Champion for Climate Action at COP26, during the Resilience Hub Reflective Event at the end of week 2

The Resilience Hub will continue its work to advance action on adaptation and resilience at COP27 and beyond. This will be demonstrated by sharing what non-state and state actors are doing to build a resilient future where people, communities, businesses, and cities thrive in the face of the impacts of climate change. The Resilience Hub will continue to bring together global voices both physically and virtually, will build collaboration and momentum, help identify opportunities, strengthen regional and global networks during COP, as well as help amplify learning and action throughout the year.

Taking action through putting women, youth, disabled, displaced, and Indigenous peoples at the heart of decision-making is key for COP27 not to succumb to more “blah, blah, blah”. As youth movements around the world have been key in shaping the narrative of climate emergency and justice, now action must follow.

A ONE WORD TAKEAWAY FROM THE RESILIENCE HUB...



GLOBAL
RESILIENCE
PARTNERSHIP



Atlantic Council



Adrienne Arsht-
Rockefeller Foundation
Resilience Center



THE RESILIENCE SHIFT





RESILIENCE HUB