

Although the United States is one of the countries contributing the largest percentage of carbon emissions, it is now working to reduce and address this through a large number of friendly projects for the environment that reduces the percentage of those emissions, Sam Warburg, regional spokesman for the US State Department, said in an interview with Al-Bawaba News, adding that it is not enough for Washington to contribute only to financing, but it must also contribute, through various technological techniques, to reducing the rates of what causes climate change.

He also thanked the Egyptian state for its interest in the climate file, not only by holding this summit, but for many years.

Interview conducted by: Dalia Abdelrahim

Sam Warburg: US serious about paying its financial pledges to countries affected by climate change



Sam Warburg, Regional Spokesman for US State Department

First, how do you see US President Joe Biden's speech at the climate summit, and what are the implications of supporting Egypt with \$500 million to set up projects to combat climate change?

This event is considered one of the most important events related to combating climate change, and this is a great opportunity. Here the leaders gather, and we have the possibility of financial assistance

to all participants. We are here to set a new financial system to provide this assistance; \$1 million for US-Egyptian aid. We watched the speech of US President Joe Biden, which clarified that there is great interest in climate issues, and the provision of \$500 million to Egypt is the best evidence.

The United States is one of the major industrialized countries that contribute a large proportion

of carbon emissions. What is your plan to reduce these emissions?

America will strive hard to reduce its emissions. The United States will bear the responsibility and will contribute to initiatives to provide financial and technological assistance. This is our role, and we will take serious steps in this matter.

Are we talking now about serious pledges, whether in terms of funding or any other aid to the countries most affected, or could we see a reversal of the implementation of these pledges, as happened in the Trump administration?

Biden's administration is fully committed to providing financial support and establishing projects that contribute to reducing emissions. I think that all institutions in America will agree to these steps, and this is a democratic matter. I think the US administration announces its support for any projects that confront climate change. This is normal, because the time has come. We don't have time for further discussions on this matter. Now is the time to implement to save our planet.

Could we see the imposition of sanctions on some non-committed countries?

Imposing sanctions on countries is difficult to implement because there are no controls from the side that will impose the sanctions. The world has a clear certainty that there is climate change, and this has become a reality and we do not have much time; we have to start quick measures. This summit is a precious opportunity, and

world leaders must save the opportunity and take advantage of it.

Now, in the shadow of this summit that is being held to search for a solution to save our planet, there is an ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war that contributes greatly to climate-damaging emissions. How do you see this matter?

I think that there is a Russian delegation represented at this summit and another Ukrainian, and certainly there were talks about these climate risks caused by the war in general. We are not talking on behalf of any delegations, but I see that there are efforts by John Kerry, the climate envoy to the United Nations at the international level, to unite all efforts with all parties in order to take advantage of the opportunity and work to develop a strong system to face climate change.

Tell me about your vision of Egypt's role in confronting climate change?

Egypt plays a very big role in the file of sustainable development and the Egyptian investments in climate-related projects. Egypt is coordinating with all parties in the United Nations. There is bilateral coordination between Cairo and the United States in projects such as desertification and climate adaptation, which are large projects that need financing. Hence, the coordination between Egypt and the United States is historical. In addition, we see that Egypt has a real will to work to combat climate change, and this is not only in order to prepare for this conference or summit, but it is work that extends for many years.



The European countries come to mine for fossil fuel in Africa with colonial attitude, CEO of Green Touches Company in UAE says

Interview conducted by: Shahinda Abdel Rahim

Do you see that the financing for countries affected most by climate change, especially in Africa, is enough?

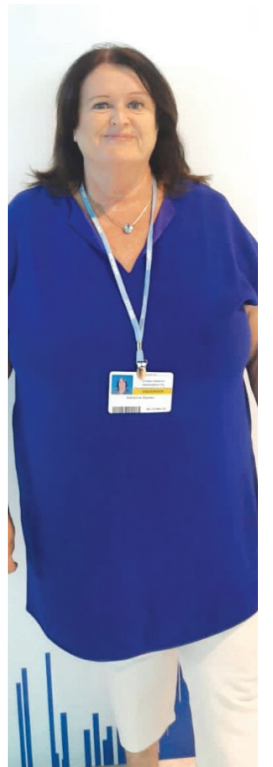
At the end of COP26 in Glasgow last November, they made commitments with billions of dollars for small island nations, for Africa, for underdeveloped countries, but so far no money has been actually paid. The global North continue to profit from the global South. The island nations will have no homes anymore; there's already economic and non-economic destruction in their countries. We'll end with having billions of migrants having to find homes again, and this will cause anarchy and sorts of problems in the world. Europe is already bad to migrants, and migrants are dying daily in the sea in the Mediterranean. We need as a world to come together for humanity. In the Horn of Africa, there are more than 860 million people suffering from starvation. There's going to be a famine there, which we already fought for in 1984, and here we are in 2022 and it's the same thing. The fossil fuel companies have seen their biggest profits in 15 years, and that is totally unacceptable. Now, loss and damage is on the agenda, and this is a great step forward, because the island nations have already been fighting for more than 30 years. In Africa, we see the European countries coming in again and starting to mine, and they come with the same kind of colonial attitude as happened before. We can't continue like this. We need stronger leaders. Most leaders serve only three- or four-year terms and are only concerned about votes and their constituencies, but climate change knows no short term. I was impressed with President Sisi during the opening, because he was really powerful and outspoken, along with Antonio Guterres and Al Gore.

Climate change isn't just affecting the weather, but is also affecting food security. How can we handle this issue?

Food security and water security are huge problems now. About 70% of the planet is water, and we can only drink 1% of that, yet we're constantly polluting it. More and more droughts means that countries are looking for water to water their crops for food, and this will become a problem, because the ground water will dry up. It's a finite source, and we can't drink the fossil fuels that are coming out of the ground. In Africa and the Middle East, food security is going to become a huge issue, as the temperatures continue to rise and there is less and less water. We need to be worried about food and water security. The war in Ukraine also has shown that we have become very reliant on what has been called the "bread basket of Europe", and we've been held ransom by this Russian-Ukrainian war. Europeans were talking about renewables until the war happened, and then everyone started to panic. We need transparency, openness, data sharing, collaborations, partnerships, because the only way to push forward to make change is to work together.

Do you think that COP27 will make progress on the ground?

I feel a lot of hope. I've met a lot of NGOs, especially African NGOs, that are working hard within sustainability, but it's not enough people. There are 30,000 people here but a population of 8 billion in the world. There are a lot of smart people developing smart solutions, but sometimes they don't supported because it's not financially viable, because everyone is still looking to profit. But we can't be buried with money; it's going to be of no benefit to us. Rich people are going to die as fast as poor people with climate change; money isn't going to save anything. We need to find the solution to making everyone aware. But you can't expect a man in Africa who is starving to even think about not using plastic when he can't even put food on the table. Developed countries need to step up and start looking into the underdeveloped countries, and they have to start financing and helping. People aren't looking for money; they're looking for solutions. Don't just throw money at people, but go in and actually help them.



Adrienne Doolan from Ireland, CEO/ Founder of Green Touches Sustainable Company in UAE

