
UN Climate Chief Warns of Global Governance Test



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Global climate governance is facing a “defining test,” UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said in an interview with Xinhua, warning that climate impacts and geopolitical instability are making urgent action increasingly necessary.

Stiell said communities worldwide are experiencing extreme heat, droughts, floods, food insecurity and economic disruption linked to climate change. He noted that conflicts in the Middle

East have exposed the rising costs of fossil fuel dependency, affecting economies, businesses and households.

He stressed that accelerating the shift to renewable energy is central to energy security, stability and sovereignty. Stiell highlighted China as an example, saying its clean energy investment has nearly doubled since the Paris Agreement, driving jobs, growth and improved living standards.

China met its 2020 targets ahead of schedule and aims to peak emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality before 2060. Stiell said China has consistently exceeded its climate commitments.

He added that COP30 reaffirmed the Paris Agreement and confirmed the global clean energy transition is irreversible, signalling continued cooperation despite geopolitical tensions.

Stiell warned no country can tackle climate change alone and urged stronger cooperation to reduce rising economic and social costs.

He called for faster implementation through partnerships involving governments, cities, companies and investors, focusing on renewable energy, methane reduction, food security, waste management and resilient cities ahead of COP31.