UN Climate Chief Warns Europe Heatwave Shows “Fingerprints of Climate Crisis”

Europe is currently facing a severe heatwave across several Western countries, with rising temperatures triggering widespread disruption, health emergencies, and public safety concerns.

Reacting to the situation, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell issued a strong warning, linking the extreme weather directly to global fossil fuel emissions and the accelerating climate crisis.

In a statement released on Thursday, Stiell said:

> *“Europe’s savage heatwave has the fingerprints of the climate crisis all over it – it’s the latest price to pay for fossil fuel pollution baking our planet. Schools closing, the vulnerable dying, economies sweating: this is what the climate crisis looks like in practice, and it’s just getting started.”*

He cautioned that continued reliance on coal, oil, and gas will further intensify extreme weather events in the coming years.

> *“Until humanity stops burning colossal amounts of coal, oil and gas, extreme heat will keep getting worse, and other climate impacts – from mega-droughts, floods, wildfires and storms – will keep hammering every economy and population harder each year,” he said.*

Stiell also highlighted the economic and humanitarian toll of rising global temperatures, warning that thousands of deaths

in a single day have already been reported in some regions during extreme heat events.

Calling for urgent global action, he urged countries to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and strengthen climate resilience.

> *“The solutions are equally clear: a faster shift to renewables – which are now much cheaper than fossil fuels – as well as protecting forests and boosting climate resilience. Many countries need support to embrace clean energy and protect their peoples. There’s no time to lose.”*

Meteorological agencies across Europe continue to monitor the heatwave, which is expected to persist in several regions over the coming days, raising further concerns about public health, infrastructure stress, and energy demand.