



The UN & You

BY TERESA KOTTURAN SCN – OCTOBER 2021

COP26: UN Conference on Climate Change

Engage Virtually at COP26

1. Secure net zero emissions by 2050 by phasing out of coal, curtail deforestation, switch to electric vehicles
2. Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats – protect and restore ecosystems; build defenses, early warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and lives.
3. Mobilize finance
4. Work together to deliver – finalize Paris Agreement Rulebook; accelerate action to tackle climate crisis through collaboration among all segments of society.

Everything you needed to know about COP26: [Watch video](#)

Sir David Attenborough's speech to the UN Security Council: [Watch video](#)

COP26 Schedule: [View/download PDF](#)

The formal opening of [COP26](#) will take place on Oct. 31. The UK Prime Minister has invited heads of state and governments to attend the World Leaders Summit Nov. 1–2, a part of the high-level segment.

News on Paris Agreement and COP26

China, India, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Australia have not announced their upgraded national climate plans to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, though the deadline is over.

Turkey's parliament ratified the Paris Agreement on Oct. 6, more than five year after it signed the treaty and approved a goal to reach net zero emissions by 2053.

Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Libya and Yemen are the five coun-

tries left to ratify the Paris Agreement.

China pledged to stop building new coal energy plants abroad during the UN General Assembly in September. (China has coal reserves for another 35 years.)

UAE – United Arab Emirates is the first Gulf petro-state to commit to fully decarbonize its economy and reach net zero emissions by 2050. It is planning to invest \$163 billion in “clean and renewable” energy over the next 30 years.

Ahead of the G20 and COP26 summits, over 600 businesses from around the world are calling on G20 leaders to go all in to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Centigrade.

A Consortium of think tanks is urging COP26 delegates to put the needs of developing and climate-vulnerable countries and communities first during the negotiations.

Major Concerns

The biggest challenge at COP26 is a lack of political will from elected leaders and from businesses – economic greed over health of the people and planet.

Developed countries have not mobilized \$100 billion annual Climate Finance.

Climate Finance: Article 9 of the Paris Climate Agreement stipulates that developed country parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country parties for **Mitigation and Adaptation**. In 2009, developed countries made a commitment to mobilize **\$100 billion annually by 2020** to help developing countries to address the impacts of climate change. Finance is required to reach net zero, to improve people's lives and the prospects for the planet

Adaptation: Adapting to life in a changing climate- it involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate. The Global Commission on Adaptation estimates that

Continued next page

investing \$1.8 trillion from 2020 – 2030 could generate \$7.1 trillion total benefits. However, so far, finance for adaptation is only a small percentage of climate finance.

Mitigation: Involves reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, either by reducing sources of these gases (burning fossil fuels or electricity, heat, transport) or enhancing the “sinks” that accumulate and store these gases (such as the oceans, forests, soil).

Loss and Damage: Extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods, droughts and rising sea levels can cause damage to human societies and infrastructure and to the natural environment. It is a lived reality for millions of people living in vulnerable countries, who have contributed the least to climate change and who do not have the resources to deal with the losses and damage. Extreme weather conditions have displaced 30 million people in 2020 alone. Loss and damage is a contentious issue for climate negotiators, because of the questions of fairness and equity – taking historical responsibility for climate change and paying for losses and damages. Developing countries are calling for compensation from developed countries; but developed countries would like to treat this issue as a component of adaptation. NGOs are advocating for a needs-based Loss and Damage finance, in addition to \$100 billion per year committed for mitigation and adaptation.

Green Climate Fund (GCF): Established 2010 during COP15 to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries to mitigate the causes of climate change, and adapt to the environmental, economic, and social impacts that are already here. It has approved \$1.2 billion for new adaptation and mitigation action. GCF has a mandate to invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation. At least half of its adaptation resources must be invested in the most climate vulnerable countries.

What is happening in Glasgow for your virtual engagement?

Talanoa Dialogue: Oct. 31 (Sunday) following the arrival of pilgrims from Scotland, UK, Sweden, Germany and five other countries. The aim of Talanoa Dialogue is to form a binding community. Leaders of UNFCCC will be joining the dialogue, which will include group work on different topics and a Service. **There will be two meetings with interfaith groups** at COP26 and Service halfway through the COP).

Register for the informal interfaith gathering that will take place both in-person and virtually for the Talanoa Dialogue: [In-person Registration](#) (Eventbrite) and [online registration](#) (Zoom)

What is Talanoa Dialogue? Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect the process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose is to share stories, based on three questions: “Where are we now? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?” To build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. It is a traditional method of solving differences in the Pacific.

Confrontation and criticisms of other participants are forbidden, and round tables abound. The Presidencies of COP 22 (Morocco) and COP23 (presided over by Fiji, and held in Bonn, Germany in 2017) were mandated to employ the dialogue process.

1. [Prayers & Meditation for a Beneficial COP26](#) (by Bishop Philip Huggins, Mrs. Sarwat Tasneem & Prayer by Lindsey Fielder Cook)
2. [Interfaith Liaison Committee Website](#) (also contains the flyer and registration link)
3. ILC [Facebook](#) and ILC [Twitter](#) will be updated with the Talanoa Dialogue flyer and information for registration

[Christian Aid website](#) provides information, dialogue, and prayer opportunities.

Other Resources

- [Faith for the Climate](#)
- [Faith for Climate Justice](#)
- [Faith Plans](#)
- [Make COP Count](#) – UK Faith groups taking action
- [Water Spirit offers weekly Meditation for Earth](#)
- Informational talks: [Watch videos](#)
- [Glasgow Multi-faith Declaration for COP26](#)
- [Sign up to receive the COP26 newsletter](#)
- [Webcast and videos](#)
- [BBC has announced plans to cover the COP26 Summit](#) extensively through its UK and global services

*Prepared by: Teresa Kotturan, SCN
NGO Representative, Sisters of Charity Federation
Oct. 18, 2021*