COP 26 - Deliverables

State of Play

COP 26 delivered the Glasgow Climate Pact an agreement that requests Parties to the Paris Agreement to revisit their emission reduction commitments, as necessary, by the end of 2022, in an effort to put global emissions on track for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Analysis of these pledges and announcements made at COP 26 is still underway but more ambition is clearly needed. While it is crucial to make sure that are sufficient emissions reductions by 2030, it is also time to focus on the accelerated implementation of those targets in hope they will outpace the still too low ambition represented in the NDCs.

In order to deliver on these promises, despite pushback from China and India, COP26's final plenary agreed for the very first time to accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and recognised the need for support towards a just transition.

Also, six years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, COP26 accomplished the completion of the Paris Agreement rulebook, which means that all parties have agreed on how to report on their progress against their emission reduction targets and finalised the rules for the operation of international carbon markets. It means the Paris Agreement becomes fully operational, which is critical to keeping us on the right path.

Developed countries also provided reassurances of their commitment to deliver USD 100bn through 2025, agreed to at least double the collective donors' contribution to adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025, and together with all other countries set a process for the new - post 2025 - collective quantified goal on climate finance.

Parties agreed to strengthen a global network of agencies that provide financial and technical assistance to countries experiencing extreme and slow-onset impacts of climate change and to start a dialogue in the coming years on the arrangements for funding activities to address, minimize and address loss and damage.

Glasgow was only a starting point as there is still a lot of work ahead to keep global warming to 1.5°C. We need to implement the promises of the intergovernmental process as swiftly as possible while continuing our work with international partners to deliver higher ambition.

Briefing 1/4

Key Messages

At the start of this conference, we had set three objectives:

- First, to put sufficient pressure on Parties to step up their commitments to reduce emissions within this decade, with a view to keep the 1,5C goal within reach.
- Second, to reassure developing countries that donors remain committed to reach the target of 100 billion dollars per year through 2025.
- And third, to complete the rulebook enabling a transparent implementation of the Paris agreement by all Parties.

We have made progress on all three objectives

- Under the Paris Agreement, 195 countries agreed to keep average global temperature change well below 2°C while pursuing efforts towards 1.5°C. Based on current national policies the planet is on track for a 2.7°C of global warming. Based on new announcements during Glasgow, and assuming they are implemented, experts estimate that we are now on a path between 1.8°C and 2.4°C of warming. In the COP's cover decisions, Parties have agreed to revisit their commitments, as necessary, by the end of 2022 to put us on track for 1.5°C of warming, maintaining the upper end of ambition under the Paris Agreement.
- In order to deliver on these promises, COP26 also agreed for the first time to accelerate efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and recognised the need for support towards a just transition.
- It's encouraging to see that many countries announced climate neutrality commitments, since the last COP in Madrid 2 years ago. Looking ahead, we can say we have left Glasgow with a clear collective resolve to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

Briefing 2/4

- Significantly, COP26 also completed the technical negotiations on the Paris Agreement Rulebook, which fixes the transparency and reporting requirements for all Parties to track progress against their emission reduction targets. The Rulebook also includes the 'Article 6' mechanisms, which set out the functioning of international carbon markets to support further global cooperation on emission reductions. Countries have to put in place their domestic frameworks in order to deliver on the commitments made.
- On climate finance, the agreed text commits developed countries to double their collective contribution to adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025, and to reach the \$100 billion goal as soon as possible. Parties also commit to a process to agree on a climate finance goal beyond 2025. The COP also decided to establish a dialogue between parties, stakeholders and relevant organisations to support efforts to avert, minimise and address loss and damage associated with climate change.

Defensives

China and India watered down the agreement in the very last minute, when other countries were told the text was closed and wouldn't be opened again. Do you still believe that this is an ambitious agreement?

 During two weeks of intense negotiations, the COP26 Presidency listened to all parties and gave utmost consideration to the diverging interests. We would have preferred the earlier wording that was stronger on coal but the EU put all its efforts in still ensuring a deal. For our planet and its people, this deal is clearly better than no deal.

What was decided on loss and damage? Did the EU oppose strong language on loss and damage?

 Parties agreed to strengthen a global network of agencies that provide financial and technical assistance to countries experiencing extreme and slow-onset impacts of climate change.

Briefing 3/4

- Parties also agreed to start a dialogue in the coming years on the arrangements for funding activities to address, minimize and address loss and damage.
- "I fully understand when developing nations say there should be more finances on the table and yes, we're only at the beginning of what we need to do on loss and damage."

Briefing 4/4