

Sharing the Experience at COP26 Participation

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What is COP26?

- COP stands for “**Conference of the Parties**”. It is the meeting of the parties (governments/countries) who signed the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994.
- Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the **UNFCCC**.
- The COP brings these signatory governments together once a year since 1995 to discuss coordinated action and how to jointly address climate change.
- Delegates include world leaders, ministers, and negotiators but also by representatives from civil society, business, international organizations, and the media.
- COP is hosted by different countries. COP26 was hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy.



What is the Paris Agreement?

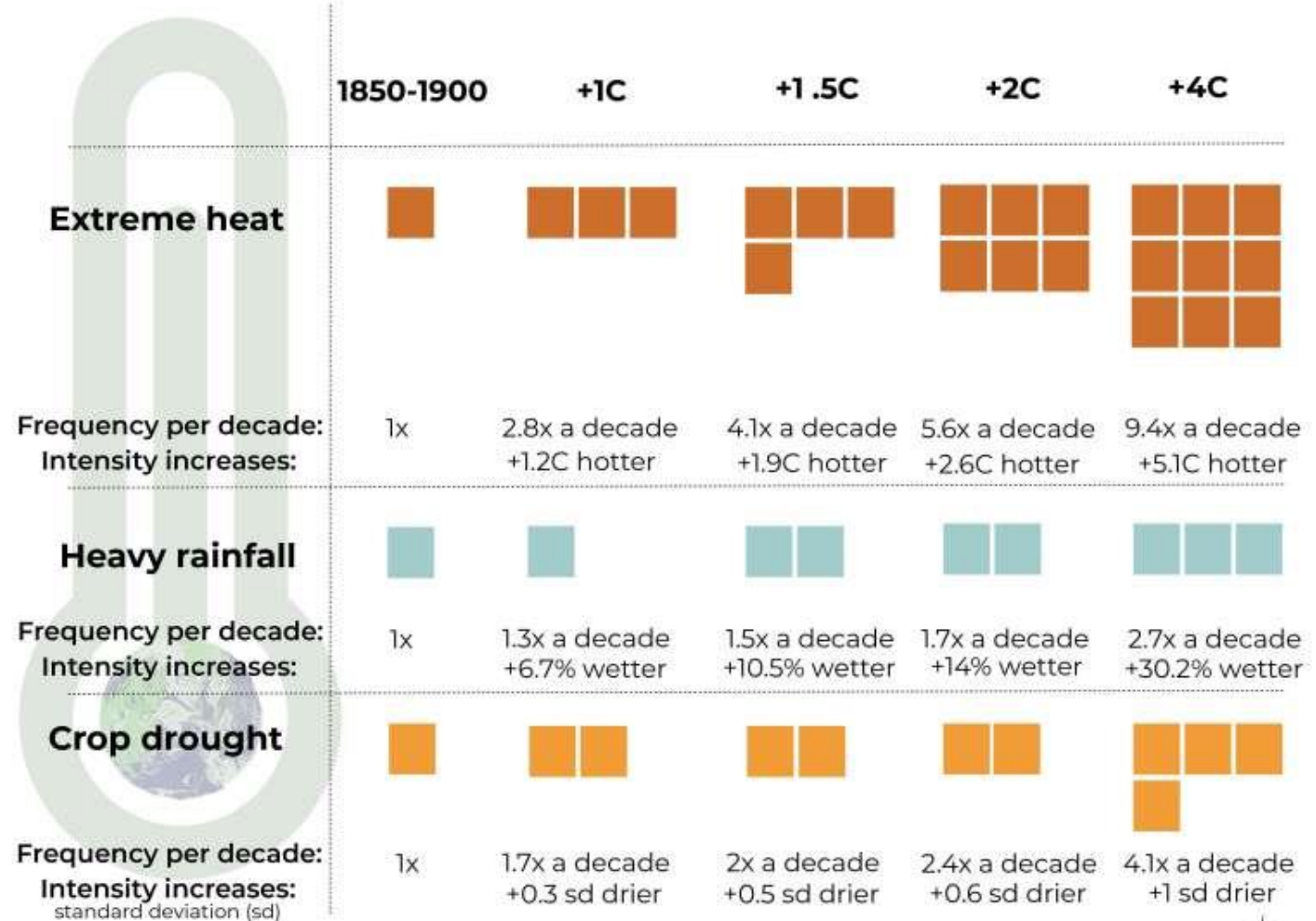
- The Paris Agreement is an international treaty signed by almost all countries in the world at COP21 in Paris in 2015. “It is the crown jewel of the UNFCCC process since it gave the world its **first universal global agreement** on climate change.”
- Its aims are to **keep the rise in the global average temperature to ‘well below’ 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, ideally 1.5 degrees**; strengthen the ability to **adapt to climate change** and **build resilience**; and align all **finance flows** with ‘a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development’.
- The Paris Agreement has a ‘bottom-up’ approach where countries themselves decide by how much they will reduce their emissions by a certain year. They communicate these targets to the UNFCCC in the form of ‘**nationally determined contributions**’, or ‘**NDCs**’.

1.5C

CLIMATE CRISIS

Why is 1.5 C (2.7F) important?

This year, the IPCC released a report discussing the effects of future global warming levels on the frequency and intensity of natural events. **At 1.5C** above pre-industrial levels **extreme heat** event will **occur 4.1 times in a decade** compared with 1850-1900.



Source: IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers | Updated: November 3, 2021



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UN Secretary-General António Guterres calling the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) a

“code red for humanity.”



Cop 26 Explained: What To Know About The Un Climate Change Conference

CLIMATE CRISIS

What are the goals at COP26?

The **UK is hosting the 26th Conference of the Parties**, with four goals to be discussed during the annual climate change summit in Glasgow.



Net zero and 1.5 degrees

Countries are called on to reach **net-zero carbon emissions by 2050** and to keep global temperatures **below 1.5C**



Protect ecosystems and habitats

States are encouraged to **protect and restore ecosystems** and build resilient infrastructures to withstand climate change



Mobilise finance

Developed nations are asked to mobilise **\$100bn in climate finance** per year for poorer nations to tackle climate change



Collaboration

Parties at COP26 will need to **collaborate** to finalise the **Paris Rulebook**, which sets out the rules of the Paris Agreement

Cop 26 Explained: What To Know About The Un Climate Change Conference

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES TO WATCH AT COP 26?

- 1. **Ambition** (All parties to the Paris Agreement were asked to submit updated 2030 pledges (NDCs) by COP 26. However, current climate commitments put the world on track to blow through 2°C of warming by the end of the century, which would result in catastrophic climate impacts.)
- 2. **Climate Finance** (At COP 15 in Copenhagen (in 2009) and again at COP 21 in Paris (2015), developed economies committed to mobilize \$100 billion annually in public and private financial support by 2020 to help developing economies chart a sustainable course of economic development and address the impacts of climate change.)
- 3. **Adaptation** ("Climate adaptation" refers to the changes communities will need to make in response to mounting climate impacts.)
- 4. **Finalizing the Paris Rulebook** (Countries are expected to finalize the rules needed to implement the Paris Agreement (which are frequently referred to as the "Paris Rulebook"), including agreeing on common approaches to carbon markets, transparent national reporting on emissions, and common five-year time frames for submitting updated NDCs.)

COP26 Zones



Where is the
YMCA in this
space?

Observers within the Blue Zone

- Since 1947, YMCA has had **consultative status** with the United Nations, and for many successive COPs has attended with **delegations of young people to observe, influence and learn.**
- YMCA attended COP26 with a delegation of inspiring young leaders from around the world, elevating their stories, advocating for greater investment in youth-led solutions and generating media content.



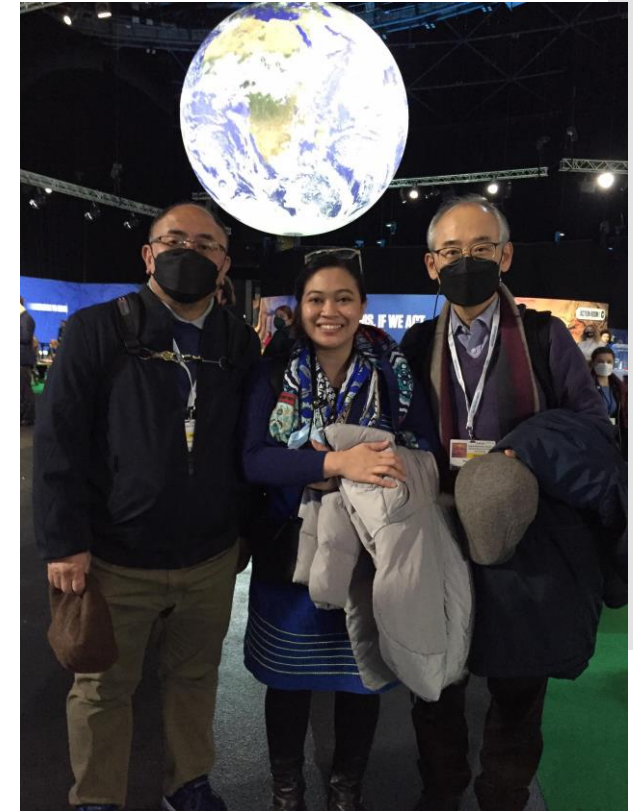
Why we went to COP26?

We wanted to:

- promote the diversification and mobilization of the climate action movement, in order to elevate the voices of **young people** and the **marginalized**.
- develop and deepen **partnerships and collaborations** that invest in youth-led climate solutions.
- strengthen climate action cooperation between private sector, social business and NGOs.

What was my role going there?

- I was representing the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCA's (APAY) as YMCA Youth Ambassador amplifying Youth-Led Solutions
- I've had dialogue with other YMCA Youth Ambassadors from other countries; Zambia, UK, Peru, Ireland, USA



What was my
role going
there?

- I've had several media engagements where I shared about our Youth Led Solutions Initiatives and Green Ambassadors Program



What were my key experiences in cop26?

- Learning about other Youth-Led Solutions Initiatives from other YMCA's
- Panel on Youth Led Solutions



Team Trees - Kosovo



C.A.R.E for Climate - Michigan and Albay (USA)



Y Climate Arts - Ndola, Zambia



'Sumaq Muru' - Peru



Reducing community carbon footprint - Hawaii



BrinGreen - Palestine



What were my key experiences in cop26?

Youth Meeting with US Climate Secretary John Kerry

- Youth not just to be included but to be consulted, be heard and be involved in the decision-making process on Climate Action
- Importance of investing in Youth Led Solutions



YMCA working to combat climate change

- **Environment** is one of the four main key areas of our work.
- Every Young Person has the ability to contribute to reducing environmental degradation
- Every Young Person should live in a sustainable environment
- Young People should be given opportunities to learn and advocate on environmental issues
- We should be an example of sustainable practices and respect for the environment

OUR POSITION

We, the YMCA, are committed to protecting the creation and empowering young people. This is about who we are and is a call inspired by our Christian and ecumenical identity.



Channelling young people's commitment
to climate justice & sustainability

YMCA working to combat climate change



What were my key experiences in cop26?

Live from COP26 (November 10)

- COP26 YMCA Ambassadors shared what has been happening on the ground, live from Glasgow



Net Zero

CLIMATE CRISIS

Getting to net zero and 1.5C

To achieve net zero and keep 1.5C within reach, actions have been proposed during the COP26 summit. So far, **more than 100 leaders have pledged to stop and reverse deforestation by 2030.**

Phasing out coal



Deforestation



Electric vehicles



Renewables

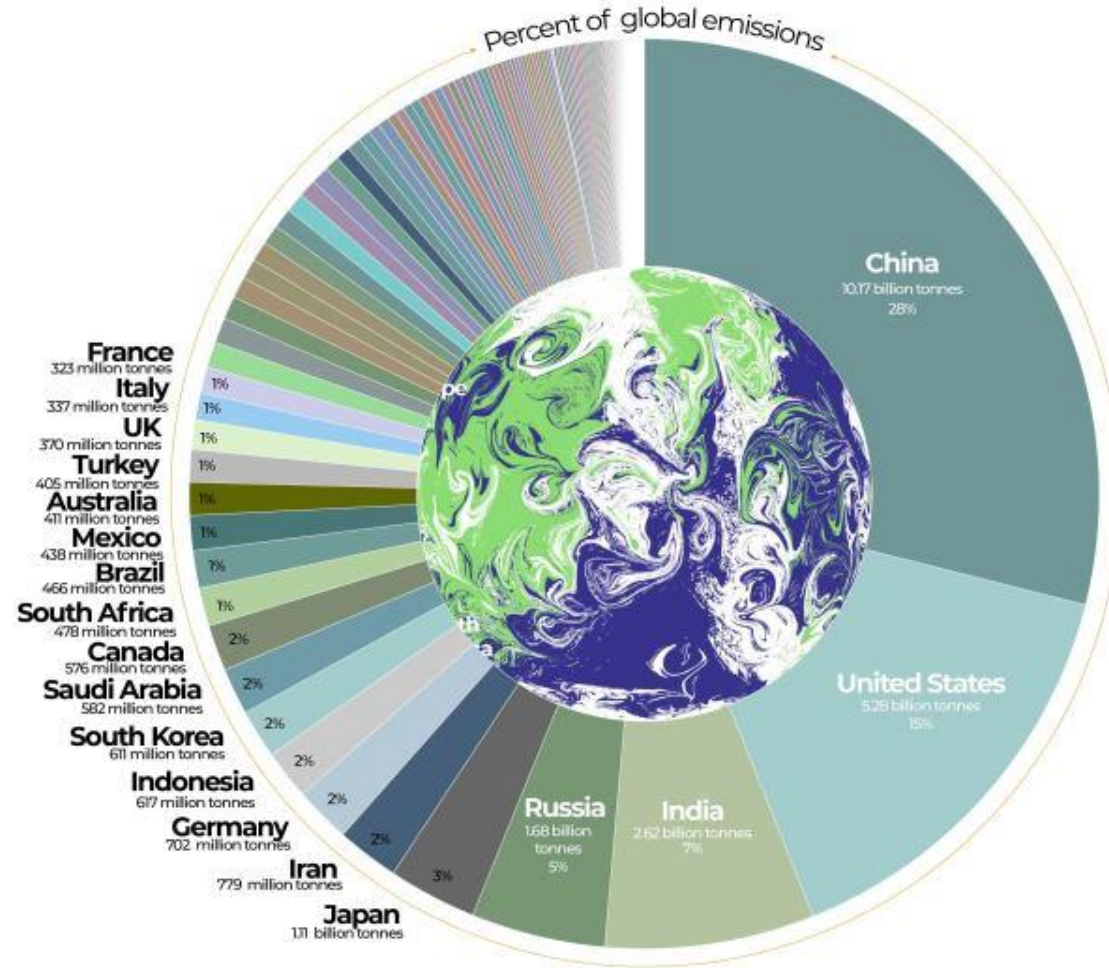


Carbon Emission

CLIMATE CRISIS

Global carbon dioxide emissions

Carbon dioxide contributes to global warming. **China** alone **accounted for 28 of percent of global CO₂ emissions** last year, emitting 10.17 billion tonnes.

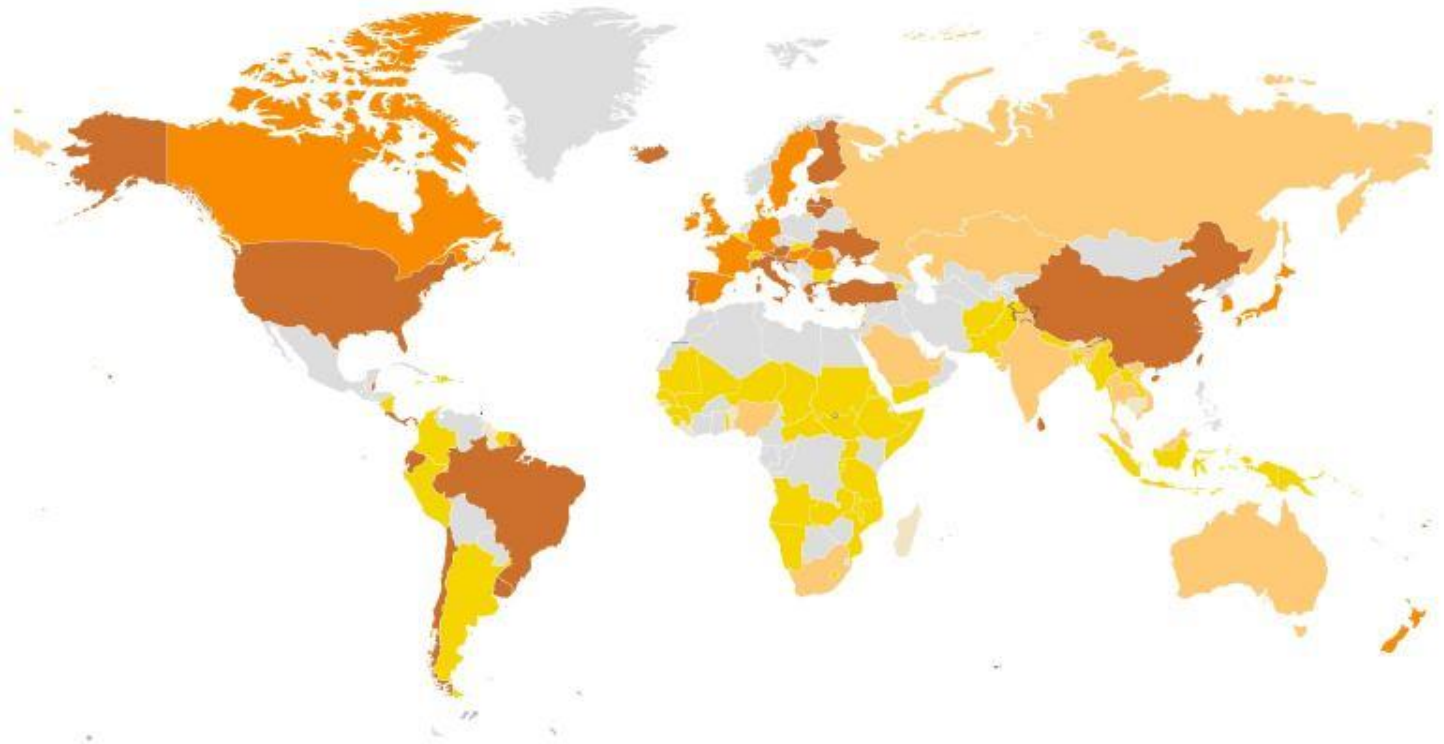


Commitment

CLIMATE CRISIS

Who has committed to net zero?

138 countries have committed to net zero, carbon neutrality or being climate neutral. India is one of the latest country to make a net zero pledge at the COP26 summit.



Achieved In law In policy document Declaration/Pledge
Proposed/In discussion No commitment

Asia Pacific Area



Achieved In law In policy document Declaration/Pledge
Proposed/In discussion No commitment

Summary of COP26 Deal

1. **Emissions** (more ambitious National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit temperature rises to 1.5C. Need to submit before COP27.
2. **Fossil Fuels** (“phase down” coal power, reduce methane emissions this decade, “just transition” to a clean energy system)
3. **Climate Finance and Adaption** (“fully deliver” the \$100bn goal through to 2025)
4. **Loss and Damage** (financial assistance for developing countries to deal with environmental damage incurred as a result of climate change BUT in COP26 only “technical assistance facility” will be introduced to support loss and damage in relation to climate change)
5. **Carbon Markets** (how emissions reductions under NDCs can and should be accounted for. carbon offsetting should rely on “real, verified and additional” emissions removal taking place from 2021 onward and there is a requirement for co-benefits in terms of adaptation and the economy, and for nations to put at least 5% of the proceeds into adaptation.)
6. **Reaffirming the Paris Agreement** (retaining the 1.5C global temperature increase limit)

Summary of wider announcements made at COP26

1. **Net zero targets** now cover 90 percent of global emissions, up from 30% nearly two years ago. However, faster action is needed to meet the target of limiting global warming to 1.5C with several nations committing to dates beyond 2050, such as India's target of 2070.
2. **Clean Technology** (More than 40 world leaders, including the EU, US, India and China, agreed on a UK-led plan to speed up affordable and clean technology by 2030.)
3. **Coal and Methane** (More than 150 countries have pledged to cut 30% of current methane emissions by 2030.)
4. **Climate Finance** (finance new technologies)
5. **Transport** (34 countries committed to stopping the sale of non-electric vehicles by at least 2040, while other leading markets have agreed to do it by 2035.)
6. **Deforestation and Farming** (More than 130 world leaders, representing over 90% of the world's forests, have agreed to stop and reverse deforestation by 2030.)

What will we do
in relation to the
commitments of
cop26?

COP26 and YMCA's commitment to combating climate change

- **A Green New Deal for the global YMCA Movement –**

**CLIMATE
JUSTICE**



Fossil-Free World

YMCA

Investing in Youth-Led Solutions

YMCA has invested USD 250,000 in 35 Youth-Led Solutions reaching 16,000 young people across the globe



- **YMCA announces further investment in youth-led solutions** with a total of **\$150,000**
- “This investment is part of YMCA’s ambition to raise \$1 million by the end of 2022 to enable and empower young people’s ideas and solutions in battling climate change...” – Carlos Sanvee, Secretary General of World YMCA

Looking
ahead...

YMCA Youth-Led Solutions Initiative:

Criteria:

- Youth-led solutions
- Addresses UN Sustainable Development Goal #13: Climate Action
- Creates impact in a local, national, or regional community
- Is innovative, feasible, replicable, and sustainable
- Leverages private, public, and/or local community partnerships
- If a team has received funding in the past, must have successfully completed all reporting requirements

Timeline:

- January-February 2022- application period for climate action grants
- March 2022- applications for seed funding are reviewed and approved to deepen climate action impact
- April-October 2022: youth-led teams activate their solutions at the grassroots
- July 2022: youth-led solutions best practices are shared at YMCA World Council in Aarhus, Denmark
- Ongoing: Virtual connection points connecting youth-led teams globally

“The cleanest, most sustainable kilowatt hour is the one not used.”

-Marianne Osterkorn, executive director, REEP

Emission Avoidance

Carbon offsets based on energy efficiency therefore reduce CO2 emissions.

This type of carbon offset provides perhaps the simplest options that will ease the adoption of **low carbon practice**.



References

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