



# UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

What has been achieved so far?  
What are the limitations of this action?

# Coal

190 countries, banks, and organisations agreed to phase out coal power and end support for new coal power plants.

- Notable parties included Vietnam, Poland and Indonesia who have historically been great supporters of the coal industry.

However:

- This agreement was non-binding.
- Major coal users/ miners such as Australia, India, the US and China were absent from the agreement.
- It seems that what the countries have agreed to is quite loosely defined.



# Deforestation

- More than 100 world leaders have promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030.
- This pledge is supported by £14 billion of public and private funds.
- Most notable of the signees was Brazil as the Amazon rainforest has been greatly impacted by deforestation with over 15% of the rainforest being destroyed over the past 30 years.
- This should help reduce CO2 emissions as well as help many animals who were displaced from their home to return and repopulate the rainforests.

However:

- Unfortunately, previous pledges on deforestation have often been ignored.
- Indonesia have already questioned the terms of the deal and there have been disagreements about how to define deforestation.



# Methane

- More than 90 nations (representing two-thirds of the global economy) pledged to reduce methane emissions by at least 30 per cent by 2030.
- As methane is a greenhouse gas, this should help meet the 1.5°C target of reducing global warming.



However:

- China, India and Russia are significant producers of methane and they did not take part in this agreement.
- It was originally thought that this alone would help to reduce the global temperature by 0.2°C by 2050, however specialists have argued that it is more likely that the reduction would be around 0.1°C.

# Climate finance

- The poorest countries are often the least responsible for climate change and are often the ones who experience its consequences the most whilst being the least financially able to deal with crises such as natural disasters or decreased crop production.
- Richer nations have pledged to give these countries \$100bn a year between 2020 and 2050
- Japan pledged an extra \$2bn a year in climate finance in the next decade
- This can be leveraged by the World Bank and other countries, amounting to \$8bn within a year

However:

- Many of these richer countries are still behind schedule.
- A United Nations report last week warned that developing countries are likely to need several hundred billion dollars a year to deal with climate change by the end of the decade.

# International support

- Ecuador has improved its pledge to protect the Galapagos Islands
- This will expand the existing protected marine area by almost half, covering 60,000 sq km (23,000 sq m)
- Currently, the marine reserve is about 130,000 sq km (50,000 sq m).



# Transport

- A declaration was made to speed up the global transition from cars that burn fossil fuels to zero emissions vehicles such as electric cars and hydrogen fueled vehicles.
- The list of signatories includes Canada, Denmark, India, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, and the UK.
- The UK have already pledged to ban the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030 :)
- This commits them to end the sale of new cars that produce emissions in "leading markets" by 2035, and globally by 2040.
- Notable signatories include Ford, General Motors, and Jaguar Land Rover.

However:

- Four of the biggest car-makers did not sign this agreement - Volkswagen, Toyota, Renault-Nissan and Hyundai-Kia.
- Moreover, China and the USA who are the world's greatest car markets also did not sign this agreement (although Dallas, California and NYC signed it)



# Farming

- Around 45 government have pledged to protect nature and make positive changes to farming.
- This pledge includes billions of investment in developing crops resistant to extreme weather including droughts and floods
- This should help farmers people to not be negatively affected by climate change in terms of their food production or income

Alok Sharma, the british MP acting as President for COP26 stated:

“Nature and climate are interlinked, and both our people and our surroundings are facing the very real impacts of rising temperatures.”



# Recent Announcements

- 30 countries have agreed to work together to make zero emission vehicles the new normal by making them accessible, affordable, and sustainable in all regions by 2030 or sooner.
- Launch of a new World Bank trust fund that will mobilise \$200 million over the next 10 years to decarbonise road transport in emerging markets and developing economies.
- Nineteen governments have also stated their intent to support the establishment of 'green shipping corridors' – zero-emission shipping routes between two ports.
- This will involve deploying zero-emission vessel technologies and putting alternative fuel and charging infrastructure in place in ports to allow for zero emission shipping on key routes across the globe.
- The UK has pledged to shift to clean trucks by committing to end the sale of most new diesel trucks between 2035 and 2040.



## Resources to continue following climate news :)

- UK COP26 Website: <https://ukcop26.org/>
- Climate central: <https://www.climatecentral.org>
- The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-crisis>
- Climate Home News: <https://www.climatechangenews.com>
- Real Climate (scientific reports): <https://www.realclimate.org>
- Earth negotiations bulletin: <https://enb.iisd.org>
- Inside Climate News: <https://insideclimatenews.org>

