Negotiating our climate

What is COP and why does it matter?

Wednesday 25 March 2020
Welcome

- Panellists will answer questions at the end
- Please use the Q&A function to pose your questions – you can also upvote questions from other attendees
- Specify if your question is to the whole panel or a specific panellist
- All attendees will remain muted unless enabled to speak by the host
- Please note: this webinar is being recorded
Agenda

• Introduction
  Prof Richard Beardsworth

• Scientific basis & the UNFCCC
  Prof Jason Lowe

• UNFCCC & COP
  Harriet Thew

• Sector focus: agriculture & the UNFCC
  Dhanush Dinesh

• Leeds offering for COP26
  Prof Richard Beardsworth

• Q&A
CoP 26

- 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow from 9-20 November
- CoPs from 1992 (Rio conference): part of governance structure of climate change regime
- > Copenhagen 2009; Paris 2015; Madrid 2019; Glasgow 2020
Recent CoPs

**Copenhagen (2009)**
no post-Kyoto agreement; 2°C average temperature increase above pre-industrial levels agreed

**The Paris agreement (2015)**
- hold increase to 2°C and limit rise to 1.5 °C ideally
- all nations/countries involved (‘Nationally determined contributions’) 
- report regularly and with ambition (‘ratcheting up’ emissions’ reduction)
- make finance flows consistent with a global pathway towards ‘climate resilience’ and ‘climate-resistant development’ = $100 billion pa. by 2020 → 2025
- five years on (2020) review/ratchet-up
- Paris agreement perceived at the time as ‘a revolution in collective climate action’ (President of France)
CoPs cont:

Madrid 2019:
Dilemmas of collective action since 2015 confirmed starkly--
- Reporting requirements of transparency, common timeframes for climate pledges, and clear commitments to finance adaptation strategies in developing countries – all punted to Glasgow 2020
- + Global emissions continue to rise in 2019…
- UN General Secretary, December 2019: ‘a failure of global political will’
- The gap between inside and outside of intragovernmental politics tested (Youth strikes, Extinction Rebellion, etc.)
- ‘Climate Action Now’ social movement pitted against climate change regime since 1992
Glasgow 2020, UK

- Review of Paris agreement
- Ratcheting up of Paris agreement -> 2025
- Setting new goals for monitoring and finance
- Need for very strong, transformative global political leadership

- COVID-19 (obstacle or opportunity)
- American Presidential Elections, November 3rd
- EU/UK ‘Brexit’ trade negotiations

- Mobilization of UK political agenda of ‘Just transition to NetZero society’?
Annual total CO₂ emissions, by world region

Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC); Global Carbon Project (GCP)
Lack of Action in last 12 years

Graph showing Global CO2 emissions in GtCO2 from 1950 to 2100. The graph includes past emissions and two IPCC recommendations.
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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Emissions in 2017 (MtCO₂)</th>
<th>% of Global Emissions</th>
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<td>Rest of World</td>
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<td>27.7%</td>
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Scientific basis and an overview of UNFCCC and CoP

Professor Jason A. Lowe
Chair of interdisciplinary climate research
Our climate: past and future

Global average temperatures are around 1°C above pre-industrial levels.
**Our climate: past and future**

**Temperature**
2018 average temperature was 0.91 ± 0.1 °C above pre-industrial levels.

2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 were the warmest years on record.

**CO₂ concentration**
At the end of 2018, global atmospheric CO₂ concentrations were at more than 409 ppm.

Earth's atmosphere now has about 45% more CO₂ than it did before the Industrial Revolution.

**Arctic sea ice**
2018 Winter maximum: At 14.47 million km², March Arctic sea extent was the 2nd lowest on record and 1.03 million km² below average.

2018 Summer minimum: September Arctic sea ice extent was 4.6 million km², 1.63 million km² below average, showing a decrease of 13.1% per decade from 1979 to 2018.

*Relative to the 1981 to 2010 average extent (Source: HadISST1.2 dataset).

**Sea level rise**
Global sea level has increased by about 17 cm since the start of the 20th Century.

Global sea level is currently rising at about 3 cm per decade.

Additionally:
Glaciers have been losing mass
Greenland and Antarctic ice sheet also losing mass
Heat content of the ocean increasing
Our climate: past and future

Impacts and risks for selected natural, managed and human systems

IPCC “reasons for concern”
Future pathways of greenhouse gas emissions exist that are compatible with limiting warming below 1.5°C.

The emissions gap is large. In 2030, annual emissions need to be 15 GtCO$_2$e lower than current unconditional NDCs imply for the 2°C goal, and 32 GtCO$_2$e lower for the 1.5°C goal.

UN Emissions gap report, 2019
What is the UNFCCC?

Process brings together nations from around the world to discuss (and sometimes agree) how to avoid dangerous climate change.

The conference of parties (CoP) provides an annual meeting that:

- Attempts to further the negotiations towards global agreement
- Considers monitoring and review of agreements
- Considers technical aspects – e.g. SBSTA
- Has an extended programme to allow multiple stakeholders to interact through events such as seminars, display stands, informal gathering, art, etc........
Why is CoP26 so special?

UK will host CoP26 in Glasgow 2020. Italy is co-host

A major aim is to improve ambition in emission reduction pledges.

Some CoP26 themes:
- Natural climate solutions
- Resilience and adaptation
- Energy transitions
- Finance
- Engagement of youth

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Coming up…

What happens at a COP?
- Governance structure
- Who attends?
- Main events
  plenaries, negotiations, side events, pavilions, exhibits, actions.

How can researchers engage with COPs/the UNFCCC?
- Inside
- Outside
- Beyond the COP
Governance Structure

- 197 "parties" to the "Convention"
- Negotiating blocs: G77 & China, BASIC, LDCs, AOSIS, African Group, EU etc.
- Secretariat to facilitate interactions
- Permanent bodies of the UNFCCC:
  - Subsidiary Body of Implementation SBI
  - Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
- Ad hoc bodies (ADP, APA)
- Consensus decision-making
Who attends?

Paris, COP21:
~28,000 attendees.
~18,000 government reps, ~8,000 NGOs, ~2,000 media

Civil servants

- Various departments: e.g. Environment/Climate Change, Finance, Development, Foreign Office, Education

Politicians

- Ministers
- Heads of State
- Representatives of devolved governments

Civil society

- Environmental NGOs (ENGO)
- Business and Industry (BINGO)
- Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations (IPO)
- Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO)
- Trade Unions (TUNGO)
- Local Gov & Municipal Authorities (LGMA)
- Women and Gender
- Youth NGOs (YOUNGO)
- Farmers
What happens at a COP? – Plenaries
Side Events
Pavilions
Exhibits
How can researchers engage – inside?

The Blue Zone: **UNFCCC badge required**

- **Co-host, present research linking to negotiations – applications approved by Secretariat**
- **Join in (with permission) take photos, publicise online**
- **Share research findings e.g. leaflets, banners, posters (not academic)**
- **Collect data e.g. ethnography of youth participants**
- **Observe, take detailed notes for constituency feedback in daily meetings**
- **Also home to country offices. Meet negotiators, participate in events, free food/drinks**
- **Encourage negotiators to support key issues**
- **Attend, tweet, network with media, may lead to interviews**

Is this the right space for you? Don’t be a COP tourist!
How can researchers engage – outside?

The Green Zone: UN accreditation not required

Host side events, present research (less clearly linked to negotiations)

Share solutions, promote projects, innovations, publicise technologies etc.

Join in (with permission) take photos, publicise online

Collect data

Informal meetings, networking with some negotiators but more civil society, business, researchers, media etc.

Side Events

Exhibits

Cafés & canteen

Media events

Actions
Across Glasgow, locally, nationally, globally and online

**UNFCCC Regional climate weeks**

**Africa**
March 2020, Uganda (postponed)

**Latin America & Caribbean**
6-10\(^{th}\) July, Dominican Republic

**Middle East & North Africa**
October 2020 dates, Dubai (postponed)

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**Agriculture, food security and land use workshops**
March 2020, Germany (postponed)

**Sustainable Energy for All Forum**
26-28\(^{th}\) May, Rwanda

**Global Adaptation Summit**
Oct 2020, Netherlands

**UNFCCC webcasts: available at many conferences**
Thank you
Agriculture and the UNFCCC

Dhanush Dinesh
Global Policy Engagement Manager
1. Agriculture in the NDCs
2. Agriculture negotiations in the UNFCCC
3. Engaging in agriculture negotiations: CCAFS experience
Nationally Determined Contributions

- NDCs allow for:
  - Scrutiny of actions
  - Global evaluation of targets
Clear sub-sectoral priorities for action at the farm level in NDCs

- Soils and land: 178 countries
- Livestock: 169 countries
- Crops: 140 countries
- Water: 133 countries
- Fisheries: 56 countries
- Trees: 52 countries

Source: Adapted from Richards et al. 2016
Need to reach 500 million smallholders by 2030

1 GT reduction target (2030)
Current technologies can only do 20-40%.

Up to 40% gender disparity in agricultural productivity in some countries.

Climate change impacts on crop yields will be negative from 2030s onwards.

420 million youth in Africa, two-thirds unemployed/vulnerably employed. Age group will nearly double by 2050.
Agriculture negotiations in the UNFCCC

2011 COP requests SBSTA to consider issues related to Agriculture

2013 In-session workshop on state of scientific knowledge

2014 SBSTA calls for submissions and workshops announced

2017 Landmark decision – Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

2020 Conclusion of Koronivia process – next steps?
Engaging in agriculture negotiations: CCAFS experience

- Targeted knowledge products
- Submissions
- Expert presentations
- Capacity building activities
- Events and engagement
The Leeds offering for COP26

Support to the UK COP presidency

Providing vital research input

Accelerating climate education

Engaging with the public

Net-zero universities

Building an alliance
Support to the UK COP presidency

- Offering advice on a range of topics, including climate science, climate change solutions and scientific diplomacy
- Engaging with government departments, including the Cabinet Office, BEIS, Defra and the FCO
- Particularly supporting the COP26 delivery team through the synthesis of relevant climate literature
Providing vital research input

- Important resource for evidence-based policy
- Working through the Research and Independent NGOs (RINGOs) constituency to the UNFCCC
- We’re developing a series of events to support researcher engagement with COP26 and the UNFCCC process
Accelerating climate education

- COP26 presents an opportunity to embed climate education into curriculums
- Working groups are advancing this at a university level
- Researchers working with education groups to develop resources for schools
Engaging with the public

- We can act as a conduit between COP26 and local communities
- Several events are being explored, including a webinar with the City Climate Commissions and a ‘Climate Question Time’ for young people
Net-zero universities

• The University of Leeds has made ambitious net-zero commitments
• Our campus functions as a living laboratory: monitoring air quality, trialing scalable food waste systems, etc.
• We want to harness the ambition of COP26 to drive the momentum of our Climate Plan
Building an alliance

• The University of Leeds is part of a growing group of universities and other institutions working together to support COP26

• Intended legacy is a climate research community that is strongly positioned to support delivery of the UK’s net-zero emissions target