



Date: 01 December 2020

From: Mock COP26 Delegates

To: The Heads of State of all countries, and the Secretary General of the UN

Dear Leaders

**Re: Our treaty for urgent climate action this side of COP26**

We are writing to inform you that **we, the young people of 140 countries, ran our own inclusive online climate conference, Mock COP26**, which we concluded today. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of you presumably thought it was a lesser priority to take climate action through the UNFCCC COP this year, and hence the UN postponed it. We remind you that we are still in a climate emergency as well as an ecological crisis and every moment of inaction makes things worse for our generation. We felt strongly that you should not further delay action, so we decided to run our own youth-led COP this year. We are tired of empty climate promises and are purely motivated by a desire to see real action.

With just three months of planning, we delivered a full two-week global conference, from 19 November to 01 December 2020, comprising 330 delegates, ages 11 to 30, representing 140 countries. **We set out to improve upon the structures of the real COP to reflect the mandate of young people to build inclusive, equitable and fair systems.** We made the following improvements:

- Our conference amplified the voices of marginalised and underrepresented communities. We made time to hear the uncomfortable truths about the Global North's neglect for the most vulnerable people in our world, and we recognised the valiant efforts of the leaders of nations who have contributed least to climate change but whose people are suffering first and worst;
- We actively sought the advice and experience of Indigenous elders, whose innate knowledge of, and respect for, our dependence on the natural world has mostly been ignored;
- We did not allow any corporate lobbyists into our Mock COP26 and were free to think outside growth-based economic narratives. We were not shackled by political short-termism or national self-interest. We gave science, optimism and ambition the centre-stage and were not held back by the pace of the slowest;
- 72% of our delegates were from the Global South; 63% were female or non-binary; delegates' average age was 22. The student staff team of eighteen young people was a 50% Global North / Global South split, with 73% of student staff female or non-binary.
- Our conference was run entirely online, resulting in just c14 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, compared to c40,000 tonnes from the real COP.

Through the process of high-level statements made by delegates and policy caucuses, and a voting process on amendments, **we formed our legal treaty, which is attached** to this letter.

**We ask that each and every one of you reads our treaty and considers, with an open mind, what you can do to implement our policy asks in your country**, whilst also building consensus for high ambition at COP26. Prior to Covid-19 we were of the view that governments were both unwilling and unable to take urgent joined-up action in response to an emergency. However, in the past few months, you have delivered dramatic unilateral and multilateral measures to mitigate the threat of the virus. We now ask you to take equally dramatic and urgent action to stop the threats we face from the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

**Please act with urgency to enact all, or part, of our treaty in your own country in the run-up to COP26.** You can register your intention to implement our treaty by contacting us at [treaty@mockcop.org](mailto:treaty@mockcop.org) and [treaty@sos-uk.org](mailto:treaty@sos-uk.org). Your national delegates, or our international student staff team, are available to meet with you, at your convenience, to brief you on Mock COP26 and discuss how we can support you in implementing our treaty.

Yours very sincerely,

Youth of the World

Mock COP26 Delegates