

Mock COP26 Declaration:

Youth urge world leaders to adopt climate treaty

- After two weeks of negotiations, Mock COP26 delegates from 140 countries have agreed a formal treaty setting out 18 bold climate and ecological policies for world leaders to urgently adopt.
- Nigel Topping, High Level Climate Action Champion for COP26, presented with the Mock COP26 Treaty during the closing ceremony, at 12 noon GMT on 01 December 2020.
- In conjunction with the Treaty, youth delegates will share a video address with world leaders, to demand action in the year leading up to COP26 and a seat at the table.

1 December -- 330 young people from 140 countries will today [send an open letter calling](#) on world leaders to implement a set of realistic, yet progressive, youth-centred climate policies. At 12 noon UTC, delegates at [Mock COP26](#), an international youth-led climate conference, will present the Treaty to Nigel Topping, the High Level Climate Action Champion for COP26, and urge national governments around the World to raise ambition and action in the run up to COP26.

The [Mock COP26 Treaty \[https://www.mockcop.org/treaty\]](https://www.mockcop.org/treaty) outlines 18 policies young people want decision makers to prioritise in the run up to, and at, COP26 in Glasgow. Policy recommendations, which have been developed over the past two weeks through speeches and negotiations, cover six themes: climate education, climate justice, health and wellbeing, climate resilient communities, national carbon reduction targets and protecting biodiversity.

Suphane Dash-Alleyne, Mock COP26 delegate from Guyana, South America, said:
"The year 2020 was meant to be the year of bold climate action, where world leaders turned words into actions. The global pandemic may have pressed pause on global negotiations, but the threat of a climate catastrophe is not going away."

"Mock COP26 sends a strong message to world leaders that young people can coordinate global negotiations and we have the solutions. Now is the time for us to have a seat at the table. World leaders can and must succeed at COP26 and it is critical that we work together to create a green, healthy and resilient future for us all."

A legal team, including lawyers from ClientEarth and COP26andbeyond, worked with delegates to formalise the statement into a treaty which enables countries to adopt the Mock COP26 policy demands into law.



James Thornton, CEO & Founder of ClientEarth, commented: *“The youth behind Mock COP26 have created a powerful statement calling on governments to take action to protect future generations from the worst impacts of climate change. Decisions taken by governments now will affect the youngest generation for many years to come. Now is the time to listen to young people and implement their urgent demands.”*

The Treaty includes an ask for national governments to ensure that substantive **education on climate change** is available to young people at every level of formal education, based on the best available science. In addition to this, delegates are calling on countries to **protect the rights of young climate activists** and include young people in decision-making matters relating to the climate emergency and ecological crisis, including sending more youth representatives to COP26.

If the Mock COP26 Treaty is adopted, governments **would commit to limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius**, in line with the IPCC’s recommendation, and would ban the offshoring of emissions. Governments would also commit to **strong regulation on air quality**, ensuring polluting industries significantly reduce their emissions to guarantee safe and breathable air.

In the Treaty, Mock COP26 delegates are calling on governments to include **policy measures to assist farmers** to move away from practices that are harmful to soils, water and biodiversity and that fuel deforestation. Delegates are also calling for a far-reaching **law on ecocide** to criminalise the mass destruction and damage of the environment by human activity.

The two-week conference has prioritised voices from countries that are most affected by the climate crisis. People from the Global South made up 72% of delegates and the Treaty continues to ensure these countries are supported. The average age of participants was 22 years old and 63% were female or non-binary.

Over the next 12 months, Mock COP26 delegates and volunteers will engage with their elected political representatives, to urge them to implement the policy demands. The young climate activists aim to fill the next year with the implementation of new and progressive domestic climate policies that raise ambition in the run up to COP26.

Paired with the final statement, is a [powerful video address to world leaders](#), featuring delegates from Mock COP26 calling for urgent action and for more people to join them in urging elected representatives to follow the Mock COP26 Treaty.

ENDS



For more information, interviews and images, please contact:

Rachel Parkes Rachel.parkes@greenhousepr.co.uk +44 (0) 7775 652919
Gabriella Smith gabriella.smith@greenhousepr.co.uk +44 (0) 7851 772512
Phoebe Hanson phoebe@mockcop.org
Also: mockcop@greenhousepr.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Mock COP26 delegate survey

Delegates were surveyed during the two week conference. Responses included:

- 99% said climate change education should be mandatory and embedded throughout learning at all stages of education
- 99% want to incentivise green jobs
- 97% say polluting industries should be appropriately taxed on their emissions
- 69% say extracting fossil fuels should be illegal
- 65% don't trust government to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions targets

About Mock COP26

Mock COP26 is coordinated by a group of young climate activists from across the globe, mostly from the Fridays for the Future International Committee, united in their frustration at the speed of progress from world leaders on combating climate change and its effects. It was established at short notice to fill the void left by the postponed COP26 conference.

The student staff team is made up of 18 students from Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Ecuador, India, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Solomon Islands and the UK.

The high-level statements from each country, along with conference events and fringe events are available to view on the Mock COP26 [YouTube channel](#). Catch up with Mock COP26 on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and by following the hashtags #MockCOP26 and #ForTheYouthByTheYouth.

The final treaty will be available here: <https://www.mockcop.org/treaty>

Mock COP26 is sponsored by [Clim8 Invest](#) and Zoom and has been funded by over 400 individuals through the student's [crowdfunder](#). Other funders include The Golden Bottle Trust, UMI Fund and We Have The POWER.

The Treaty has been produced with the assistance of [ClientEarth](#), [We Have the Power](#), [COP26andbeyond](#) and Nina Hamasaki.



For more information, please visit <https://www.mockcop.org/>.

Please view case studies and photos of the coordinating team: [at this link](#)

New video on YouTube: [at this link](#)

New video MP4 format: [at this link](#)

Photography of students and graphics for media: [at this link](#)

About Students Organising for Sustainability International

Students Organising for Sustainability International is an international network of student-led organisations working together to collaborate on research, campaigns and communications in response to the climate emergency and ecological crisis. It is hosted by Danske Studerendes Fællesråd, the National Union of Students in Denmark.

For more information, please visit <https://sos.earth/>.

About Students Organising for Sustainability UK

SOS-UK is a charity set up by students and staff at the National Union of Students in the UK in 2019 in response to the climate emergency and ecological crisis. It exists to support students to be the change that society urgently needs to get us out of the climate emergency and ecological crisis, and to deliver climate justice. SOS-UK the UK chapter of SOS-International.

For more information, please visit www.sos-uk.org.