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Young activists unite to share their vision for climate action at COP26 and beyond

Alok Sharma, COP26 President, joins youth at Mock COP26 opening ceremony

More than 350 young delegates from 150 countries will unite today at [Mock COP26](#), an international youth-led climate conference, to show the world what would happen if young people were the decision-makers at COP26.

Alok Sharma, President of COP26, today joins the delegates at the conference, to highlight the important role that young people can play in the decision-making process.

Alok Sharma, COP26 President, said: *“Mock COP is a fantastic initiative and I applaud the organisers’ dedication and commitment to tackling climate change. As we head towards COP26 next year, this event will further demonstrate the appetite that exists across the world for governments and organisations to take ambitious climate action.”*

The entirely youth-organised conference will mirror the process of the climate summit, and provide a global platform for young people to outline how they want world leaders to act. Each country’s delegation will deliver a speech sharing the concerns from young people in their country and their vision for climate action at COP26 and beyond.

The 350 delegates will produce a collective final statement, outlining what leaders should agree to at COP26 - and what young people should do in the absence of sufficient global ambition. Alongside the key asks, which will be revealed in the final statement, Mock COP26 delegates are calling for young people to be a part of every COP26 country delegation, so that young and diverse views are tabled.

Dom Jaramillo, Mock COP26 organiser from Ecuador, commented: *“Young people were disappointed when COP26 was delayed. We are living in a climate emergency and we can’t wait a year for climate action. To fill this void, young people from across the world have decided to run our own COP, to raise ambition and drive action that can prevent further irreparable damage.”*

“We are pleased that the COP26 team is engaging with our Mock COP26 and hope that it leads to conversations with other nations about the role young people can play in finding the solutions that are so urgently needed in order to tackle the climate crisis together.”



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Over the next two weeks, delegates will hear from leading climate scientists, economists and health professionals, in talks that will inform the creation of the final statement outlining young people's demands for world leaders. Nigel Topping, the High Level Climate Action Champion for COP26 will formally receive the final statement from Mock COP26 youth in the Closing Ceremony.

Environmental law charity ClientEarth is working with the students to develop a legal treaty that enables countries to adopt the Mock COP26 demands into law.

James Thornton, CEO & Founder of ClientEarth, commented: *"We are supporting the Mock COP26 delegates to develop their proposition to national governments into a legal treaty. ClientEarth and I are proud to mentor and engage the future generation in the run-up to COP26. Alongside the other incredible organisations involved, we are passionate about elevating the voices of young people to demand immediate climate action."*

The two-week conference will prioritise marginalised voices and countries that are most affected by the climate crisis. Countries from the Global South have been granted more young delegates and more speaking time than developed nations, to allow them a greater say in the final statement. The majority of the keynote speakers during Mock COP26 are from non-white backgrounds.

Alongside COP26 President Alok Sharma's speech, Thursday's opening ceremony includes talks from Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Youth Envoy, and Licypriya Kangujam, a 9-year-old Indian climate activist who addressed the world leaders at COP25.

Mock COP26 will be either live-streamed or recorded and uploaded onto [Mock COP26 YouTube](#) and fringe events will be held before, during and after the conference. People can keep up to date with Mock COP26 on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and by following the hashtags #MockCOP26 and #ForTheYouthByTheYouth.

Mock COP26 will have significantly lower emissions than COP26, as it is a virtual event. The carbon emissions of a 'real' COP is estimated at 59,020 tonnes of CO₂, whereas MockCOP26 will produce only 39 tonnes of CO₂ and this will be offset.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Mock COP

Mock COP 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.

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.

Mock COP26 is being held from 19 November 2020 to the 01 December 2020. Mock COP26 will equip and empower youth around the world to engage their political leaders in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow.

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.

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.