



**DECLARATION OF MOCK CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES 26
(MOCK COP26 TREATY)
01 DECEMBER 2020**

“We [the youth of Turkey] feel the consequences of your decisions today. As a country, it is your responsibility to take drastic action. We have outlined science based and realistic actions that would greatly improve our nation.”



MOCK COP26

Delegate from Turkey

“We feel only partly listened to. We are praised for enthusiasm but politicians are not taking us seriously enough. They are not treating this crisis like a crisis.”



MOCK COP26 Delegate from Iceland

“Stop telling us, the youth, that we are the future, and continue to do nothing.”



MOCK COP26 Delegate

from Argentina

“We call [the Indian youth] to raise our voices, to fight for our future rights, to fight for our health and wellbeing. We say, once again, to all policy-makers that the youth across the world are tired of empty climate promises. We, the youth, are ready to work with you in building a self-reliant, safe, inclusive and sustainable world. The question is, are you ready?”



MOCK COP26 Delegate from India

Origins of Mock COP26

In 2020, students from the Teach the Future campaign¹ looked for ways to influence the outcomes of COP26 by seeking further commitments to support the provision of universal, scientific climate education.

With the postponement of COP26, the students decided to act to promote their own COP26 event, taking greater account of young people's priorities.

With the support of individual students involved in Fridays for the Future International,² the original group of young people grew and spread across the globe. To fill the void left by the postponement of the COP26, the group decided to hold a youth-led Mock COP event, to express the demands of young people that five key themes be addressed, namely:

- a. Climate Justice
- b. Climate Education
- c. Climate Resilient Livelihoods
- d. Physical and Mental Health
- e. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

This larger group ratified the five Mock COP26 themes and then agreed to a delegate application process, speaker nomination process, budget, and programme. The group then agreed to directly address global governments and demand that the obligations enclosed in this Declaration are adopted by all countries before, or at, COP26 and made legally binding.

Mock COP26 was attended by 330 delegates (aged 11 to 30) from 140 countries, thereby representing the youth of the vast majority of countries that will be represented at COP26 itself. Delegates were not only climate activists but witnesses of climate change and of its impacts in their own communities.

237 (72%) of delegates were from the Global South and 93 (28%) from the Global North. 63% of delegates were female or non-binary and the average age of delegates was 22. The student staff team of 18 young people comprised a 50% Global North / Global South split, with 73% of the student staff being female or non-binary.

Mock COP26 was run entirely online, resulting in just c14 tonnes of CO2 emissions, compared to c40,000 tonnes from previous COPs.

Delegates proposed policies which went through a process of review and voting during six regional caucus events. Delegates voted as delegates rather than as delegations, and each delegate from the Global South was eligible for a weighted 1.1 vote, which was applied if the weighting affected the outcome of the vote. Some delegates chose to remain anonymous because they feared repercussions from their participation in the conference, due to rules or oppression in their countries.

¹ www.teachthefuture.uk/

² <https://fridaysforfuture.org/>

Delegates submitted high level statements explaining how the climate emergency and ecological crisis is impacting their nation and what they consider should be done to tackle the crisis. These statements are included in Annex 1 of the full Declaration (available to download at www.mockcop.org/treaty). A consistent theme running through these statements was that the delegates were experiencing the impacts of the crisis right now and they want to see action and not just words from the leaders of the world.

As one delegate commented, “even though we may be geographically divided to Global North and Global South we are still united by our common goal to address the climate crisis and this unity and common understanding of the need for bold climate action is manifest in the high-level statements”.

Declaration of Mock COP26

We, the delegates of the youth-led Mock COP26, drawn from 140 countries of the world, meeting between 19 November 2020 and 1 December 2020,

CONSIDER THAT:

- 1.a. Governments around the world are failing to meet their legal and moral obligations to tackle the climate and ecological crisis, despite the increasing urgency and projected scale of the crisis;
- 1.b. Children and young people, as well as women and local and Indigenous communities, are disproportionately affected by the worsening impacts of climate change and ecological damage, and that children and young people in developing country Parties (and in particular in the least developed countries and small island developing States) bear the greatest burden of those impacts, despite contributing the least to their causes; and

NOTE THAT:

2. 197 countries of the world are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ('UNFCCC') and 196 countries are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ("CBD").
3. 189 countries of the world are parties to the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change ('the Paris Agreement').
4. 196 countries of the world are parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ('UNCRC').
5. The Parties to the Paris Agreement ('the Parties') agreed to mitigate the progression of climate change by:

"Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels".
6. This is a legal obligation on Parties to the Paris Agreement.
7. Despite this, global average temperatures have risen by an average of 1°C since pre-industrial times.
8. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ('IPCC') reports that in order to limit climate change to 1.5°C by 2050, global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide ('CO₂ Emissions') must fall by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching "net-zero" by 2050 and non-CO₂ emissions must also show deep reductions. This is endorsed by the Secretary General of the United Nations.
9. In 2013, CO₂ levels in the atmosphere passed the level of 400 parts per million (ppm) for the first time in human history, and are continuing to rise, despite all the climate agreements to date, as shown on the "Keeling Curve" maintained by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

10. The conclusion that CO₂ emissions and anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the main driving force behind the global temperature increase is supported by international scientific authorities, including the IPCC, World Meteorological Organisation ('WMO'), nearly 200 scientific organisations, and the national scientific academies of each country in the G8 group of nations.
11. The continued rise in CO₂ Emissions and resulting escalation of global temperatures risks triggering key 'tipping points' that are likely to inflict irreversible changes to the world's climate, including but not limited to:
 - a. Greenland ice sheet disintegration;
 - b. Permafrost loss;
 - c. Atlantic Meridional overturning;
 - d. Boreal forest shift;
 - e. Amazon rainforest die-back;
 - f. West Antarctic ice sheet disintegration;
 - g. West African monsoon shift;
 - h. Indian monsoon shift; and
 - i. Coral Reef die-off from mass bleaching.
12. In their high level statements, MOCK COP delegates have not only argued that these effects must be urgently addressed; but have also given first-hand testimony of what these scientific terms represent, through what is happening in their own countries in 2020: from submerging islands, melting Polar ice, the first climate refugees, rising sea levels, loss of coral reefs and mangroves, cyclones and hurricanes, melting glaciers, increased air pollution, drought and heat waves, changing patterns of rainfall and floods, food and water shortages, and advancing deserts.
13. In November 2020, the Parties were due to meet in Glasgow, Scotland for the 26th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC ('COP26'), co-hosted by the United Kingdom and Italy. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting has been postponed for one year, and COP26 is now fixed for 01-12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland preceded by the 16th Annual Conference of Youth ('COY16'). In addition a Pre-COP meeting will take place in Milan, Italy on 30 September - 02 October 2021 and prior to this the Youth Summit on 28-30 September 2021. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ('CBD COP15') due to take place in Kunming, China, from 15-18 October 2020 has also been postponed until 17-30 May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Climate Education

14. Article 12 of the Paris Agreement commits the Parties to cooperate in scaling up and strengthening climate education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information on climate change.
15. Education on climate change and biodiversity, based on the best available science and data, needs to be made available at schools and educational establishments at every level, including informal education. School, college and university buildings and estates must lead by example on sustainability as they form the subliminal curriculum.
16. The Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action prepared in 2019 by the Children's

Environmental Rights Initiative ('CERI'), the United Nations International Children's Fund ('UNICEF') and YOUNGO (the Children and Youth constituency to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), already signed by twelve countries, underlines the call for climate change and environmental education, and childrens' rights, including the right to a healthy environment.

Climate Justice

17. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C makes clear that disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, some Indigenous peoples, and local communities dependent on agricultural or coastal livelihoods, are at a disproportionately higher risk of adverse consequences of global warming at 1.5°C and beyond.

18. Children and young people in developing country Parties (and in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States) are disproportionately affected by climate change, despite their societies having played far less a part in causing it.

19. Article 9 of the Paris Agreement commits the Developed country Parties to providing financial resources to assist developing country Parties to address both climate Mitigation and Adaptation.

20. This Article underlines the steps that Developed country Parties need to take to mobilise climate finance, especially for countries hit hardest by the impacts of climate change, such as small island states, some of which may disappear altogether as sea levels rise.

21. Article 10 of the Paris Agreement commits the Parties to work together in support and collaboration in the development of technology to address climate change, and also to promote the transfer of technology to Developing country Parties.

22. Article 11 of the Paris Agreement commits the Parties to support capacity building, especially for the least developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to climate change, such as small island developing states.

Climate Resilient Livelihoods

23. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many thousands of deaths and untold damage both to human health and to countries' economies around the world. Many people have lost their jobs and livelihoods and young people have been disproportionately affected. Climate-related factors, deforestation and air pollution may increase future pandemic health risks.

24. At the same time, it has become clear that both the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency and ecological crisis must simultaneously be addressed. The world cannot resolve one while ignoring the other.

25. This recognition underlines the need for a 'Green Recovery' from the COVID-19 pandemic, which does not simply restart CO₂ Emissions as usual as the pandemic recedes, but "builds back better" with a cleaner, more sustainable economy, new green jobs and opportunities, and greater investment in long-term green opportunities replacing subsidies and support that entrench the use of fossil fuels.

26. Calls for a Green Recovery, and promotion of jobs in new, sustainable businesses and industries have been made by the United Nations' Secretary General, International Monetary Fund,

International Energy Agency; European Commission, leading academics, and many other political leaders, groups and businesses.

27. The European Union Green Deal and Recovery Plan for Europe emphasise investment in education and training, addressing both immediate unemployment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the long-term structural shift away from fossil fuels and towards decarbonisation.

Physical and Mental Health

28. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C shows how increased global warming will affect human health – from heat-related deaths, ozone-related morbidity, heatwaves, the spread of vector-borne diseases (such as malaria and dengue fever), crop failure and malnutrition, and water stress. The resulting mental health impacts will multiply. Children, young people and other vulnerable groups are particularly at risk from these threats to health and well-being.

29. Countries' actions under Article 2 of the Paris Agreement on Mitigation and under Article 7 on Adaptation must set out concrete steps for addressing the impacts of climate change on physical health and mental health.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

30. Article 3 of the Paris Agreement commits the Parties to prepare “ambitious” Nationally Determined Contributions (‘NDCs’), representing both a progression and acceleration of national efforts to achieve net-zero.

31. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement commits the Parties to aim to reach the global peak of CO₂ Emissions as soon as possible, and Article 4.3 re-states the need for NDCs to demonstrate a progression and reflect the “highest possible ambition”.

32. Parties are due to submit updated, ambitious NDCs in 2020. As at 30 November 2020, 188 Parties had submitted their first NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat, and only 2 Parties had submitted their second NDC.

33. The United Nations Environment Programme’s *Environmental Rule of Law: First Global Report 2019*, found that governments’ failure to fully implement and enforce domestic environmental laws is one of the greatest challenges to mitigating climate change, reducing pollution, and preventing widespread biodiversity loss.

34. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres said in 2020:

“If we are going to limit global heating to 1.5°C, we need to demonstrate, starting this year, how we will achieve emissions reductions of 45% from 2010 levels this decade, and how we will reach net-zero emissions by mid-century.”

35. In 2019, youth activist Greta Thunberg told the U.S. Congress –

“Don’t listen to me, listen to the scientists”.

Scientists have warned the world about climate change for decades. Such warnings are clear and more urgent now than ever before.

NOW THEREFORE the youth-led MOCK COP and the young people that it has drawn together from 140 countries of the world, calling upon world leaders who will be represented at COP26 in 2021 to meet the commitments that they made in the Paris Agreement and to endorse these principles, MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION -

Climate Education

- 1.1 Each country shall ensure that all school age children, regardless of how they are schooled, are provided with comprehensive and up to date teaching regarding the climate emergency and ecological crisis. Such teaching shall be adapted to be age and region specific and to give all young people the information they need to enable them to understand the extent, nature and structural causes of the crisis, the measures which need to be taken to substantially address and reduce the crisis and mitigate and adapt to its consequences. Each country shall implement national laws to ensure free access to impartial climate science and data, and provide legal redress against those making false claims relating to the climate emergency and ecological crisis.
- 1.2 Each country shall ensure that all school age children, regardless of how they are schooled, are given the opportunity to learn about their connection with nature, including (but not limited to) drawing upon the knowledge and practices of Indigenous peoples.

Climate Justice

- 2.1 Each country shall extend legal protection to the rights of Indigenous peoples, including their land, way of life and livelihoods, supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples³. Each country shall also implement appropriate and reasonable mechanisms for Indigenous peoples to be recognised as rights holders, such as identity certificates.
- 2.2 The UN should formally recognise the human right to a healthy environment, including the right to a safe climate. A UN Universal Declaration on the Rights of Nature⁴ should also be implemented.
- 2.3 Each country shall make industrial agriculture, mining and extractive and other polluting industries responsible in law for upholding sustainable practices and complying with regulations regarding full and swift restoration and clean-up, and the rights of their workers and neighbouring communities. Each country shall ensure that new projects are not undertaken that involve clearing residents off their land without informed consent and/or destroying previously protected ecosystems or sensitive zones. To prevent national governments unduly redefining any protected areas, any changes should be overseen by a national scientific advisory board, whose findings should be made transparent to the public.

³ www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html

⁴ www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html

⁴ <https://therightsofnature.org/>

- 2.4 Each country shall introduce a law making the wholesale and deliberate destruction of environments upon which humanity depends a criminal offence of ecocide with penalties appropriate to its severity and consequences for humanity, and in addition, shall support the introduction of a new international crime of ecocide⁵ capable of prosecution as a crime in the International Criminal Court.
- 2.5 Each country shall facilitate meaningful and inclusive youth participation in decision-making in all matters relating to the climate emergency and ecological crisis at all levels, including (but not limited to) the setting of NDCs. Methods could include, for example, making information related to current decision-making available via media frequented by young people, youth citizen assemblies, facilitating consultations with youth, giving youth a seat at the table to vote on proposed legislation, creating more job and internship opportunities for youth, and sending a minimum number or percentage of youth delegates to climate conferences such as COP26.⁶ For the purposes of this policy we define youth as people aged 11-29 inclusive.
- 2.6 Each country shall implement and enforce laws to protect or, if there is existing provision, enhance, the active participation in decision-making of those in society who advocate addressing environmental issues, social injustice and corruption and to protect their safety and their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Climate Resilient Livelihoods

- 3.1 Each country shall develop and implement a National Adaptation Plan and provide the funding, training and resources necessary to enable people and communities to adapt and mitigate as necessary to protect their livelihoods from the consequences of the climate emergency and ecological crisis, including the transition needed to mitigate the crisis. This is not limited to but shall include the provision of re-skilling and entrepreneurship skills programmes in renewables and ecological approaches.⁷
- 3.2 The policies and practices of each country and international agencies shall support sustainable agriculture and regeneration of soils and forests. These shall include measures to assist farmers to move away from agricultural practices which are driving deforestation and are harmful to soil health, food security, water quality, water availability and biodiversity, and to substantially reduce chemical use, greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from agriculture. Furthermore, policies shall support investing in plant-based food alternatives and technological innovations such as cellular agriculture, and implementing policies to combat global food waste.
- 3.3 Each country shall commit to a Green Recovery: plans for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic shall not entrench and subsidise fossil fuel use but shall commit the country to a just and equitable transition to sustainability and the development of low carbon jobs and opportunities.

Physical and Mental Health

- 4.1 Each country shall ensure a child's right to play, learn, and engage with the natural world by enacting policies to protect and restore biodiversity, such as establishing protected nature

⁵ www.stopecocide.earth/

⁶ <https://citizensassemblies.org/>

⁷ www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/climate-change/what-we-do/climate-adaptation/national-adaptation-plans

reserves, investing in reforestation, and banning mining, logging, and fossil fuel drilling in those protected areas.

- 4.2 Each country shall ensure safe, breathable air quality by adopting strong regulations on air pollutants that require industry and commerce to significantly reduce emissions and pollution. In addition, they shall implement additional social measures to ensure clean, quality air, including the promotion of pedestrian green zones, affordable and sustainable public transport, and phasing out of internal combustion engines.
- 4.3 Each country shall provide the necessary funding for child-friendly mental health services, including (but not limited to) the prevention and treatment of eco-anxiety, and the provision of care that directly addresses climate emergency-related stressors. They shall also recognise the particular vulnerability of children to the impacts of the climate crisis in terms of its impact on their health and well-being, and proactively address those impacts, including undernutrition, unsafe housing, and the increased risk of physical and mental ill-health.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- 5.1 Each country's plans, programmes and laws shall be fully aligned with the IPCC's call to limit global warming to below 1.5°C. The plans need to take all known greenhouse gas emissions into account including land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), shipping and heavy industry / international flight. Commitments shall genuinely prioritise the radical reduction in Greenhouse Gas ("GHG") emissions first and not involve offshoring. Any offsetting shall only be done as a last resort and be carried out through schemes that respect the principles of social justice, ownership and fair trade, and countries shall be transparent about their offshore emissions, and clearly state the impacts of their environmental policy on developing country Parties (and in particular on the least developed countries and small island developing States).⁸
- 5.2 Each country's NDCs shall spell out detailed plans and timetables for a whole-of-society energy transition away from coal, oil, gas and other fossil fuels, which includes a ban on future developments of fossil fuel reserves, and a detailed action plan on the sound management of the life-cycle of renewable energy equipment.

Protecting biodiversity

- 6.1 Each country shall commit to ambitious targets, and the funding and actions to deliver them, for the protection and restoration of at least 30% of land and marine ecosystems by 2030. These must benefit biodiversity, sequester carbon, and ensure the integrity of Indigenous peoples and local communities' rights.⁹
- 6.2 Each country, at a national and international level, shall phase out all non-essential single-use plastics, taking into account the needs of people with disabilities, and introduce a circular system for all materials which promotes reuse and repair instead of single use and continually uses existing 'waste' streams to make 'new' products, instead of continuing to rely on oil-based or bio-based virgin materials.

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>

⁹ www.cbd.int/

AGREED BY YOUTH DELEGATES AT MOCK COP26

01 DECEMBER 2020

[If you are a representative of a UN member state that would like to sign this Declaration, please send an email to the Secretariat for this Declaration at treaty@sos-uk.org and treaty@mockcop.org]