

# COP26: Climate summit approaches 'moment of truth'

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Scientists say extreme weather events, such as severe flooding, are becoming more frequent because of climate change

**The president of the COP26 climate summit said the talks had reached a "moment of truth for our planet".**

As the meeting entered its final hours, he urged delegates to agree to a draft agreement aimed at averting dangerous global warming.

But he faced late objections from India and others to a clause on cutting fossil fuels, and calls for more financial help for developing nations.

It's still not clear what needs to happen for these issues to be resolved.

"You all know that the world is willing us on to be bold - to be ambitious" said the UK's Alok Sharma, who is chairing the talks. "So much rests on the decisions we collectively take today," he told delegates, urging them to get on board with the draft plan published earlier on Saturday.

The key achievements of the draft so far are the inclusion of a commitment to phase-out coal, re-visiting emissions-cutting plans on a more regular basis and increased financial help for developing countries.

But India's environment minister Bhupender Yadav told the meeting that "consensus remains elusive".

- EXPLAINER: **A really simple guide to climate change**
- CONTEXT: **How do we know climate change is caused by humans?**

## Major world cities facing floods from a one metre rise in sea level



Source: Climate Central

BBC

In an apparent reference to coal, he said: "Targeting any particular sector is uncalled for. Every country will arrive at net zero as per its national circumstances."

"Developing countries have a right to their fair share of the global carbon budget and are entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels," he added.

He also objected to proposals to end "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies" - financial benefits provided to producers of oil, gas and coal.

China, which is understood to have earlier raised concerns about the wording, said it hoped that "all parties will show excellent flexibility" and said it now wanted only small edits to the text.

South Africa's negotiator backed objections over the section on fossil fuels saying: "We don't feel that one size fits all is a good approach."

But Mr Sharma said the text was a "balanced package".

US climate envoy John Kerry said: "If it's a good negotiation all the parties are uncomfortable. And this, I think, has been a good negotiation."



Fires and other extreme weather phenomena can become the norm if temperature rises are not capped

Lia Nicholson, from Antigua and Barbuda's delegation, and speaking on behalf of small island states, said they were "extremely disappointed" by the lack of progress on loss and damage - the principle that richer countries, which bear the main responsibility for the global warming, should pay compensation to poorer ones because of climate impacts.

She said: "We will express our grievances in due course," but added: "We implore all parties to support our common outcome and move forward."

Promises in Glasgow will not be enough to limit global warming to 1.5C. It is a key part of the 2015 Paris agreement that most countries signed up to.

Scientists say that limiting temperature rise to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels will protect us from the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

Meeting the goal requires global emissions to be cut by 45% by 2030 and to zero overall by 2050. One example of the impact of global temperature rise above 2C is the death of virtually all tropical coral reefs, scientists say.

One estimate by the Climate Action Tracker calculated that the planet is still **set to warm by 2.4C if the current pledges are all met.**

## In the room: Malcolm Senior at COP26

At COPs, it often all comes down to a huddle. Inside the main Plenary Room, the days of negotiations turn into a face-to-face discussion, like merchants in a souk.

Around them, delegates cluster, keen to be there at the moment when key differences between the groups or countries are resolved.

This afternoon, US climate envoy John Kerry and chief US negotiator Sue Biniaz stood toe-to-toe with Ahmadou Sebory Toure, the delegate from Guinea, who also represents the G77 group of nations, a large part of the developing world.

At stake, how much money the developed world may have to pay to the developing world to compensate for the loss and damage done to developing countries because of climate change.

Interest in that ends when Mr Kerry sweeps across the room to talk to the UK President of the COP, Alok Sharma and his chief negotiator, Archie Young.

Then, all eyes move to the EU's chief negotiator, Frans Timmermans, as his team work out the repercussions of the G77 huddle.

Eventually, the COP chairman decides enough is enough and further discussions must take place elsewhere. The session ends and so do the huddles. For now.

But experts say the 1.5C target is still achievable: at COP15 in Copenhagen more than a decade ago, estimates suggested the world was heading for between 3.5 and 4.2C of warming. If the references to phasing out coal and fossil fuel subsidies remain in the final deal, it would be an historic moment in climate negotiations.

Gabriela Bucher, Oxfam's international executive director, said: "Clearly some world leaders think they aren't living on the same planet as the rest of us. It seems no amount of fires, rising sea levels or droughts will bring them to their senses to stop increasing emissions at the expense of humanity.

"The world's poorest have done the least to cause the climate emergency, yet are the ones left struggling to survive while also footing the bill.

Climate finance, or the money promised by richer countries to poorer countries to fight climate change, continues to be one of the most contentious points. In 2009, developed nations pledged to provide \$100bn per year to emerging economies by 2020. But this target was not met.

## What has been agreed at COP26?

A series of agreements between groups of countries have been announced so far:

- In a surprise announcement, the US and China agreed to work together this decade to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C
- More than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, including Brazil, home to the Amazon rainforest

- The US and the EU announced a global partnership to cut emissions of the greenhouse gas methane by 2030 - reducing methane in the atmosphere is seen as one of the best ways to quickly reduce global warming
- More than 40 countries committed to move away from coal - but the world's biggest users like China and the US did not sign up
- A new alliance that commits countries to setting a date to ending oil and gas use - and halting granting new licences for exploration - was launched

# India and Iran say no to including fossil fuels in a COP26 climate agreement

By [Angela Dewan](#), [Ivana Kottasová](#), Amy Cassidy and Ingrid Formanek, CNN

Updated 1824 GMT (0224 HKT) November 13, 2021

**Glasgow, Scotland (CNN)** India and Iran expressed fierce opposition to the inclusion of fossil fuels in any final agreement at the COP26 climate talks on Saturday, potentially thwarting what would have been a major breakthrough in the history of climate action at the 11th hour.

In all 25 COPs before Glasgow, never has an agreement made even a mention of fossil fuels as drivers of the climate crisis, despite clear science and data showing that coal, oil and gas are the biggest contributors to human-made climate change.

The draft text had called for the phasing out of unabated coal and fossil fuel subsidies, with several caveats added between drafts as major fossil fuels had it watered down, as multiple sources told CNN.



This Colorado community was proof an all-electric, net-zero future is possible.  
Now that vision is under siege

In an informal session to give feedback on the draft Saturday, delegates from dozens of countries listed their grievances with the potential agreement, but most -- even Bolivia, which had several complaints -- said they would ultimately accept the draft as a compromise.

- Indian Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that "consensus remains elusive" and that fossil fuels had allowed parts of the world to achieve wealth and high living standards.

"How can anyone expect developing countries to make promises about phasing out coal and fossil fuel subsidies?" he asked, adding that developing countries had to deal with poverty eradication.

"Subsidies provide much-needed social security and support," he said, giving the example of how India uses subsidies to provide liquified natural gas to low-income households.



India Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav during the stocktaking plenary on Saturday.

Yadav also questioned a key measure on requesting countries come forward with updated plans on slashing emissions by the end of next year, a centerpiece in the draft text. That brings the deadline for new ambitions forward three years than the 2015 Paris Agreement requires. He complained that the same sense of urgency hadn't been given to climate finance.

Iran's delegation also said it backed India's stance on fossil fuels. "We are not satisfied on paragraph 36 on the phaseout of fossil fuel subsidies," an Iranian delegate said.

An agreement requires getting all 197 parties in attendance to reach consensus on each and every word of the final text, a painstaking effort that involves compromises and frank discussions about the world's structures of power and who is most responsible for the climate crisis.

The comments followed late-night marathon talks in which slow progress was made, but still, some 24 hours after that deadline, an agreement hasn't been struck.

COP26 President Alok Sharma had earlier made an impassioned plea to delegates to back the draft, saying it was a "moment of truth" for the planet as talks went deep into overtime without clear sign that consensus was near.

In an effort to avert failure at the talks, Sharma called on countries to seize the moment, saying negotiations had "reached a critical juncture where we must come together."

"The world is watching us," he said, urging them to "reach an agreement here for the sake of our planet and for present and future generations."

The COP26 climate talks seemed to have reached boiling point on Saturday -- at one point, Sharma [struggled to convene all delegations in a room](#).

Divisions stalled Friday and went into overtime, largely around money [that developed nations would give the Global South to help it adapt](#) to the climate crisis, as well as requests for a new system for the developed world to pay "damages" from the climate crisis.

## What the draft says

The UN published a third draft of the agreement Saturday morning that retained reference to phasing out coal and ending subsidies for fossil fuels, albeit watered down.

The draft urges countries to rapidly scale up the use of clean power generation while it phases out coal power and "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies." It also recognizes "the need for support towards a just transition" -- money to support jobs and livelihoods as the world moves away from fossil fuels. Both additions leave the text more open to interpretation than the original.

Major coal, oil and gas producers were showing opposition to the language around fossil fuels. Multiple sources close to the negotiations told CNN that the Australian delegation was generally being quiet in talks but was blocking progress on language around coal and even the measures to update its emissions plans by the end of 2022. Ultimately, an Australian delegate said in the feedback session it would adopt the draft as it stands.



US climate envoy John Kerry, right, speaks with COP26 President Alok Sharma on Saturday at the climate summit.

There was also some dissatisfaction with language on just how much the world should allow the Earth to warm and rules for carbon markets to avoid double counting emissions reduction, or "cheating" on credits. Developing countries appear to be conceding on the lack of strong progress around their calls to set up an dedicated "loss and damage" fund, in which wealthy nations would pay developing ones for climate

crisis impacts, implicitly acknowledging wealthy nations' outsized role in causing the climate crisis.

The issue had pitted the developed and developing world against each other, a characteristic typical of COP conferences.



US vs. China: How the world's two biggest emitters stack up on climate

A delegate from Guinea, representing a group of 77 nations including China, said: "The group expresses its extreme disappointment .... on a dialogue related to loss and damage. This is a far way from the concrete core for loss and damage facility that the group came together to make and seek an answer here in Glasgow," he said.

"But in the spirit of compromise, we'll be able to live with this paragraph, as is in the understanding that it does not reflect nor prejudice the inner key vocal outcome that we seek on finance for loss and damage to reach the most vulnerable."

But outside the discussions, climate activists say the deal is weak.

- Tasneem Essop, executive director of Climate Action Network (CAN), said that the draft text was a "clear betrayal by rich nations" to poor and vulnerable countries.

By blocking progress on a dedicated facility for loss and damage, "rich countries have once again demonstrated their complete lack of solidarity and responsibility to protect those facing the worst of the climate impacts," Essop said. "We urge developing countries to act in the interest of their citizens and stand strong in the face of bullies."

## COP26: Climate talks into overtime as nations near deal

Published  
1 hour ago



Image caption,

Scientists say extreme weather events, such as severe flooding, are becoming more frequent because of climate change

**The COP26 summit has passed its scheduled finishing time, as negotiations on a deal to avert the worst impacts of climate change continue into Saturday.**

Sticking points include subsidies for coal and other fossil fuels, and financial help to poorer nations.

On Friday, envoys from small island nations threatened by rising sea levels said their land was fast disappearing.

The conference president, Alok Sharma, urged an injection of "can-do spirit".

Scientists say that limiting warming to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels will protect us from the most dangerous impacts of climate change. It is a key part of the Paris agreement that most countries signed up to.

Meeting the goal requires global emissions to be cut by 45% by 2030 and to zero overall by 2050. One example of the impact of global temperature rise above 2C is the death of virtually all coral reefs, scientists say.

A draft agreement released early on Friday included watered down commitments to end the use of coal and other fossil fuels. While that was criticised by campaigners, some observers highlighted that this would be the first time coal was explicitly mentioned in UN documents of this type.

The revised text also asked for much tighter deadlines for governments to reveal their plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Speaking from London, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said rich countries must put more "cash on the table" to help the developing world move away from fossil fuels.

Also on Friday, the climate minister of Tuvalu, which is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels, made an emotive plea, saying his nation was "literally sinking".

"It is a matter of life and survival for many of us, and we implore that Glasgow must be the defining moment. We must not fail," Seve Paeniu said, to a rapturous reception.

Mr Sharma said a formal plenary to adopt the final decisions of the summit would be held on Saturday afternoon.

# COP26: Coal compromise as leaders near climate deal

By Georgina Rannard  
BBC News



**A draft agreement at the COP26 climate summit has watered down commitments to end the use of coal and other fossil fuels, as countries race to reach a deal after two weeks of talks.**

While the language around fossil fuels has been softened, the inclusion of the commitment in a final deal would be seen as a landmark moment.

A deal must be agreed by the end of the summit, which is in its final hours.

The UN meeting is seen as crucial for limiting the effects of global warming.

The draft agreement, which was published early on Friday following all-night talks, also asks for much tighter deadlines for governments to reveal their plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

And it also strengthens support for poorer countries fighting climate change.

Negotiations over a final deal could stretch late into Friday, or potentially even longer.

"This text is the bare minimum. The next few hours are going to determine the new dawn," says Simon Stiell, climate resilience minister for Grenada, a small island that is highly vulnerable to climate change.

"If the text withstands the battering it may get, we are holding onto 1.5C by our fingernails," he says, referring to the ambition to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C degrees to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Negotiators from countries that depend on fossil fuels may still attempt to amend the text before the summit ends.

Climate groups cautiously welcomed signs of progress in the draft but said there is a long way to go yet.

"The key line on phasing out coal and fossil fuel subsidies has been critically weakened, but it's still there and needs to be strengthened again before this summit closes," says Jennifer Morgan of Greenpeace International.

"But there's wording in here worth holding on to and the UK presidency needs to fight tooth and nail to keep the most ambitious elements in the deal," she says.

Prof Jim Watson at University College London said the draft agreement had encouraging elements, but that overall it was "nowhere near ambitious enough".

The draft comes after **UN chief António Guterres warned that COP26 would probably not achieve its aims** and the crucial goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C is on "life support".

Limiting warming to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels is a key part of the Paris agreement that most countries signed up to. It requires cutting global emissions by 45% by 2030 and to zero overall by 2050.

One example of the impact of global temperature rise above 2C is the death of virtually all coral reefs, scientists say.

A previous version of the agreement called upon parties to "accelerate the phasing-out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuels".

This has been changed to call for "accelerating the phaseout of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels".

Unabated coal is coal produced without the use of technology to capture the emitted carbon.

But the draft requests that countries submit their plans - known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change by next year's climate summit. Previous agreements asked countries to submit these NDCs every five years.

This latest draft of the decision has gained in strength in many areas - but as in every negotiation, there are some losses too. One small but important change is in relation to 1.5C - the text formerly said that the world should aim to keep global temperatures under this threshold "by 2100".

Some scientists for the IPCC [the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] saw this as allowing temperatures to go well beyond 1.5 as long as they were brought back down by the end of the century. This has been changed to simply say "limiting temperatures to 1.5C."

The commitment of countries to come back next year with a new carbon-cutting plan is still in the draft, although the language around it has been softened.

Perhaps of greater concern though is the inclusion of the phrase "taking into account different national circumstances". While this is being seen as a way of allowing vulnerable states and other low-emitting countries to avoid having to update their plans, could it also be used by China to do the same thing?

Where the new document really gains strength is in relation to finance and loss and damage, two key issues for developing nations.

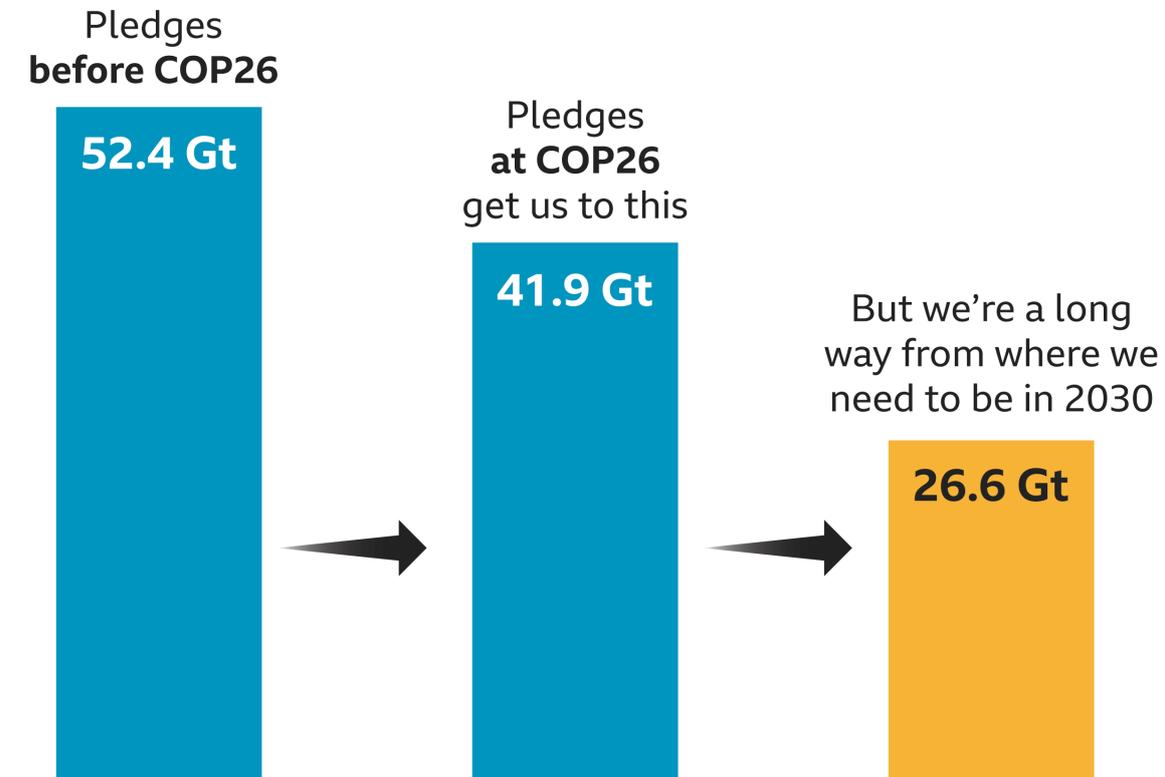
Money for adapting to the worst impacts of climate change will be doubled, and the baseline year will be 2021.

This is a first step on a road that will please the most vulnerable nations.

A key sticking point at COP26 is climate finance - the money promised by richer countries to poorer countries to fight climate change. It is controversial because developed countries are responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, but developing countries see the worst effects of climate change.

## Big emissions cuts still needed to limit warming to 1.5C

Projected greenhouse gas emissions in 2030, gigatonnes



Source: Energy Transitions Commission

BBC

- Rich countries 'pushing back' on paying for climate loss

Despite the promises made at COP26 so far, the planet is still heading for 2.4C of warming above pre-industrial levels, according to a report by Climate Action Tracker.

## What has been agreed at COP26?

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- More than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, including Brazil, home to the Amazon rainforest
- The US and the EU announced a global partnership to cut emissions of the greenhouse gas methane by 2030 - reducing methane in the atmosphere seen as one of the best ways to quickly reduce global warming
- More than 40 countries committed to move away from coal - but the world's biggest users like China and the US did not sign up
- A new alliance that commits countries to setting a date to ending oil and gas use - and halting granting new licences for exploration - was launched

## Cop26 in extra time as leaders warn of the deadly cost of failure

**Delegates are told they must reach a deal to limit global heating or future generations will be forced into violent competition for resources**



European Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans shows a picture of his grandson at Cop26, warning that future generations will face a desperate struggle to survive without a deal on global heating. Photograph: Yves Herman/Reuters

**Fiona Harvey, Damian Carrington, Severin Carrell, Oliver Milman and Libby Brooks**

Fri 12 Nov 2021 19.07 GMT

Children born today will be fighting each other for food and water in 2050 if the Cop26 climate summit fails, exhausted delegates were told as negotiators fight over the **final details of a potential deal**.

The deadline for the fortnight-long talks to finish came and went as leading figures took to the floor for what they hoped would be the final time, to exhort each other to cooperate in the interests of people threatened by the climate crisis around the world.

At stake is the world's chance of holding global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, the tougher of the two temperature goals, and a **“planetary boundary”** beyond which the ravages of climate breakdown will rapidly become catastrophic and irreversible.

EU vice-president Frans Timmermans said: “If we fail [my one-year-old grandson] will fight with other human beings for water and food. That’s the

stark reality we face. So 1.5C is about avoiding a future for our children and grandchildren that is unlivable.”

John Kerry, the US climate envoy, said: “We believe this is existential and, for many of you, existential today. People are dying today.”

The head of delegation from Tuvalu, a Pacific island nation, was rousinglly cheered when he warned that his country was sinking beneath the waves. Kenya’s representative warned that heating of 1.5C on average around the world was likely to equate to 3C in many parts of Africa, a rise that would cause frequent heatwaves and devastating drought.

Earlier on Friday, the UK as host nation of the talks circulated a **second draft text for the outcome**. This included a resolution for countries to start to phase out “unabated” coal power and “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies, and a request for countries to return to the negotiating table next year to strengthen their national plans on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Whether and how countries will revise those national plans – **known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** – is now at the heart of the talks. Research earlier this week by the Climate Action Tracker, an analyst organisation, found that current NDCs presented by countries in Glasgow **would lead to at least 2.4C of heating**, a disastrous level.

Some countries have tried to argue that revising NDCs next year was contrary to the Paris agreement, which requires such revisions only every five years. However, the three architects of the Paris agreement – Laurent Fabius, the French foreign minister who presided over the talks; Laurence Tubiana, his chief diplomat; and Christiana Figueres, the UN climate chief at the time – **told the Guardian** the treaty allowed for a faster return and called on countries to come back to the negotiating table next year with revisions in line with 1.5C.

This provision for an amendment next year, currently paragraph 29 of the second draft outcome text, is likely to be one of the clauses most strenuously fought over in the closing stages. However, there are other outstanding problems, still the subject of frantic shuttle diplomacy by the UK’s Cop president, cabinet minister Alok Sharma.

These sticking points include:

- Developing country concerns that their needs for finance to adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis are being overlooked. They want at least a doubling of the finance available for adaptation, and want to open up discussions on how to vastly increase the \$100bn a year in climate finance, from public and private sources, that was promised them in 2009 for delivery from 2020, but which on current estimates will not be fulfilled until 2023.
- Loss and damage, the term for the impacts of the climate crisis too severe for countries to prepare for or adapt to them. The G77 + China bloc of developing nations – which represents 85% of humanity – are very unhappy about current plans for this subject, which they see as the **compensation for climate disasters** that rich nations have a moral duty to pay. The Guinea delegate, speaking for the bloc, wants the establishment of a “loss and damage facility”, likely to mean an actual fund rather than a measure to work towards one.
- Article 6 of the Paris agreement, which deals with carbon trading. Some countries want to use carbon offsetting to make up some of their commitments to reduce emissions, but **others fear** that the proposed rules would lead to a flood of cheap carbon credits that do not represent genuine emissions reductions.
- Disagreements over how countries should measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions. Known as the transparency and accountability provisions, these are also regarded as crucial because some countries are suspected of under-reporting their emissions.

Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, said the commitments on fossil fuels in the current text were too weak and should be strengthened. But she added: “There’s wording in here worth holding on to and the UK presidency needs to fight tooth and nail to keep the most ambitious elements in the deal. We’ve moved from richer nations largely ignoring the pleas of developing countries for promised finance to tackle climate change, to the beginnings of a recognition that their calls should be met. Now we need developed countries to scale up their offer of support and finance.”

She added: “Negotiators in **Glasgow** simply have to seize the moment and agree something historic, but they need to isolate the governments who’ve come here

to wreck progress and instead listen to the calls of youth and vulnerable nations.”

Tracy Carty, head of Oxfam’s Cop26 delegation, said: “Emission reduction targets over the next decade have us careering towards climate catastrophe. We need an unambiguous deal in Glasgow that commits governments to coming back next year, and every year after that, with improved targets that will keep the goal of 1.5 degrees alive. This is the final countdown. Negotiators should come back to the table armed with commitments that are equal to the challenge that millions of people around the world are facing every day.”

Tasneem Essop, executive director of the Climate Action Network, said it was essential that Cop produced concrete decisions to alleviate the suffering of millions of people worldwide coping with the double impacts of Covid and climate breakdown.

“We will continue fighting for this because this is the litmus test for the success of Cop26,” she said.

# COP26 climate negotiators in heated crunch talks after failure to strike agreement by deadline

By [Angela Dewan](#), [Ivana Kottasová](#), Amy Cassidy and Ingrid Formanek, CNN

Updated 0851 GMT (1651 HKT) November 13, 2021

**Glasgow, Scotland (CNN)**The UN is expected to publish a third draft of the COP26 climate agreement Saturday morning [after negotiators failed to reach consensus by the evening](#), triggering marathon talks that went late into the night.

COP26 President Alok Sharma had expressed optimism that a deal could be reached by 6 p.m. local time Friday (1 p.m. ET), but that self-imposed deadline elapsed with [deep divisions remaining on key issues](#), including language on just how much the world should allow the Earth to warm, the future of fossil fuels and rules for carbon markets to avoid double counting emissions reduction, or "cheating" on credits.

But the most contentious issue centers around whether wealthy nations in the developed world should be obliged to set up an official fund to pay liabilities to poorer countries for climate crisis impacts, making COP26 one of many climate conferences characterized by a sharp divide between the developed and developing world.

Getting all 197 parties in attendance to reach consensus on each and every word of the final agreement is a painstaking effort. Beyond the simple divide between rich and developing countries are major coal, oil and gas producers showing opposition to an article that calls for the phasing out of unabated coal and an end to fossil fuel subsidies.

- "This is a test of COP President Alok Sharma's nerve and whether he can deliver ambitious outcomes where there isn't obvious consensus," a group of climate analysts attending the summit noted as talks ran into overtime.

Sharma has said his main goal for the conference is to "keep 1.5 alive." The latest UN climate science report makes clear that the world needs to contain global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to stave off worsening climate impacts and steer away from more catastrophic climate change.

- Key elements of the previous draft appeared to at least move towards that. It requested countries to come back to the table by the end of next

year, at COP27 in Egypt, with updated plans on slashing greenhouse gas emissions. That would be three years earlier than they are required to do now under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

If the final text even makes mention of fossil fuels, it would be an unprecedented inclusion at the history of the COP process. In all 25 COPs before this, never has the role of coal, oil and gas as a driver, let alone the main driver, of the climate crisis made the final text.