

# COP26: Towards Just & Transformative Change

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# Hell and High Water

- CO2 concentrations in 2020 - **412.5 PPM**
- Global temps up **2.1 degrees** since 1800 (climate.nasa.gov)
- Projections at 2 & 3 degrees = Coral reef die-offs, intolerable heat waves, mass coastal inundation, hundreds of millions of climate migrants on the move



# A Question of Justice

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- Developing nations – Miniscule culpability, major vulnerability
- Developing nations & world's poorest set to suffer at least 75% of the costs of climate change – despite generating just 10% of emissions
- Carbon Majors Report (2017) – Top 100 fossil corporations linked to 71% of global emissions since 1988
- Climate Apartheid - Philip Alston (UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty) - Climate change “threatens to undo the last 50 years” of development, global health and poverty reduction...with risk of a new era of “climate apartheid” where the rich buy their way out of rising heat and hunger (UN 2019)



# Key Players

- **Parliaments/nation-states** - US, China & EU among key players to pledge to limit CO2 emissions to **net zero** by **2050 & 2060...**
- **Cities/local governments**
- **Intergovernmental organisations** – IPCC, UNEP, IPBES
- **MNC's & financial institutions**
- **Social movements** – Extinction Rebellion (calling for immediate end to fossil fuels), Fridays for Future, Youth Climate Strikes (climate crisis stealing the future from next generations)
- **Indigenous peoples** – Need for greater representation at climate negotiations
- **Wider public** - People's Climate Vote (UNDP 2021), world's biggest survey of public opinion on climate change (50 countries, over half of the world's population) – Majority think climate crisis a global emergency & support tough climate action



# Towards a Just Distribution

- “The atmosphere has a remaining budget of less than 1000 GtCO<sub>2</sub> that must be shared in a fair way by the different countries involved in the [COP21] negotiations” (Rajão & Duarte 2018, pg. 274)...
- ‘Brazilian Proposal’ @ COP21 - Developed countries should make reductions commitments based on their *proportionate historical responsibilities* to current GHG concentration levels and related temperature increase (Rajão & Duarte 2018)



# Undoing Colonial Legacies

“Indigenous communities have borne the brunt of Northern greed for far too long...get in line, or get out of the way”  
(India Logan-Riley, Māori climate activist & indigenous rep @ COP26).



GLASGOW

# COP26

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



- Highlights- Multilateral agreements to halt/reverse deforestation by 2030; 153 countries issue more ambitious 2030 NDC's, 190 countries agree to phase down coal power
- Major emitters – UK, US, EU- to pay 8.5billion to help SA abandon coal
- UK aim for carbon neutrality by **2028**- but, currently 40 new fossil projects I pipeline

# Ambition of the Essence

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- To meet 1.5 °C Paris target, global emissions must fall 45% by 2030...currently set to *increase* 16% (per 2010 levels) (IPCC 2021)
- No significant impact from COVID-19 lockdowns on *longterm* warming trends (UNEP, 2020)
- IPCC report (2021) - Limiting warming to 2 degrees by 2100 virtually impossible without **swift & sweeping** transformations across every sector, from transport to food and energy.
- UNEP Emissions Gap Report (2021) - New NEC's & mitigation measures insufficient - world on track to reach **2.7°C by 2100**...(1.5°C by 2040 under all emissions scenarios) (IPCC 2021)





# Too little, too late...

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- Currently, **no countries** are compatible with Paris' 1.5-degree target (Climate Action Tracker)...
- Emissions are *cumulative*...
  - “Long-term and end-point targets [2030, 2050] have *no scientific basis*. What governs future global temperatures and other adverse climate impacts are the emissions from yesterday, today and those released in the next few years” (Anderson & Bows 2012, p. 639).
- ‘Elephant in the room sits undisturbed’ (Anderson & Bows 2012, p.640) – Global capitalist system based on endless economic growth & material consumption incompatible with IPCC (2021) suggestions

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# A Better World is Possible

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“Hope doesn’t come from inaction and empty promises that everything will be alright...hope is this, *hope is us*, the people, hope is when people gather to make change” (Greta Thunberg, Fridays for Future protest in Milan, October 2021)

“The earth is speaking...she tells us that we have no more time...it's not 2030, or 2050, it's NOW. May our utopia be a future on Earth...’ (Amazonian indigenous rep, COP26)



# Now what?

- New UK gov scheme to pay farmers to rewild land
- Local, city, regional initiatives leading the way – C40 Cities
  - Expansion of zero-emissions buildings in Tokyo, Argentine city **Rosario** planting 6,000 native trees to conserve natural resources & vegetation
- Rewilding/biodiversity restoration projects– i.e. UK gov paying farmers to rewild their land, bison near Canterbury, Wild Oyster Project – Boosting native molluscs numbers for coastal rewilding
- Risk of programs like European Green New Deal exacerbating ‘climate colonialism’ (Douo 2021)- push for green energy, particularly in the Global North, driving demand for metals like nickel, cobalt and lithium.
- Solutions must be just, inclusive, and radically ambitious



Thank You! ☺

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