

**ECOSOC Briefing on the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change
Conference
UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner
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Opening / Key Takeaways from COP26

President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Mr. **Collen Vixen Kelapile**,

President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. **Adbulla
Shahid**,

Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action, Mr. **Selwin Hart**,

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to join this **ECOSOC Briefing on the outcomes of the United Nations
Climate Change Conference**.

We know that COP26 **did not achieve all the objectives that we had hoped for**.

Yet it represents a milestone towards the goals of the **Paris Agreement**.

And the **1.5 Degrees Celsius target is still within reach**.

**154 countries submitted revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at
Glasgow** -- demonstrating that **the Paris Agreement's ratchet mechanism is
working**.

Glasgow was also striking for the number of **young people who were front and centre
of the negotiations taking place**.

This shift was reflected in the **G20 People's Climate Vote**. It clearly shows how a
**majority of young people under 18 believe that climate change is a global
emergency**. These young people, shortly entering the workforce and reaching voting
age, may increase the pressure on Governments to make climate action a top priority.

In a wider sense, we are **seeing how the conversation on climate change is a topic no
longer solely dealt with by Environment Ministries**.

Instead, we saw how more than 120 Heads of State and Government took an *active role* in COP26 where they made new commitments to **address climate change systematically via their economies and national development plans.**

Moreover, the **Glasgow Climate Pact** recognised the **crucial importance of multilateralism and science as a basis for accelerated climate action to keep 1.5 Celsius within reach.**

UNDP's Contribution

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is proud to be **the pulse of the NDC enhancement process in developing countries across the world.**

Through our UNDP Climate Promise, we are **supporting 120 countries to enhance their NDCs -- the world's largest offer of its kind.**

This hard work on the ground paid off in Glasgow.

Of the 154 countries that submitted revised NDCs in Glasgow – 89 were enhanced through the Climate Promise. This is over 80 per cent of developing countries.

That support was achieved through our work with 35 partners -- most notably the **NDC Partnership.**

Through this engagement, we are seeing how NDCs are now becoming sovereign investment plans for many countries to achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Indeed, UNDP was able to bring the **unique perspectives of what ambition looks like on the ground to COP26 through new analysis.**

That included our **State of Climate Ambition** report.

It shows how **many Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries - - often those with the least responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions -- have shown immense leadership and commitment when it comes to climate ambition.**

And our groundbreaking climate and inequality campaign prompted a **global conversation on fossil fuel subsidies, a topic which was discussed in Glasgow.**

Since the launch of this **#DontChooseExtinction** campaign, **over 20 million people have viewed the Frankie the Dino film**, which has been translated into **36 languages.**

The Way Forward

The challenge now is to **maintain the momentum generated by COP26** as the world turns its attention toward **COP27** in **Egypt** in 2022.

Crucially, at Glasgow, many vulnerable countries expressed the fact that **greater ambition and urgent action are still needed to protect those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.**

Reflecting this need, UNDP launched the ***next chapter of our Climate Promise*** at COP26 which will help countries to turn their targets into action. And it is growing in strength. Just last week, **Iceland** pledged new support which will help governments to use NDCs as an *investment strategy* towards the SDGs. They join **Germany, Sweden, the European Union, Spain, Belgium, and Italy.**

And this support will help to ***set the conditions* for countries to make new climate commitments in these crucial months ahead.**

Indeed, UNDP **will work even more closely with countries to make the *big decisions* necessary -- for example *re-directing* fossil fuel subsidies -- to tackle climate change and drive forward sustainable development.**

And UNDP's wider climate portfolio, which supports over 140 countries, is helping to leverage game-changing levels of **finance** towards key areas like **health, education, and peace.**

Closing

Working with communities in every corner of the globe to tackle climate change leveraging science, innovation & cooperation, **there are many reasons to be hopeful for the future.**

Yet **the grains in the hourglasses of people and planet are running out.**

Therefore, the entire UN family, *working as one*, **is helping to ensure that Glasgow will serve as a *springboard* for countries to ramp-up climate action.**

In this battle for survival, we know that **every fraction of a degree counts.**

Thank you.

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