



Funded by
the European Union



Implemented by
Stantec consortium

BRIEF SUMMARY

31 Oct – 13 Nov 2021

Glasgow, UK

14 February 2022

BRIEF SUMMARY NOTE ON COP26

Prepared for:

European Union Delegation to Ethiopia

Prepared by:

Yoseph Melka

Contract Number:

FED/2019/412-677

The content of this report is the sole responsibility of the Consortium led by Stantec and can in no ways be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. This report is prepared solely for the use and benefit of the Contracting Authority. It is the result of an independent review, and neither the Consortium, nor the authors accept or assume any responsibility or duty of care to any third party.

This document was prepared by Stantec SA ("Stantec") for the account of European union Delegation to Ethiopia (the "Client"). Any reliance on this document by any third party is strictly prohibited. The material in it reflects Stantec's professional judgment in light of the scope, schedule and other limitations stated in the document and in the contract between Stantec and the Client. The opinions in the document are based on conditions and information existing at the time the document was published and do not take into account any subsequent changes. In preparing the document, Stantec did not verify information supplied to it by others. Any use which a third party makes of this document is the responsibility of such third party. Such third party agrees that Stantec shall not be responsible for costs or damages of any kind, if any, suffered by it or any other third party as a result of decisions made or actions taken based on this document.

Table of Contents

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF COP26	I
1 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF COP26	1
2 SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES	1
2.1 The Glasgow Climate Pact.....	2
2.2 Declaration on Forests and Land use.....	3
2.3 The Global Methane Pledge.....	3
2.4 Ethiopia’s participation in COP26 and the EU support.....	4
2.5 The Ethiopia Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)	5
2.6 The revised NDC of Ethiopia.....	6
2.7 Major shortcomings and challenges	6
2.8 COP27	7

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 H.E. Prof. Fekadu Beyene, commissioner of EFCCC, addressing at the COP26 ...	4
Figure 2 - Coordination meeting of Ethiopian delegated at COP26	4
Figure 3 - H.E. Prof. Fekadu Beyene, commissioner of EFCCC, opening the PSNP side event at COP26	5
Figure 4 - Discussion on the revised NDC and Green Legacy Initiative.....	6
Figure 5 - Morning routines for delegates, observers, and all participants lining-up at the entrance of COP26	7

Key Highlights of COP26

- Parties agree to phase down unabated coal power and end inefficient fossil fuel subsidies
- More than 140 countries agree to halt deforestation by 2030
- Over 100 governments aim to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% this decade
- More than 130 trillion USD in private capital is committed to net zero
- USD 1.7 billion pledged for indigenous peoples and local communities
- Paris Rulebook is completed after six years of discussions
- China and the U.S. agree to cooperate on Paris Agreement goals
- India announces net zero emission targets by 2070

1 Brief Overview of COP26

Delayed for a year due to COVID-19 pandemic, COP26 conference was the first since the Paris Agreement (COP21) that expected parties to make enhanced commitments towards mitigating climate change. It was the third meeting of the parties to the 2015 Paris Agreement (PA) (designated as CMA1, CMA2, CMA3), and the 16th meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16). While the continuing restrictions due to COVID had made impossible for some to reach Glasgow, representatives of 197 parties attended the event with nearly 40,000 registrants, out of which a reportedly 25,000 delegates attended the event. Around 120 heads of states as well key global public figures attended the high-level events.

The Glasgow talks followed the 2019 COP25 summit in Madrid. While many issues had not been agreed in Madrid, it serves negotiators to start on texts drafted in Madrid including the Paris transparency rules, Article 6 and “common timeframe’ for climate pledges.

Given the Paris Agreement follows ‘ratchet mechanisms’, whereby all parties are required to carry out a colloquial process every five years and provide improved national pledges. As COP26 is the fifth COP since Paris, some 151 countries had responded by submitting new/updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UN just days before the start of COP26, which makes the conference particularly important in carrying on the Paris Agreement.

Once again, many claims that COP has failed to fully agree on pertinent matters. As some argue that it has been hard to make progresses while positions of key negotiating alliances are so diverse on each of the major issues labelled as “four-dimensional spaghetti’ of competing priorities. Who wants what at COP26? including positions and issues of countries/groups is compiled by Carbon Brief highlighting more has yet to be done to resolve some of the pertaining agenda items. COP26: Key outcomes agreed at the UN climate talks in Glasgow - Carbon Brief.

For the most part, the COP26 had set high-expectations and the high-level discussion were centered on keeping the promise of 1.5oC alive, with a focus on actions to address coal, cars, cash, methane and trees. In unusual manner, the technical negotiation which would have been concluded by the end of week of COP week, it was extended to the second week which resulted in finalizing the Paris rule book which is one of the major achievements of COP26.

2 Summary of Key Outcomes

Despite the high expectation of COP26, many agreed that a bridge has been built between good intentions and measurable actions to lower emissions, increase resilience and provide finance. In general, COP26 accomplishes some notable outcome in the areas of:

- **Adaptation:** now deemed to be equally important as reducing emissions with that of mitigation and a work program on the global goal on adaptation is finalized which will help address the climate impacts already happening in all regions. COP26 further put in place enhanced technical support for countries to address loss and damage

related to climate change that will strengthen global efforts towards resilience. Thus, adaptation is not a secondary topic anymore and the Glasgow climate pact calls for doubling of adaptation finance.

- **Finance:** governments at COP26 agreed on the need for much greater support to developing countries. All parties agreed that much finance is needed and to larger extent it must be predictable. Recognizing the fact that developed countries have yet to live up to the Paris Agreement pledges of 100 billion USD annually in support of developing countries, underlined the urgency of initiating the process for defining the new global goal on finance as soon as possible to bring any meaningful actions on agreed pledges.
- **Mitigation:** in relation to bringing down emissions, collective agreement is reached by governments to explore ways of increasing actions to close the current emissions gap. The existence of proven technologies for a net-zero energy systems with relatively reduced price is acknowledged as a way forward.
- **Finalization of guideline (Paris Rulebook):** the long-awaited guideline for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement is finalized with a compromise on Article 6 relating to carbon markets which will ensure a level playground for everyone. The finalization of negotiations on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) allows countries to build trust.

2.1 The Glasgow Climate Pact

The agreement reached in the 2021 UN climate change conference (COP26) is termed as 'the Glasgow Climate Pact' which is recognized as the first climate agreement that explicitly plan to reduce unabated coal usage. While the pledge to "phase out" coal is changed to "phase down" at the final stage of the negotiation by coal reliant countries (e.g., China, India), the pact is still welcomed by many parties. The previous COPs have not mentioned coal, oil, gas, or even fossil fuel in general as a driver of climate change, making the Glasgow Climate Pact one step forward towards net zero emissions.

The pact reaffirms the Paris Agreement goal of holding the increase in global temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It further recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, deep and sustained reduction of global greenhouse (GHG) emissions, including reducing global CO₂ emissions by 45% by 2030 relative to the 2021 level and net zero around mid-century, as well as significant reduction of other GHGs. However, achieving the target is not ensured, as with existing pledges the emissions in the year 2030 will be 14% higher than in 2010, which calls for enhanced commitment and accelerated efforts.

Some of the main elements of the pact include:

- *An agreement to revisit emission reduction plans in 2022 in order to try to keep the 1.5°C Paris Agreement target achievable*
- *The first ever commitment to limit the use of unabated coal (utilization of coal with "ablation" (net-zero emission),*
- *A commitment to climate finance for developing countries*

2.2 Declaration on Forests and Land use

One of the pivotal outcomes in Glasgow COP26 was a pledge by global leader and declaration on “forests and land use” which till now is joined by more than 140 countries, including tropical forest rich countries like Brazil, Indonesia and Congo. The key objective set in the pledge is to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030. The pledge affirmed the role of forests in balancing GHG emissions and removals, adapting the impacts of climate change and maintaining healthy ecosystem. This calls for transformative actions from parties which is expected to attract increase financial incentives in the name of “Sustainable land use transitions”.

Why this pledge is needed? Despite the fact that there have been some strong forest related pledges before, the primary forest loss is still in the increasing trend. So, making real progress requires designing new ways of doing business including ensuring more accountability through for example by countries inserting concrete forest protection measures into trade agreement and national development plans. As they say, the idea is to “stop financing deforestation” and incentive shall be effective in preventing deforestation and supporting farmers in transitioning to sustainable land use practices. Until now, Ethiopia didn't sign this pledge and not member of the group, hopefully it will join soon. The link below provides additional information on this pledge: World leaders summit on ‘Action on forests and land use’ - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). This new pledge is expected to build on the existing intervention on forests, which would have been essential to strengthen existing landscape restoration, green legacy, forest based mitigation actions, as well as attracting additional technical and financial support should Ethiopia signed the declaration.

2.3 The Global Methane Pledge

Although short-lived, Methane is powerful climate pollutant accounting for about half of the net rise in global average temperature. Rapidly reducing methane emission from agriculture, energy and waste in this decade is endorsed as the single most effective strategy to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5oC while generating agricultural productivity and health co-benefits.

The United States and European Union has initiated the launching of the pledge in COP26 and invited parties to join the pledge. Accordingly, around 103 countries including Ethiopia decided to sign this voluntary agreement and contribute to a collective effort of reducing global methane emissions by 2030 at least 30% from 2020 levels, which is expected to eliminate over 0.2oC warming by 2050. The pledge aims to catalyze global action and strengthen support for existing international methane emission reduction methane emission reduction initiatives in order to advance technical and policy support to reinforce participants national interventions.

Participants also commit to moving towards using the highest tier IPCC good practice inventory methodologies, as well as working continuously to improve the accuracy, transparency, consistency, comparability, and completeness of national GHG reporting under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and to provide greater transparency in key sectors. Given Ethiopia is already exercising tier-2 GHG inventory for the livestock sector, the initiative would further strengthen countries effort in monitoring and reporting.

2.4 Ethiopia's participation in COP26 and the EU support

Ethiopia's participation in COP26 has been full of uncertainties. The new government restructuring along with the ongoing war and unrest in the country has largely contributed to this. The host country, i.e., UK has been putting in place a number of COVID-19 related restrictions which has further intensified the uncertainties specially in the preparatory stages of the event. Despite the uncertainties, pertinent negotiation team has finally travelled to Glasgow.

As a designated institution in charge of overseeing Ethiopia's commitment to the climate change international negotiations, the Environment Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) has coordinated the national team of delegates travelling to the Glasgow COP26. The delegation team consists federal line-ministries, regional governments and development partners with the head of delegates of H.E. Prof Fekadu (commissioner of EFCCC).



Figure 1 H.E. Prof. Fekadu Beyene, commissioner of EFCCC, addressing at the COP26

Before the actual COP26 event, the EFCCC has organized multiple preparatory meetings and consultation both virtually and via physical meetings. Aiming at efficient negotiation of Ethiopian delegation team, members are organized following the thematic areas of COP26 which includes: 1) Mitigation; 2) Adaptation; 3) Transparency; 4) Article-6; 5) Agriculture; 6) Loss and Damage; 7) Market and Non-market mechanisms; 8) Technology; 9) Gender.

Apart from the thematic areas, the Ethiopian delegation has been engaged in preparing side line events, bilateral meetings, briefings and virtual exhibitions focusing on climate smart productive safety net (PSNP) program and the Green Legacy tree planting initiatives thereby highlighting progresses towards implementing activities planned under the revised nationally determined contributions (NDCs).



Figure 2 - Coordination meeting of Ethiopian delegation at

During the fortnight in Glasgow, the national team of delegates has been exchanged negotiations process and outcomes from each thematic area. Every other day, 40-45 minutes debriefing sessions has been held with facilitation of the head of delegates (H.E. commissioner Fekadu). The discussion was helpful in exchanging ideas and reflecting countries position in respective theme.

Ethiopian delegation team has also participated in various side events organized by UNFCCC and partner organizations including with multilateral and bilateral partners. In the context of which, Ethiopia has co-organized side events and shared experiences on some of the national flagship programs, a couple of which are described below.

2.5 The Ethiopia Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)

During the sideline event in the Glasgow COP26, scholars, negotiators and policy makers have recognized Ethiopia's effort in vastly investing in production and expansion of renewable energy resources. In a sideline event entitled as

“Cooperation for Net-Zero and Climate resilience: Ethiopian and Chinese Perspective”, Ethiopia co-hosted and shared experiences with China and USA. In this event, the Productive Safety Net (PSNP) program implementation and results achieved thus far is presented. In the presentation, it is reported

that, the Ethiopian PSNP program has started in the year 2005 and in the process of three consecutive five years phased implementations, 2.8 million hectares of land is protected through soil and water conservation activities; 1.7million hectares protected under forest restoration and conservation program and the program has benefited nearly 8 million people.

The head of delegation (HoD) of the Ethiopian negotiation team, commissioner Fekadu has provided an opening remark highlighting also some of the flagship programs like green legacy tree planting initiative and the plan to realize the goal of reaching “net zero emission” by 2050. Interactive discussion followed the presentations and the session received remarkable number of attendance and appreciation.



Figure 3 - H.E. Prof. Fekadu Beyene, commissioner of EFCCC, opening the PSNP side event at COP26

2.6 The revised NDC of Ethiopia

In the NDC partnership side-line platform, Ethiopian delegation team has shared experiences and presented the revised NDC ambitions and commitments of the country. During the event, it was stated that, the revised voluntary based NDC program submitted by Ethiopia ensures nature based and sustainable solutions to prevail through the challenges of climate change ensuring sustainable environmental and natural resources conservation and management. In the panel discussion organized by the NDC partnership, a number of stakeholders participated.

During the event, the Ethiopian negotiation team has shared brief presentation on the process followed in revising the NDC, implementation modalities and expected outcomes. The Ethiopian head of delegates is also invited and provided opening remarks in the NDC partnership panel discussion.

During the panel discussion, the delegation has also shared experiences of implementing the Green Legacy initiatives highlighting its potential for climate change mitigation.



Figure 4 - Discussion on the revised NDC and Green Legacy Initiative

2.7 Major shortcomings and challenges

While the COP26 negotiations finally concluded the Paris Agreement “rulebook” including the technical aspects of the Enhanced Transparency Framework, regulations around carbon markets and regular reporting of climate data by all countries. Many parties appreciated this achievement while others were disappointed that COP26 once again failed to provide vulnerable nations with required finance to rebuild and respond to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The last-minute amendments in wording from “Phasing-out” to “Phasing down” the use of coal also anticipated to weaken the final text in the Glasgow pact.

Other than the technical issue, given COP26 is held at the mid of Covid pandemic crisis, the tight restrictions limited access for parties, observers, negotiators, etc. despite it reportedly attracted record number of negotiators. All participants were expected to strictly follow the Covid-rule, to make the daily lateral-flow tests and report negative test results through email with barcode to access the venue, this is good protocol to keep everybody safe but not welcomed by participants.

Like in many previous COPs, there has been tremendous “Climate justice” movement at the side of COP which has brought 100,000 protesters into the streets of Glasgow during COP26. The messages forwarded to global leaders and parties is that efforts to address climate change should take into account human rights and social inequality, and its mention this high in the deal in part reflects sustained pressure from activists and civil society groups.



Figure 5 - Morning routines for delegates, observers, and all participants lining-up at the entrance of COP26

The EU provision of technical and financial support played significant role in realizing Ethiopia’s presence in COP26 in this difficult time of war and conflict with full of uncertainties and budget shortages. The collaboration further solidifies the existing partnership and also unlock similar future interventions. However, there have been some internal shortcomings that requires improvement in future undertakings. The major internal challenges were associated with the preparation, travel arrangement and execution of the sponsored Ethiopian delegates participation. Firstly, there was a delay in official selection and communication of COP26 delegates from EFCCC/EPA side and there was a change of initial list of delegates which created confusion. There were also high-level uncertainties on defining the head of delegates and facilitating travel permission from the prime minister’s office as there was a complete travel restriction of government officials at the time of the travel preparations. It is good experience that the EPA has sponsored disadvantaged regional states, i.e., the Somali, Harari and Sidama, however, the required capacities need to be given to new delegates so that they will not be simply sitting and listening very complicated technical negotiations. One of the lessons that needs to be taken and improved in the future include that all experts in the EPA and elsewhere shows interest to travel to COP events regardless of their role, understanding and expectations of the event. Negotiators should be clearly known and well-trained on a regular basis so that they fully understand country’s position, can explicitly share Ethiopia’s position on the agenda and deliver commendable contribution to the various themes they participate.

2.8 COP27

The UNFCCC has approved the request of Egypt to host COP27. Accordingly, the next COP will be organized in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, tentatively between 7 – 18 November, 2022. A road to COP27 requires a number of key meetings and milestones in which Ethiopia is also expected to take part. The COP28 is also decided to be held in United Arab Emirates (UAE).