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## **CONCOURS INTERNE POUR L'ACCÈS À L'EMPLOI DE SECRETARE DE CHANCELLERIE AU TITRE DE L'ANNEE 2022**

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### **ÉPREUVES ÉCRITES D'ADMISSIBILITÉ**

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**Partie 1 :**  
**Rédaction en français d'une note de synthèse  
à partir de documents en anglais**

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Ce dossier comporte 10 pages (page de garde et sommaire non compris).

### **SUJET**

**A l'approche de la COP26, quelles solutions face aux enjeux du changement climatique ?**

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## **GLOSSAIRE**

### **Documents 1 et 3**

**UNFCCC** : *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (convention cadre des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques).

## **1. State of the Union: Commission raises climate ambition and proposes 55% cut in emissions by 2030 – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

The European Commission presented today its plan to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This level of ambition for the next decade will put the EU on a balanced pathway to reaching climate neutrality by 2050. [...] This raised ambition also underlines the EU's continued global leadership, ahead of the next UN climate conference (COP26).

The Commission has today:

- tabled an amendment to the proposed European Climate Law, to include the 2030 emissions reduction target of at least 55% as a stepping stone to the 2050 climate neutrality goal;
- invited the Parliament and Council to confirm this 55% target as the EU's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, and to submit this to the UNFCCC by the end of this year;
- set out the legislative proposals to be presented by June 2021 to implement the new target, including: revising and expanding the EU Emissions Trading System; adapting the Effort Sharing Regulation and the framework for land use emissions; reinforcing energy efficiency and renewable energy policies; and strengthening CO2 standards for road vehicles.

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission said: "We are doing everything in our power to keep the promise that we made to Europeans: make Europe the first climate neutral continent in the world, by 2050. Today marks a major milestone in this journey. With the new target to cut EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, we will lead the way to a cleaner planet and a green recovery. Europe will emerge stronger from the coronavirus pandemic by investing in a resource-efficient circular economy, promoting innovation in clean technology and creating green jobs."*

[...]

Alongside the 2030 Climate Target Plan and its Impact Assessment, the Commission has also adopted today an assessment of Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans for 2021-2030. The Commission's Assessment shows that the EU is on track to surpass its current 2030 emissions reduction target of at least 40%, in particular thanks to ongoing progress in deploying renewable energy across Europe. To reach the new goal of 55%, the EU will have to further increase energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy. [...]

## Background

An increase of the 2030 EU target for greenhouse gas emission reductions was first announced in President von der Leyen's political guidelines in July 2019, in line with the Paris Agreement objective to keep the global temperature increase to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5°C.

[...]

Achieving 55% greenhouse gas emissions reductions will require action in all sectors of the economy. A climate-neutral transition can only be accomplished with contributions from everyone. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. Together with fugitive non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the energy system, they are responsible for just over 75% of EU greenhouse gas emissions. This underlines the energy system's central role in the transition to a climate neutral economy. Buildings and transport are, alongside industry, the main energy users and source of emissions. Decarbonising both energy supply and demand is key to achieving climate neutrality.

[...]

The Climate Law Regulation, proposed by the Commission in March 2020, aims to enshrine into EU law the 2050 climate-neutrality target agreed by EU leaders in December 2019 and set the direction of travel for all EU policy. The Commission now proposes to include the revised 2030 target in the Regulation, which is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and Council. The new 2030 target will also form the basis of discussions on revising the EU's Nationally Determined Contribution to reducing emissions under the Paris Agreement.

As set out in the European Green Deal and in today's Communication, the Commission will now start preparing detailed legislative proposals on how to achieve this new target. The Commission will review all relevant climate and energy policy instruments to achieve the emission reductions with a view to making appropriate proposals by June 2021.

## **2. Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC**

*IPCC, 9 August 2021*

GENEVA, Aug 9 – Scientists are observing changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, released today. Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.

However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. While benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize, according to the IPCC Working Group I report, *Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis*, approved on Friday by 195 member governments of the IPCC, through a virtual approval session that was held over two weeks starting on July 26. [...]

### **Faster warming**

The report provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

The report shows that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming. [...]

### **Every region facing increasing changes**

Many characteristics of climate change directly depend on the level of global warming, but what people experience is often very different to the global average. For example, warming over land is larger than the global average, and it is more than twice as high in the Arctic. [...]

The report projects that in the coming decades climate changes will increase in all regions. For 1.5°C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows.

But it is not just about temperature. Climate change is bringing multiple different changes in different regions – which will all increase with further warming. These include changes to wetness and dryness, to winds, snow and ice, coastal areas and oceans. [...]

### **Human Influence on the past and future climate**

“It has been clear for decades that the Earth's climate is changing, and the role of human influence on the climate system is undisputed,” said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Valérie Masson-Delmotte. Yet the new report also reflects major advances in the science of attribution – understanding the role of climate change in intensifying specific weather and climate events such as extreme heat waves and heavy rainfall events.

The report also shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate. The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also affect the climate.

“Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate,” said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Panmao Zhai.

### **3. What are “nationally determined contributions” to curb climate change?**

*The Economist, 22 April 2021*

The emissions targets are the world's best hope of limiting global warming, but they are falling short.

TODAY JOE BIDEN, America's president, is playing host to 40 world leaders in a virtual climate summit. He kicked it off with a plan to cut America's greenhouse-gas emissions in half by 2030, compared with their levels in 2005. That is nearly twice the reduction promised by Barack Obama in 2015 (and later cancelled by Donald Trump). Other countries are announcing similar pledges, known as “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs), which are a crucial part of the global framework to tackle climate change. But what exactly are they?

The concept of NDCs was first introduced at COP19, the UN's climate summit in Warsaw in 2013. At first they were vague. Governments that were “ready to do so” were invited to submit non-binding climate pledges to the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by the first quarter of 2015. Crucially, these pledges were to be formulated by countries based on their own priorities, needs and prospects. This flexibility was meant to overcome the problems that had plagued the Kyoto Protocol, the UNFCCC's first accord, which came into force in 2005. That had committed only developed countries, such as Britain, to cutting their emissions. Developing countries, including China—which, by 2006, was the largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world—were not included. The arrangement was deemed to be too rigid and unfair. America ultimately refused to ratify it; Canada withdrew in 2011. [...]

When countries signed up to the Paris agreement, negotiated at COP21 in 2015, they committed to a common goal: keeping the world's average temperature to “well below” 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and “pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C”. They also promised to produce NDCs to show how they might get there. These laid out countries' targets for reducing emissions over a clearly articulated period of time and the steps they would take to achieve their goals. Letting countries (mostly) make their own decisions on emissions meant that many more signed up than might have done under a more prescriptive accord. Big emitters such as China and India submitted themselves to scrutiny for the first time. But such flexibility meant that no country made commitments large enough to meet the Paris agreement's goals: the first tranche of NDCs was expected to lead to global warming of around 3°C. Accordingly, the Paris agreement also outlined a “ratchet mechanism”, by which countries were meant to increase the ambition and scope of their NDCs every five years.

Countries were meant to submit their updated NDCs ahead of the COP26, the UN's next climate summit, which was scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November 2020. That plan, like so many others, was scrambled by the covid-19 pandemic.

COP26 was pushed to November 2021. Only a handful of countries have strengthened their targets. Britain has promised to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. The 27 members of the European Union have pledged to reduce their emissions by "at least 55%" across the same period. China has proposed, but not formally submitted, a new target of reaching carbon neutrality before 2060. In announcing America's new emissions target Mr Biden hopes to galvanise those countries lagging behind. They include the likes of Australia, Brazil and Russia, which have yet to submit higher targets.



#### **4. COP26: What Is the UN climate conference in Glasgow and why is it so important?**

*BBC News, 9 August 2021*

Leaders from 196 countries are meeting in Glasgow in November for a major climate conference. They are being asked to agree action to limit climate change and its effects, like rising sea levels and extreme weather. A new report from UN scientists warns that global temperatures have risen faster since 1970 than at any point in the past 2,000 years.

#### **What is the climate conference?**

The summit is widely seen as crucial if climate change is to be brought under control. It is the moment world leaders will discuss whether enough has been achieved since 2015's landmark Paris climate agreement. This was the most important attempt so far to commit all the countries of the world to limit global warming. They agreed to try to keep temperature increases "well below" 2C (3.6F) and to try to limit them to 1.5C. But many scientists say efforts have fallen far short and global warming could be set to reach 3C. Organised by the UN, the conference is called COP26 (COP stands for Conference of the Parties).

#### **What action needs to be agreed at COP26?**

Countries are being asked for "ambitious" targets to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases - which add to global warming - going into the atmosphere by 2030. And they will be asked how they will achieve "net zero" - no more going into the atmosphere than is removed - by 2050. Burning fossil fuels is a major cause of emissions.

So, the steps needed could include:

- Ending the use of coal
- Stopping deforestation
- Switching to electric vehicles
- Investing in renewable energy

#### **What is climate change?**

Climate change describes a long-term change in the weather patterns of the planet. The world has already warmed by about 1.2C since factories became widespread, and temperatures will keep rising unless governments take action. Food shortages, heatwaves, storms and rising water levels are among the possible effects.

#### **What do the world's poorer countries want?**

People living in poorer countries are at the frontline of many of the changes caused by global warming. Not only is there the danger from drought or heatwaves, but rising sea levels are slowly submerging entire island nations, and poisoning fields with salty water.

Ahead of COP26, more than 100 developing countries have set out their demands, including:

- Funding to fight and adapt to climate change
- Compensation for the effects it will have on them
- Money to help make their economies greener

They say that without progress on these points, COP26 will be worthless and will end in failure.

### **What have richer countries promised?**

Wealthy countries pledged \$100bn (£720m) a year by 2020, to help poorer nations. However, the most recent figures showed that they've only managed \$79bn. By 2018, about three-quarters of the money was in the form of loans that need to be paid back, rather than grants that do not. This is a problem for poorer countries, many of which are already in debt. The issue has become "a matter of trust" and rich nations "must deliver now", said Alok Sharma, the president of COP26. This topic - known as climate finance - is going to be one of the biggest subjects of debate.

### **How committed is the UK to tackling climate change?**

In 2019 the UK government was the first major nation to announce a target of "net zero" carbon emissions by 2050. Earlier this year, it also said it wanted to achieve a 78% cut by 2035. However, opposition politicians say the government's words have not been matched by action. Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has accused the Conservatives of using "soundbites with no substance".

### **What would success at COP26 look like?**

There are huge expectations COP26 will deliver significant progress in the battle against rising temperatures. Richer countries will be asked to honour the \$100bn financial pledge they have already made, if any progress is to be made. An agreement committing the world's nations to phasing out coal-burning would be a major achievement, although pre-summit meetings suggest this will be no easy task. There will also be pressure on countries to keep raising their ambitions, not only with regard to cutting emissions, but in helping those communities and countries already affected by climate change.

## **5. Governments must agree to end use of coal power, says UK's Cop26 president**

*The Guardian, 26 July 2021*

Alok Sharma 'disappointed' after ministers from more than 50 countries closed two-day meeting without full agreement.

Governments around the world must agree to end the use of coal power to avoid the worst ravages of climate breakdown, the UK's president of vital UN climate talks has said.

Ministers from more than 50 countries closed a two-day meeting in London on Monday without full agreement on phasing out coal, but with all countries agreeing to limit global heating to 1.5C, with fewer than 100 days to go before the Cop26 UN climate conference in Glasgow this November.

Alok Sharma, the UK's president-designate of Cop26, said: "We were not able to get every country to agree to phasing out coal power, which was very disappointing. We will certainly have more discussions in the coming months ...Unless we get all countries signed up to a coal phase-out, keeping 1.5C in reach is going to be extremely difficult."

This week's meeting was the first in-person meeting of climate and environment ministers since the last Cop [conference of the parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change] in December 2019, just before the Covid-19 outbreak became a pandemic. The lack of in-person meetings has been an obstacle to achieving the progress needed on key issues including emissions cuts, technical agreement on implementing the Paris climate agreement, and climate finance.

Patricia Espinosa, the UN's top climate official, called the discussions "extremely productive" but she added that many countries had not yet come forward with national plans on cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the next 10 years, which scientists have warned will be essential to holding temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Small islands will be among those worst afflicted by climate breakdown, and many face inundation at temperatures higher than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Molwyn Joseph, cabinet minister in Antigua and Barbuda, who led the delegation of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the London meeting, said: "The message from small island developing states (SIDS) appears to be well received. This provides a level of hope that the major emitters are beginning to understand their responsibilities and should be committed to keeping the 1.5C goal in reach. Major emitters, especially the G20, need to redirect all fossil fuel subsidies into renewable energy investments."

Governments around the world were accepting of the need to support the most vulnerable countries, which were suffering climate-related extreme weather that was inflicting “serious loss and damage to their infrastructure and economies”, he said. “For SIDS, this is not abstract, this is real. This is a matter of climate justice.”

The UK and the UN also urged countries to come forward with concrete plans to hold heating to 1.5C, including targets on their national emissions for the next decade, and details of how they intend to reach their goals.

Barbara Pompili, France’s environment minister, told the Guardian: “It’s now time for the world to define the tools that will allow us to stay below 1.5C of global warming. After more than a year of a health crisis, this first physical meeting in London was an essential step for jolting the international community into action. We are 100 days away from the Cop. The countdown is on.”

Many participants and observers noted the recent extreme weather around the world – in Europe, North America, China and other countries – which has given an added impetus to the talks. London experienced torrential rain on Sunday, which led to flooding in many areas, even as the talks were taking place. Espinosa said: “Recent and current extreme weather events have raised the level of attention not only for decision-makers, but the general public.”

Kat Kramer, climate policy lead at the charity Christian Aid, said: “At a time when the host city flooded with unusual rains, and in light of the catastrophic flooding in China last week, the sheer peril of climate change should be at the forefront of all ministers’ minds. We are endangering our own life raft – our shared planet. It is the people on the frontline, in the most climate-vulnerable countries who will suffer the most, although they have caused it the least.”