



## The COP28 Stimulation Model Declaration

*Disclaimer: These are the recorded statements of the youth delegates participating in the COP28 Simulation Model and do not represent the point of view of The British University in Egypt or UNDP Egypt or Zayed University (UAE).*



### **Preamble:**

The [COPSimulation](#), an annual youth-led climate conference organised by [The British University in Egypt](#) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Egypt, brings approximately 130 students from around the world to simulate the COP and engage with country delegates and representatives of international climate stakeholders.

Two versions have been implemented to date: COP27 Simulation and COP28 Simulation. Activities of the Simulation include: a two-week online capacity-building programme, research on climate-related themes, Mock Conference and attending the actual COP.

The COP Simulation empowers youth with (1) knowledge and transferable skills in climate literacy and international climate action, diplomacy, negotiations and conflict resolution. (2) cultural exposure as participants from diverse backgrounds meet and interact. (4) youth present their Declaration at real COP sessions (Blue and Green Zones), enhancing their leadership and communication skills. Fellows are engaged in the design and implementation of the project to utilise creativity and innovation skills.

COPsimulation platform is a knowledge-sharing hub to ensure sustainability and transferability of the outcomes. The impactful initiative is aligned with supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and engaging students to become future leaders and change agents.

Noting its significant impact, the COPsimulation was held with the support of COP27 Presidency, the Egyptian Ministries of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Youth and Sports, The British Embassy in Egypt, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt and COP27 President Envoy on Youth.

One of our strategies is holding the COPsimulation in partnership with a lead academic institution from the country hosting the COP Presidency. COP28 Simulation was held in partnership with Zayed University, UAE. The aim is to increase youth engagement in climate action, disseminate knowledge and exchange experiences, paving the way for students to have a voice and to be represented at the COP29 taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The below Declaration drafted by participants in the COP28 Simulation Model is one of the main deliverables of the Simulation. A selected number of top performers at the COP28 Simulation Model presented the Declaration at the actual COP that was held in Dubai, UAE at sessions at the Green and Blue Zones.



## Theme 1: The COP27 Adaptation Agenda: Increasing resilience to accelerate transformation in Agriculture, Infrastructure and transport and Restoring Ecosystems

- **Cuba:** The policy recommendations for Cuba encompass the establishment of insurance programs for farmers to shield them from climate change-related hazards, with a call for global collaboration with organizations like the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. Lastly, the proposal suggests engaging in blue economy projects, advocating for international collaboration to monitor and manage maritime environments, adopt eco-friendly fishing methods, and promote ethical travel to safeguard coastal areas. This comprehensive proposal underscores a commitment to sustainable and resilient practices, spanning tourism, research, water management, and broader policy initiatives.
- **EIG** proposes four prioritized actions: enhancing green technology research and development, strengthening adaptive capacity to climate change, encouraging resilience and recovery planning, and enhancing international cooperation and technical assistance. The active engagement of the EIG in COP28 is deemed pivotal in shaping international agreements that address pressing environmental challenges while fostering collaboration among nations for a sustainable future.
- **The G77** calls on entities like the EU, the Umbrella Group, and China to strengthen commitments. The proposal encompasses a broad range of climate-related challenges, positioning it within the COP27 Adaptation Agenda theme, focusing on increasing resilience, transforming key sectors, and restoring ecosystems.
- **The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** outlines a comprehensive proposal within their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to advance sustainability and resilience. The AOSIS commitment encompasses various key aspects, including transitioning to 100% renewable energy, safeguarding vulnerable communities, establishing secure refuges, and ensuring the resilience of ecosystems. The proposal extends to policies such as advocating for fair carbon pricing, partnering for capacity building in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), addressing ecocide, and promoting climate-conscious initiatives through subsidy repurposing. Additionally, it emphasizes collaborative renewable energy projects with GCC countries. The proposal underscores a holistic approach to climate action, combining adaptive strategies, policy initiatives, and international collaboration.
- **India's** climate proposal, encapsulated within Theme 1 of the COP27 Adaptation Agenda, outlines a commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, contextualized within its developing nation status. Rejecting financial demands from the EU, India emphasizes the need for developed nations to meet their responsibilities rather than imposing undue burdens. The proposal advocates



technology transfer at affordable costs, proposing AI utilization for efficient loss and damage fund allocation. Inclusive measures involve public-private partnerships and community engagement. India underscores the carbon market's role, proposing a third-party regulatory body for transparency and fair pricing. Recognizing youth potential, India calls for global collaboration, urging private sector investment in youth-led projects and international innovation labs to harness the innovative capacities of its youth for sustainable climate solutions.

- **Jordan** outlines a comprehensive strategy for carbon emission reduction from 2022 to 2050, emphasizing its commitment to resilience. Jordan proposes a new framework for the lost and damaged fund, advocating for an inclusive approach prioritizing countries based on the severity of their conditions rather than historical factors. The proposal underscores the need for fair consideration of developing countries like Jordan, facing natural disasters with limited infrastructure, urging support for an equitable framework that efficiently allocates resources to all nations in need.

## Theme 2: Renewable Energy Revolution: Paving the Way to Net Zero Emissions

- **Benin** advocates for a robust proposal on energy transition, recognizing its critical role in achieving Paris Agreement targets. With abundant water resources like Lake Nokoué, Benin aims to harness clean energy, promote renewables, and transform agricultural practices. However, the impacts of climate change, including reduced rainfall and altered water quality, pose challenges like diminished agricultural yields and increased flood and drought risks. In response, Benin urgently calls for a comprehensive shift to clean energy, emphasizing collective action to address climate intricacies and build a sustainable future. The proposal highlights support for green hydrogen and the use of blockchain for traceability in its production. Additionally, Benin seeks partnerships for technology transfer, capacity building, and financing, proposing innovative solutions like leveraging eco-entrepreneurship for carbon dioxide mitigation. They request \$20 billion for sustainable initiatives and underscore the role of AI in flood prediction and mitigation. The proposal encompasses themes of "Renewable Energy Revolution" and "Finance" with a focus on technology transfer, capacity building, and sustainable financing.
- **South Korea and Mexico** formed a strategic partnership to achieve this goal, committing to comprehensive measures such as transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. South Korea, leveraging technological expertise, plans to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels through large-scale renewable energy projects, electric vehicle adoption, and sustainable infrastructure. Meanwhile, Mexico, with abundant renewable resources, aims to expand its renewable energy capacity, modernize energy infrastructure, promote energy efficiency, encourage electric vehicle adoption, and actively engage in reforestation for carbon sequestration. This collaborative effort exemplifies a commitment to sustainable practices for a greener future.



- **The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** reaffirms its strong dedication to sustainable development and urgent climate action in its proposal for COP28. Aligned with the Paris Agreement, the EBRD advocates for increased investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and resilient infrastructure, emphasizing transparent reporting and responsible financing as key principles. Addressing the energy challenge in developing countries, the proposal suggests a gradual increase in electrical prices to support the feasibility of renewable energy projects, facilitating a strategic transition to sustainable practices. A groundbreaking approach in project development is proposed, involving Independent Power Producers (IPPs) bearing the cost of new infrastructure within renewable energy projects, thus mitigating government liabilities and promoting economic resilience. The EBRD recommends depreciating additional infrastructure costs over the project's lifespan, easing financial burdens and fostering a sustainable and equitable financial framework through the responsible distribution of electricity costs. The proposal underscores the EBRD's commitment to just and inclusive transitions, prioritizing job creation and social well-being, and calls for collaborative efforts to shape a greener and more resilient future for the communities it serves.
- **The European Union (EU)**, The EU emphasizes its progress in achieving climate targets, announcing a potential emission reduction of at least 57% by the end of the year, surpassing the original 55%. The EU pledges to update its NDC to reflect these heightened ambitions. Addressing concerns about backtracking, the EU reaffirms its dedication to climate action and an accelerated trajectory, dismissing notions of a deviation from the European Green Deal. As the largest contributor of public climate finance to developing economies, the EU commits €23.4 billion in 2021, urging other donor countries to fulfill the global \$100 billion goal. The EU invites non-state actors to complement these proposals with their initiatives. The proposed actions for COP28 include phasing out unabated fossil fuels, tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency improvement, and defining vulnerable countries in the loss and damage fund through a broad and inclusive approach considering geographical location and economic factors. The EU is determined to collaborate on transparency, UNFCCC efficiency, climate empowerment, gender dimension, and climate action in agriculture and food security.
- **Vanuatu:** highlighted the importance of solar power desalination to address water resource challenges, aiming to produce over 2.5 million liters of clean water through collaboration with UNFCCC and UNDP. The overall vision is to create a sustainable and resilient Vanuatu by leveraging renewable energy and fostering international cooperation.
- **Morocco** proposes a comprehensive set of initiatives under various themes for COP28. The country emphasizes the universal impact of climate change and advocates for Water Conservation and Management, committing \$800 million globally. Morocco also addresses Debt Repayment Challenges, suggesting the establishment of a Debt Repayment Mechanism within COP28,



allocating \$800 million to provide financial relief for countries affected by climate change. Additionally, Morocco calls for the creation of a Green Investment Fund with an initial capital of \$1 billion to accelerate its transition to 52% renewable energy by 2030. The proposal includes a Loss and Damage Fund, seeking \$700 million for immediate assistance after climate-induced disasters. The country views decarbonization as an economic opportunity, inviting collaboration for sustainable agriculture with an estimated investment of \$2 billion. Morocco also proposes an Inclusivity and Education Program with a \$200 million allocation to empower the younger generation in adapting to climate challenges. Lastly, the country calls for collaborative efforts in its Energy Transition, seeking substantial investments, technological support, and partnerships with an estimated investment of \$3 billion.

- **Turkey** has implemented initiatives like afforestation and climate-resilient infrastructure investments. Looking ahead to COP28, Turkey ambitiously aims to further increase renewable energy's share in its energy mix, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance adaptation strategies. With a plan to supply 30% of electricity demand from renewables, carbon pricing emerges as a cost-effective mitigation policy. Turkey recognizes the urgency, as heatwaves and climate impacts threaten its economy and food security, exacerbated by the Syrian refugee crisis. The management of drought, with an Agricultural Drought Management Board, is a structural initiative. Turkey aims to reduce its NDC to 41% by 2030, highlighting its commitment to sustainable practices, including the development of a national electric car in 2022 (TOGG).

### **Theme 3: Bridging the Digital Divide for Equitable Climate Action – Technology and AI**

- **LMDC** calls for innovation labs to support capacity building and startups, a \$7 billion tech fund from the EU and the umbrella group for CO2 reduction in LMDCs, and engagement with local communities, especially tribal groups, using AI. The group advocates for increased investment and innovation in green research, collaboration with YOUNGO for youth engagement, and \$5 billion grants for the development and implementation of CCUS technology. They stress the importance of carbon pricing mechanisms, transparent climate finance, South-South cooperation, and a 50% reduction in global food wastage by 2035. In terms of COP28 expectations, the LMDC urges the rechanneling of \$650 billion Special Drawing Rights for climate action in developing countries. They emphasize the need for progress on climate finance, increased financing for adaptation, and operationalizing the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage with funding arrangements from developed countries. The LMDC calls for multilateral cooperation, emphasizing equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) in climate-related discussions and negotiations.



#### **Theme 4: "Closing the Loop: Advancing the Circular Economy, climate justice, role of behavior and community"**

- A proposal advocates for urgent action to address the issue of plastic pollution by proposing a 0.25-dollar tax on plastic products in countries lacking such a levy or increasing existing taxes. The generated funds would be dedicated to supporting children and youth, specifically addressing their educational and healthcare needs. By linking the fight against environmental degradation with investments in the well-being of children, the initiative aims to create a cleaner, safer, and healthier future. The proposal emphasizes the importance of investing in education and healthcare as integral components of building a sustainable and just society, highlighting the positive impact on both the environment and the overall quality of life for children and youth.
- **YOUNGO** presents a comprehensive proposal advocating for the immediate and ambitious action required to address climate change. The proposal underscores the importance of including and empowering youth in decision-making processes, suggesting the establishment of Youth Advisory Boards at local and national levels. It emphasizes the necessity for aggressive yet achievable emissions reduction targets to limit global temperature rise and achieve net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. The shift from linear to circular economies is proposed, along with a strong emphasis on transparency and accountability mechanisms for governments and corporations. Additionally, the proposal highlights the urgent need to integrate climate education into global curricula, ensuring widespread climate literacy. These proposals collectively form a vision for a sustainable and just future, calling for collaborative efforts to realize this vision.

#### **Theme 5: Finance: Towards a more climate-resilient global financial system and an effective bridging the climate finance gap**

- **Egypt's** proposal addresses the substantial foreign debts amounting to approximately \$164 billion in 2024, and the economic complexities exacerbated by recent global events and geopolitical uncertainties. The innovative debt restructuring plan seeks to negotiate with major creditors for debt reduction, including the World Bank, and advocates for a moratorium on debt repayment, allowing Egypt and other developing countries to redirect funds towards green investments and climate change mitigation. To capitalize on the temporarily suspended debt payments, the proposal recommends the establishment of a dedicated Green Investment Fund, focusing on financing sustainable projects, renewable energy initiatives, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The plan also emphasizes a collaborative approach involving major developed countries, financial institutions, and international organizations to support this innovative debt restructuring model, highlighting its potential positive impact on global climate goals and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The benefits include immediate economic relief, contribution to global climate efforts, fostering international cooperation, and prioritizing social welfare through investments in community-enhancing projects. The proposal aims to serve as a model for debt restructuring that



not only addresses immediate economic challenges but also contributes meaningfully to the urgent global climate agenda, fostering a sustainable and resilient future.

- **The IMF** emphasizes the integration of climate risk and resilience into fiscal and monetary policies, pledging strategic guidance and financial support for countries grappling with climate change. Acknowledging the need for shock-absorbers in developing nations to enhance resilience, the IMF commits to providing policy advice, capacity building, and governance support. In alignment with the COP28 Agenda, the IMF introduces proposals such as collaborative asset-support packages for Solar Modules production, incorporating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in loan eligibility assessments, and advocating for a debt-for-climate swaps initiative. This multifaceted approach aims to facilitate the energy transition and incentivize countries to align with their climate commitments.
- **The Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** emphasize the need for reform in the international financial architecture, calling for a restructuring of existing institutions and fairer carbon markets. LDCs propose a Debt Swap for Climate, aligning with AOSIS and the G77 countries, focusing on financing climate investments. They advocate for the '1 per cent for 1.5C initiative' to mobilize decarbonization and adaptation projects and propose the appointment of a third-party auditor for transparency. Additionally, LDCs, in collaboration with YOUNGO, stress youth empowerment, education, and institutional capacity building for climate change. The declaration rejects the narratives of India and China, urging these large emitters to fulfill global responsibilities by supporting LDCs financially and technically. Overall, the proposal underscores the vulnerability of LDCs to climate change and calls for global collaboration and support for their adaptation efforts.
- **Nepal** focuses on adaptation through the Lapa Local Adaptación Plan of Action. The plan focuses on inclusive strategies, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to ensure that no one is left behind. Nepal emphasizes the importance of technical rigor in adaptation planning and has invested significantly in research, analysis, and technical capacity to inform its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Additionally, Nepal advocates for debt cancellation for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), citing unfulfilled promises of financial support. The delegation of Nepal seeks debt-for-climate arrangements, particularly addressing energy security, finance, and capacity building. The proposal also involves collaboration with YOUNGO to emphasize the role of youth through financial support for institutions, innovation labs, and technology transfer labs. Nepal seeks financial contributions, with discussions underway to secure funding for youth-led initiatives and broader capacity building for all LDCs.
- **Pakistan's** comprehensive statement, the country emphasizes its vulnerability to climate change, citing the significant impact of a massive flood in 2022. Pakistan calls for global attention to the funding needs of countries like itself, stressing that funding should not rely on loans and debt. The statement underscores the importance of human rights, climate justice, and inclusivity in climate



conversations. Pakistan also addresses climate education challenges, proposing initiatives to address the lack of resources and low climate literacy. Additionally, the statement delves into the critical issue of loss and damage, advocating for a transparent and equitable approach in the allocation of funds. Furthermore, Pakistan urges a re-engineering of the global climate finance mechanism to invest in businesses focusing on climate change and accelerate climate action, contributing to economic growth. The proposal also highlights the need for international support in preventing deep-sea mining, particularly for critical minerals. Overall, the statement emphasizes the urgent need for global cooperation and equitable solutions to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change.

- **Rwanda** proposal calls for the adoption of a "Debt for the Climate" initiative, urging the international community to allocate at least 50% of the debt of LDCs to climate-related initiatives. Rwanda emphasizes the need to allocate more funds to climate-induced health and agriculture issues, aligning the percentage of the loss and damage fund with the percentage of climate-induced challenges. The statement underscores the importance of international cooperation and fair negotiations to protect the rights of all individuals in the face of climate change.
- **Switzerland's** separate declaration underscores the critical need for financing the transition to net zero, citing estimates ranging from \$3.5 trillion to \$9.2 trillion annually. The nation acknowledges the disparity between its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and domestic economic challenges, highlighting the vulnerability arising from this conflict. Switzerland proposes that international organizations, either a new World Bank institution or the Green Climate Fund, should fund NDCs to ensure equitable representation and robust oversight. The declaration emphasizes the urgency of prompt funding, outlining a three-phase approach involving fund establishment, NDC cost submissions, and member state contributions. Notably, in conflict-ridden nations like Palestine and Ukraine, funds are crucial for sustainable rebuilding during times of war.
- **The Umbrella Group's** final declaration emphasizes a willingness to collaborate with the IMF, prioritizing transparency, adaptability, and risk assessment. This replaces previous finance mechanisms, with a commitment to contribute a significant portion of GDP to global climate finance. The US, under its assertive national climate plan, expresses readiness for substantial contributions in partnership with the IMF to ensure equity and effectiveness. Additionally, the Umbrella Group introduces a CCUS Partnership with Japan, focusing on Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technology. Japan, acknowledging challenges in phasing out fossil fuels, aims to contribute to carbon solutions and foster innovation in CCUS. The partnership aims to sequester at least 2 Gt per year by 2050, mobilize \$10 billion annually for research and development, and establish a supportive system for CCUS businesses in partnered countries.
- **The World Bank** declares a steadfast commitment to advancing sustainable development and tackling the pressing issues of climate change. In alignment with the COP28 agenda and guided by



the strategic framework of its 'Scaling Up to Phase Down' roadmap, the World Bank pledges increased financial support and specialized expertise for innovative climate solutions. The focus is on urging developed nations to fulfill their responsibility by providing substantial financial support for renewable energy initiatives in Low & Middle-income countries. This commitment includes concessionary loan facilities and adjusting interest rates for developing nations. Emphasizing the importance of honoring technology transfer commitments, the World Bank calls for collaboration to achieve global climate goals. The overarching vision is to foster partnerships and strengthen international cooperation, working collectively to address the diverse impacts of climate change and pave the way for a resilient and sustainable future worldwide.

### **Theme 6: Geopolitics, Climate security, international political economy, global financial architecture and Climate Action**

- **China**, despite being the largest global emitter, contends with per capita carbon emissions relatively lower than many developed nations. With a per capita GDP of approximately \$12,500, China's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) aim to peak emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, operating under the 1+N framework. The primary challenge lies in coal dependence, yet China leads in renewable energy investment, particularly in transitioning to renewable vehicles and standing as the world's largest solar energy producer. On the global stage, China, though not contributing to the loss and damage fund, engages in South-South Cooperation. The China Climate South-South Cooperation Fund, with \$3 billion, has facilitated 45 climate change cooperation documents, 3 low-carbon demonstration zones, 42 mitigation and adaptation projects, and numerous training courses benefiting over 2,000 officials and technicians from 120 developing countries. China affirms its commitment to accelerating domestic net-zero efforts while fostering international collaboration within the South-South Cooperation framework.