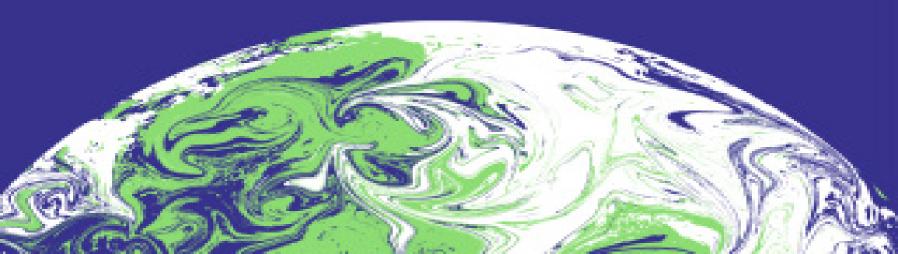


ARCOS calls the world to walk the talk after COP26 commitments



COP26 Overview

The UN Climate Change Conference took place between 31st October to 12th November 2021 in Glasgow, UK. This conference came about in the midst of a global pandemic, and escalating climate and biodiversity emergencies. Around the world, disasters are striking anytime as effects of climate change. On one side of the coin the world is facing such catastrophes, on the other one, there are good deals of work in tackling climate change impacts and biodiversity loss. However, regardless of these initiatives dealing with the above-mentioned climate issues, the world is not joining hands so fast to overcome climate change impacts.

It is important to recall that COP26 had the following mission: Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 °C within reach, adapt to protect communities and natural habitats, mobilize finance, and work together to deliver.

Statement by Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, ARCOS Executive Director

"On 13th November 2021, the UN climate change conference was concluded. This occasion marked a critical turning point in global politics as adjudged decisions are going to set the global agenda on climate change for the next decade. ARCOS salutes the great work done by heads of states and governments as well as other parties who have been making efforts to keep cutting emissions until they reach net zero by mid-century.

"At the end of COP26, 151 countries had submitted new Nationally Determined Contributions(NDCs) to phase out their emissions by 2030. To keep the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C within reach, the world needs to seize this one last chance to cut "global emissions in half by the end of this

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decade. The UN's Emissions Gap Report "2021 shows that new national climate pledges combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century. This is better than what was projected before the Paris Agreement, 4 degrees but still the world can do better.

Keeping 1.5°C alive

"The main aim of the COP26 was to put the world on a pathway to limit warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. The outcomes of the COP acknowledge that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. The COP recognize that there is a need also to reduce emissions 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels to keep the rise below 1.5 °C. Nevertheless, it does not indicate commitments to achieving the reductions, there is just an attempt to support this.

"ARCOS appeals to the parties of the next COP for establishing ambitious targets and commitments for emissions reduction consistent with a 1.5 °C pathway focusing on zero carbon emissions.

Climate Finance

"The developed countries are expected to meet the \$100 billion climate finance goal to support developing countries by 2023. However, COP26 did not see serious commitments from the developed countries to reach this goal. This undermines adaptation and "mitigation efforts hence posing a huge threat to the most vulnerable who are highly affected by climate change effects. The developed countries need to commit sufficient resources to support the developing "countries to

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establish robust interventions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Loss and Damage

"The COP26 made statements that changing climate has already and will increasingly cause loss and damage to millions of people. This summit founded the Glasgow Dialogue, where Parties, civil society and technicians will come together to discuss how to increase the funds applied to loss and damage and how Parties in need can access these funds. However, COP26 did not reach a consensus on a proposal from developing countries to set up a financing facility dedicated to loss and damage.

"ARCOS find that lack of a financing facility for the loss and damage presents ramifications to climate change adaptation, disaster prevention, disaster preparedness, disaster response and rehabilitation. This is already an urgency for establishing a financing facility for loss and damage.

"Still and all, it should be mentioned that though the COP26, on one side has achieved some great works, on the other side, the conference was disappointing for developing countries. Channeling funds to developing countries to cope with climate change effects was one of the paramount metrics for the success of COP26, yet developed countries have evidently failed to deliver their pledges. Is this the right time to think about what we should expect from the COP27? Yes. The next year summit should be a platform that brings on the table a multilateral system that works for the most vulnerable countries to climate change."

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