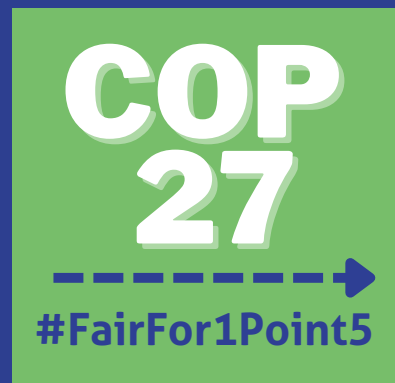




October 2022

# MEDIA BRIEFING



## How can we keep below the 1.5°C limit in a fair manner through international climate negotiations?

### The role of Europe

The expectations are high for the 2022 International Climate Talks. After a tremendously difficult 3 years which have seen the COVID pandemic, war in Ukraine, economic and fossil fuel energy crisis, the whole world and European countries in particular have made multiple setbacks on fossil fuels.

The fact that it is Africa's turn to host this year's UN Climate Summit (UNFCCC COP27), with Egypt as a host and presiding country, can provide a particular platform for African and other Southern voices, and raise particular attention to Africa's needs on climate action, including climate impacts, climate finance, renewable energy access and the just transition out of fossil fuels.

The EU negotiates as a block at the UNFCCC. The Council, supported by the Commission, has already set out its position and priorities via the following agreements by EU Ministers:

- Environment Council Conclusions on COP27 on 24 October.
- Economic and Financial Affairs Council Conclusions on Climate Finance on 4 October.

In addition, the European Parliament, while it does not have formal negotiating power at UNFCCC, adopted a Resolution on 20 October on the COP27 which is significantly more ambitious than the Environment Council conclusions, in areas such as climate finance, loss and damage, moving away from fossil fuels and EU's own mitigation.

The EU policymakers' and representatives' rhetoric will have to drastically change: from emphasising the importance of gas infrastructure to get away from Russian gas, to urgently and massively increasing their energy savings and shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy even faster.

This COP, the EU, a powerful and relatively rich block of countries, has the chance and responsibility to play a leading, highly influential role in a new geopolitical context that requires scaling up support to developing countries, and that can't turn a blind eye to the root cause of the climate crisis: fossil fuels.

**Europe needs to contribute to achieve the 1.5°C global goal in a fair manner: #FairFor1Point5.**

*“Thinking that climate summits are just for the environment and energy ministries is living in the past. 2022 has made even clearer that climate change affects absolutely every part of our lives, and will do so even more. The war in Ukraine and climate impacts are already taking their toll in Europe, leaving little space for watered down measures.*

*Countries in Europe and the EU would be smart to follow the science, proactively tackle climate change and the fossil fuels crisis beyond patchwork solutions taken in panic mode, to contribute to creating safer and more sustainable and inclusive societies.”*



**Chiara Martinelli**  
Director

# 1 NEGOTIATIONS

## A) Emissions reductions commitments - EU's NDC

The world has already warmed up to 1.2°C and we are heading to a 2.7°C increase by the end of the century. There is no time to delay emission reduction to ensure we limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, which science and multiple scenarios show is not utopia. The Pre-2030 mitigation work programme is a key deliverable of COP27, where in particular developed countries and other major emitters must take additional steps to bring us on a Paris Agreement pathway.

The EU and other richer European countries will be essential players to deliver strong progress. They must ensure that internal policy positioning and financing ahead of COP27 is aligned with the progressive developing countries. While the compromise text included in the COP27 conclusions from 24 October is quite vague and unspecific, the EU should still clearly communicate its intention achieve emission reduction targets which for the EU goes beyond the 55% reduction by 2030, with CAN Europe demanding at least 65%.



**Sven Harmeling**  
International Climate Policy Expert

*“The 2030 threshold by which we need to see global reductions of at least 43% is only 8 years away and countries in Europe need to ramp up emissions reductions now. The EU has much to contribute with historical responsibility for the climate crisis on its shoulders, but also with technologies and innovation that can bring other countries along.”*

*The world is on fire today and it can't wait for more delays.”*

## B) Climate finance

Developed countries are not delivering on the commitment (made more than a decade ago) to provide \$100 billion annual climate finance between 2015-2020 to support developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. They might not even meet it until 2023, not least because several developed countries are off-track in delivering on their recent pledges.

The financial challenge faced by highly indebted developing countries is worsened as they have to draw upon their public budgets to service debt, while climate risk alongside other factors are pushing up their borrowing costs and narrowing their fiscal space. They need to be supported and enabled towards fossil-fuel free development pathways.

There are huge challenges to ensure climate finance does not divert official development assistance or exacerbate debt levels, and to ensure it reaches communities, supports human rights, gender equality, and local action through grants and not loans. As the world's largest climate finance contributor, the EU should set the direction of travel for climate finance flows.



**Countries in Europe/The EU should** scale up new and additional climate finance to support developing countries, and ensure the collective \$100 billion goal is met on average over 2020-25, the EU delivering at least 50% of finance for adaptation. Finance should be in the form of grants and highly concessional finance and commit to end all international public finance for fossil fuels (see letter to EU Finance Ministers for more details).

*“We are in the era of loss and damages caused by climate change. The last few months have seen heatwaves, droughts and flooding sweep through several continents. In the Horn of Africa communities are facing famine-like conditions due to persistent drought. This is not a crisis of the future, nor one confined to national boundaries, and calls for a step up in global leadership, multilateralism and cooperation at all levels.*



**Rachel Simon**  
**Climate & Development  
Policy Expert**

*EU Ministers are finally waking up to the need to address ‘Loss and Damage’, now they should urgently agree to set up a Loss and Damage Finance Facility under the UNFCCC, as demanded by countries which suffer the most from the climate crisis today. This should be done at the nearest opportunity - COP27.”*

## **C) Finance to address Loss and Damage**

Even while countries seek to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, we all need to live with its consequences and the losses and damages it creates. But not all countries are affected by dangerous climate change equally. The Global South, who has historically contributed the least to rising emissions, is in the frontline due to geographic vulnerability and has less resources to protect people, infrastructure, nature etc.

Devastating climate disasters like the floods in Pakistan and Nigeria, and combination of drought with food insecurity pushing people to the brink of famine in the Horn of Africa, clearly show that there is a need for new and additional finance to address the losses and damages caused by climate change. For the first time in the history of climate negotiations and after great pressure from the civil society, it seems that the topic of “loss and damage” will be included in the official agenda. Countries are divided, but should agree and lay out the process of how to raise new finance, in addition to explore further contributions from the countries mainly responsible for emissions.

**Countries in Europe/The EU should** agree and actively support that finance to address Loss and Damage is included on the official agenda and that a Loss and Damage Finance Facility is formally established at COP27.

## D) Further COP outcomes

- **COP27 is an important staging-post for the Global Stocktake (GST)**, which takes stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement on the way to its ultimate political conclusions at COP28. Parties and the COP27 and COP28 Presidencies must work together in Sharm-El Sheikh, via the Joint Contact Group, to deliver a COP27 decision text to address the glaring ambition gap. COP27 should ensure an inclusive, discussion-oriented and equitable GST technical dialogue and deliver a COP27 decision text that establishes a GST work plan for 2023.
- **COP27 will also see the adoption of the new Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)**, which empowers all members of society to engage in climate action. It is essential that all activities under the Action Plan are grounded in human rights and allow meaningfully and inclusive participation.
- **COP27 must be a real milestone for adaptation, this would mean substantive outcomes on adaptation finance and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**. We need an agenda item on implementing 50% share and doubling of adaptation finance as well as a transparent implementation plan showing progress towards the 2025 doubling target in an equitable and accessible manner.
- **COP27 must strive to raise the ambition and accelerate the work on climate justice and gender equality** in the implementation of the Paris agreement, across all relevant workstreams. As highlighted by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, Parties should establish a process to revise and improve the Gender Action Plan, for agreement at COP28.
- **The essential framing in justice and human rights should be strengthened by supporting the call initiated by Pacific Youth** and elevated by Vanuatu to take the world's biggest problem to the world's highest court by seeking an Advisory Opinion on climate change from the the International Court of Justice for intergenerational equity. Working with other UN bodies and expanding outside of the unnatural siloes created around the most connected crisis of our day is critical to systematically address the issue of climate change.



## 2 OUTSIDE THE NEGOTIATIONS

### A) A fossil winter

**This is what a fossil winter looks like:** energy prices skyrocket, homes become cold, food and other basic amenities become unaffordable as tens of millions of people in Europe are pushed into poverty and insecurity. Politicians can't look away anymore, but just compete to offer the best solutions and avoid turning to what brought us here: fossil fuels. Beyond the international agreements pursued and needed at COP27, Europe has a huge responsibility and opportunity to accelerate the energy transformation towards a system which is based on a highly efficient use of renewable energies that contributes to reducing emissions.

(See CAN Europe's [winter and fossil fuel crisis 2 pager](#))

### B) Don't gas Africa and developing countries

In the current fossil fuel energy crisis, the EU must not enter into 'panic shopping' for new fossil fuel exploration and purchasing deals with African countries and developing countries which risk to undermine the EU's climate credibility in committing to reduce global emissions and the continent's efforts to more rapidly move to renewable energies, as also demanded by a large group of African civil society organisations in the "[Don't gas Africa](#)" campaign.

It is foreseen that Egypt and the EU might deepen their Memorandum of Understanding or [other potential agreements](#) to promote sustainable development and avoid false solutions which lock other countries, specially developing ones, in fossil fuel trap.

Instead, European countries and the EU should be supporting the participatory development of just energy transition partnerships which support developing countries to transition towards 100% renewables and energy efficient energy systems. Just energy transition partnerships (JET-Ps) should be democratically owned, based on local expertise, knowledge, and needs, workers' rights and target gender inclusive employment.



**Esther Bollendorff**  
Gas Policy Expert

*“Fossil fuels are the root cause of many crises across the globe, one of them being this fossil winter. While the EU is locking African countries in new fossil fuel projects to replace Russian gas, billions of taxpayers’ money are still used today to subsidise it. It would be very cynical of the European Union, EU Member States, and governments of the EU’s neighbours to waste money in gas and hydrogen infrastructure, instead of using those resources and efforts in creating more sustainable solutions for all in a world torn by climate change, including in developing countries.”*

# 3 PARTICIPATION & HUMAN RIGHTS

CSOs continue to raise concerns about the shrinking civic space and critical situation of environmental and human rights defenders around the world and in Egypt. Climate Action Network Europe expresses solidarity to Egyptian civil society, individuals and media who face restrictions or incarceration when their work does not align with government priorities and calls on the EU to continue to engage in its diplomatic role with the Egyptian Presidency and UNFCCC Secretariat to protect and promote an inclusive and safe civil society participation and acknowledging the critical contribution of citizens from all around the globe fighting the climate emergency.

CAN Europe is deeply worried about increasing difficulties for civil society participation in UN Climate Talks. In the last years, challenges like unaffordable accommodation prices and other logistical problems, access to badges, unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines, and repression or banning of democratic manifestations inside and outside the UN area in the hosting countries have damaged the capacity of activists and CSOs to participate and observe climate negotiations, both from around the world and from the host countries. After a blank year because of COVID, Glasgow presented several backlashes and CAN Europe is looking with worries at the situation this year in Egypt and at 2023's COP in Dubai and calls for concrete actions to encounter this trend aiming to keep shrinking spaces for civil society participation.



**The EU needs to continue to engage with the Egyptian Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat on the important matter of participation and respect of human rights**, also through its bilateral diplomacy, development cooperation and climate finance programmes. As we head into COP27, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the COP Presidency, and all Parties need to urgently come up with ways to enable and promote the free participation of observers.

*"Climate justice cannot be pursued without civic space and human rights. As Egypt gears up to host COP27, the authorities are still harshly closing the public sphere and maintaining a climate of fear. They have released only a fraction of the tens of thousands of political prisoners, who shouldn't have been behind bars in the first place. European leaders should heed the Egyptian human rights movement's call and engage the Egyptian government to allow normal participation in the COP for Egyptian and international independent civil society organisations and activists, open civic space and abandon the practice of mass punitive arbitrary detention. All of those wrongfully imprisoned for exercising their basic rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association should be released."*

**Dr Leslie Piquemal,**  
**Senior EU Advocacy Representative**  
**CIHRS (Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies)**



# CAN EUROPE DURING COP

*A delegation of CAN Europe will attend COP27 in Egypt. In case you have requests, questions or you would like informal chats with CAN Europe's director or policy experts, either in Sharm-El-Sheikh or remotely, don't hesitate to get in touch.*

- [LIST OF AVAILABLE SPOKESPERSONS DURING COP27 & PRE-COP](#)  
(regularly updated)
- More info on [CAN International Annual policy document](#)

For any further questions and inquiries please contact:

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