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"CODE RED FOR HUMANITY": GLASGOW CLIMATE SUMMIT

Anna Pha

"Two cultures are under discussion here: the culture of life and the culture of death; the culture of death, which is capitalism. We, the Indigenous peoples, say that it is living better, better at the cost of others." These are the words of then-President of Bolivia, Evo Morales (the only Indigenous government leader), at the 2009 Climate Summit, spoken from the heart and based on reality.

"Mother Earth or Nature exist and will continue to exist without the human race, but human beings can't live without planet Earth, therefore, it is our duty to defend the right of Mother Earth.

"We have profound differences with the Western model, and that is under discussion at this moment. [...] [O]ur obligation is to save all of humanity and not half of humanity," Morales said.

These differences remain and have become even greater since 2009.

"You may as well bomb our islands instead of making us suffer, witnessing our slow and fateful demise," Palau President Surangel S Whipps Jnr told the Glasgow Summit. In those few words Whipps summed up the desperation felt by small Pacific Islands and a number of other developing countries.

RICH COUNTRIES

The rich G20 countries, responsible for more than eighty per cent of human-made emissions met on the eve of the Summit. They failed to deliver. The best they could offer was a vague commitment to net zero emissions by the middle of the century. Australia was the main stumbling block in reaching a consensus around stronger goals.

In the opening session at Glasgow, COP26 executive director of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Patricia Espinoza, expressed disappointment with the G20.

Espinoza said, "we either choose to achieve rapid and large-scale reductions of emissions to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees – or we accept that humanity faces a bleak future on this planet.

"We either choose to recognise that business as usual isn't worth the devastating price we are paying and make the necessary transition to a more stable sustainable future – or we accept that we're investing in our own extinction."

For the G20 it would appear to be "business as usual" if they are not forced to change.

CAPITALISM DRIVING CLIMATE CHANGE

The position of the G20 is in stark contrast to that of the developing countries.

Nicaragua did not mince words about the cause of the climate crisis – it is capitalism and its destructive models of production and consumption. It pointed out that the ten largest emitting countries are responsible for eighty-three per cent of emissions compared with the one hundred countries with lowest emissions causing three per cent.

Nicaragua echoed Morales' references to Mother Earth, describing nature and human beings as a totality and rejected the commodification of mother earth. Like many developing nations, it also called for cooperative approaches. It emphasised the need for COP26 outcomes to be based on the "common but differentiated responsibilities"(CBDR) principle.

This principle, adopted by 197 countries at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 is based on the recognition that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. It considers that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries.

There were repeated calls for the developed countries to increase their ambition beyond a net zero solution by 2050.

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Senior government figures from the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as parties to the UNFCCC, also held a preparatory meeting prior to the Summit in Thimphu, Bhutan. The LDC Group consists of around forty-six countries which disproportionately suffer from the increasing impacts of climate change. They represent over one billion people in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean. They called on the G20 countries in particular to enhance their commitments to achieve the 1.5°C goal by 2050.

They noted, "with serious concern, that developed countries are failing to meet their existing commitment to deliver US$100 billion per year by 2020, and thus far this finance has predominantly taken the form of loans rather than grants." Loans only increase the indebtedness of countries which has risen during COVID and following extreme weather events.

An ambitious, new and quantified finance goal to take effect prior to 2025, based on science and driven by the needs and priorities of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, is needed.

The very existence of Small Pacific Islands is threatened. For them the Glasgow meeting might be the final opportunity. "Our sovereignty and very survival are at stake," Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama said.

"Failure isn't an option," said Tina Stege, the climate envoy for the Marshall Islands, much of which could be under water within fifty years.

"OUR ISLANDS, OUR HERITAGE, OUR WAY OF LIFE IS AT STAKE"

People around the world have become more aware of the necessity for urgent action on climate change and the world's youth have become vocal and more active around climate change. But very few governments have taken the necessary action. At the same time the pace of climate change has accelerated, as witnessed by the wildfires, droughts, floods, rising oceans and their acidification, melting of glaciers, and other extreme weather events.

The 2015 Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 countries. It set a goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve that long-term goal, countries set Nationally Determined Targets for emission reductions by 2030 and to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century. Australia's commitment was and remains a reduction of 26-28 per cent based on 2015 emissions by 2030.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment report released a few months ago highlighted the increased urgency for decisive action. (See *Guardian*s #1974, #1975, #1976) It pointed out that the next ten years are critical, that the targets set at the Paris Climate Summit in 2015 are too low.

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MORRISON GOV'T WANTS TO RESTRICT YOUR VOTE

Our democracy is, yet again, under attack. This time, however, the attack is one of the most insidious attempts to undermine the voice of the people.

Last month, the Morrison government announced it would be considering enacting voter ID laws, requiring voters to show valid identification before casting a ballot at a federal election.

Many, including opposition leader Anthony Albanese, have qualified the move as "Trumpian," with Albanese going on the record stating that "[t]his thought bubble is straight out of the Donald Trump playbook."

The qualification is apt. Australia currently has no voter ID laws, but the issue is a sticking point with many on the right-wing, including the former US President who continues to speak out on alleged "voter fraud" at the 2020 US elections.

Highlighting the Right's affinity for this idea, Australia's own Racist-in-Chief, One Nation leader Pauline Hanson, has taken credit for the idea. Hanson told *Guardian* (UK) that "I give the Liberal Party a lot of suggestions on their legislation which they then implement – it wouldn't be happening without me."

Proponents of voter ID laws speak for the need for "voter integrity," with many painting the picture that federal elections have, or could be, undermined by mass voter fraud. However, the facts state otherwise.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) told a Senate estimates hearing last month that it detected just 2100 instances of multiple voting at the 2019 election or about 0.01 per cent of all ballots cast.

If the above statistic is accurate, and there is no reason to doubt it, one has to wonder: why would the Morrison government waste its time pushing for new laws that don't even affect one per cent of the vote?

The answer to this question is simple: to disenfranchise maligned voices. Larissa Baldwin, director of Progressive activist group GetUp's First Nations justice campaign, stated that "These punitive voter ID laws will see First Nations people turned away from voting on election day just because they don't have the right identification documents."

Indigenous voters aren't the only ones to be affected by such laws – it affects those experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. Homelessness Australia chair, Jenny Smith, stated that "If you flee your home without your papers to escape violence, or have your documents stolen while sleeping on the street, you shouldn't lose your ability to vote."

While the ALP and Greens have spoken out, any legislation introduced has a real chance of passing both houses. With One Nation and the Coalition on board, any legislation brought to the Senate will need one vote out of the remaining crossbench Senators – Sterling Griff, Rex Patrick and Jacqui Lambie – to pass the bill.

Patrick has gone on the record stating, "[t]his is a solution looking for a problem. My priorities lie elsewhere." While Lambie has yet to comment, Griff has stated that he is "generally supportive" of an ID requirement. It is important to note that LNP Senator Gerard Rennick has made a commitment to withhold his vote in the Senate completely until the government meets a list of demands concerning vaccination mandates and travel restrictions. If Rennick holds firm, the Coalition would need both votes.

Thus, it is not enough for us to merely convince one of the remaining crossbenchers – we *must* convince both. The American Civil Liberties Union has stated that over twenty-one million citizens do not have "the qualifying government-issued photo identification," which has "disproportionately [affected] voters of colour." Voter ID laws are voter suppression laws, and we must fight back before we lose our voice for good.

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BUILD THE PARTY FOR A SOCIALIST FUTURE!

Vinnie Molina

On Sunday, 31st October, commemorating the 101st anniversary of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA), the Central Committee held a Pre-Congress online forum.

The forum brought together delegates elected as representatives to the 14th National Congress due to be held in Sydney on 25-27 February 2022 after being postponed by COVID-19 restrictions from October 2021 to 2022.

Enthusiasm around Party organisations and membership in general for the past few months has been building. The party-wide discussion of the draft political resolution culminated with the adoption of a final draft to be discussed and voted on at the National Congress.

Despite the severe restrictions due to COVID, state conferences in South Australia and NSW were held with the election of new state committees and delegates to the National Congress.

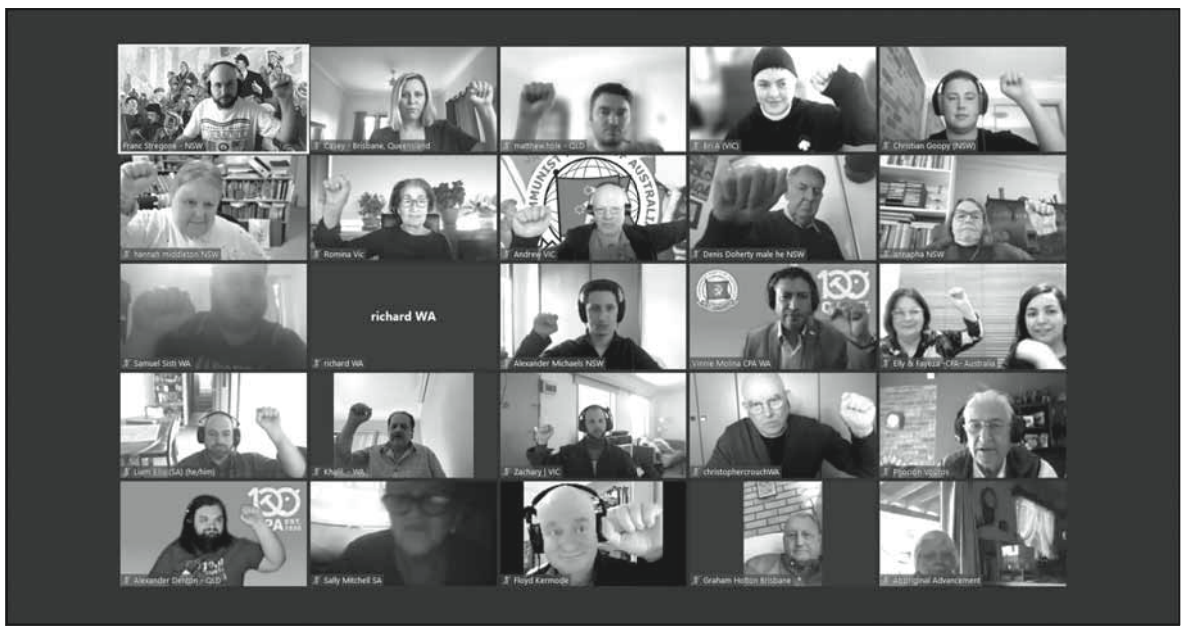
Delegates from NSW, SA, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia also joined them at the Pre-Congress online forum, hearing a report from General Secretary comrade Andrew Irving, and participating in robust discussions.

Delegates discussed the different campaigns the CPA is involved in, such as health, workers' rights, peace, and the environment. The struggle for peace and anti-war campaign against the AUKUS and QUAD initiatives was prominent in those discussions. There was a call for all Party members to get involved in the campaigns for peace and the environment and the struggle for workers' rights to ensure workers won't pay for the capitalist crises.

A talk about the history of the Party press and communist reporting was be presented. There is a necessity to improve the production and circulation of *The Guardian – The Workers' Weekly* to many more readers. The *Guardian* must be an organiser, agitator and education tool to mobilise people for social change.

In the months ahead and close to the National Congress in February, *Guardian* readers will get to know some of the Congress delegates through a series of short interviews.

The forum inspired Congress delegates to renew their pledge to work tirelessly to build the Party for a Socialist Future! ✪



Find out more www.cpa.org.au

14th National Congress Special Appeal

From 25-27 February 2022, elected delegates representing Communist Party organisations from all over Australia will gather in Sydney for the 14th National Congress of the Party, COVID restrictions permitting. In the lead-up to the Congress, Party members have been discussing and submitting amendments to a draft Political Resolution. At Congress delegates will review the work of the Party and look to its future tasks. Congress will elect a new Central Committee to lead the work of the Party until the next National Congress.

The CPA has launched a Special Appeal to help defray the costs associated with holding a National Congress. We are appealing to Party members and organisations, all friends and supporters of the Party and *Guardian* readers to help fulfill our $10,000 target as soon as possible.

To contribute, please fill in the form below or write your details on a separate piece of paper to send with your contribution.

All contributions will be acknowledged in the *Guardian*, with the names of contributors unless otherwise requested. We look forward to your support for this important occasion.

(Name)_____ contributes $_____ to the above Appeal.

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DIGITAL IDENTITY EXPOSURE DRAFT IS TOO LIGHT ON THE DETAILS

Matthew Hole

The federal government has recently asked for public feedback on proposed new laws that would see sweeping changes to how digital identification records are kept and managed in Australia. Digital rights advocacy groups such as "Digital Rights Watch" have raised several concerns and recommendations to ensure Australian's digital identities remain safe.

Currently, Australians can utilise a digital identity to access eighty different government services, such as Medicare, Centrelink or the Australian Tax Office, through the utilisation of a "myGovID." The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA), responsible for drafting the new legislation, states that they are seeking to "enable more state and territory services, as well as the private sector, to participate in the System." For those less concerned about their online digital presence, this could be seen creating greater convenience when it comes to identifying themselves online across a broader range of service providers, which could now include private companies that could receive accreditation.

RISKS ASSOCIATED

Many commentators have highlighted the potential risks that the new legislation poses if they are not handled correctly. Kelsie Nabben from the Digital Ethnography Research Centre at RMIT University raises concerns such as being "opaque on details, particularly regarding the proposed use of new technologies such as biometric matching", and that it "potentially creates a "honeypot" of personal data stored in a centralised database that would offer a tempting target for cyber criminals."

Other concerns included not being "clear how the trustworthiness of third-party identity verification providers who store these data will be verified and guaranteed;" the "potential lack of accountability for third-party access, on selling, and monetisation of data;" and that perhaps most importantly it would lead to the "establishment of a centralised 'oversight authority' – an archaic approach that disempowers individuals from owning their personal information."

DIGITAL RIGHTS WATCH RESPONDS TO CALL

Digital Rights Watch is an Australian-based charity organisation formed in the wake of the mandatory metadata retention scheme in 2016. They claim their role is to "ensure fairness, freedoms and fundamental rights for all people who engage in the digital world." As part of the government's recent call for public consultation to the Digital Identity Exposure Draft, they penned and publicised a response which made a few recommendations.

Some of these include the introduction of "robust data protection and handling rules for accredited entities"; ensuring accredited entities have a requirement on "not sharing the data with third parties (and data brokers); and not aggregating it or merging it with other datasets". They also highlighted the need to "ensure that the digital identity framework remains truly voluntary" and that it would "maintain analogue pathways for individuals to interact with, and use, services". However, their biggest concern seems to be the fear that digital identity data would be used for law enforcement purposes and how this may play out in the real world.

TRADING CONVENIENCE FOR SUBSERVIENCE

Governments around the world are charged with the implementation of systems and processes that enable society to function as effectively, efficiently, and equitably as possible. Recognising the need for updated privacy laws that better reflect the digital transformation already happening across our society would be an example of our government doing just that.

Concerns arise, however, when we consider the class character of the Australian government, that it is a government that works in the service of their largest donors – the multinational corporations – as well as following the diktats of the US government. So, whilst the need arises to make our daily lives more convenient, the devil is often in the detail, and digital rights advocacy groups, as well as unions and other working-class organisations, are charged with ensuring that any legislation that brings about said convenience doesn't do so at the cost of our rights to privacy and other digital rights more broadly. ✪

"CODE RED FOR HUMANITY": GLASGOW CLIMATE SUMMIT

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CLIMATE JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Under the UNFCCC, industrialised countries undertook to provide developing and less developed countries financial assistance for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and to facilitate the transfer of the necessary technology to address climate change. This was considered an equitable and moral responsibility.

China is classified as a developing nation under the Convention but that does not prevent the likes of Prime Minister Scott Morrison from attacking the country for not reducing emissions more quickly. Morrison is not prepared to accept responsibility for Australia's role as one of the richest countries and one of the largest polluters per capita in the world: this is a government, as environmentalist Bill McKibben describes it: "Australia is the most blatant example of a country that lets itself be ruled by its fossil fuel sector almost entirely and its role as a supplier of dirty carbon to much of the world is, at this point in human history, a shameful role."

The Least Developed Countries group called for a strengthening of 2030 emissions targets and for these to reflect each country's share of the global effort. Again McKibben: "Morrison is assigning other people to do it for him down the road rather than taking on the responsibility himself." This is the government that had a Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, who called climate change "crap".

STARK WARNING

For the first time the IPCC reported that climate change is "unequivocally" human induced, with global temperatures likely to exceed 1.5C before 2040. The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres referred to this as a "code red for humanity" with the IPCC report saying that only with drastic and immediate cuts to greenhouse gas emissions can we avoid the worst of the projected impacts.

If global warming is to be limited to 1.5°C or even the upper limit of 2°C, now widely recognised as too low, then the total of accumulated emissions must be taken into consideration as well as ongoing new emissions. These two separate factors are critical to policy formulation. It is NOT enough to talk about zero-net emissions in a particular year. This will not be enough. Developed countries must not only substantially increase their targets for 2030, but strive for negative net emissions, if the 1.5°C is to be met. They must take responsibility to contribute on an equitable basis as outlined in the CBDR principle referred to above.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) issued a provisional report prior to COP26, warning that due to record atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations and associated accumulated heat the planet is now in uncharted territory.

"Extreme [weather] events are the new norm," said professor Taalas, Secretary-General of the WMO. "At the current rate of increase in greenhouse gas concentrations, we will see a temperature increase by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris agreement targets of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels."

"COP 26 is a make-or-break opportunity to put us back on track," Taalas warned.

The global mean temperature rise since the pre-industrial period is already at 1.1° C and in Australia it is already an alarming 1.4°C. According to the IPCC, limiting the increase in temperature to 1.5°C will not achievable if global emissions are not reduced by fifty per cent by 2030.

To remain within the "1.5°" carbon budget, the targets would need to be 74 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2035.

CAMPAIGN

Capitalism is driving climate change with its short-sighted pursuit of profits and in the process driving humanity and the planet to the brink.

Māori climate activist India Logan-Riley gave a rousing speech at the opening of the Climate Summit with a stark warning for world leaders that it is imperative that they listen to young indigenous peoples and support their fight for a better future.

"We're keeping fossil fuels in the ground and stopping fossil fuel expansion. We're halting infrastructure that would increase emissions and saying no to false solutions," Logan-Riley said. "What we do works," Logan-Riley added.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires the sharing of the remaining carbon budget in an equitable manner. This will not happen by itself as evidenced by the shortfall in developed country commitments. It cannot be left to markets. Promises will not be sufficient. Concrete action is required.

Governments of developed capitalist states must be forced to honour and increase their commitments, shoulder the financial burden for their the consequences of their actions. This can only be achieved through action on the ground, outside the formal summit.

The many protest actions around the UK during the summit and global day of action on 6th November are a start. ✪

INCOMPETENT: SCOTT MORRISON AT THE COP26 SUMMIT

N Stallon

Prime Minister Scott Morrison was initially hesitant to personally represent Australia at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, better known as COP26.

Nevertheless, in the face of public and media backlash, Morrison committed to attending. Unfortunately, his sheer incompetence has been placed front-and-centre for all the world to see, severely damaging Australia's diplomatic standing and credibility.

Amongst world leaders who have come together to discuss ways to prevent what UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres called a "calamitous" projected 2.7°C rise in global temperatures, Morrison sticks out like a sore thumb.

After weeks of long negotiations between the Liberal and National Parties resulted in only in a weak and non-committal net-zero by 2050 target devoid of 2030 targets, combined with a poor performance at the G20 Summit, Morrison has exposed himself both nationally and internationally as a fierce opponent of climate change policy.

The G20 pledge was watered down after Morrison opposed the phasing-out of coal and coal-fired power in developed economies by 2030.

"Our policy is very clear: we're not engaged in those sorts of mandates and bans, that's not the Australian government's policy, it won't be the Australian government's policy," Morrison said.

Similarly, opposition to a 2030 methane reduction deadline and a carbon-pricing scheme placed Morrison at odds with other G20 and COP26 attendees.

A senior UK environmental adviser said that Morrison's public support of coal mere hours before COP26 begun meant that Australia had "placed a spotlight on itself."

"[The position on coal] is revealing Australia is tending to come in with an oppositional approach rather than a constructive approach. It is setting redlines but not saying what it might agree to.

"The feeling I get speaking with diplomats is that they're getting frustrated with Australia's approach," he said.

Morrison ended his disastrous COP26 performance by refusing to join eighty other nations in signing COP26's pledge to reduce methane emissions by thirty per cent by 2030.

In fact, despite methane being the second-largest contributor to global warming, with a large part of methane emissions being the result of oil and gas production, the Morrison Government announced the launch of community consultations for the exploration of new off-shore oil and gas reserves in Australia.

Despite nominally pledging to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, the non-committal plan relies on unproven technology to reduce future emissions is transparent. Furthermore, it includes 2030 reductions of only 26-28 per cent, despite international calls for 2030 reductions of 50 per cent.

But not only does the Morrison Government's refusal to commit to climate action threaten human security, Morrison's incompetence has destroyed Australia's international standing and credibility.

"It's very obvious that the Australian government doesn't really want to be announcing a net zero target but that it's been forced into doing so by a combination of US pressure, the threat of an EU carbon border tax and the utter horror with which it's being regarded by its Pacific neighbours," said Richard Black, honorary research fellow at the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London.

"The plan just put forward isn't realistic from either a climate change or economic point of view. It doesn't even try to halve emissions this decade, which the science indicates is necessary."

Lord Deben, the UK's Climate Change Committee Chair offered a similar indictement, stating that there was "no indication" that Morrison, had a plan to deliver on the net zero commitment that was "squeezed out of him".

Greenpeace International executive director Jennifer Morgan told *The Sydney Morning Herald* that for the Glasgow climate talks to be successful "the likes of Australia and Saudi Arabia need to be marginalised".

"Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is a stain on global efforts to achieve a clean, sustainable future," she said.

Remarkably, Morrison's performance at COP26 has damaged not only Australia's

standing in regards to climate policy, but our entire diplomatic credibility.

In response to accusations by French President Emmanuel Macron that Morrison is lying about informing France that the submarine deal would be scrapped, Morrison set an unprecedented and hostile precedent by leaking the personal text messages of the French President and backgrounding against him to the media.

Australia can be a world-leader in climate policy and renewable energies. Morrison's tarnishing of Australia's diplomatic and environmental standing must be opposed. ✪

BETTING THE HOUSE: THE CROWN CASINO SCANDAL

Valentin Cartillier

Royal Commissions in two states, Victoria and Western Australia, into the Crown Casino empire have revealed the enormous amount of corruption which takes place within their walls. In Melbourne, the royal commission found the casino, owned by billionaire James Packer, has links to criminal gangs, has repeatedly breached money laundering laws, and has exploited its casino licence by taking advantage of state tax deductions to cheat Victoria out of a potential $200 million. The report also found that the casino had been taking advantage of people with gambling addictions, allowing some people to gamble for 50+ hours straight, desperately trying to win their money back.

Despite all this, Victoria has opted to renew Crown's license and give it a two year "grace period" to clean up its act under the recommendation of Commissioner and former Federal Court justice Ray Finkelstein, who delivered the final report. This "grace period" will be monitored by a "special manager" to ensure that the casino adheres to Victorian law. The Victorian government has appointed Stephen O'Bryan QC for the two-year role, after which he'll deliver a report to the gaming regulator, who will determine whether or not the casino should keep its license. In his capacity as special manager, O'Bryan will effectively act as a board member. He'll be allowed to attend board and management meetings, inspect the books, and request any desired information from members of the company, and will be able to direct board decisions.

While this looks good on paper, given the sheer number of violations committed by the casino, it is difficult to imagine how a single person could monitor the entire situation, even over a two-year period. Particularly in light of Finkelstein's comments that:

> "It is difficult to grade the seriousness of the misconduct. Some [of the conduct] was so callous that it is hard to imagine it could be engaged in by such a well-known corporation whose Melbourne Casino Complex is visited by millions annually."

But if one steps back and considers the inherently exploitative nature of corporations, this is not actually all that hard to imagine. Their profit margin is their main concern, not their average punter. Casinos are particularly predatory in their nature. As the Victorian Greens leader astutely pointed out:

> "The government has set Crown up as too big to fail, and then failed themselves to stop the corruption and gambling harms."

A West Australian Royal Commission is underway in Perth over similar allegations, with Packer testifying at its hearing. This is the third time the Crown has been investigated in Perth. Packer admitted that there have been "too many oversights" while explaining that he hadn't been to a single board meeting in almost four years and that the board had no written charter, which allowed it to operate as it pleased. As the hearing is still underway at the time of writing, it is unclear if Perth will adopt a similar approach to Melbourne.

A Crown Casino was built in Sydney in 2020 on land originally intended as a public park, despite initially having its license refused in light of the Victorian and West Australian Commissions. It has since been allowed a liquor licence, but its gambling licence is still on hold. Packer and then-NSW premier Barry O'Farrell had come to an agreement to allow for the construction during a private lunch hosted in broadcaster Alan Jones' apartment.

Gambling can be a major form of harm for many Australians, so it is imperative that casinos and any other locations that permit gambling are closely monitored and regulated. It is not enough, in light of these blatant violations, to pursue more commissions, inquiries or allow for "grace periods." The industry needs to be brought to heel now, not in two years' time. ✪

REPORT: "JUSTICE FOR JC" PROTEST, WEST PERTH

Eileen Whitehead

On the steps of the West Australian Parliament House on Thursday 28th October, I attended a protest with about 100 other people, mostly Indigenous, calling for justice for JC, the Yamatji woman, shot by a police officer who had subsequently been cleared of her murder. The police had been called because the family were unable to handle JC, who was suffering from poor mental health and was seen to be armed with a kitchen knife and a pair of scissors. A First Class Constable was among eight officers at the scene in Geraldton in 2019, and after leaving his vehicle, he shot JC sixteen seconds later: why wasn't his laser used first?

The police presence was insensitively heavy at the protest rally, with more than fifty officers facing protesters as the rally began. This was immediately threatening and unnecessary, as the rally had begun with a tone of despair and grief that a black person had been killed by police action once again. The speakers were mainly from the immediate family of JC, joined later by Ngalla Maya CEO, Mervyn Eades, George Georgatos, and Megan Krakouer of The National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project.

However, during the speeches to a fairly peaceful crowd, a small confrontation took place alongside the speakers when protestors were prevented from placing red hand prints on the front steps of Parliament. Realising this was unrespectful to JC's family, Ernie Dingo eventually calmed the situation, and the speakers resumed.

Bernadette Clark, JC's sister deplored the racist attitude of the WA Police, claiming that the death of her sister needed proper justice, adding that the policeman who had killed her had walked free. She vowed to take her protest to Canberra.

Mervyn Eades pointed out that JC's death was just one of many, adding that she was a mother, a daughter and a sister, and her death left an enormous gap in what was a strongly bonded family. He added that this was yet another example of Indigenous Western Australians being dismissed and not acknowledged. One indigenous death impacts the entire indigenous population.

Georgatos added that the incarceration of First Nations people in WA was not only the highest in the country, but was also the highest in the world, pointing out that nothing had changed since the 1980s. He said "Western Australia continues in terms of rates, in terms of toll, the highest in the nation in terms of deaths in custody." Megan Krakouer said that investment was needed for Indigenous people. "What we are asking for is mass investments to help the most marginalised," adding that WA had "posted a $5 billion surplus. So why are our people dying."

Clark had the last word saying "We will never be happy until this man who pulled the trigger is held accountable," adding that he needed to be held responsible for JC's death.

I felt that the presence of the few non-Indigenous people there was seen as welcome support. ✪

REPORT SHOWS DEATHS AT WORK ON THE RISE

B Curphey

On 28th October, Safe Work Australia released a damning report which shows that deaths at work have increased for the second year running. The rise bucks a trend that had been seen the previous ten years, where there was a continuous reduction in workplace deaths.

In 2020, 194 workers died at work. In 2021 to date that number is at 105 compared with just 109 in 2019. The report found that ninety-six per cent of fatalities were male and thirty-one per cent were following vehicle collisions. The deadliest industry was transport, postal, and warehousing work which reported fifty-one deaths in 2020 and thirty-six so far in 2021. This is followed by agriculture, fisheries, and construction.

This comes as the Morrison government voted against attempting to implement industrial manslaughter laws earlier this year. Since industrial relations is a matter that is increasingly legislated for by the commonwealth parliament – the Fair Work Commission and Ombudsman are both commonwealth bodies – there has been mounting pressure on the Morrison government to introduce industrial manslaughter as an offence under one of the federal workplace health and safety laws like the *Work Health and Safety Act*.

Such laws currently exist in Victoria, the ACT, the NT, and Queensland. In NSW, deaths at work may constitute manslaughter by "gross negligence or reckless conduct" but this is not a specific provision for industrial manslaughter. In Western Australia, a bill is currently being considered and is likely to pass into law. This follows a string of heat-related deaths in the WA mines. It proposes to introduce both civil and criminal penalties for industrial manslaughter. South Australia and Tasmania do not currently have industrial manslaughter laws.

It is galling that COVID case numbers are so widely reported while the 194 workers who have died this year do not get coverage. Once again, the Morrison government has shown that it cannot be relied on to take workers' safety seriously.

Each year on 28th April, unionists and their supporters around the country pause to commemorate all those who have lost their lives at work. On this occasion, Workers' Memorial Day is usually accompanied by speeches and updates on the ongoing campaigns for workplace health and safety. Behind the scenes, dedicated activists work year-round to fight the rising numbers. But for the rest of us, one day a year is not enough.

It is time workers took safety into their own hands. Workers around the country need to educate each other on their workplace health and safety rights and band together to stand up for those rights, to create a culture where unsafe working conditions are not accepted.

As ACTU Assistant Secretary Liam O'Brien stated in response to the Safe Work report:

> "Every worker deserves to go to work in a safe environment and go home healthy at the end of the day. No worker should have to be fearful of losing their life when they leave for work. Bosses who cut corners that kill workers should face serious penalties and we must introduce industrial manslaughter laws."

AFGHANISTAN: CAUGHT BETWE

Vijay Prashad

The future of Afghanistan will be determined not only in Kabul, where the Taliban is now firmly in power but also in places such as the Wakhan Corridor. A narrow strip of land that runs along the northern fringe of Afghanistan, the Corridor was formed in 1893 as a buffer between the Tsarist empire of Russia and the British empire of India. It is sparsely populated, its roughly 15,000 Wakhi (Kyrgyz) residents reliant upon adventure tourism. In normal times, the people suffer from malnutrition and illiteracy, ignored by governments, reliant upon black tea and bread for their survival; with the pandemic and the escalation of the war, tourism has dried up and money is scarce. The Corridor now divides Tajikistan from Pakistan and is Afghanistan's only direct border with China. The last town in Afghanistan before the Chinese border is Qala-e Maushad. There is an expectation there that it would become the key rail station for a Belt and Road Initiative train that would eventually run from Ürümqi (China) to Kabul. No doubt that the rail link, if ever built, will break some of the isolation of the area.

THREATS OF VARIOUS KINDS

The focus is on the possibility of a civil war breaking out in Afghanistan, on the suffocation of the rights of Afghan women, and of the violence inflicted by sections of the Taliban on the Afghan people (particularly minorities). But there is a general problem in Afghanistan that requires attention: poverty. On 25th September 2021, Afghanistan's new Economy Minister Qari Din Mohammad Hanif said that his government does not want "help and cooperation from the world as the previous government. The old system was supported by the international community for twenty years but still failed." It is fair to say that Hanif has no experience in running a complex economy since he has spent most of his career doing political and diplomatic work for the Taliban (both in Afghanistan and in Qatar). However, during the first Taliban government from 1996 to 2001, Hanif was the planning minister and in that position, dealt with economic affairs.

Hanif is right to point out that the governments of Presidents Hamid Karzai (2001-2014) and Ashraf Ghani (2014-2021), despite receiving billions of dollars in economic aid, failed to address the basic needs of the Afghan population. At the end of their rule – and twenty years of US occupation – one in three people are facing hunger, seventy-two per cent of the population lingers below the poverty line and sixty-five per cent of the people have no access to electricity. No amount of bluster from the Western capitals can obscure the plain fact that support from the "international community" resulted in virtually no economic and social development in the country.

POOR NORTH

Hanif, who is the only member of Afghanistan's new cabinet who is from the country's Tajik ethnic minority, comes from the northeastern Afghan province of Badakhshan. The northeastern provinces in Afghanistan are Tajik-dominated areas, and Badakhshan was the base from which the Northern Alliance swiftly moved under US air cover to launch an attack against the Taliban in 2001. In early August 2021, the Taliban swept through these districts. "Why would we defend a government in Kabul that did nothing for us?" said a former official in Karzai's government who lives in Badakhshan capital, Fayzabad.

Between 2009 and 2011, eighty per cent of USAID funds that came into Afghanistan went to areas of the south and east, which had been the natural base of the Taliban. Even this money, a US Senate report noted, went toward "short-term stabilisation programmes instead of longer-term development projects." In 2014, Haji Abdul Wadood, then governor of the Argo district in Badakhshan, told *Reuters*, "Nobody has given money to spend on developmental projects. We do not have resources to spend in our district, our province is a remote one and attracts less attention."

Hanif's home province of Badakhshan – and its neighbouring areas – suffer from great poverty, the rates upwards of sixty per cent. When he talks about failure, Hanif has his home province in mind.

For thousands of years, the province of Badakhshan has been home to mines for gemstones such as lapis lazuli. In 2010, a US military report estimated that there was at least $1 trillion worth of precious metals in Afghanistan; later that year, Afghanistan's then Minister of Mines Wahidullah Shahrani told BBC radio that the actual figure could be three times as much. The impoverished north might not be so poor after all.

THIEVES IN THE NORTH

With opium production contributing a large chunk of Afghanistan's gross domestic product, it is often a focus of global media coverage on the country's economy and has partly financed the terrible wars that have wracked the country for the past several years. The gems of Badakhshan, meanwhile, provided the financing for Ahmad Shah Massoud'sJamiat-e Islami faction in the 1980s; after 1992, when Massoud became the defence minister in Kabul, he made an alliance with a Polish company – Intercommerce – to sell the gems for an estimated $200 million per year. When the Taliban ejected Massoud from power, he returned to the Panjshir Valley and used the Badakhshan, Takhar, and Panjshir gems to finance his anti-Taliban resistance.

When the Northern Alliance – which included Massoud's faction – came to power under US bombardment in 2001, these mines became the property of the Northern Alliance commanders. Men such as Haji Abdul Malek, ZekriaSawda and ZulmaiMujadidi – all Northern Alliance politicians – controlled the mines. Mujadidi's brother Asadullah Mujadidi was the militia commander of the Mining Protection Force, which protected the mines for these new elites.

In 2012, Afghanistan's then Mining Minister Wahidullah Shahrani revealed the extent of corruption in the deals, which he had made clear to the US Embassy in 2009. Shahrani's attempt at transparency, however, was understood inside Afghanistan as a mechanism to delegitimise Afghan mining concerns and push through a new law that would allow international mining companies more freedom of access to the country's resources. Various international entities – including Centar (United Kingdom) and the Polish billionaire Jan Kulczyk – attempted to access the gold, copper and gemstone mines of the province; Centar formed an alliance with the Afghanistan Gold and Minerals Company, headed by former Urban Development Minister Sadat Naderi. The consortium's mining equipment has now been seized by the Taliban. Earlier this year, Shahrani was sentenced to thirteen months' jail time by the Afghan Supreme Court for misuse of authority.

FOREIGN TERRORISTS

On 8th October, a terrible blast struck the worshippers attending Friday noon prayers at the Gozar-e-Sayed Abad Mosque in the Khan Abad district of Bandar, the capital of Kunduz, one of Afghanistan's largest cities in its northern belt. This is a mosque frequented by Shia Muslims, who were referred to as "our compatriots" by Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid. Forty-six people died immediately in the blast, and local officials said that many more people were injured in the incident. Not long afterward, the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, ISKP (ISIS-K), took credit for the attack on its Telegram channel. The suicide bomber was identified as Mohammed al-Uyguri by ISIS-K.

The name of the attacker raised red flags across the region. It indicated that he belonged to the Uyghur community and had a relationship with the Xinjiang region of western China, which is home to most of the world's Uyghur population. That a Chinese extremist attacked a Shia Mosque raised eyebrows in Beijing and in Tehran.

In June 2021, the United Nations reported on the presence of between 8,000 and 10,000 "foreign terrorist fighters" in Afghanistan. The report further stated that these fighters were mainly "from Central Asia, the north Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, Pakistan and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China." Although most of the fighters had reported an affiliation with the Taliban, "many also support Al-Qaida" and "[o]thers are allied with ISIL or have ISIL sympathies," said the report. ISIL refers to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, whose Afghan franchise is ISIS-K.

In 2019, in Turkey, I encountered a group of Uyghur fighters from various terrorist organisations, including the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which is now called the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP). These were hardened fighters, whose main goal was to fight "infidels"; they did not seem interested in anything other than that. The United Nations placed the ETIM on their terrorist list in 2002.

During the war on Syria, large sections of the ETIM – as the TIP – moved to the Syria-Turkey border. The TIP is now largely based in Idlib, Syria, which is the hub of various global jihadi organisations. When it became clear that the Taliban was going to take power in Afghanistan, many jihadis from Central Asia – including from China and Tajikistan – left Idlib for Afghanistan. ETIM's leader Abdul Haq remains in Syria, where he is also a member of the Shura Council of Al Qaeda.

WORRIES ABOUND IN IRAN...

On 4th October, four days before the attack on the mosque in Afghanistan, an Iranian delegation arrived in Afghanistan to hold talks about cross-border trade and to seek assurances that the Taliban will not permit attacks on either Afghan Shia or on Iran. Meanwhile, in Kabul, governors of two neighbouring border provinces of Iran's Khorasan Razavi (Mohammad Sadegh Motamedian) and Afghanistan's Herat (Maulvi Abdul Qayum Rohani) agreed on facilitating more cross-border trade and ensuring that there is no cross-border violence. In another meeting that took place on 4th October with Motamedian at the Iranian border town of Taybad, Rohani's deputy Maulvi Sher Ahmad Ammar Mohajer said that the Afghan government will "never allow individuals or foreign groups such as ISIS to use Afghan territory against the Islamic Republic of Iran." "We (Iran and Afghanistan) have defeated the common enemy," Maulvi Rohani said in reference to the United States.

All signs indicate some sincerity on the part of the Taliban government. On 7th October, the day before the ISIS-K attack on the Shia mosque in Kunduz, Maulvi Abdul Salam Hanafi – the Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan – met with a group of Shia elders to assure them that the Taliban would not allow anti-Shia activity. Nevertheless, members of the Hazara community – who are the Shia community of Afghanistan – tell me that they fear a return to the previous rule of the Taliban; during that time, documented massacres by the Taliban against the Hazara Shia community provided evidence of the Taliban's sectarianism. This is why Iran opposed the Taliban, and why Iran has not formally recognised the current government in Kabul. However, for the past few years, the Iranians have been working with the Taliban against ISIS and ISIS-K, with Iran's Brigadier General Esmail Qaani as the liaison to the Taliban.

... AND IN CHINA

In the 1990s, the Taliban government allowed the ETIM and other Uyghur groups to operate from Afghanistan. This time, there is already evidence that they will not officially

permit such activity. Earlier this year, ETIM fighters had relocated from Syria to the Badakhshan province in Afghanistan; reports suggested that the fighters had gathered in the sparsely populated Wakhan Corridor in the province, which leads to China. But in recent weeks, the Taliban security has moved them from the towns surrounding the "Afghan-Chinese border" to other parts of Afghanistan (rumours have been flying about the Taliban's intention to extradite the ETIM – if not all the 2,000 Uyghurs in Afghanistan – to China, but these rumours are unconfirmed).

In late August, Mattia Sorbi of Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper met with Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid. This was a significant interview for the Taliban because Italy is a key partner of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Mujahid told Sorbi that China is currently assisting Afghanistan with short-term funds (including US$31 million in emergency funds) and that the Taliban see the BRI as their "passport to markets around the world." China's long-term concession of the MesAynak copper mine, south of Kabul, will allow it "to come back to life and be modernised," said Mujahid. The Taliban is keen on the BRI, he said, "which will lead to reviving the ancient Silk Road."

The BRI runs on both sides of Afghanistan, the northern route through Tajikistan to Iran and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor running southward. The mouth of the Wakhan Corridor would be the opening of a third route, running toward Kabul and to Iran (and linking Pakistan's agricultural goods to markets in Central Asia and Russia).

EEN POVERTY AND POSSIBILITY

Isolation from China and Iran is not a welcome thought in Kabul. The United States is prepared to reengage with the Taliban, which could alter the equations on the ground. If the US allows Kabul to access the funds in its central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank, (sitting in New York) or the IMF funds, these funds will help provide the Taliban with a lifeline. But they are not a solution for Afghanistan, which is caught as it is between China and Iran and the possibility of its connection to the new silk road.

WHAT WILL THE TALIBAN DO?

Economy minister Hanif has an impossible agenda. The IMF has suspended funds for Afghanistan, and the US government continues to block access to the nearly US$10 billion of Afghan external reserves held in the United States. Some humanitarian aid has now entered the country, but it will not be sufficient. The Taliban's harsh social policy – particularly against women – will discourage many aid groups from returning to the country.

Officials at the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the country's central bank, tell me that the options before the government are minimal. Institutional control over the mining wealth has not been established. "What deals were cut profited a few individuals and not the country as a whole," said one official. One major deal to develop the MesAynak copper mine made with the Metallurgical Corporation of China and with Jiangxi Copper has been sitting idle since 2008.

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in mid-September, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon spoke about the need to prevent terrorist groups from moving across the Afghan borders to disrupt Central Asia and western China. Rahmon positioned himself as a defender of the Tajik peoples, although poverty of the Tajik communities on both sides of the border should be as much a focus of attention as upholding the rights of the Tajiks as a minority in Afghanistan.

There is no public indication from the SCO that it would prevent not only cross-border terrorism but also cross-border smuggling. The largest quantities of heroin and opium from northern Afghanistan go to Tajikistan; untold sums of money are made in the illegal movement of minerals, gemstones, and metals out of Afghanistan. Hanif has not raised this point directly, but officials at DAB say that unless Afghanistan better commandeers its own resources, something it has failed to do over the past two decades, the country will not be able to improve the living conditions of its people, least of all in places such as the Wakhan Corridor.

People's Democracy

If the US allows Kabul to access the funds in its central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank, (sitting in New York) or the IMF funds, these funds will help provide the Taliban with a lifeline.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE UN CLIMATE TALKS IN GLASGOW

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual climate talks under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is taking place by attendance by delegates in person, from 31st October - 12th November, 2021, in Glasgow, Scotland, after a year of delay.

World leaders are expected to attend a summit that took place 1st and 2nd of November to focus on the need for increased ambition to tackle climate change, including on boosting the provision of finance to developing countries.

BACKDROP OF THE TALKS

The Glasgow talks are taking place against the backdrop of an unprecedented combination of multiple crises in the world, which is particularly devastating for the developing world. Apart from facing climate impacts from recent extreme weather-related events, the pandemic and its impacts on peoples' health and the economy has taken a major toll on developing countries, with challenges to national budgets and increased borrowings for many, raising the level of indebtedness.

As revealed by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently, many developing countries can no longer achieve their ambitions set out in Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement (PA) due to the pandemic and delivering on those ambitions will require international cooperation between the North and South on a coordinated and unprecedented scale, across a series of deeply interconnected economic, social and environmental challenges, with estimates of the required additional investments amounting to a minimum of two per cent of global GDP annually (upwards of US$1.7 trillion per year) for the next few decades.

Whether Glasgow will see the much needed international cooperation at such an unprecedented scale remains to be seen, especially on the issue of climate finance.

With many parts of the world still facing inadequate vaccine access due to the prevailing inequity between the rich and poor, the participation of delegates from the Global South has certainly been hampered.

To compound matters further, the recently released report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 'The Physical Science Basis' has been viewed as a "code-red" for the future of humanity and the planet.

Many world leaders and negotiators will certainly refer to the warnings in this report which reaffirms the linear relationship between cumulative emissions and rise in global surface temperature. It notes that from 1850 till 2019, approximately 2,390 ($GtCO_2$) were emitted, and this was responsible, along with lesser contributions from other greenhouse gases (GHGs), for an increase in global surface temperatures of about 1.07°C compared to pre-industrial times.

According to experts, the report reveals that for a fifty per cent probability of limiting temperature rise to below 1.5°C, the total carbon budget remaining is only 500 $GtCO_2$ of emissions, and with current emissions trends, this will be exhausted within a decade or so, and that global emissions databases reveal that developed countries have been responsible for over sixty per cent of these past emissions.

Even with the updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the PA, a recent report by the UNFCCC Secretariat reveals that there is an "urgent need for either a significant increase in the level of ambition of NDCs between now and 2030 or a significant overachievement of the latest NDCs, or a combination of both, in order to attain cost-optimal emission levels suggested in many of the scenarios considered by the IPCC."

Meanwhile, since last year, there has been increased calls from the UN Secretary-General and the incoming Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (known as COP 26) UK Presidency for all countries to declare net zero targets by 2050 at the earliest.

In a recent statement from the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), ministers said that "Demands for net-zero emissions for all countries by 2050 will exacerbate further the existing inequities between developed and developing countries." They explained that "the PA refers to achieving a balance between emissions and removal by sinks in the second half of this century as a global aspiration rather than as national targets for all countries. Achieving this global aspiration is on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), in the context of ensuring sustainable development and poverty eradication in developing countries and taking into consideration equity. This means that the historical responsibility for the predominant majority of cumulative anthropogenic emissions since the Industrial Revolution among developed countries must be fully recognised as a key element in determining how such global aspiration will be achieved equitably."

Climate justice groups around the world have also criticised the net zero by 2050 pledges of developed countries, pointing out that far from signifying ambition, such distant targets delay real action needed today in getting to real zero.

KEY ISSUES UNDER NEGOTIATIONS

Governments attending the 26th session of the COP 26, the 16th session of the Kyoto Protocol Parties (CMP 13) and the 3rd session of the Conference of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 3), will meet along with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), to consider and decide on various issues, including a few unfinished items as well as further work dealing with the Paris Agreement implementation.

Some work has been happening on various issues through consultations convened virtually through 2020 and 2021. In Glasgow, Parties will continue to negotiate on these issues in order to adopt the final conclusions and decisions. We set out below some of the key issues to be discussed at the two-week meetings.

SECOND PERIODIC REVIEW

Related to the issue of the implementation of pre-2020 commitments, is an item on the agenda of the Subsidiary Bodies known as the "Second periodic review of the long-term global goal (LTGG) under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it".

COP 25 decided that the second periodic review shall start in the second half of 2020 and conclude in 2022 in conjunction with structured expert dialogue (SEDs). The first SED was held in two parts in November 2020 and June 2021. The second SED will be convened at COP 26, and the Subsidiary Bodies will continue their consideration of matters relating to the second periodic review via a joint contact group and to determine any follow-up action. Discussion on the second periodic review is under two themes. Theme 1 relates to the science of LTGG, and theme 2 is on means of implementation and support with respect to steps taken by Parties towards the LTGG.

Third World Network

Climate justice groups around the world have also criticised the net zero by 2050 pledges of developed countries, pointing out that far from signifying ambition, such distant targets delay real action needed today in getting to real zero.

SUDANESE CP: STATEMENT TO THE MASSES OF OUR SUDANESE PEOPLE

The Security Committee, led by its head, carried out a military coup on 25th October 2021 as a link in a series of military coups that began with the palace coup on 11th April 2019. The aim is the same, which is to block the path to the continuation of the mass movement to achieve the goals and slogans of the glorious December Revolution.

• The attempts of the Security Committee and political forces from the remnants of the regime and some armed movements to raise the slogan of the Revolution, in freedom, peace and justice, do not deceive anyone, and a lie has no legs. What happened on 25th October is a miserable attempt to impose and implement the plan of the enemies of the revolution aimed at completely aborting the December Revolution and expanding the social base of a regime that adopts and implements the "Soft Landing" project.

• The implementation of the coup on 25th October was preceded by the introduction of continuous amendments to the Constitutional Document, as its most important provisions were totally violated and torn up with the amendments proposed by the statement of the coup, the flawed Juba Agreement, and the establishment of the Council of Partners which paved the way for the onslaught on the revolution.

• We, in the Communist Party, condemn the 25th October coup and the resulting arrests of civilians, usurping of political and democratic rights, and firing live bullets at the masses in their peaceful marches. We also condemn the declaration of a state of emergency and demand the release of the Prime Minister and all political detainees who were arrested after the coup, the abolition of all decisions and putting the coup plotters on trial. This coup paves the way for a sharp right-wing turn at the top of authority and contributes to reproducing the extremist dark regime and returning us to the era of "Ghost Houses" (secret detention and torture centres) and the elimination of democracy and basic rights.

• Our people and their patriotic and democratic forces have achieved many victories, and with their awareness and courage they defeated their enemies and protected their Revolution during the past two years. The epics of the mass demonstrations numbering in the millions on 30th June 2019 and 21st October 2021 were the most prominent features of the daring resistance of our people in the face of the enemies of the Revolution.

• Based on the experiences of our people and their record of struggle, we in the Communist Party are working with all the relevant forces to form the broadest front to resist and defeat the coup. In this context, we call upon the Resistance Committees, the Management Committees, the Demands Committees, all mass organisations, the Professionals Association and the civil forces to come together in defence of the revolution, defeat the coup and continue on the path of radical change to achieve the goals of the December Revolution.

• The response to the coup, and to the attempts now underway to form a civilian government under the tutelage of the Security Committee and its allies, is through building and establishing a militant and persevering unity to bring the Revolution to its goals of freedom, peace and justice.

• This is done with unity, mobilisation, organisation and support for a revolutionary programme that requires the implementation of an economic policy aimed at solving the economic hardship by rejecting the dictates of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and transferring the companies controlled by the armed forces to the Ministry of Finance. It also requires speeding up the removal of the remnants of the former regime, dissolving all militias, restructuring the armed forces, building a comprehensive popular peace as an alternative to the quotas of the Juba Agreement, achieving justice and retribution for all the Revolution's martyrs and handing over the deposed dictator to the International Criminal Court. In addition, a foreign policy must be adopted that expresses the goals of the December Revolution, puts the country's interest in the forefront and protects national sovereignty, and brings Sudan out of the military, regional and global axes.

• The Communist Party appreciates the positions of peoples, Communist and progressive parties, governments and regional and international organisations, in condemning the coup and supporting the desires and aspirations of the masses of our people.

• To achieve these goals, the Communist Party emphasises the importance of escalating mass activity in various forms, including peaceful processions, statements, protest strikes and vigils, and besieging the coup at home and abroad through the continuation of the widespread and persistent popular movement, and sharpening and using the weapons of the masses in the general political strike and civil disobedience.

The processions on the 30th of October 2021 are the processions of the masses rising up to defeat the coup and establish a full democratic civil authority in the country.

Secretariat of the Central Committee
Sudanese Communist Party
29th October 2021

JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNISTS OF SUDAN

The Communist and Workers' Parties signing this Joint Statement condemn the military coup that took place over the last hours in Sudan.

We salute the persistent struggle of the Sudanese people for freedom and social progress, against their exploiters and the interference of the imperialists seeking to exploit the natural resources of Sudan and use it in their strategy to dominate the region.

We express our full solidarity with the communists and the people of Sudan, who since December 2018 have started a heroic struggle to liberate their country from dictatorship and tyranny. Today they organise and participate in mass mobilisations against the attempts to overturn the results of the 2018 popular uprising and are currently fighting for the restoration of their political and trade union rights and freedoms.

The people of Sudan will win!

The coup will fail!

SolidNet Parties:
Communist Party of Albania
Communist Party of Argentina
Communist Party of Armenia
Communist Party of Australia
Party of Labour of Austria
Progressive Tribune-Bahrain
Communist Party of Belgium
Brazilian Communist Party
Communist Party of Canada
AKEL, Cyprus
Communist Party of Bohemia & Moravia
Communist Party in Denmark
French Communsit Party
Unified Communist Party of Georgia
German Communist Party
Communist Party of Greece
Hungarian Workers' Party
Communist Party of India
Communist Party of India (Marxist)
Iraqi Communist Party
Tudeh Party of Iran
Workers Party of Ireland
Communist Party of Israel
Communist Party (Italy)
Jordanian Communist Party
Socialist Movement of Kazakhstan
Communist Party of Luxembourg
Communist Party of Mexico
Communist Party of Norway
Communist Party of Pakistan
Palestinian Communist Party
Palestinian People's Party
Paraguayan Communist Party
Philippines Communist Party (PKP-1930)
Communist Party of Poland
Portuguese Communist Party
Romanian Socialist Party
Communist Party of the Russian Federation
Russian Communist Workers' Party
New Communist Party of Yugoslavia
SouthAfrican Communist Party
Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain
Communist Party of the Workers of Spain
Communists of Catalonia
Communist Party of Sri Lanka
Communist Party of Swaziland
Communist Party of Sweden
Syrian Communist Party
Syrian communist party-unified
Communist Party of Turkey
Communist Party USA

Other Parties
Communist Front (Italy)

INACTION FROM RICH COUNTRIES IS DEVASTATING POOR NATIONS, LEADERS FROM GLOBAL SOUTH TELL COP26

Niall Christie

Leaders of states in the global South told richer countries at Cop26 on 2nd November that they might as well be bombing them instead of inflicting suffering through climate breakdown.

On the second day of the United Nations climate conference in Glasgow, much of the discussion was left to developing countries.

Leaders took to the podium to demand action on the climate emergency, noting that those who did not create it are bearing the brunt of its effect.

Surangel S Whipps Jnr, president of the Pacific island nation of Palau, said that large greenhouse gas emitters with their "insatiable appetite for advancement" continue to abuse the environment, which is threatening his people's survival.

He said that Cop26 must establish equal access to climate financing for all and technology transfer for mitigation measures in island nations, which face the worst devastation.

Whipps said: "We see the scorching sun is giving us intolerable heat, the warming sea is invading us, the strong winds are blowing every which way, our resources are disappearing before our eyes and our future is being robbed from us.

"Frankly speaking, there is no dignity in a slow and painful death. You may as well bomb our islands instead of making us suffer, witnessing our slow and fateful demise."

Costa Rican President Carlos Alvardo Quesada told the remaining world leaders at Cop26 that if the politicians in attendance were business leaders, they would all be sacked.

He said: "It is heartbreaking listening to how island states have to plead for their existence. We need the developed world to pull their act together and the large polluting economies to pull their acts together.

"It is a matter of life and death. Leaders should be here, leaders should listen, leaders should deliver. That is the only way we will manage to survive on this Earth."

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan said that her country had not been spared the effects of climate change, with glaciers melting on Mount Kilimanjaro and temperature rises in Zanzibar.

This is all happening despite her country's efforts to protect the planet, she said, warning that Tanzania's economy is fast becoming unsustainable.

Hassan said: "If we developing countries have shown such leadership, why are large emitting countries lagging behind?

"What we all ought to remember is, when the drastic climate changes hit, it reaches no location, mighty or weak, poor or rich countries."

The calls were backed by Guyana's President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who told the world's foremost polluters that they have the greatest duty to increase emissions cuts.

Meanwhile, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland held an event during the summit calling for an action plan to ensure that voices from the global South are heard on the climate issue.

Scottish Minister for Environment and Land Reform Mairi McAllan said the responsibility for tackling climate change must fall on those who have caused the damage, adding: "Scotland is absolutely determined to ask ourselves whose voices are not being heard and to elevate those voices."

Throughout Cop26, the Tory government has reiterated its commitment to inclusivity and ensuring access to the summit for people from all corners of the world.

Oxfam UK chief executive Danny Sriskandarajah said that while some attention is being paid to the most marginalised, the voices of the people who matter the most are being heard "nowhere near enough."

This complaint was echoed by War on Want director Asad Rehman, who said that people in the global South are already paying the price for climate breakdown, vaccine apartheid and the rigged economic system with their lives, lands and livelihoods.

He said: "The Cop26 climate summit is being dominated by wealthier countries and corporations, which plan to continue to pollute and exploit the planet's resources — gambling our future on risky and unproven technologies.

"Instead, global North countries must commit to a global green new deal which delivers real climate justice, by reordering our economies and ensuring a just transition that protects both people and the planet."

Morning Star ✪

PEOPLE'S POWER IS THE ESSENCE OF CUBA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

Ventura de Jesús

On the 45th anniversary of the constitution of the Municipal Assemblies of People's Power, Communist Party of Cuba First Secretary and President of the Republic, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, emphasised the importance of these bodies, which he described as "the foundation and essence of the Cuban political system."

In a message posted Twitter, the President noted that their strengthening means strengthening "the direct action of our people in the consolidation of socialism."

He added that genuine, innovative People's Power is attacked by those who ignore it or fear its example.

In a special assembly in Matanzas, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary, Fidel's role in the establishment of the first municipal assemblies was recalled. The initial trial was conducted experimentally in this province between 1974 and 1976, and constituted a great transformation in the political and social life of the nation.

During the event, which was attended by Political Bureau member and president of the National Assembly of People's Power, Esteban Lazó Hernández, the intention to continue perfecting this system of government with and for the people was reaffirmed.

During the ceremony, the 325th Anniversary Distinction of the city of Matanzas was awarded to a select group of individuals, delegates, leaders and figures who have played an important role for many years in the work of the government.

Among the significant moments during the ceremony was the People's Power 45th anniversary tribute to Esteban Lazo Hernández, who has always maintained close communication with the Cuban people.

Lazo Hernández commented that these forty-five years confirm the power of the people in socialism and stressed the importance of supporting the work of delegates and continuing to strengthen the functioning of assemblies and social work in neighbourhoods and communities.

The National Assembly's website published Lazo Hernández's comments recognising delegates across the country. He stressed that today the date acquires greater significance given the profound discussion underway on the real meaning of People's Power, following the Party First Secretary's call to prioritise continuing to improve municipal assemblies – the foundation of Cuba's political system, in which sovereignty resides untransferably in the people.

Granma ✪

FOUR YEARS AFTER CHARLOTTESVILLE VIOLENCE, UNITE THE RIGHT ORGANISERS FACE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

Jaume Plumb-Planas

Members of the Black Lives Matter movement stage a counter-protest at the rally. (Photos by Evelyn Hockstein for *The Washington Post*)

On August 11 and 12, 2017, white supremacist terror transformed Charlottesville from a quiet college town, whose rowdiest events were college basketball games, to a horrific scene reminiscent of the early 1900s.

Neo-Nazis were in town for the Unite the Right (UTR) rally protesting the removal of a statue of Confederate traitor Robert E Lee. On 11th August, they gathered unannounced at the University of Virginia campus with tiki torches chanting Nazi and white supremacist slogans. They marched to a synagogue and surrounded it, carrying semi-automatic weapons and chanting "Sieg Heil." Online chats revealed threats about "torching those Jewish monsters," Amy Spitalnick, executive director of Integrity First for America (IFA), told a Zoom conference on 21st October.

On 11th October, 2017, Charlottesville residents affected by the attack filed suit against UTR organisers and groups for conspiring and causing the violence on August 11 and 12. IFA represents the plaintiffs, and opening statements in the *Sines v. Kessler* trial were heard on the 28th of October.

"[This all] culminated in the car attack that killed Heather Heyer and injured so many others including many of our plaintiffs," said Spitalnick. "It was a meticulously planned conspiracy to attack people," fueled by racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of hate. "We already have this established as fact against two key defendants," she said.

"White Nationalists said this was the single most successful day in their history because there was a certain measure of success in the way they were not rebuked," said Rabbi Sharon Brous, who co-hosted the IFA Zoom event. Few UFT participants have faced criminal charges, and this civil case aims to bring them to justice.

A conspiracy is an agreement between two or more people to commit an illegal act, along with an intent to achieve the agreement's goal. Most US jurisdictions also require evidence of an overt act toward furthering the plot.

The IFA is using the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 as the basis of their suit. The Act was initially intended to prosecute those interfering with government, obstructing justice, or depriving rights to equal protection under the law. The *Sines v. Kessler* lawsuit states that the defendants conspired to violate the plaintiff's civil rights through violence and intimidation before UTR. Plaintiffs are also seeking damages for psychological and physical trauma from the violence and car attack that injured many and killed Heyer.

"First and foremost, this case is about justice for our plaintiffs and accountability for the defendants. This case is the only attempt to take on the leadership of that conspiracy and hold them accountable," said Spitalnick.

Using litigation and judgments to bankrupt, disrupt, and dismantle similar organisations and their leaders have a long history. Most famously, in 1984, an Alabama jury awarded damages to the family of Michael Donald, who was murdered by KKK members. The penalty bankrupted the KKK. And Charlottesville defendants, including Richard Spencer, have admitted the case is financially crippling them, and they avoided coming back to Charlottesville in 2018 because "they didn't want to be sued again."

For residents, the August 2017 events are very much alive. The Lee statue stood about a three-minute walk from the spot where a white supremacist rammed Heyer and other UTR counter-protesters with his car. Charlottesville finally removed the statue on 10th July even though the city council had voted to take it down on 6th February, 2017. Virginia removed a giant Lee statue on 8th September in Richmond, the state capital, 130 years after its installation.

Since the white supremacist rally, journalist and local activist Molly Conger has independently reported on everything from protests to city council meetings on Twitter (@socialistdogmom). *C-VILLE Weekly* removed one of her columns in 2019 that exposed a Charlottesville Police Department officer who posed with a white supremacist at UTR.

Conger has gained notoriety for her knowledge of UTR. Right-wing media pundits defending the violence at UTR by blaming "Antifa" have targeted Conger and other activists, journalists, and residents. The white supremacist's defense team is using the same tactic. "Right-wing rallies only turn violent when leftists attack," Christopher Cantwell told the court.

Attorneys asked potential jurors their opinions of Antifa, the Black Lives Matter movement, racism, and discrimination. Presiding Judge Norman K Moon allowed jurors who stated they were "anti-Antifa," to be selected, ignoring protests from plaintiffs. Defence lawyers object to defendants being referred to as racists or fascists "until it has been proven in court."

Apparently, the ideal jurist is a person who can remain objective while hearing evidence the defendants conspired to violate the plaintiff's civil rights through violence while acknowledging the defendants are self-proclaimed white supremacists, anti-Semites, neo-Nazis, and neo-Confederates.

On 25th October, plaintiffs filed a motion to sever Cantwell, commonly known as "The Crying Nazi," after a video surfaced of him crying over the news a warrant was out for his arrest. Despite being currently imprisoned in a Communications Management Unit (a lockup usually reserved for terrorists) for felony extortion, Cantwell opted to represent himself. He has a history of violent outbursts and feuding with other white supremacists.

Infighting among defendants surfaced after several requested Judge Moon instruct the jury that one defendant, Jason Kessler, was responsible for obtaining the permit for UTR. Observers see the request as an effort to prove Kessler was the main organiser of UTR and, therefore, responsible for the violence and death. The other defendants are trying to separate themselves from Kessler, much like they did after his infamous tweet celebrating the death of Heyer in 2017, boasting it was "payback time." However, expert witness testimony from the IFA could still link them all to the conspiracy.

For more information surrounding the case, check out the Integrity First for America webpage. Readers can also find daily updates posted on Twitter (@socialistdogmom) by Molly Conger.

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Editorial Office
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, 2010
Ph: 02 9699 8844 Fax: 02 9699 9833
Email: guardian@cpa.org.au

Editor: Franc Stregone

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XI CALLS FOR STRONGER GLOBAL ACTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Shan Jie and Zhao Yusha

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday called on all parties to take stronger actions to jointly tackle the climate challenge in a written statement for the World Leaders Summit at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is being held in Glasgow.

To respond to climate change and revive the world economy, Xi made a three-pronged proposal to address climate challenge, including upholding multilateral consensus, focusing on concrete actions, and accelerating the green transition.

Parties need to honour their commitments, set realistic targets and visions, and do their best according to national conditions to deliver their climate action measures. Developed countries should not only do more themselves, but should also provide support to help developing countries do better, Xi noted.

He added that China will speed up the green and low-carbon energy transition, vigorously develop renewable energy, and plan and build large wind and photovoltaic power stations.

Xi said the country will roll out specific implementation plans for key areas such as energy, industry, construction and transport, and for key sectors such as coal, electricity, iron and steel, and cement, as well as supporting measures in terms of science and technology, carbon sink, fiscal and taxation, and financial incentives.

"These measures will form a '1+N' policy framework for delivering carbon peak and carbon neutrality, with clearly-defined timetable, roadmap and blueprint," he added.

Just before countries sit down for talks, the US leader, a country that angered the world with its flip-flop on the climate issue, disappointed allies and developing countries for failing to fulfill many of its pledges, and name-calling China and Russia for "not showing up" on climate change commitments.

When analysts snubbed Washington's trick of diverting the world's attention from its own failure by pointing a finger at others, they also warned the US that the climate issue is not for staging a political show. Whoever seeks leadership on this issue must commit action, instead of playing lip service.

More than 120 leaders will speak Monday in the very same city of the COP26 climate talks, where they will set the tone for two weeks of negotiations, CNN reported.

The *Global Times* learned that a Chinese delegation of approximately fifty people, including Xie Zhenhua, China's Special Envoy for Climate Change, will be participating in COP26 talks, though smaller than previous delegations.

The Chinese delegation has three items on its agenda: finalise the last remaining piece of the Paris Agreement rulebook; finance poor countries in dealing with global warming; and talk to certain countries to take more action.

REBUTTING BIDEN

At the close of the two-day G20 leaders' summit in Rome, US President Joe Biden singled out China and Russia, saying that "with regard to the disappointment, the disappointment relates to the fact that [...] not only Russia but China basically didn't show up in terms of any commitments to deal with climate change."

"More has to be done," Biden rumbled on. "But it's going to require us to continue to focus on what China's not doing, what Russia's not doing and what Saudi Arabia is not doing."

In response, Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that China's target of achieving peak emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060 marks the world's highest reduction in carbon emissions intensity and the shortest time in achieving the goal of going from carbon peak to carbon neutrality in global history.

It took the EU 71 years, the US forty-three years, and Japan thirty-seven years to move from carbon peak to carbon neutrality, while China leaves itself with merely thirty years, Wang said, pointing out that during the 200 years of industrialisation, the developed world has "unshakable" historical responsibility for greenhouse emissions.

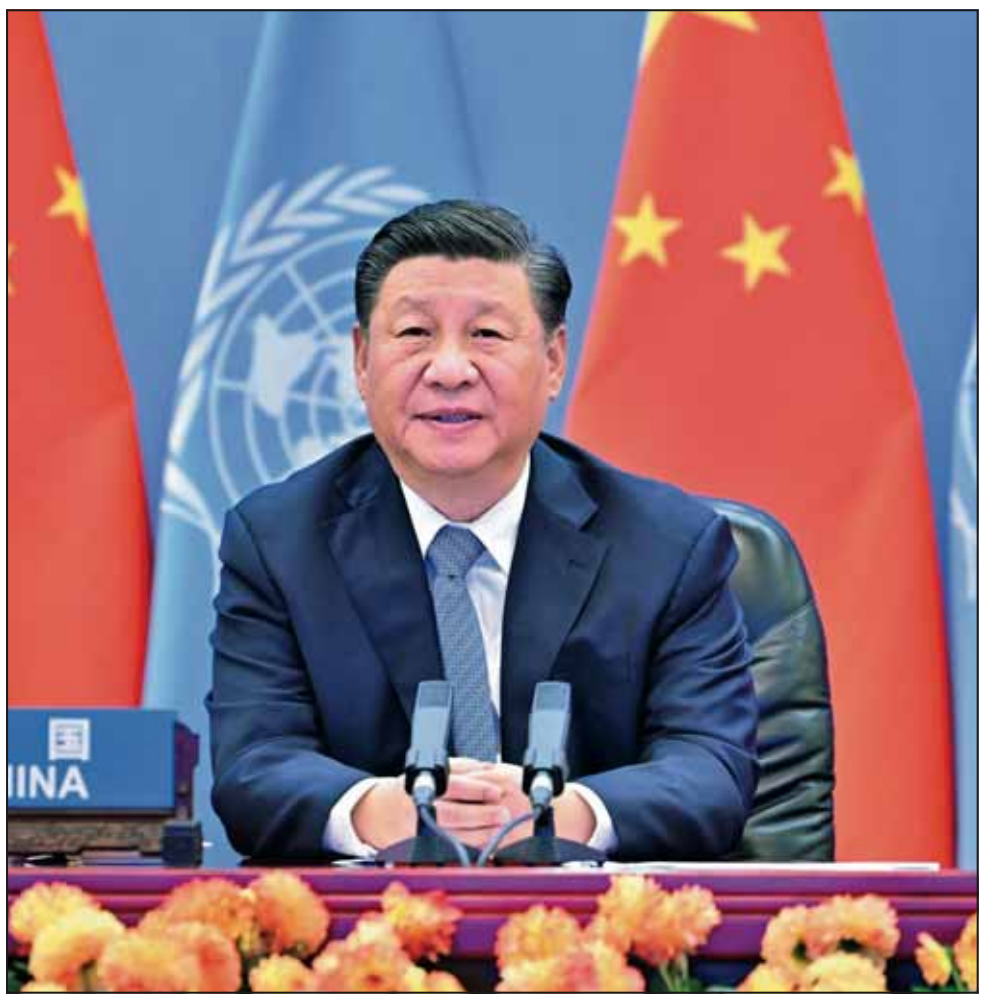
For instance, the US historical emissions per capita is eight times that of China's, and the US rejection to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and withdrawal from the Paris agreement have "severely impaired the confidence and efficiency of global cooperation on climate change."

An anonymous official from the Chinese delegation to COP26 said that climate change should not be a topic for geopolitical rivalry, but a boost for cooperation; and he hopes certain countries won't link it with geopolitics.

Yang Fuqiang, a research fellow at Peking University's Research Institute for Energy, described Biden's attack on China, Russia and Saudi Arabia as an "attack in the way of defence" approach to divert the world's attention to US backpedaling.

Since Biden took office, he has been talking aloud about a US comeback to the global climate issue, and deems COP26 as his chance of shoring up global leadership in tackling global warming. Yet he arrived with his plan of spending $555 billion on cutting greenhouse gas emissions waiting for congressional approval.

Developing countries criticised the US and other rich countries for falling short of the USD$100 billion a year to help developing countries fight climate change until at least 2023, a key part of the 2015 Paris climate accord.



Yang pointed out that the most direct way for Washington to show its commitment to joining the global effort to battle global warming is to fork over the money it promised, and make up the few years' gap when it suddenly left the Paris agreement.

Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, said that aside from money, technology transfer is also crucial for rich countries to help their developing counterparts. Biden barely mentioned technology transfer in helping poorer countries tackle greenhouse emissions. Judging by Washington's more and more restrictive technology policy, developing countries cannot count on the US to help them technologically, Lü said.

He said those big words with little action have exposed US hypocrisy on climate issues.

POLITICAL AGENDA

Lü said that the US and some Western countries have clearly let their political agenda override climate issues at COP26. For the US, for instance, since Biden has done very little to push forward domestic legislation, nor has he achieved a major diplomatic victory, he considers backing the Paris agreement and climate issue as the only breakthroughs he can tout, Lü said.

Hours before world leaders spoke at COP26, the White House on Monday issued an article entitled "President Biden Renews US Leadership on World Stage at UN Climate Conference (COP26)."

"President Biden will outline the bold steps his administration is taking in his whole-of-government approach to combat climate change, underscore how bold action delivers economic prosperity and peace and security, and rally countries from every corner of the world to step up their ambition and confront this existential threat during a decisive decade," the article said.

However, US credibility on the climate issue was already undermined by its backpedal on climate accords; and its inability to fulfill its promises stands against the world's efforts to achieve climate goals, said experts, noting that the climate issue is not for a political show. "The world is tired of hollow promises. Those who really want to take leadership must do more than play lip service," Yang said.

Global Times

China will speed up the green and low-carbon energy transition.

Communist Party of Australia
www.cpa.org.au cpa@cpa.org.au

General Secretary Andrew Irving andrew@cpa.org.au
Party President Vinnie Molina president@cpa.org.au
Media guardian@cpa.org.au amr@cpa.org.au

Adelaide Sally Mitchell sa@cpa.org.au 0413 762 435 PO Box 56, Royal Park, SA 5014
Brisbane 0499 476 540 bris@cpa.org.au PO Box 6012, Manly, Qld 4179
Canberra act@cpa.org.au
Darwin Vinnie Molina darwin@cpa.org.au 0419 812 872
Melbourne Andrew Irving cpavic@cpa.org.au Box 3 Trades Hall, Lygon St, Carlton Sth Vic 3053

Head Office (Sydney) 74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010 phone: 02 9699 8844 fax: 02 9699 9833 email: info@cpa.org.au
Newcastle newcastle@cpa.org.au
Perth Elly Hulm perth@cpa.org.au 0419 812 872 PO Box 98, North Perth, WA 6906
Western NSW Allan Hamilton western.nsw@cpa.org.au 121 McKay St, Cootamundra, NSW 2590
Sydney District syd.dist.comm@cpa.org.au 02 9699 8844 Surry Hills (head office)
Tasmania Andrew Irving tas@cpa.org.au 03 9639 1550
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