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# Jordan and the Challenge of Climate Change

## A Report from COP26

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### A Brief History of the COP

Forty-two years have elapsed since the First World Climate Conference<sup>1</sup>, a ground-breaking event in a call to governments to take positive action on addressing the problems associated with anthropogenic climate change.

Since then, several international environment agreements have been established to defeat climate change. At the 'Earth Summit' conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted and created the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention<sup>2</sup>. It was a defining moment for the history of action on climate change. The Convention aimed to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere to prescribed levels, within a workable time frame to protect future generations from a climate catastrophe<sup>3</sup>. Considerable focus was placed on carbon dioxide emissions, which emanate from burning fossil fuels needed for power generation. According to Article 7.4 of The Convention, COP sessions are held annually unless the COP decides to postpone it.

In 1997 at COP3 in Kyoto (Japan), an early motion brought a binding agreement to the world, thenceforward called the 'Kyoto Protocol'<sup>4</sup>. The Kyoto Protocol aimed to secure commitments for the developed countries to reduce their emissions and support the developing countries to achieve the Convention's objectives through a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)<sup>5</sup>, in order to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, the theme of this Protocol concerns *mitigation* measures for climate change through GHG emission reduction, rather than direct *adaptation* measures to rectify the negative impacts of climate change.

Views on the economic and environmental impacts of the Protocol varied between developed countries' stances and the academic community, and feasibility was explored deeply<sup>6</sup>. The United

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<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental and Legal Affairs, Climate Change Secretariat. (2006). *United Nations framework convention on climate change handbook*. (p. 17). UNFCCC Climate Change Secretariat.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. (1992). *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations. (1998). *Kyoto Protocol to The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change United Nations*.

<sup>5</sup> Kim, Y., Tanaka, K., & Matsuoka, S. (2020). *Environmental and economic effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol*. PLOS ONE, 15(7), e0236299. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0236299>

<sup>6</sup> Diniz, E. M. (2007). *Lessons from the Kyoto Protocol*. *Ambiente & Sociedade*, 10(1), 27–38. <https://doi.org/10.1590/s1414-753x2007000100003>

States (US) has the most world robust economy and is the second greatest GHG emitter globally<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, it has a substantial responsibility to the world at large to adhere to the Protocol, compared to the developing countries that contribute less than developed countries in influencing climate change. From 1990 to 2003, the US was the largest emitter, creating about 17% of the world's emissions. From 2006 to 2018, China, the US, and India were the top three emitters globally, amounting to 43% of world emissions<sup>8</sup>. However, the US remained opposed to adhering to the Protocol as large emitters countries like China and India has less responsibility as they are developing countries<sup>9</sup>. Complying to a global movement for a better environment is everyone's responsibility, but in practice is voluntary. Such debates and reluctance made its implementation difficult.

Eighteen years later, at COP21, the 'Paris Agreement' was adopted with the ultimate objective of keeping "global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels"<sup>10</sup>. To enhance the Convention and fill the gap in the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement required signatory countries to specify actions, 'ambitious efforts' by communicating parties' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for global climate action<sup>11</sup>. This could help with global and collective action, focusing on both adaptation and mitigation measures not only by all parties to the Agreement, but also other industrialised and developing countries.

In 2017, the US withdrew their ratification of the Paris Agreement during Donald Trump's tenure as President of the US. The decision came into force in 2020 but was accompanied by conflict between the US and China, exacerbated by the Global Covid-19 pandemic<sup>12</sup>. Early in 2021, the United Nations readmitted the US to the climate pact upon the election of US President Joe Biden<sup>13</sup>.

Conflicts between the US and China, the principal emitters of GHGs, with India also a major emitter, are challenging to the rest of the international community, who were trying to implement the climate pact through negotiations for technical and financial planning.

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<sup>7</sup> Central Intelligence Agency. (2021, November 17). United States - *The World Factbook*. [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov).

<sup>8</sup> Climate Watch. (2021). | *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions | Climate Watch*. [www.climatewatchdata.org](http://www.climatewatchdata.org)

<sup>9</sup> Diniz, E. M. (2007). *Lessons from the Kyoto Protocol*. *Ambiente & Sociedade*, 10(1), 27–38. <https://doi.org/10.1590/s1414-753x2007000100003>

<sup>10</sup> United Nations. (2016). *Paris Agreement*.

<sup>11</sup> Vogler, J. (2020). The international politics of COP26. *Scottish Geographical Journal*, 136(1-4), 31–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14702541.2020.1863610>

<sup>12</sup> Vogler, J. (2020). The international politics of COP26. *Scottish Geographical Journal*, 136(1-4), 31–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14702541.2020.1863610>

<sup>13</sup> United Nations. (2021, January 20). *Secretary-General welcomes US return to Paris Agreement on Climate Change*. UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082602>

## COP26 in Brief

COP26 was the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16), and the Paris Agreement (CMA3)<sup>14</sup>. It was intended to be held in 2020, but it was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>15</sup>. It was held from 31st October to 13th November in Glasgow, The United Kingdom, in partnership with Italy<sup>16</sup>.

COP26 aimed to “secure global net-zero by mid-century and keep 1.5°C degrees within reach, adapt to protect communities and natural habitats, mobilise finance and work together to deliver”<sup>17</sup>. Each outlined goal covers a set of crucial issues for negotiations, mainly comprising developed countries’ financial commitments, finalising the ‘Rulebook’ for the Paris Agreement, phasing out of coal burning for energy, abandoning deforestation, and enhancing the ecosystem. However, there were other related topics considered during COP26. For instance, the carbon market<sup>18</sup>. This discussion was postponed because there was no consensus from the US, China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia in COP25<sup>19</sup>. Furthermore, evidence indicates the need to protect the ocean following climate-change consequences, such as sea-ice melts in the Arctic circle and Antarctica<sup>20</sup>. Hence expectations and recommendations for COP26 outcomes were different, because of different political perspectives.

## Key Aspects of COP26

COP26 included a package of formal negotiation sessions and informal consultations for parties on climate-action progress, speeches by world leaders, space for exhibitions and parallel events for various climate-action stakeholders, including businesses, society at large, scientists and the general public<sup>21</sup>. Therefore, presented below can be found some of the key aspects of COP26, including the World Leaders Summit, the role of the side events, the ‘Green Zone Programme’ and mass protests by the laity.

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<sup>14</sup> UK Government. (2021). Negotiations. *UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021*. <https://ukcop26.org/>

<sup>15</sup> UNFCCC. (2020, April 1). *COP26 Postponed*. Unfccc.int; *UN Climate Press Release*.

<https://unfccc.int/news/cop26-postponed>

<sup>16</sup> UK Government. (2021). *31 Oct - 12 Nov 2021 Glasgow Cop26 in Partnership with Italy*. UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021. <https://ukcop26.org/>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> According to the UNFCCC, definition of carbon market is “A popular (but misleading) term for a trading system through which countries may buy or sell units of greenhouse-gas emissions in an effort to meet their national limits on emissions, either under the Kyoto Protocol or under other agreements, such as that among member states of the European Union. The term comes from the fact that carbon dioxide is the predominant greenhouse gas, and other gases are measured in units called “carbon-dioxide equivalents.”

<sup>19</sup> Kim, Y., Tanaka, K., & Matsuoka, S. (2020). *Environmental and economic effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol*. PLOS ONE, 15(7), e0236299. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0236299>

<sup>20</sup> Climate Crisis Advisory Group, Lichtenstein, J., & Shirvani, T. (2021). *COP26: The Decisive Moment*. In *ccag.earth* (pp. 1–17).

<sup>21</sup> Observation, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

## World Leaders Summit

The World Leaders Summit Opening Ceremony was led by Yrsa Daley-Ward, who emphasised the importance of world leaders' action for climate change<sup>22</sup>. This included a statement with evidence voiced by Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of UK:

*“The longer we fail to act, the worse it gets.”<sup>23</sup>*

Interestingly, Johnson highlighted the importance of supporting *developing* countries as an obligation of *developed* countries, especially pledging the promised USD 100 billion, which was decided at COP 16 (2009) in Copenhagen.

Additionally, the speech stressed the need to defeat climate change. It was interesting that Johnson quoted Greta Thunberg, a young climate activist, who had stated that some leaders' climate promises were “Blah Blah Blah” [insofar as] there are no actions on the ground<sup>24</sup>. The phrase might sound critically harsh, but borne of disappointments of the slight movements from decision-makers and non-fulfilment for the promises released during previous COPs for a radical change to protect the ecosystem and build a healthy life between human beings and the environment.

At the World Leaders Summit, Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany, raised critical points about the necessity of setting global carbon pricing to advance the market and enhance climate neutrality. This emphasises one of the COP26 goals and the expectations of many. Carbon trading and pricing are covered in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to support reducing emissions counted for a country in through a voluntary ‘cooperative approach’.

Moreover, Joe Biden, President of the US, expressed his dissatisfaction with the Chinese, Russian and Saudi Arabia leaders' absences at COP26 and the International Economic Cooperation (G20) Summit before COP26, Brazil's deforestation activities, and India's reluctant in climate action<sup>25</sup>. Despite the political tension that appeared in the speeches, many leaders envisioned climate change as an opportunity to create green jobs and a green economy.

## Side Events

Side events at COP26 played a vital role in providing space at pavillions for climate action in the form of informal discussions, sharing knowledge and insights, reflecting on experiences,

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<sup>22</sup> UNFCCC. (2021b, November 1). *UNFCCC - COP26*. Streamworld.de. <https://unfccc-cop26.streamworld.de/webcast/opening-ceremony>

<sup>23</sup> UN Climate Change. (2021). *British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the Opening of the #COP26 World Leaders Summit* [YouTube Video]. In YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41XyrAbDMOM>

<sup>24</sup> Connect4Climate. (2021). *Greta Thunberg at Youth4Climate Summit 2021 in Milan - full speech*. In YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=celE\\_ehQhtc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=celE_ehQhtc)

<sup>25</sup> President Joseph Biden. (2021, November 2). *Remarks by President Biden in Press Conference. COP26*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/11/02/remarks-by-president-biden-in-press-conference-5/>

launching initiatives, strengthening international relations, building cooperations and debating formal negotiations<sup>26</sup>.

Many initiatives were launched during side events, for example, the Partnership Action Fund by the NDC Partnership to mobilise USD 33 million to support the developing countries accelerate achieving their NDC through NDC developed countries' members<sup>27</sup>. Many agreed that the trigger for implementing NDC is the availability of financial resources<sup>28</sup>. Climate finance talks were dominant inside events, which is in the interests of developing countries as implementing their NDCs struggle at the funding stage. However, the fund sourcing and accessing it remains problematic. Nonetheless, the two financial mechanisms<sup>29</sup> of The Convention, Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), held a series of events about accessing the financial resources, increasing climate investments and empowering indigenous people and youth.

During side-events, the majority parties of The Convention reflected on their experience in complying with environmental commitments. For example, addressing the challenges and needs to increase the momentum in climate change.

### Green Zone Programme

The Green Zone area in COP26 featured various events that covered topics about communities, disability, businesses, gender, indigenous, innovations, nature, research, technology, youth and other climate-related topics. The events were either delivered as workshops, documentaries, panel discussions or performances. The Green Zone brought people of different ages and backgrounds together.

Having a global movement with the support of all sectors might sound unachievable, but further evidence shows that it is possible. At the Advertising a Good Life in 2030 event in COP26<sup>30</sup>, an amusing discussion took place on how the marketing and advertising sector plays an essential role in increasing awareness about climate change and affecting human consumption of natural resources<sup>31</sup>. The debate was enriched with selected innovative advertisements that prove how

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<sup>26</sup> Observation, November 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2021.

<sup>27</sup> NDC Partnership. (2021, November 10). *COP26: Members of the NDC Partnership announce the Partnership Action Fund with at-launch commitments of \$33million to help developing countries implement their NDCs* | NDC Partnership. <https://ndcpartnership.org/news/cop26-members-ndc-partnership-announce-partnership-action-fund-launch-commitments-33million>

<sup>28</sup> Smith, P., Beaumont, L., Bernacchi, C. J., Byrne, M., Cheung, W., Conant, R. T., Cotrufo, F., Feng, X., Janssens, I., Jones, H., Kirschbaum, M. U. F., Kobayashi, K., LaRoche, J., Luo, Y., McKechnie, A., Penuelas, J., Piao, S., Robinson, S., Sage, R. F., & Sugget, D. J. (2021). *Essential outcomes for COP26. Global Change Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15926>

<sup>29</sup> UNFCCC. (2021a). *Climate Finance*. [unfccc.int. https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/the-big-picture/climate-finance-in-the-negotiations/climate-finance](https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/the-big-picture/climate-finance-in-the-negotiations/climate-finance)

<sup>30</sup> COP26. (2021, November 12). *Advertising A Good Life in 2030* | #COP26. [www.youtube.com. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM5CKnbzJyo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM5CKnbzJyo)

<sup>31</sup> Observation, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

embedding a message about climate change is vital to encourage people to contribute to affirmative climate action.

The Green Zone provided exhibitions for new technologies and innovations. For instance, JCB (a construction company manufacturing heavy plant equipment) showcased hydrogen machinery to reduce GHG emissions for green economic growth<sup>32</sup>, and the University of Lincoln showed their 'farmer robot' that enables an increase in harvesting efficiency and reduces water consumption<sup>33</sup>.

### Climate Movements

Protests in COP26 were predicted and did take place, as the meeting provided a world stage at which decision-makers from around the world, and government officials, were assembled together. It was an opportunity for climate activists to raise their voices.

The youth leadership for marches at COP26 demanded a green and fair transition to adapt and mitigate climate change. Nisreen AISaiem, a Sudanese youth climate activist, made a considered plea, emphasising that listening to youth is an 'obligation', as they represent 47% of the world's population<sup>34</sup>.

Remarkably, on 5th November, Greta Thunberg, a youth climate activist, managed to lead an estimated hundred thousand people in Glasgow to lobby leaders to act. She described COP26 as a 'failure'<sup>35</sup>. The next day, a rally of thousands went in the streets with Vanessa Nakate, a youth climate activist, asking COP26 for climate justice and climate finance<sup>36</sup>. Such protests indicate the level of youth awareness about climate change and the influence of climate activists on communities.

Likewise, on the last day of COP26, hundreds of participants protested inside the venue, calling for climate justice and loudly declaring 'Power to the People'<sup>37</sup>. The climate movement at COP26 was notable and received attention from the media, but the question remains: Did decision-makers listen to those efforts?

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<sup>32</sup> EMS Mastry. (2012, November 9). *JCB & their Net-Zero Journey - Hydrogen in the Construction Sector | COP26 Green Zone*. [www.youtube.com. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-axExF0dFPo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-axExF0dFPo)

<sup>33</sup> Observation, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

<sup>34</sup> United Nations. (2021b, November 1). COP26: *Enough of "treating nature like a toilet" – Guterres brings stark call for climate action to Glasgow*. UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1104542>

<sup>35</sup> BBC. (2021, November 5). *COP26: Greta Thunberg tells protest that COP26 has been a "failure."* BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-59165781>

<sup>36</sup> Kaplan, S., Bellack, M., Dennis, B., Patel, K., & Adam, K. (2021, November 6). *At COP26, 100,000 March for Climate Justice*. Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/11/06/cop26-climate-protests-live-updates/>

<sup>37</sup> Guardian News. (2021, November 12). *Hundreds of Campaigners Stage Walkout on Final Day of COP26*. [www.youtube.com. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csijsvF6uv8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csijsvF6uv8)

## Glasgow Climate Pact

A set of outcomes on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 was formalised in the Glasgow Climate Pact package, which contains political decisions following twelve days of negotiations from COP26, CMP16 and CMA3<sup>38</sup>. The decisions are as follows;

- Finance: developed countries are to double the funding for climate finance for adaptation measures, using a baseline of 2019, by 2025 and fully deliver the promised USD 100 billion through 2025<sup>39</sup>. The fund provided in 2019 in total was USD 79.6 billion, 25% of which was associated with adaptation projects to the developing countries Parties<sup>40</sup>.
- NDC: these were revisited from the original Article 9.10 from the Paris agreement. Parties to submit NDC for actions for ten years and update every five years<sup>41</sup>.
- Unabated Coal and Inefficient Fossil Fuel: there is to be 'phasing down', and an end to subsidies for the use of inefficient fossil fuels<sup>42</sup>.
- Deforestation: one hundred forty-two countries committed to reserve forests and protect the land from degradation by 2030, with some countries pledging finance for this purpose<sup>43</sup>.
- GHGs Emissions Reduction: the Global Methane Pledge was signed by over 100 countries<sup>44</sup>. There was a formalisation of rules, methods, and approaches to enhance trading carbon emissions (carbon market) to reduce emissions with co-benefits for the seller and buyer countries, ensure transparency in counting GHG and support the adaptation fund through emissions reductions.
- Loss and Damage: there is to be a facilitation of technical and financial support to address climate change's loss and damage<sup>45</sup>.

<sup>38</sup> Allan, J., Bansard, J., Jones, N., Luomi, M., Tan, J., & Sun, Y. (2021). *Glasgow Climate Change Conference: 31 October – 13 November 2021*. The International Institute for Sustainable Development, 12(793), 1–40.

<sup>39</sup> UNFCCC. (2021e). *Decision -/CMA.3 Glasgow Climate Pact*.

<sup>40</sup> Organisation For Economic Co-Operation And Development. (2021). *Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries: Aggregate Trends Updated with 2019 Data*. Oecd Publishing.

<sup>41</sup> UNFCCC. (2021f). *Decision -/CMP.16 Glasgow Climate Pact*.

<sup>42</sup> UN News. (2021, November 15). *COP26 Closes with "Compromise" Deal on Climate, but it's Not Enough, says UN chief*. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2021/cop26-closes-%E2%80%98compromise%E2%80%99-deal-climate-it%E2%80%99s-not-enough-says-un-chief>

<sup>43</sup> UK Government. (2021, November 15). *World leaders summit on "Action on forests and land use."* GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

<sup>44</sup> Allan, J., Bansard, J., Jones, N., Luomi, M., Tan, J., & Sun, Y. (2021). *Glasgow Climate Change Conference: 31 October – 13 November 2021*. The International Institute for Sustainable Development, 12(793), 1–40.

<sup>45</sup> UNFCCC. (2021i). *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts*.

- Paris Agreement Rulebook: a completed guideline for Paris Agreement implementation<sup>46</sup>. This is to be put into operation and implementation<sup>47</sup>.
- Future COPs: parties agreed that COP 27 will take place in Egypt on 7<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2022, and COP 28 will take place 6<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the United Arab Emirates<sup>48</sup>.

Perspectives on the decision varied depending on the interests of the party concerned. Decisions were within expectations of some Parties and disappointments for others. For example, phasing down the use of ‘unabated coal’ and ending subsidies for ‘inefficient fossil fuel’ would be against the interests of top emitters but will be for the benefit of most affected countries because of its negative impact on climate change. Doubling the adaptation fund is necessary for developing countries to adapt to climate change more than mitigation in reducing GHGs emissions. However, more work is yet to come in the upcoming COPs.

### Jordan’s Position at COP26

Jordan has shown its position globally in climate change by ratifying the international climate-change related agreements, working through both adaptation and mitigation lenses and complying with its commitments. Jordan ratified the Convention in 1993, accessed the Kyoto Protocol in 2003 and ratified Paris Agreement in 2016<sup>49</sup>. Corresponding to the Convention, Jordan has submitted three National Communication (NC) reports in 1997, 2009 and 2014 to reflect on the Convention implementation<sup>50</sup>.

Following the Cancun Adaptation Framework in COP16 (2010), and developing its guidance, building parties’ capacity and mobilising financial resources to developing countries in 2016 to accelerate adaptation measures, Jordan developed its National Adaptation Plan in 2021<sup>51</sup>. Concerning mitigation measures according to the COP17 (2011) decision, in that it developed in 2018 and 2021 the Biennial Update Reports (BUR), which focus on the mitigation side of climate action, e.g. a GHG inventory<sup>52</sup>.

<sup>46</sup> UK Government. (2021b, November 13). *COP26 keeps 1.5C alive and finalises Paris Agreement*. UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-keeps-1-5c-alive-and-finalises-paris-agreement/>

<sup>47</sup> Allan, J., Bansard, J., Jones, N., Luomi, M., Tan, J., & Sun, Y. (2021). *Glasgow Climate Change Conference: 31 October – 13 November 2021*. The International Institute for Sustainable Development, 12(793), 1–40.

<sup>48</sup> UNFCCC. (2021h). Decision -/CP.26 Dates and venues of future sessions.

<sup>49</sup> UNTC. (2021). *United Nations Treaty Collection*. <https://treaties.un.org/>

<sup>50</sup> UNFCCC. (2021b). *National Communication submissions from Non-Annex I Parties*. United Nations Climate Change. <https://unfccc.int/non-annex-I-NCs>

<sup>51</sup> Ministry of Environment of Jordan. (2021). *The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Jordan*. [http://www.moenv.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root\\_storage/ar/eb\\_list\\_page/final\\_draft\\_nap-2021.pdf](http://www.moenv.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/ar/eb_list_page/final_draft_nap-2021.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> UNFCCC. (2021b). *Biennial Update Report submissions from Non-Annex I Parties*. Unfccc.int. <https://unfccc.int/BURs>



Moreover, for building a robust green economy, Jordan worked for green growth in the last decade. In 2017 Jordan launched the National Green Growth Plan and in 2020 launched six Green Growth National Action Plans 2021-2025 for water, waste, transportation, tourism, agriculture and energy sectors<sup>53</sup>.

As a dedicated party to defeat climate change, Jordan strengthened its position by launching its updated NDC days before COP26 with ambitions for reducing GHGs emissions with a percentage of 31%, which is more than double the previous ambitions of 14% in its first NDC<sup>54</sup>. Achieving the updated ambitions depends on the availability and accessibility of climate finance.

In COP26, a Jordan Delegation headed by Dr Muawieh Radaideh, Minister of Environment, presented Jordan<sup>55</sup>. The delegation involved government officials, local NGOs, young representatives, media representatives<sup>56</sup>.

Considering Jordan being affected by climate change, Jordan had expectations for the COP26 negotiations according to the country's needs. Jordan was looking for adjustment in the set criteria for draught as part of the loss and damage so Jordan can access the related fund and an extension of the NDC common timeframe for ten years instead of five years as stated by Belal Shqarin, Director of Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment of Jordan.

With the leadership of the King of Jordan, Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, Jordan is building on the climate action momentum. Earlier this year, at the World Economic Forum Davos, the king emphasized that the impact of exploiting nature by humans resulted in COVID-19 and the "the greater pandemic", climate change<sup>57</sup>. In the written statement of King Abdullah II for the COP26, he recalled that assisting the developing countries is essential to adapt to climate change, undertake mitigation measures and build an eco-friendlier future<sup>58</sup>.

Jordan was also interested in finalising Article 6 of the Paris Agreement concerning the carbon market for better carbon trading and the commitments of developing countries in climate finance<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> GGGI. (2020, July). *Launch of the Green Growth National Action Plan 2021-2025*. GGGI - Global Green Growth Institute. <https://ggi.org/launch-of-the-green-growth-national-action-plan-2021-2025/>

<sup>54</sup> UNFCCC. (2021a). *All NDCs*. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

<sup>55</sup> Observation, November 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2021.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> King Abdullah II. (2021a, January 28). *Address by His Majesty King Abdullah II at WEF Davos Agenda*. The World Economic Forum.

<https://kingabdullah.jo/en/speeches/wef-davos-agenda>

<sup>58</sup> King Abdullah II. (2021b, November 3). *Jordan - High-level Segment Statement COP 26*. COP26.

<https://unfccc.int/documents/309204>

<sup>59</sup> Shqarin, B. (2021, November 3). *Jordan Position in COP26* (H. Al-Hamawi, Interviewer) [Personal communication].

By examining the decision, two decisions out of four met Jordan's expectations; the promises in climate finance and the finalised rules in Article 6.

Interestingly, Jordan, with its limited natural resources, is on top of global cooperation toward a better environment on this planet. Jordan was among 103 countries to sign the Global Methane Pledge to reduce at least 30% of methane gas emissions by 2030<sup>60</sup>. Knowing that Jordan also will submit an updated Climate Change Policy 2020-2050 and the fourth NC by 2022<sup>61</sup>, Jordan is strengthening its position in the Arab Region.

Nonetheless, the main challenge remains in financing well-established policies supported by lists of the identified projects with its cost-benefit analysis as declared by Dr. Radaideh during a high-level side event at COP26<sup>62</sup>.

### Conclusion and Assessment

COPs are an opportunity for countries to tailor the agreements for the benefit of the globe and climate activists to keep an eye on the progress but Climate change is everyone's responsibility. Coordination and cooperation are no longer simply 'an option' to help achieve the goal of reducing 'global warming' from reaching 1.5°C by 2030. The key to the climate justice equation requires the inclusion of everyone, without ignoring those with disabilities, wider communities, and youth. Specifically, the inclusion of youth, representing 47% of the world population, would be vital in saving the planet from climate catastrophe. The assumption that youth would be the most affected by climate change's negative impact is a trigger for this segment to be part of the decision and a burden to have a healthy life these days.

A climate system that enforces responsibility, transparency, clarity and integrity in climate action is a milestone for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In which efforts to reduce GHG emissions and protect the ecological system cannot be realistic and practical if persuasion had a role in the process. This is crucial for negotiations in COPs.

With the enormous challenges resulting from refugees' influx, natural resources deficiency, unemployment, drought, water scarcity, COVID-19 and economic issues, Jordan is seeking green economic growth as the only solution for a healthier and thriving economy by limiting contribution to climate change. Jordan has solid strategies and policies for climate action but needs to finance climate actions like many other developing countries. The Jordanian community has a crucial role in reducing emissions, but its awareness and readiness have to be demonstrated yet.

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<sup>60</sup> European Commission. (2021, November 2). *Launch by United States, the European Union, and Partners of the Global Methane Pledge to Keep 1.5C Within Reach*.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_21\\_5766](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5766)

<sup>61</sup> Shqarin, B. (2021, November 3). *Jordan Position in COP26* (H. Al-Hamawi, Interviewer) [Personal communication].

<sup>62</sup> Islamic Development Bank. (2021, November 2). *High Level Dialogue on Mainstreaming Climate in Development Planning and Mobilizing Climate Finance*. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

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