

At Global Voices, we are ready
for the next important step...

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COP26: Where are we now?

“Leaders have not done enough to deliver on their Glasgow commitments and that must change,” announced COP26 President Alok Sharma earlier last week.

The COP26 UN Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow last year hosted 120 world leaders and over 40,000 participants from around the globe, to agree on actions to tackle the climate crisis.

Our expert linguists helped remove language barriers and shape the intense negotiations between 200 countries, bringing the Glasgow Climate Pact to life.

A long list of environmentalist groups and NGOs including our trusted partners The British Council, Climate Parliament, European Climate Foundation, Oxfam, Plan International, World Green Building Council and many more, also played an immense role in navigating these talks.

However, as Sharma points out, the focus has now changed. “War has returned to Europe... and as a result, climate is understandably no longer on the front pages.”

The promise to limit the global warming to 1.5 °C is jeopardised.

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Business as usual: are we losing focus?

U.S. Climate envoy John Kerry told the Guardian last week, that the Ukrainian conflict led to an “unfortunate and dangerous resurgence of business as usual.”

Countries are rushing to find more natural gas supplies from outside of Russia and many even returned to coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel responsible for 0.3°C of the 1°C increase in global temperatures.

“The current crises should increase not diminish our determination on the what the world agreed in Glasgow,” Sharma says, “because they show with devastating clarity why it is imperative to do so and do so now.”

There is still a chance to uphold the 1.5°C limit promise. The soaring prices of fossil caused by the invasion of Ukraine, could accelerate the search for renewable energy sources but as the world's leading climate scientists warn it needs to be “now or never”.

The spotlight will return to climate later this year, as COP27 takes place in November in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Global Voices is ready to continue supporting our partners and this summit in every way possible.