

# GUIDELINES

## COP 28



# MUN DES LYCÉENS

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COP 28 Guidelines

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## Conference of the Parties 28 (COP28)

### General Introduction:

On the 3rd June 1992 began the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Also known as the “Earth Summit”, this conference gathered political leaders, diplomats, scientists, media representatives and NGO’s from all over the world (179 countries) to discuss the impact of human social and economic activities on the environment. The primary goal of the conference was to lay the foundations of a framework that would facilitate international cooperation and development policies toward a sustainable development for the twenty-first century. Balancing social, economic, and environmental concerns was acknowledged as being vital for sustaining human life on the planet. That’s why countries adopted the Agenda 21 (a “daring program of action calling for new strategies to invest in the future to achieve overall sustainable development in the 21st century”), the Rio Declaration (composed of 27 universal principles), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which established the annual well-know “Conference of the Parties” (COP). The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995 and many following conferences remained famous as real breakthroughs in global climate diplomacy : COP3 in Kyoto (1997), COP21 in Paris (2015)... However, global climate governance remains undeniably fragmented and divided, preventing the international community from reaching the sustainable development goals. Today, the COP28 is opening in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), and is an unprecedented opportunity for you delegates to break the stalemate and strengthen global climate governance.

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*Disclaimer: In reality, the COP28 is supposed to be held in November 2023 in Dubai (UAE). However, the goal of this committee is to act as if the conference was beginning today, and adopt credible resolutions ( i.e. that countries could probably adopt in the “real” COP28 in November 2023 !).*



## **Topic : Planet at Risk : Building Climate Resilience**

Today, the impacts of climate change are undeniably shaking the world and jeopardizing the future of humankind: catastrophic floods, devastating hurricanes, rising temperatures and heatwaves, fierce wildfires... The international community must urgently react and change the way it consumes, the way it lives and the way decisions are made. A deep transformation of industries, agricultural systems, transports and energy production needs to be implemented quickly. However, the pace of the current transformation is too slow compared to the growing threat of climate risks. That's why states must build climate resilience and plan long-term adaptation to avoid future catastrophes or billions spent on emergency measures and humanitarian assistance. According to the UNEP (United-Nations Environment Programme), resilience is “the capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure”; but how to build climate resilience? Is lowering greenhouse gas emissions enough? Should countries invest in resistant infrastructures or in scientific research? And above all: how to finance such climate-resilient development? As a delegate, you'll have to tackle this issue alongside the international community, sticking to your country's opinion.

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*"Embracing the unknown cost of climate change", Options Politiques*

## **Is it really an international matter?**

Even if all countries are not affected equally by climate change, this is an issue shared by every country. Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions is obviously on the top of the common agenda. However, states do not have the same responsibility in climate change, and do not have the same means and resources (knowledge, technology, finances...) to tackle this issue and build resilience. This undeniable heterogeneity has to be taken into consideration.

Finally, although the proliferation of institutions, programs and frameworks dedicated to the environment over the decades (see "international organizations and programs" section below) generates complexity and therefore makes climate governance an uphill struggle, international cooperation is necessary to reach ambitious but vital climate goals.

## **National and International Framework**

### ***National Framework***

When it comes to climate risks, is your country among the most vulnerable? Are you well-prepared against upcoming potential threats, or do you lack capacity to cope and adapt? Over 80% of countries have at least one national adaptation planning instrument in place (efficient or not...); try to find what your country has already implemented nationally. In other words, What is your country already doing on its own territory to build climate resilience?

Note that both well-prepared and ill-equipped countries have a key role to play; some have the resources and technologies needed to help while others have a better understanding of climate risks as being on the “frontline” of climate change.

### ***International organizations and programs***

Environmental concerns came late in the history of international relations. Despite a few initiatives in the beginning of the XXth century, the environment really became a central matter in the 1960/70s: birth of environmental movements and NGOs (WWF, Greenpeace...), first transnational conference in Stockholm in 1972 and creation of the UNEP the same year...

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Nowadays, climate governance is fragmented: more than 700 multilateral and regional agreements have been signed across the globe, and on all environmental issues: climate, biodiversity, ozone layer, forests protection... However, we'll focus on the most important ones to address our topic:

- **UNEP** (United Nations Environment Programme): Created in 1972 and headquartered in Nairobi (Kenya) , the UNEP is the global authority that sets the environmental agenda. UNEP's mission is to "provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations". The UNEP is not that powerful, due to high pressures of states (environmental issues are more and more politicized) and a small budget (equivalent to 0,5% of the World Bank's budget...).
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):** Known as "GIEC" in French, the IPCC was created in 1988 by an agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Its mission is to "provide comprehensive assessments of the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response strategies". The IPCC publishes reports to give scientific expertise useful for international negotiations on climate. It was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2007.

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- **COP** (Conferences of the parties): have a look at what was signed and adopted in the most important ones : COP3 (Kyoto), COP21 (Paris) and the latest COP27 (Charm el-Cheikh)... Did your country sign or reject those agreements?

N.B.: Feel free to conduct research on other global institutions related to the environment, or other agreements/resolutions/frameworks adopted previously (Global Pact for the Environment...). However, be careful not to get lost in the immense ocean of potential sources !

## Key Questions to focus on

Here are a few clues to help you with your research:

- Does your country have a huge **responsibility in global warming**? Put another way, are you among the biggest **polluters** of the planet?
- What **impacts of climate change** is your country **suffering from**? Climate change can have many **consequences** that have to be taken into consideration (illnesses, scarcity of resources, climate refugees...).
- What is your country already doing on its **own territory** to **build resilience**? That will give you ideas of what could be extended and implemented worldwide. Being proactive and suggesting realizable ideas during the conference is always a good thing !

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- Building climate resilience requires both **mitigation** and **adaptation** (see definitions below) measures and actions that you'll have to find. Mitigation and adaptation go hand-in-hand, and are the chief ingredients of climate resilience: you have to focus an important part of your research on those two terms.
- Should agreements and resolutions be "**legally binding**"? Did former Conferences of the Parties (COP) lead to binding agreements? Is it necessary, and is it feasible? Try to find if your country would agree to abide by such binding resolutions.

## Useful Vocabulary

**Mitigation** (of climate change): A human intervention to reduce the sources - or enhance the sinks - of greenhouse gases.

**Adaptation**: The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. There are 3 key components to adaptation are: **planning, finance, implementation.**

**Exposure**: The presence of people, livelihoods, species or ecosystems, environmental functions, services, and resources, infrastructure, or economic, social, or cultural assets in places and settings that could be unfavorably affected.

**Vulnerability**: The propensity or predisposition to be unfavorably affected. Vulnerability includes a variety of concepts and elements: sensitivity or susceptibility to harm, lack of capacity to cope and adapt...

## Bibliography

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