

# Policy Challenge II

## Climate simulation briefing packet

### Trinity 2025



30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Belem, Brazil

November 10<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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## Teaching team

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## Schedule overview

| Week | Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Assignments                                                                                         |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Introduction to PCII<br><b>April 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 – 12:15</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Read course briefing packet                                                                         |
| 3    | Norms briefing via pre-recorded video                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Watch the video                                                                                     |
| 5/6  | Lecture, “Mastering Expertise for Policymaking: Understanding the Climate Challenge”<br><b>May 27<sup>th</sup>, 13:45 – 15:45</b><br><br>Expert briefing sessions<br>(you will attend a one-hour interview sometime in these blocks)<br><b>May 29<sup>th</sup>, 09:00-11:00</b><br><b>May 30<sup>th</sup>, 15:45-17:15</b><br><b>June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 09:00-11:00</b><br><b>June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 09:00-11:00</b> | Required readings<br><br>Prepare interviews                                                         |
| 6    | Group presentations: “Ministerial briefing,”<br><b>June 5<sup>th</sup>, 13:00 – 17:30</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Summative group presentations                                                                       |
| 7    | Lecture, “Climate negotiations: issues, strategies, and tactics”<br><b>June 9<sup>th</sup>, 13:45 – 16:30</b><br><br>Practitioner briefing, “Climate negotiations in practice”<br><b>June 10<sup>th</sup>, 15:00 – 17:00</b><br><br>Caucus meetings<br><b>June 11<sup>th</sup>, 13:00 – 15:00</b><br><b>June 12<sup>th</sup>, 13:00 – 15:00</b>                                                                  | Required readings<br><br><br><b>Formative position paper due 12:00 Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>.</b> |
| 8    | Negotiations<br><b>June 18<sup>th</sup> 09:00 – 17:00</b><br><b>June 19<sup>th</sup> 09:00 – 14:00</b><br><br>PCII debrief<br><b>June 20<sup>th</sup> 09:45 – 11:00</b><br><br>MPP debrief<br><b>June 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 – 13:00</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | Prepare negotiations                                                                                |
| 9    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Memorandum and reflective essay due 24 June 12:00 noon BST</b>                                   |

## THE SCENARIO

In 1992 countries created the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), pledging to prevent “dangerous” changes in the Earth's climate. But after more than three decades of multilateral negotiations countries have yet to achieve this goal. While the 1997 Kyoto Protocol represented a step forward, it was modest in ambition, requiring only an average five percent reduction from industrialized countries and no limits on emissions from developing countries. Despite being intended as a modest first step, the Kyoto Protocol was soon undermined by the non-participation of the United States, the rapid industrialization of emerging economies not bound by its restrictions, and other limitations. Countries tried to take a second step toward a safe climate with the 2009 summit in Copenhagen, which aimed to negotiate a successor to Kyoto, but left the summit without a new treaty.

In December 2015, the 190+ state parties and observers, plus hundreds of intergovernmental bodies and thousands of activists, lobbyists, CEOs, mayors, and other participants met in Paris, France for the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC. At COP21 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, marking a major inflection point in global efforts to address climate change. First, it declares a long-term goal of greenhouse gas neutrality in the latter half of this century so as to keep global temperature rise to “well below 2C” this century, and pursue efforts to limit temperature change to 1.5C. It also set out long-term goals to adapt to the effects of climate change and to shift all financial flows to alignment with low emissions and resilient development. Second, for the first time it brings every major emitter into the mitigation framework, with nearly every country in the world submitting a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that pledges what that country will do to mitigate and adapt to climate change after 2020. Third, it creates a cycle of ratcheting up, in which countries' contributions will be reviewed and, it is envisioned, augmented every five years. Fourth, it brings cities, regions, private companies, and other non-party actors into the heart of efforts to address climate.

The Paris Agreement marked a shift from what might be termed a “regulatory” climate regime, in which countries negotiate a set of national targets, to a “catalytic” regime, in which countries and other actors determine their own policies in the context of international review and support. While this shift represents a rare case of innovation in global governance, it remains to be seen if this new model can work. Though the commitments at Paris and the first “ratchet” of commitments at COP26 in Glasgow were significant, they have been insufficient to put the world on a path below 2C of warming. There is also a growing

“implementation gap” between the targets countries have set and the policies and systems they have adopted to deliver those targets. Will countries and other actors both increase and deliver the action needed to reach their goals in the years to come?

Meanwhile, the lack of sufficient progress on mitigation means that climate change is already having significant impacts on the wellbeing, safety, and economic prospects of people around the world, with more and more intense climate impacts anticipated in the decades to come. As such, alongside the “prevention” imperative, there is an enormous and growing imperative for “treatment” through adaptation to climate impacts, building resilience against further impacts, and addressing the loss and damage that is already being experienced.

The first test of this new model came with COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021 (delayed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Most countries put forward new or updated NDCs, delivering a ratchet of ambition that brought the world closer to the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, though still not enough to put the world on track toward meeting them. At the same time, countries failed to deliver the \$100b in climate finance per year that was pledged in 2009 (the target was not met until 2023), and progress on topics such as loss and damage saw little progress. Alongside the formal negotiations, an enormous groundswell of announcements and pledges emerged from both state and non-state actors, marking the shift of the international climate regime to the period of implementation.

COPs 27 and 28, hosted by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, saw limited outcomes on mitigation and new financing commitments, but did lead to a new agreement to create a facility to fund loss and damage from climate impacts. COP29, which took place in Azerbaijan, agreed on a new global finance goal of at least \$300b per year by 2030, with an additional layer of primarily private financial flows up to \$1.3 trillion. There has also been growing debate on the role of fossil fuels in the COPs, with increasingly clear language on the need to move away from fossil fuels, albeit with little agreement on exactly how quickly or extensively to do so.

2025 brings the second “ratchet” of the Paris Agreement in the form of a third round of NDCs. New NDCs are expected before COP30 in Brazil, even as many countries point to a lack of financing, plus headwinds like debt, holding back implementation of existing commitments. Having completed the first Global Stock Take under the Paris Agreement in 2023, countries now must consider their response to the continuing need to do more.

The beginning of the second Trump Administration in January 2025 brought new challenges, with Trump moving again to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, slashing US development finance, and reversing US climate policy. These moves come as part of a greater rejection of multilateralism by the United States under Trump, raising critical questions about the future of the international order itself.

Countries will therefore face significant unfinished business and stark challenges when they meet in Belem for COP30. Several major tasks await delegates, including:

1. **Ambition on mitigation:** While most countries updated or improved on their 2015 NDCs at COP26, some did not, and while others made only modest upgrades. Limited further progress came in 2022 and 2023, but now new NDCs are expected. Many countries also put forward longer-term net zero targets, though many of these lack details or firm legal footing. Meanwhile, while the need to transition away from fossil fuels is now clearly recognized by the COP, specific pathways for phasing them down or out remain fierce points of contention. Against the backdrop of a significant emissions gap and implementation gap, how far will the next “ratchet” of the Paris Agreement go?
2. **Climate finance** remains a perennial sticking point. While new global goals for 2030 were agreed at COP29 in Baku, how will they be met? Moreover, Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement targets aligning “all” financial flows with climate goals, and countries are negotiating a new goal on finance by 2025. What could this look like?
3. **Adaptation** has seen relatively little formal progress, though countries pledged to double the amount of climate finance aimed at adaptation. Meanwhile, negotiations on a Global Goal on Adaptation have remained caught between different conceptions of adaptation. How can COP30 advance this agenda?
4. **Loss and Damage** saw a breakthrough at COP27 with the agreement to create a fund, followed up with the operationalization of the fund at COP28. However, major questions remain unresolved around how it will work in practice.
5. **Delivery of pledges for climate action.** Over the past five years, climate action by cities, states/regions, business, civil society, investors, and other sub- and non-state actors (hereafter “climate action”) has expanded enormously. COP26 saw an enormous number of pledges by state and non-state actors alike. However, many commitments remain thin. Will COP29 see progress on delivery and implementation of these announcements?

The Blavatnik School of Government MPP class of 2024 will simulate these negotiations as part of Policy Challenge II during Trinity Term six months before the



actual negotiators meet in Belem. You will represent a country or another actor in the negotiations. Your task is to ascertain your interests, and to apply your full range of political savvy and practical skills to obtain an outcome that best serves those interests.

## Learning objectives

During this simulation you will play the role of a country or other actor in the UNFCCC climate negotiations.

The simulation aims to give students an opportunity to apply the practical skills and policymaking strategies they have studied over the course in a holistic fashion.

These include:

1. Strategic thinking
2. Bargaining, persuasion, and mediation
3. Teamwork
4. Public speaking
5. Coalition-building
6. Navigating the interface between science and policy
7. Connecting course material to national contexts

In addition, the exercise will give students further exposure to the policy area of climate change as well as the dynamics of multilateral negotiations, interest group politics, the role of technical expertise in policymaking, and the interface between domestic and international politics.

## SCHEDULE

### Week 1: Introduction

You receive this briefing pack.

#### “Introduction to Policy Challenge II”

This session will introduce the objectives and structure of Policy Challenge II and place it within the MPP as a whole.

By week 4 you will be assigned into your technical expertise groups for week 5 and given a topic to research. Check the schedule for week 5 to know when your group is meeting its expert. It is important to prepare for this in advance.

### Week 5: Technical expertise

#### “Mastering Expertise for Policymaking: Understanding the Climate Challenge”

This session will introduce students to the science of the “super wicked” problem of climate change and the various economic, political, legal, and social challenges it entails. As background, students will read the summaries for policymakers prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the international body countries have created to provide technical expertise on climate issues.

Alongside specific information regarding climate change, we will also consider The challenge of using technical expertise for effective policymaking, along with practical strategies to understand the core features of complex issues in short periods of time.

#### Required readings

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Summary for Policymakers  
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/>
2. CarbonBrief. “Q&A: IPCC wraps up its most in-depth assessment of climate change,” 23 March 2023. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/qa-ipcc-wraps-up-its-most-in-depth-assessment-of-climate-change/>
3. John Lang, ECIU. Infographics
  - a. IPCC Explainer: The Science of Climate Change  
<https://eciu.net/analysis/infographics/ipcc-science-of-climate-change>

- b. IPCC Explainer: Stopping Climate Change  
<https://eciu.net/analysis/infographics/ipcc-explainer-mitigation-climate-change>
- c. IPCC Explainer: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability  
<https://eciu.net/analysis/infographics/ipcc-explainer-mitigation-climate-change>

### Expert meetings: using technical advice effectively

In week 4 you will be assigned to a group, and each group will be tasked with mastering a technical issue (scientific, economic, legal, or social) relating to an aspect of the climate challenge. To assist you with this, subject matter experts have been invited to meet with your group for a one hour question and answer session. Your task will be to use this time, plus additional desk research before and after the meeting, to gain an adequate mastery of the technical issue you have been assigned to prepare for your group presentations.

**Preparing for expert interviews.** Part of the challenge of this week is to structure your interview with your expert effectively. They will not prepare in advance, but are ready to discuss the issue with you and answer any questions you have. Therefore it will be important for you to do enough pre-research on your topic to be able to know what questions to discuss with your expert. You are in charge of structuring the session.

Each group is scheduled to meet at specific times/locations details of which are to be confirmed. If you are meeting your expert at the School, please have a member of the group meet him or her at Reception in advance of the meeting in order to help them find the room.

| Group | Topic                                             | Expert                                                                                        | Time                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Aligning financial flows with the Paris Agreement | <a href="#">Alex Michie, Head, Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero</a>                    | May 30 <sup>th</sup> ,<br>15:45 –<br>16:45 |
| 2     | Equity and climate justice                        | <a href="#">Dr Jessica Omukuti, Research Fellow, Oxford Net Zero Initiative</a>               | June 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>09:00 –<br>10:00   |
| 3     | Adaptation                                        | <a href="#">Professor Lisa Schipper, University of Vienna</a>                                 | May 29 <sup>th</sup> ,<br>09:00 -<br>10:00 |
| 4     | Loss and damage                                   | <a href="#">Professor Mizan Kahn, International Centre for Climate Change and Development</a> | May 30 <sup>th</sup><br>15:45 –<br>16:45   |

|   |                                 |                                                                               |                                            |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 5 | Carbon removal                  | <a href="#">Dr. Stephen Smith, University of Oxford</a>                       | June 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,<br>09:00 –<br>10:00 |
| 6 | Phasing fossil fuels down / out | <a href="#">Richard Black, Policy and Engagement Lead, Ember</a>              | June 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,<br>10:00-11:00      |
| 7 | Climate action in companies     | <a href="#">Kaya Axelsson, Engagement lead, Oxford Net Zero</a>               | May 29 <sup>th</sup><br>10:00 –<br>11:00   |
| 8 | Finance goal and roadmap        | <a href="#">Dr. Ben Abraham, former finance negotiation lead, New Zealand</a> | June 3 <sup>rd</sup> ,<br>14:00-15:00      |

## Week 6: Summative presentations

### Group presentations: “Ministerial briefing”

Each group will present on their technical issues as if briefing a minister. These presentations will contribute to your summative assessment. Detailed directions for the presentation are under “Assignments” below. After your group presentations, you will be assigned your individual simulation role.

## Week 7: Understanding negotiations

### Lecture, “Climate negotiations: issues, strategies, and tactics”

This lecture will introduce students to the core issues at play in the climate negotiations and the positions of the major countries and negotiating blocks. It will also consider what strategies and tactics different groups can deploy to advance their interests.

### Required readings

1. Earth Negotiations Bulletin, COP29 Summary, Vol. 12, No. 865, 26 November 2024. Online at: <https://enb.iisd.org/baku-un-climate-change-conference-cop29-summary>
2. CarbonBrief, “COP29: Key outcomes agreed at the UN climate talks in Baku,” 24 November 2024. Available at: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop29-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-baku/>

### Additional background reading

1. Daniel Bodansky, "The United Nations Climate Change Regime Thirty Years on — A Retrospective and Assessment," Washburn Law Journal, Vol. 62 (2022-2023)  
Available at  
<https://contentdm.washburnlaw.edu/digital/collection/wlj/id/7538/rec/63>

### Practitioner briefing session, "Climate negotiations in practice"

This briefing session will allow students to engage with individuals who have participated directly in the UNFCCC negotiations and in climate politics in a variety of countries. It will involve a mix of panel discussions and small breakout groups. Practitioners include:

- [Ed King, Manager, Global Strategic Communications Council](#)
- [Natalie Unterstell, President, Instituto Talanoa](#)
- [Rachel Kyte, UK Special Representative for Climate, Professor of Practice, Blavatnik School of Government](#)
- [Belinda Schöpe, China Policy Analyst with the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air](#)

Others TBC

### Formative position papers

Working individually, your main focus of this week will be drafting a *confidential* "position paper." See "Assignments" below for details. Position papers are due on Thursday of Week 7 and should be submitted via Canvas.

### Caucus meetings

It is critical to identify common positions with allies, as well as points of contention or compromise with opponents, before formal negotiations begin. During the week you will have the opportunity to hold caucus meetings where you can begin informal negotiations with various parties, as you deem appropriate for your role. You may choose to structure these caucuses as you deem most effective, either as bilateral meetings, meetings of negotiation groups, or other groupings. In addition, the COP presidencies and the UNFCCC Secretariat will meet at the start of this week to draft an agenda for the COP.

## Week 8: Negotiations

### Negotiations

The schedule and agenda are subject to negotiation. Negotiators may arrange their work as they see fit. Negotiators will have access to School facilities throughout the meeting (normal building opening hours will apply). Typically, the COP president will propose an agenda that is adopted during the first plenary session (obviously, COP presidents work in advance of the official opening to secure agreement on the agenda). Typically a mix of plenary sessions, smaller working groups, and informal caucuses are arranged in advance, and are then changed to fit the needs of the negotiations as they develop.

Your performance in these simulations will contribute to your summative assessment.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

### Group presentation (summative) – Week 6

In week 4 you will be assigned to a group and given a technical issue to master. You will have an opportunity to meet with a subject matter expert at some point during week 5 to assist you in your preparations. In week 6 you will present to the rest of the simulation group as if you were briefing a minister.

**Group presentation assignment:** You are working for an unspecified government in the country's climate negotiation team. You have an upcoming ministerial level bilateral meeting on climate, and the other country has insisted that topic "X" must be on the agenda. Your minister, a recent appointee, has only a very shallow understanding of topic "X". S/he vaguely knows what it is about, but does not know what questions s/he should be asking about it, much less what the country's position on it should be. S/he asks your team to prepare a short briefing for her/him on the topic that explains topic "X" and identifies key political questions that arise from it. "What do I need to know about this?" s/he asks. The presentation will have the following format:

1. Presentation: 8-10m. The 'minister' will stop you after 10m.
2. Brief questions from the 'minister'.
3. To support your oral presentation, you may optionally prepare up to 4 slides and/or a single page (1-sided) handout.

Everyone should make an equal contribution to researching and preparing the presentation, but it is not required that everyone speak during the presentation. Groups may divide roles across them as they believe most effective.

Everyone in the group will receive the same mark using the grading criteria shown on page 14.

### Position Paper (formative)

The position paper will allow you to define your objectives, strategy, and tactics, and is therefore crucial preparation for the simulation. It will also help you prepare for your final (summative) memo. You are encouraged to consult prudently with others in the simulation. What you learn from these consultations may shape your position paper, but you may also not wish to reveal too much of your thinking, particularly on specific tactics you may adopt.

**Position paper assignment:** You are the chief negotiator/representative for the country/organization you will represent in the UN climate talks. Write a memo to your foreign minister / boss describing your country's/organization's goals and

strategy for the COP. What are your top priorities? What are your "red lines," i.e. the outcomes you cannot accept? Given these goals, what power resources (material, ideational, etc.) do you have to achieve these goals? Who are your key allies and opponents? What strategies might you employ to achieve your goals? The memo should list your key priorities, review the factors influencing your ability to realize these goals, identify key allies and opponents, and suggest potential strategies. **1500 words maximum. Submit on canvas by 12:00 noon Friday, June 13.**

### **Engagement in negotiations (summative)**

Your engagement in the negotiations in week 8 will count toward your summative mark. In assessing a student's performance, the examiners will give regard to the role that the student is assigned, evaluating it against the grading criteria shown on page 14. Students will be assessed individually on their contributions to the simulation, on the basis of observation by the markers.

### **Final memo and reflective essay (summative)**

**Memorandum [1,000 words]** The memorandum is to be written 'in character'. The student is to write a short briefing paper that details what was at stake in the simulation from the perspective of the country/industry/company/organisation that they represent, and, in light of their actor's interests, assess the outcome of the simulation and its implications.

**Reflective Essay [500 words]** This essay should detail what was learnt from the negotiation and what lessons the student is taking away for future negotiations or similar situations that they expect to encounter in their professional life. This is not done 'in character,' but rather represents the student's own reflections.

**Submit on Inspira by Tuesday, June 24, 12:00 noon.**

### Assessment criteria for in-class components

|                                                     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.Find, use and analyze evidence effectively</b> | Draws on a range of sources, considers issues from different disciplinary perspectives, and gives due consideration to questions of validity and potential biases in evidence.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>2.Adherence to interests and priorities</b>      | Clear and specific understanding of actor interests on the full range of issues under negotiation. Effective prioritization of competing interests, including the ability to evaluate them against each other.                                                                                      |
| <b>3.Effective deployment of policy expertise</b>   | Draws on a firm command of the various policy issues under negotiation to craft creative and practical proposals that can help overcome political blockages. Makes subtle and nuanced judgements.                                                                                                   |
| <b>4.Persuasive communication</b>                   | Makes clear and effective oral interventions, showing an understanding of the audience and the kinds of arguments and evidence require to elicit the desired effect in them. Effective mix of public and private communication strategies.                                                          |
| <b>5.Team work and coalition building</b>           | Works constructively in group tasks, recognising and making use of people's different and complementary strengths. Where appropriate, student identifies common interests across a set of players and forges them into a cohesive and effective body in order to achieve a specific policy outcome. |
| <b>6.Professionalism</b>                            | Professional conduct consistent with the requirements of the position, even/especially under contentious circumstances.                                                                                                                                                                             |

## NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

1. The simulation is an integral part of the MPP course, to be approached with the same seriousness you devote to your other coursework. We expect you to fully dedicate yourself to the negotiations during the simulation timespan, except to meet other coursework obligations. At the same time, no student will be expected to dedicate an unreasonable amount of time to the negotiations, especially during evenings.
2. You will represent your assigned country or other actor in good faith and to the best of your ability. As a role-playing exercise, the simulation requires us all to suspend our personal beliefs and expectations and adopt those of the actor we represent.
3. You are responsible for ascertaining the interests of the actor you represent and promoting those interests.
4. You are responsible for knowing the appropriate rules of procedure outlined in this document.
5. Multilateral negotiations often become heated, and negotiators are certainly not strangers to the rough and tumble of politics. You are encouraged to argue and work for your position as effectively as possible, during formal sessions, in the corridors, and elsewhere. That said, even though we are simulating international negotiations, we are all still members of the BSG community, and expect everyone to treat everyone else with the respect and comity that membership in that community entails.
6. Etiquette. You are expected to comport yourself with a level of decorum befitting the nation or other actor you represent. Negotiators employ formal language, particularly in plenary sessions. Following UN conventions, please address your fellow negotiators as "Mr." or "Ms.". Other common forms of address include, "my colleague," "the honorable representative of...", etc. The chairperson of a meeting is always addressed as "The Chair" or "Mr./Ms. Chairman/woman." The chief representative of the host country is addressed as "COP President," and the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC is addressed as "Mr./Madame Secretary."
7. Dress code. It would be highly unusual for a negotiator to appear in anything other than a suit or appropriate national dress.

## PREPARING FOR YOUR ROLE

It is your responsibility to ascertain and represent the interests of your assigned actor. The best way to achieve this is by researching the position of your country/actor, as well as your likely allies and opponents. What is the most you can hope to achieve? The least you can accept? What coalitions can you build, and what opponents can you isolate?

It is also important to familiarize yourself with the history of the UN climate talks, as well as their current dynamics. The lectures and readings in Week 7 will provide a baseline of knowledge on these fronts. Of course, additional research will likely make you a more effective negotiator.

A wealth of information on countries' climate positions exists online. Some of the key sources are listed below. These are merely a starting point, however.

In addition to your own research, there will be a preparatory session with outside experts in week 6. At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to hear about issues from the people actually involved in the negotiations, and to ask them questions on strategy.

1. UNFCCC Agreements/Decisions
  - a. Paris Agreement: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>
  - b. COP26 outcomes: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-glasgow-climate-pact-key-outcomes-from-cop26>
2. Nationally Determined Contributions: What has your country pledged?
  - a. Official Registry: <http://unfccc.int/focus/items/10240.php>
  - b. Climate Action Tracker: <https://climateactiontracker.org/> Independent assessment of adequacy of NDCs
  - c. Longer-term net zero targets: <https://zerotracker.net/>
3. Party groupings – which group(s) of countries do you associate with?
  - a. <https://unfccc.int/party-groupings>
4. National positions
  - a. Most national ministries relating to climate negotiations (typically Environment or Foreign Affairs) post information about national policies on their websites. Recall that these statements are made for political consumption in order to advance the ministry/nation's interests.
  - b. The same is true for international organizations, companies, NGOs, or other actors closely involved in the climate debates.
5. National news media

- a. Search for “climate negotiations” or related phrases in the major news media of the country you represent. It is important for you to understand how the UN climate talks are perceived by domestic actors in order to formulate a position you can both negotiate in Paris and sell at home.
6. Climate-related news sources. There is a vast array of information about the climate negotiations and the issues in them. Some useful sources may include:
  - a. Climate Home, climate news site <http://www.climatechangenews.com/>
  - b. World Resources Institute <http://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/climate>
  - c. IISD “Linkages” reporting on the UNFCCC <https://enb.iisd.org/climate/UNFCCC/SB2021/summary>

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

UN conferences follow elaborate rules of procedure. We will adopt an extremely simplified version of these rules during the simulation. These are listed below.

1. There are two kinds of structured debate: plenary sessions and working groups.

There may also be time devoted to unstructured meetings or deliberation.

2. Plenary session:

- a. Quorum: 50 percent of state parties must be represented
- b. The COP President or his/her appointed deputy serves as chair
- c. An agenda must be adopted by a majority vote before debate begins.
- d. Speaking times and speaking order are determined by the chair.
- e. Observers (i.e. non member states) may be invited to speak at the discretion of the chair.
- f. Resolutions
  - i. Resolutions may only be adopted during plenary sessions. Resolutions must be adopted by a two-third majority, though note that the informal norms of the UNFCCC strongly emphasize consensus.
  - ii. During debate, member states may submit resolutions to the chair. Resolutions must be submitted in writing, digitally. The resolution must list the member states that (co)sponsor it.
  - iii. Once a resolution has been submitted, the chair may entertain motions to begin debate on it. A majority vote is required to begin debate.
  - iv. Once debate begins on a resolution, it is displayed on the screen.
  - v. Debate on a resolution ends when one of three things occurs:
    - 1) A motion to vote on the resolution passes with a majority
    - 2) A motion to suspend debate on the resolution passes with a majority vote (no action is taken on the resolution)
    - 3) A motion to adjourn the session passes with a majority vote.
  - vi. A record of successful resolutions is maintained by the chair.
- g. Amendments

- i. Amendments must be submitted to the chair in writing, digitally. Amendments must list the member state(s) that propose them.
    - ii. Once an amendment has been submitted, the chair ascertains whether it is friendly (consistent with the intentions of the sponsors of the resolution) or unfriendly (inconsistent with the intentions of the sponsors).
      - 1) If the sponsors of a resolution, or at least 75% of them, declare it friendly, the amendment is adopted without debate.
      - 2) If an amendment is deemed unfriendly, the proposed text is displayed on the screen, and a debate on the amendment immediately begins.
    - iii. Once debate has begun, the chair may either recognize speakers, or entertain motions to vote on an amendment. Amendments that receive a majority of votes are incorporated into the resolution.
  - h. Alternative rules may be proposed by member states and adopted by a majority vote.
  - i. The plenary session ends when the chair entertains a motion to adjourn debate, and that motion is passed by a majority vote.
3. Working groups
- a. No quorum
  - b. The chair is selected in advance by the COP president or elected by a majority of the working group. The chair may be replaced by a majority vote of the working group.
  - c. The chair may select speakers and set speaking times at his or her discretion.
  - d. Speakers may include state parties or observers.
4. In addition to plenary sessions and working groups, the agenda may allocate time to unstructured meetings, including, inter alia, regional blocs, informal drafting sessions, one-on-one meetings. Such meetings occur outside the procedural rules.
- 5. All disagreements regarding procedural rules will be adjudicated by Thomas Hale or his designated deputy.**

|              | Action                                       | Can be made...                 | Allowed after                               | Purpose /result                                              |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Points       | Point of order                               | Anytime                        | Always allowed                              | Identify alleged error in procedure                          |
|              | Point of information                         | Anytime                        | Recognition by the Chair                    | Seek factual information regarding content of the discussion |
|              | Point of parliamentary inquiry               | Anytime                        | Recognition by the Chair                    | Seek factual information regarding procedural rules          |
| Motions      | To adopt an agenda                           | By the chair                   | At Chair's discretion; approved by majority | Establish agenda                                             |
|              | To begin debate on a resolution /amendment   | After recognition by the Chair | Majority vote                               | Begin discussion of resolution/amendment                     |
|              | To suspend debate on a resolution /amendment | After recognition by the Chair | Majority vote                               | Begin discussion of resolution/amendment (no action taken)   |
|              | To vote on a resolution /amendment           | After recognition by the Chair | 2/3 vote                                    | Move to immediate vote on resolution/amendment               |
|              | To adjourn                                   | After recognition by the Chair | Majority vote                               | Closes the session                                           |
| Sub-missions | Submit a resolution /amendment               | Anytime                        | N/A                                         | Provide chair with resolution/amendment                      |