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# STUDY GUIDE FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**President of General Assembly**  
**Tomáš Kučera**

**Vice-President of General Assembly**  
**Nina Štefúnová**

**Vice-Secretary General**  
**Barbora Hýblová**



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## LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Most esteemed delegates,

Unfortunately, there are dark days ahead of us. The Earth is, slowly but surely, dying. The world oceans are drowning in plastic waste and oil leaks. The atmosphere is being choked by the breath of civilizational progress. We are all being cooked alive by the rising temperatures caused by the greenhouse effect. The poisonous black veil of our past is extending to cover the planet and suffocate it, along with all living things. And in these dark days, we were offered a flicker of hope. A small shimmering light in the form of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, also called the Conference of the Parties or COP. Most notably from this series of conferences, COPs 25 & 26 were supposed to be the most promising and radical steps in our collective war on climate change. However, those were the conferences responsible for snuffing out that last remaining light of hope we had left.

Hence we decided to take matters into our own hands. We finally understood that such a difficult task of reversing climate change, shall be of concern for all citizens of the Earth, and the only body large enough to represent this staggering amount of people is the United Nations General Assembly. Therefore, the COP27, also dubbed the “spark of hope” shall become an event of the UNGA and all the members of the United Nations shall be represented.

It is up to us to light the fuse of the environmental revolution. It is up to us to save the world.

Honourable delegates, I believe we can finally put an end to this slow-burning catastrophe together, united under one goal: Maintaining international peace and prosperity.

With utmost respect and words of encouragement,

Tomáš Kučera  
President of the General Assembly



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Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour to be able to meet you all as the Vice President of the General Assembly alongside Tomáš and try to find the best solution to this current still ongoing and overwhelming issue together. Our past mistakes are slowly eating us away and soon there will be no way back. Instead of paying the cowardly price for all the errors we should get off our high horse and work rationally as a group.

High hopes were put into the COP25 and COP26, expecting a positive result that could finally meet the expectations, but quite the opposite occurred and we were left empty-handed and more discouraged than ever.

However, as a generation full of bright, perceptive and sharp humans, we put our expectations and standards even higher, aiming for the best outcome possible with the COP27 held in the town of Žilina. We strongly believe that this conference will bring us an eye-opening debate, since we could not be more fortunate with such an open-minded generation of young ambitious people alert to injustice in society and aware of all the prevalent issues that are rapidly consuming our society.

Some might say that dedicating that much time to tackling climate change is useless, as there are more severe questions, but that is simply an ignorant stance in the long run, leaving our precious Earth, our homeland, to perish.

Best of luck and looking forward to seeing you,

Nina Štefúnová

Vice President of the General Assembly

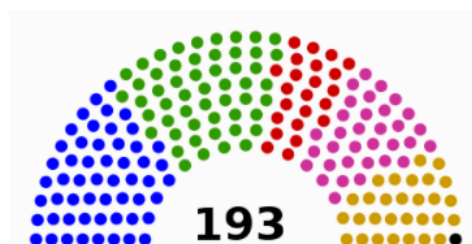


## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The ZAMUN2022 United Nations General Assembly will have a slightly different structure than the one some of you are already used to. Seeing as this is a problem that concerns many parties other than the governments of the UN member states, we will also entertain the presence and the speaking rights to the ambassadors of the largest and most interested corporate entities in the world. These Ambassadors will have the permission to ask for the floor and speak during moderated and unmoderated debates and be added to the speakers list. These Ambassadors will also be granted the “veto power” only for the duration of the ZAMUN2022 General Assembly. This will be to ensure that the deal is properly struck, and that their voices aren’t drowned out by other delegates. It will be pivotal to manage to persuade them and to sway their orientation towards the environment.

Other than this small detail, all proceedings will be those of a Model United Nations General Assembly. All the Delegates are to adhere to the Rules of Procedure, including the Delegates of the Historical Security Council, which will join the Delegation, which is the modern version of their respected country, e.g. the Delegate of the USSR shall join the delegation of the Russian Federation at the General Assembly.

The rule “1 Delegation = 1 vote” shall apply for all voting procedures carried out during the session.



Division of the General Assembly by membership in the five United Nations Regional Groups:

- The Group of African States (54)
- The Group of Asia-Pacific States (54)
- The Group of Eastern European States (23)
- The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (33)
- The Group of Western European and Other States (28)
- No group



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## COP26 FIASCO

According to the official website of COP26, the main goals for the conference were mitigation, adaptation, finances and collaboration. The COP26 set out to eradicate the most pressing issues of climate change, with the initial goal of phasing-out coal and achieving net-zero emissions by the middle of the century, stopping and even reversing deforestation by 2030 and to finalise the Paris Rulebook. This is to keep the steady global temperature rise of 1.5 degrees celsius per year within reach.<sup>1</sup>

Most regrettably, a few months later, we know the outcome of the conference wasn't quite as satisfactory as we expected. According to Greenpeace France Spokesperson Clément Sénéchal: "The result of this COP26 is very insufficient, if not a fiasco. It smells a bit of a disaster".

Unlike COP25, COP26 was not a total disaster. It was a partial progress and although not every goal was achieved, we have moved towards a brighter future and 1.5 degrees has remained within our reach. 153 countries have recommitted or have revisioned their emission targets (NDCs) and many more have acknowledged the need for an accelerated action. In fact, 90% of world GDP and around 90% of global emissions are now covered by net zero commitments<sup>2</sup>. The countries, within their promises and commitments, in order to keep the 1.5 degrees target in sight, will have to take immediate and efficient action. 137 world leaders have committed to stopping deforestation and reversing its effects on global climate. Since 2019 we have seen a 15% increase in commitment to phase-out petrol on the car market and over 100 countries have committed to reduce methane emissions by 46% by 2030.

However, the main criticism of the conference stems from the vague wording of the Glasgow climate pact, the lack of involvement of the largest pollutants in pivotal matters and the lack of ambition in the commitments themselves. Although it might be a large step forward, it is still not the leap people have been expecting. The leap we need to take in order to take our own future into our hands.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

<sup>2</sup> The Glasgow climate pact, pg.7

<https://ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/COP26-Presidency-Outcomes-The-Climate-Pact.pdf>



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## COP27

### 1. COP27 Conference

The 27th session of the UNFCCC Conference of Partners shall take place in the picturesque town of Žilina, Slovakia over the course of two days between 24th and 25th of March. The Conference shall begin at **14:00 pm CET on Thursday the 24th of March 2022 at the Žilina town hall**. This Study Guide also serves as an invitation letter to all who shall receive it. The COP27 shall take place during the plenary session of the General Assembly of ZAMUN2022 under the moderation of the President and the Vice President of the General Assembly.

### 2. COP27 Goals

The goals of COP27 remain unchanged since the 26th session of the conference. The goals shall therefore adhere to the following:

#### 2.1. Mitigation

Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach

- Accelerate the phase-out of coal
- Curtail deforestation
- Speed up the switch to electric vehicles
- Encourage investment in renewables

#### 2.2. Adaptation

Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats

- Protect and restore ecosystems
- Build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives

#### 2.3. Finances

To deliver on the first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020



## 2.4. Collaboration

At COP27 we must:

- Accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society

## 3. COP27 Legacy

Ever since the dice were thrown and the Slovak Republic was set to host its first COP, the Secretariat started working meticulously to ensure that the COP27 would be the success the humanity is currently waiting for, while also bringing new air of life to the town of Žilina, temporarily changing it to the centre of the planet.

Thus we have agreed to make the ZAMUN conference and the COP27 zero-plastic-conference, as a part of our extensive sustainability objectives.





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## KEY PLAYERS

*CHINA* - As the long-lasting leader in air pollution, China is perhaps the most important player of the committee. Being the world's largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitter, China's standpoint and behaviour could change the course of the situation drastically. Even though they announced their 2060 net zero pledge and assured to stop building coal plants overseas, their coal usage is to be increasing until 2026, with the emissions peaking by 2030 with no further specified date. In 2020 China consumed more than 50% of the world's coal, which is one of the reasons why they wished to weaken the language on coal (along with India). One of the most known state-owned oil and gas companies is Beijing-based Sinopec, or China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation.

*US* - Prior to Joe Biden's presidency, Donald Trump had revoked the support of the Paris agreement and had planned the US' exit on the 4th of November 2020. Just hours after Biden became president, he made sure they rejoined the Agreement and proclaimed it as one of his top priorities as he wished to build flexibility around our planet to the shocks it receives daily due to the climate change and constantly worsening global warming. The US has a massive role in the COPs as they are the second biggest emitter with the world's biggest economy. We must not forget to mention a very important player on the American side and that is Hilcorp Energy, a seemingly environmental leader that is America's biggest privately owned oil company. Hilcorp presents itself as a responsible partner of the environment, but the reality shows that it is actually the largest methane emitter among some of the most crucial operators for the third year in a row in 2020 and the emission intensity just keeps rising.

*RUSSIA* - Even though Russia is one of the world's largest gas and oil producers, they managed to pledge a 2060 net zero target since formally joining the Paris Agreement. It's yet unclear how they will reach this goal, having in mind that they still have not signed the Global Methane Pledge (this pledge's goal is to reduce methane emissions a third by the year 2030). Russia, the world's largest country, covers about 20% of the Earth's forests and therefore argues that this factor should clearly play a role in the total of Russia's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as their forests are capable of absorbing a large amount of carbon. As president Vladimir Putin did not attend, Ruslan Edelgeriyev led the delegation. Evgeny Grin attended as one of the corporate ambassadors for Gazprom, which is the first Russian oil and gas company that has





adopted an Environmental Policy. Their standpoint proposes not sanctioning climate projects so that companies, such as Gazprom, have access to green finances and green technologies and are further on able to reduce emissions. However, the ambassadors did not specify the sanctions they kept mentioning.

*INDIA* - As a country that is heavily relying on coal, India announced a 2070 net zero pledge, which is 20 years behind other countries' 2050 net zero pledge. Nonetheless, India has still made progress in their plans and taken large steps when it comes to renewable energy, planning to achieve 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. In order to speed up the transition process, India's delegation demanded more help and financial support from the developed countries. It is important to mention Coal India, a government-owned coal mining and refining corporation and also the largest coal-producing company in the world. This company is currently facing several problems related to work culture, very high manpower and huge drops in sales due to lockdown and private mine owners.

*UK* - The UK came into the debate rather proudly as the conference host. Showing other countries how they are gradually economically growing whilst being considerate of the climate, they hoped to inspire and see the others follow in their footsteps. Their government announced that they will build on their NDC commitments to 2030. Some of the key accomplishments they are exceptionally proud of are for example being the fastest economy from the G20 to decarbonise their economy since 2000, being the largest producer of offshore wind energy in the world or even planting trees on 30,000 hectares of land per year by 2025. Still, Germany-based company RWE (the company itself is the largest polluter in Europe) is still one of the biggest polluters of the country, producing twice the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> than the UK's second-largest carbon polluter – Tata Steel in 2019.



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## KEY TERMS

*Agroecology* - a sustainable farming that works with nature

*Biofuel* - any fuel taken from living or recently living organisms

*Biogas generator* - device used to produce methane gas as a fuel

*Carbon footprint* - the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an individual, organisation or a community

*COP* - it stands for "Conference of the Parties" and it is a meeting of the parties that have signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

*Doughnut Economics* - a concept of economics that says that we should aim to live (as a society) in a way that meets the basic needs of all humans but does not cause damage to our planet

*Net zero* - carbon emissions are balanced by removing carbon dioxide from the air

*Paris Agreement* - an agreement signed in 2015 that set out a plan to tackle climate change

*Paris Rulebook* - it provides the necessary practical guidance for the implementation of the Paris Agreement

*Road to Zero Strategy* - a strategy that aims for cars and vans to be zero emission by 2050

*Sustainable Development Goals* - a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve better and more sustainable future for all"

[https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/sustainable-development-goals/?gclid=CjwKCAiA1JGRBhBSEiwAxXblwW4vgoUnm-qy8osF9UZaxE2QZOn86bQIVL7lvICDJlpJIA5GpmwGwRoCxyoQAvD\\_BwE](https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/sustainable-development-goals/?gclid=CjwKCAiA1JGRBhBSEiwAxXblwW4vgoUnm-qy8osF9UZaxE2QZOn86bQIVL7lvICDJlpJIA5GpmwGwRoCxyoQAvD_BwE)



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## USEFUL LINKS

<https://ukcop26.org/>

<https://unfccc.int/conference/glasgow-climate-change-conference-october-november-2021>

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop26>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56901261>

[https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/cop-26-explained-what-to-know-about-the-un-climate-change-conference/?gclid=CjwKCAiA1JGRBhBSEiwAxXblwWR0J2l\\_ZsNaxO\\_PBzVIOFQ4\\_zR9Ump7IVnfwlnShxU2nKC-dBRwuxoCVn0QAvD\\_BwE](https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/cop-26-explained-what-to-know-about-the-un-climate-change-conference/?gclid=CjwKCAiA1JGRBhBSEiwAxXblwWR0J2l_ZsNaxO_PBzVIOFQ4_zR9Ump7IVnfwlnShxU2nKC-dBRwuxoCVn0QAvD_BwE)

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-glasgow-climate-pact-key-outcomes-from-cop26>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glasgow\\_Climate\\_Pact](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glasgow_Climate_Pact)

<https://qz.com/2089231/what-chinas-actions-at-cop26-mean-for-climate-change/>



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## FINAL REMARKS

As you have now successfully reached the end of this study guide, we believe that we have helped you to better understand the severity of the issue and the most crucial points of this topic have been made clear. However, we strongly advise you to view this solely as an important and necessary introduction and to further enrich your knowledge regarding COPs and continue with a more profound and extensive research.

The General Assembly is the utmost major committee of ZAMUN2022, therefore you are expected to prepare yourselves having this in mind. We encourage you to do your best and put all your dedication into the preparation. Without a solid resolution, the COP27 would be following the footsteps of its unsuccessful brothers, resulting in a pitiful fiasco. We are pinning our faith on you.

It is vital to prepare and write your Policy Statements, needless to say send them on time. Rely on sources that are verified, we advise you to take a look at the links put above, watch videos, read articles or even listen to podcasts, the options are limitless. Do not be afraid to use your own common sense and critical thinking, but stay true to your policy and position.

Expecting to read your refined Policy Statements and excited to see you all show us your hardwork in Žilina,

Tomáš Kučera & Nina Štefúnová

P.S. Do not forget to contact your co-delegates on discord, seeing as you will be required to cooperate. Also, the deadline for your Policy Statements shall be 21/3/2022

In case of any questions contact us at:

[tomy.kucera915@gmail.com](mailto:tomy.kucera915@gmail.com)

[stefunova.nina@gmail.com](mailto:stefunova.nina@gmail.com)