



## Conference of the Parties 28 (COP28)



**Chair: Joachim Arokiaraj**

**Co-Chair: Sheadon O'Leary**

**BC High MUNC XXXI**

**March 4th, 2023**



## **Table of Contents:**

- I. Letter from the Chair
- II. Letter from the Co-chair
- III. Introduction to the topic
- IV. History on the topic
- V. Problems and Obstacles
- VI. Current Alliances
- VII. Positions and Brief descriptions
- VIII. Bibliography

**Letter from the Chair:**

Greetings Delegates,

I hope this letter finds you all well. My name is Joachim Arokiaraj, and I will chair the committee COP 28 UAE. A little bit about myself: I am a sophomore here at BC high. I have been in Model UN since freshman year. Before BC High, I had always had a passion for Social Studies. I enjoy studying the world, our past, and our future. In 7th grade, I won my school's national geography competition. On March 13th, 2020, two weeks before I was supposed to go to the state finals, the world shut down. As much as that date will live infamously in the hearts and minds of the world, the day of our conference will mark almost three years since that day. It will be a great time to say, "We did it, we're here, all healthy, and we are ready to come up with a fair and equitable resolution." Moving on, my favorite MUN moment was when I went to NAIMUN in February of 2022. That was my first major conference, and I was partnered with our Co-chair, Mr. Sheadon O'Leary. We represented the Delegation of Gabon, at the African Union summit of 2011. In terms of our regular Model UN meeting here at BC high, I am the Middle School MUN director. This means I chair the middle school meetings, send out emails, and all that good stuff. I have never chaired a conference before. but co-chaired last year's middle school committee on Illegal Poaching. I am excitedly waiting to meet you all in person and see the amazing work that you will do. My email address is [ja.arokiaraj25@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:ja.arokiaraj25@students.bchigh.edu). Please feel free to send me your position papers before the conference to be considered for the Ben Maher Award. Thank you all so much, and have a marvelous day,

Sincerely, your chair,

Joachim Arokiaraj '25



**Letter from the Co-chair:**

Additional Greetings Delegates,

My name is Sheadon O’Leary, and as stated in the prior, I’m very happy for you to join us today and be a part of the COP 28 Middle School conference as part of the 31st BC High Model U.N, which, as I’m sure you already know I will be Co-Chairing alongside the aforementioned and esteemed Mr. Joachim Arokiaraj. As long as I can remember, I’ve had some sort of interest in both geography and the world around us today, originally stemming from an interest in the marvels and miracles of global past civilizations and later in my life morphing into a love for cultures, religions, peoples, and nations that make up the varied sphere around us. Though I’ve really had no formal pursuit of global ambition in my life, I do specifically remember my 7th-grade year where I was graced with the presence of an informed and frankly top-notch history teacher, one I was able to form both a personal connection with and share a common interest with as I learned what I could in our short time together. Specifically, I remember watching the hit film “Hotel Rwanda,” a movie based on the Rwandan genocide in the 90s. Though I can’t figure out any real impact it had on my life or anything beyond viewing pleasure, it is a quality piece of cinema that I recommend you watch and still stands out in my mind when reflecting on my personal geographical journey. On the vague whim of sounding interesting enough, I emerged into my first year of Model U.N in my freshman year and first year at BC High, and despite my only being a sophomore, it feels like I have come so far in this limited time. At least a tad farther than my first conference, which happened to be the multi-day NAIMUN



conference in D.C representing Gabon in the AU as an inexperienced delegate among the most serious in the country. Suffice to say it was a questionable conference to say the least, but I still majorly enjoyed it and it has spurred a dedication to Model U.N that I will carry into the upcoming conference with me as your one and only Co-Chair. Remember to send in your Position papers even to be considered for the Ben Maher award, let alone win it. But either way,

Best of Luck,

Sheadon O’Leary, class of 25 and COP 28 BC High MUN 31 Co-Chair

COP stands for the Conference of the parties. The conference is the absolute decision-making body of the *United Nations Framework Council on Climate Change* (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC was established in 1994 after world leaders expressed growing concern for the world and its climate. The UNFCCC is a part of the United Nations, like the *World Bank* or the *World Health Organization*. They are tasked with monitoring the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. When monitoring the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, the parties also look to make sure the climate is adjusting to the emissions. When we do this in our daily lives, we ensure that the production of our food remains stable. The long and short of it is: If we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we ensure that our food production remains stable.

Now, this is a big task, especially considering how we as a human culture have not considered this kind of climate change for thousands of years. Many people still cook on wooden



stoves, and many people still relieve themselves in natural waters. That has now transformed into trash being left behind in various places, factories emitting massive amounts of smoke from their production, and all sorts of toxic waste and chemicals being illegally dumped into rivers, oceans, and landfills. These people do not realize that they are harming the planet, its animals, inhabitants, food, and so much more. They don't realize it because they still have food on their table, while the suffering is those who had nothing to do with that waste. So, our task for you is to consider your country's fossil fuel use and how it contributes to the world's air quality index. Your country is only part of the world. There are still many other countries with different situations so what would be a fair and equitable solution to the GLOBAL climate crisis? And lastly, what kinds of compromises would you consider to ensure the solution will work?

### **History of COP:**

Scientists have estimated that the earth is over 4.5 billion years old. Throughout those 4.5 Billion years, animals and plants have existed, evolved, and some have gone extinct. The climates have changed throughout history, with tectonic plates moving, rock formations eroding, and the melting of glaciers. To give you a sense of how our world's climate has changed drastically, look at mount Everest. Mt. Everest is the tallest mountain in the world today. Upon further analysis, scientists found that the top of mount Everest is made out of Marine limestone. This means that the tallest point on the earth was once at the bottom of the ocean. Looking at the world like this, we notice that many of the earth's natural wonders were not always as we see them today. Between toxic emissions and illegal trash dumping, we humans have not been very



kind to our earth.

Over the 20th century, those who have gone before us did not realize how much they harmed the earth with some actions. Reusable material was thrown away, and the globe started to heat up due to factories mass-producing products. These factories burned fossil fuels, which, in turn, polluted the environment. As a result, the world's nations went into action to solve this terrible issue.

Thirty years ago, from June 3rd - June 14th, 1992, over 100 heads of state gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They came together to express their grave concerns regarding the global climate crisis. This earth Summit started the UNFCCC (*United Nations Framework Council on Climate Change*) and its establishment in 1994. Now, with this council established, they needed a governing body. This is where COP (*conference of the parties*) comes into play. Every year since 1995, The nations of the world have gathered together

### **Problems and Obstacles:**

As mentioned before, we live in an ever-so-diverse world. One of the best things about this is getting to experience the differences in cultures, ethnicities, food, and way of life. One of the not-so-nice things about this diversity can be our political view on a situation. For example, there are many climate change deniers. These people believe that changes in the Earth's weather and climate are not because of Human actions. Convincing these people that our actions as an entire human population do contribute to climate change.



All things on earth are one way or another, connected to money. That holds for climate change as well. Many countries need funding for their efforts to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. One of the significant reasons said countries could use funding is because they have been using these resources for so long that they would need to cut down on their factory production or what have you drastically. Another reason for this is, again, the mindset of certain folks. Some people would rather consider their money over their planet. These people are going to be very stubborn in reducing GHGs.

### **Current Alliances:**

At present, there are many alliances made to combat climate change. One of the most important is the Paris agreement. It is a legally binding document adopted by 196 parties. It was drafted and implemented at COP21 in Paris, France, on November 4th, 2016. The official name of this organization is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This organization has been at work for several years already, and they are doing the best they can. Another Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) was started by the European Union. Their goal is to connect with poorer countries to help them in the climate battle.

### **Positions with Brief descriptions:**

1. The United States of America: The USA Is being affected by climate change by precipitation. It has not snowed much here in Boston in the past few winters. In California, there is mass flooding, and people are forced out of their homes. One or the other of these two precipitation extremes (surplus or drought) is experienced throughout



the United States.

2. Dominion of Canada: Canada's main problem with climate change is the rate it is warming up at. Canada is warming up twice as fast as the global average. The Canadian Arctic is warming up at a whopping rate of 3 times the global average.
3. United Mexican States: Mexico continues to see a rise in GHGs. The GHG numbers are expected to continue rising through 2023 and onto 2030. President Lopez Obrador's climate policies are continuing to work backward. Fossil fuels are prioritized as a means of energy, and Climate change institutions have been dismantled.
4. The Republic of Haiti: Haiti is the most vulnerable country to climate change in all of Latin America and the Caribbean. Due to land use practices, low income, high Population density, and limited infrastructure/services, Haiti is not able to have a steady plan to reduce climate change. The land is susceptible to hurricanes and landslides and the unmaintained drainage adds to the risk of flooding in the country.
5. The Dominican Republic: The DR is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world. With the flood-prone northeast, the arid northwest, and the entire Island as the center of a hurricane belt, the DR is not really on a good track with climate change. All of these components harm the attempts of the Dominican people to stop climate change.
6. Republic of Costa Rica: Costa Rica continues to be reasonable with their climate change policies. They are not consistent with the Paris Agreement of a 1.5C temperature limit but, they could be with moderate improvements. Costa Rica's target meets its contribution but,



they need additional support to put in place additional policies to strengthen the target at hand.

7. Federative Republic of Brazil: Brazil had significant droughts in 2021, which caused a lack of hydroelectric power. To make up for this, they are completely focused on using fossil gas to compensate for the hydroelectric losses despite having ample renewable resources such as wind and solar power.
8. Argentine Republic: Argentine emissions in 2021 went back to 2019 levels after a drop in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Argentina, like Brazil, has centered its energy production around fossil fuels. Argentina is also hoping to begin offshore exploration in search of oil.
9. The Republic of Chile: Chile has continued to make remarkable progress in reducing its emissions. On the path they are on, Chile has already peaked in terms of emissions and now, they are on the decline for emissions. For all of these reasons, Chile continues to be a Global frontrunner for climate action.
10. Republic of Columbia: In August 2022, the New president of Columbia, Gustavo Petro, took office and took an oath to put an end to climate change, Fracking, Deforestation, etc. He has been working quickly and has already banned Fracking with draft legislation out for review. Columbia does need to, however, take action at cutting down emissions across the board.
11. French Republic: France continues to see an above-average rise in temperatures which affects energy demand patterns. The average annual precipitation has varied in the country;



the north is getting wetter while the south is getting dryer. France has adopted a climate change strategy that is re-assessed every five years to reflect its progress.

12. United Kingdom: The UK government has not been taking steps that are in alignment with the Paris agreement. While they have been taking steps to decrease emissions, the UK still experiences policy gaps in multiple areas. At this moment, the policies in place only cover less than half of what needs to be done in order to reduce emissions.
13. The Republic of Italy: The temperature in Italy has been slowly rising over the past number of years and it is set to keep climbing more steeply in the coming years. The average annual rainfall has also decreased slightly. The country has developed some national climate and energy policies focusing on the energy sector of climate resilience.
14. Republic of Iceland: Iceland's glaciers are slowly receding and are suspected of vanishing in the next 100-200 years while ocean acidification is a massive danger to Iceland's aquatic ecosystem. They are highly powered by renewable energy but wish to cut emissions by up to 40% by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement.
15. The Kingdom of Norway: Norwegian exported fossil fuels make up a large portion of global emissions. The government still supports the expansion of fossil fuel exploration in the already booming natural gas sector. The government is currently hoping to file a case with the European court of human rights (ECHR), which would approve new permits for natural gas drilling which would, in turn, breach fundamental human rights.
16. The Kingdom of Sweden: Due to their snowy climate, Sweden is predicted to have higher rainfall and a wetter climate in the future due to global warming, especially in the winter.



Sweden is a world leader in combating climate change and is suspected to have nearly no emissions by 2045 with their current efforts.

17. The Russian Federation: The Russian invasion of Ukraine has underscored the global demand for fossil fuels. Russia does not have a good plan to tackle climate change. Any relevant policies are not at all ambitious or are unclear in their expectation for emissions.
18. The Kingdom of the Netherlands: Being at a low sea level, the Netherlands is extremely at risk for rising sea levels while also having droughts and rising normal temperatures. To combat the rising sea level, they have invested a lot into flood protection systems while also attempting to lower emissions in line with the Paris agreement. Home to extremely large wind farms with over 50% renewable energy.
19. The Federal Republic of Nigeria: Nigeria heavily relies on agriculture, and global warming has caused increased rainfall resulting in flash flooding, which destroys farmland, infrastructure, and more. Nigeria has promised to reduce emissions to 20% below BAU by 2030 by cutting down on wood and kerosine usage.
20. The Republic of Cabo Verde: Cape Verde is a small Island nation off the coast of Morocco. Being an Island nation, the main concerns with climate change are rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and increased salt content in wells. The development could also be constrained due to reducing coastlines and a rise in sea levels.
21. Republic of Türkiye (Turkey): Turkey is in somewhat of a unique situation with its climate change problem. The government predicts decreasing dependency on gas imports but, the



use of domestic coal will go up. Under current policies, Turkish emissions are set to increase drastically.

22. United Arab Emirates: The UAE, host of COP28, was one of the only countries to submit updated climate goals ahead of COP27. While their ambitions remain high, their actions do not suggest the same. The UAE plans to have a significant increase in fossil fuel production and consumption.
23. The Republic of India: India has improvised a new and improved plan to cut emissions and more, but the new ambitions do not go much past the already existing laws. The information does not detail a plan for India to reach net zero emissions by 2070. The plan also says that India plans to continue developing coal in the long run.
24. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan: Factors such as air pollution, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events such as deadly flooding are all predicted to contribute to a 20% decrease in Pakistan's total GDP by 2050. Pakistan themselves contributes very little to the carbon footprint yet is extremely affected by climate change while also lacking the proper resources to adapt to the destruction of climate change.
25. The Republic of the Maldives: Being an extremely small series of islands in the Indian Ocean, the Maldives are seriously vulnerable to sea level rise and is predicted to be up to 80% uninhabitable by 2050. They are mainly concerned with defending against sea level rise, building a wall around their capital city, and working to strengthen local infrastructure and ports. Still, they lack complete safety and a way to stop the rise.



26. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka is in the top ten worldwide for countries most effected by climate change with 25% of its population living in areas at risk by sea level rise and the rest all threatened by extreme weather phenomena such as cyclones, Tsunamis, and more. Despite its low carbon footprint, Sri Lanka has sworn to lower emissions by 14.5% and switch to 70% renewable energy by 2030.
27. The Republic of the Philippines: Being a small series of islands, the Philippines are extremely susceptible to climate change, specifically rising sea levels, heavy rainfall, increased frequency of severe weather events, flooding, and other such incidents. By 2030 the Philippines has vowed to reduce 75% of all emissions, making it a leader in South-East Asian Climate response
28. People's Republic of China: the 20th Chinese congress met in 2022 to outline the president's 5-year plan for the country. Nowhere was climate change explicitly mentioned in terms of new goals, mostly, goals from the previous year remained in effect. These plans include pushing modernization and efficiency in the industrial and energy systems.
29. Japan: Japan, a G7 country, needs to do a lot of work to reduce its carbon emissions and fossil fuel use. A new policy that may help in the fight is the revision of building standards. This would mean that all new houses and buildings would need to comply with a new energy efficiency standard from 2025 on.
30. Republic of Korea (South Korea): South Korea is making progress in mitigation and energy sector planning. However, it lacks the right speed to get itself on a pathway



compatible with the Paris agreement of a 1.5C temperature limit. The country has progressed in its development of the net zero targets which is to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Unfortunately, fossil fuel usage remains high in the country.

#### ||Citations:

Curtis, Danielle, et al. "National Model United Nations - Nmun.org." *Nmun.org*, 2019, <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/new-york/2019/ny19-bgg-cop.pdf>.

#### Problems and obstacles:

Buiter, W. (2020, February 14). *The trio of obstacles on climate change*. Australian Financial Review.

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/the-trio-of-obstacles-on-climate-change-20200214-p540rm>

#### Positions and descriptions:

most countries\*: *Home*. (n.d.). Climate Action Tracker. <https://climateactiontracker.org/>

Haiti: *Haiti*. (2022, December 20). Global Climate Change.

<https://www.climatelinks.org/countries/haiti>



France: *France climate resilience policy indicator – Analysis*. (n.d.). IEA.

<https://www.iea.org/articles/france-climate-resilience-policy-indicator>

Italy: *Italy climate resilience policy indicator – Analysis*. (n.d.). IEA.

<https://www.iea.org/articles/italy-climate-resilience-policy-indicator>

Sweden:

1. Wikipedia contributors. (2022, December 28). *Climate change in Sweden*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_in\\_Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_Sweden)

2. *Sweden's climate policy framework*. (2021, March 11). Regeringskansliet.

<https://www.government.se/articles/2021/03/swedens-climate-policy-framework/>

Iceland:

1. *Climate Report | Climate of Iceland*. (n.d.). Icelandic Meteorological Office.

<https://en.vedur.is/climatology/iceland/climate-report>

2. *Climate Change*. (n.d.).

<https://www.government.is/topics/environment-climate-and-nature-protection/climate-change/>

The Netherlands:



1. *Flooding, climate change, and limited insurance coverage in the Netherlands*. (2022, June 1).

<https://www.preventionweb.net/news/flooding-climate-change-and-limited-insurance-coverage-netherlands>

2. Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie. (2020, January 31). *Climate policy*. Climate Change | Government.nl.

<https://www.government.nl/topics/climate-change/climate-policy>

Nigeria:

1. World Bank Group. (2022, October 19). *Land, soil and climate change: How Nigeria is enhancing climate resilience to save the future of its people*. World Bank.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/10/18/land-soil-and-climate-change-how-nigeria-is-enhancing-climate-resilience-to-save-the-future-of-its-people>

2. Nigeria. (n.d.).

Climate Action Tracker. <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/nigeria/>

Cabo Verde: *World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal*. (n.d.).

<https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/cape-verde/vulnerability>

South Korea:

<https://www.g20climaterisks.org/republic-of-korea/#:~:text=The%20science%20shows%20that%20South.cost%20South%20Korea%20%2460%20billion.>

[https://keia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/4.9\\_KEI\\_Koreas-Economy\\_2022\\_ChungLee-Final.pdf](https://keia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/4.9_KEI_Koreas-Economy_2022_ChungLee-Final.pdf)

Philippines:



1. Wikipedia contributors. (2023, January 30). *Climate change in the Philippines*. Wikipedia.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_in\\_the\\_Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_the_Philippines)
2. *Five Ways to Fund the Philippines' Fight against Climate Change | Asian Development Blog*. (n.d.).  
<https://blogs.adb.org/blog/five-ways-fund-philippines-fight-against-climate-change>

Pakistan:

1. World Bank Group. (2022b, November 10). *Pakistan Urgently Needs Significant Investments in Climate Resilience to Secure its Economy and Reduce Poverty*. World Bank.  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/11/10/pakistan-urgently-needs-significant-investments-in-climate-resilience-to-secure-its-economy-and-reduce-poverty>
2. *Pakistan Presses U.S. to Lead Global Response to Climate Disasters*. (n.d.). United States Institute of Peace.  
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/09/pakistan-presses-us-lead-global-response-climate-disasters>

Maldives:

1. Manzo, D., Zee, G., Uddin, S., & Jovanovic, D. (2021, November 10). *Facing dire sea level rise threat, Maldives turns to climate change solutions to survive*. ABC News.



<https://abcnews.go.com/International/facing-dire-sea-level-rise-threat-maldives-turns/story?id=80929487>

2. Wikipedia contributors. (2023a, January 28). *Climate change in the Maldives*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_in\\_the\\_Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_the_Maldives)

#### Sri Lanka:

1. Wikipedia contributors. (2022b, November 10). *Climate change in Sri Lanka*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_in\\_Sri\\_Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_Sri_Lanka)

2. *Sri Lanka*. (n.d.). UNDP Climate Promise.

<https://climatepromise.undp.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/sri-lanka>

\*any country listed above with a description but, without sources below, can be found by clicking the link affiliated with this asterisk. It will guide you to a home page where you can click on any country on the map and get a better grasp of the knowledge of your country. Please note that certain countries on this list are not on this link so, please refer to the links above as a first source.