



## Teacher guide

# COP28

# Conference Resource

**Contains:** Guidance for everything you need to hold your own high quality UN-style summit.

There are two components to the resource and all briefings can be accessed by clicking here:

[ICN COP28 Conference Resource](#)

# COP28 comes to school

From 30 November to 12 December 2023 the United Nations Climate Conference ([COP28](#)) will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai. This *COP28 in the Classroom* resource brings a UN-style climate conference to your school. Student teams represent a range of countries and have to research, present and debate their country pledges and climate challenges, then collaborate to raise global ambition for action.

The three parts of the resource are detailed in Section 2. You'll see that the sequence of presentations can be used in lessons or with tutor or year groups. 16 up to date country briefings are included covering nations that are expected to play key roles in COP28 itself.

## 1. Aims and timing of this resource

Our **overall aims** are that the COP28 Climate Conference classroom resource will:

- \* **Bring to life critical thinking** about the global climate crisis
  - Raising questions of responsibility for action, from international decisions makers through to home and school
  - Putting focus on the perspectives of young people and vulnerable nations
  - Offering insight into the processes of collaboration and collective effort needed to bring about change on an unprecedented scale.
- \* **Sit within school priorities** and be accessible from Year 8
  - Curriculum relevance for Geography; Environmental Science; PSHE; and STEM subject lessons
  - Requiring students' independent learning and research and soft skills such as team work, public speaking and negotiating
  - Flexibility for use as a sequence of lessons, during whole year days and cross school or tutor group programmes.
- \* **Provide further ways to engage with COP28 and climate action**
  - Schools are invited to endorse a COP28 Student Declaration and refer to it in their own events and activities (see ICN website).
  - [Climate Action Survey](#) is available for free as a next step for student-led work in support of your school's own climate actions.

### Learning benefits (see an evaluation from 2022 [here](#))

- \* Greater comprehension of global climate issues, new knowledge, awareness of COP and other countries
- \* Research, analysis and interpretation and debating skills, conflict resolution skills and teamwork
- \* Public speaking, articulacy and oracy, justification and critical thinking
- \* Understanding alternative viewpoints in a complex environment
- \* Confidence, real world and 'cultural capital'
- \* Awareness of the bigger picture and need to involve more in school.

### Box 1 Experience from The Green School for Girls, Hounslow

*Shared by Samantha Mackenzie-Smith, Head of Year*

I held mini conferences in each class. We watched a part of last year's COP and replicated it with the Chair/President etc.

The students absolutely loved it and actually wanted to stay over lunchtime to continue their debates.

In my feedback questionnaire at the end of term, most said that the COP was the best part of the whole term.

- \* It was useful to show a clip of the actual COP in action
- \* Students were divided into mixed ability groups and countries were allocated according to the groups
- \* The 3 questions in the country briefings task really helped with differentiation
- \* Each student had a sheet to fill in key points while they listened to each opening speech by the country delegations (US got the bulk!)
- \* Lessons were only an hour long and it would have been good to have a longer session for the conference itself.

## 2. Guide to what's included

There are two components to the resource and all briefings can be accessed by clicking here:

### ICN COP28 Conference Resource

#### A) Sequence of three presentations that culminate in the climate conference

Sessions may be run compactly over 3 lessons or spread over 6 lessons or used in a sequence of off-curriculum days. You may well have your own teaching programmes that this resource complements – there is no obligation to use any presentation that doesn't fit with your planning. Facilitation notes accompany each of these session powerpoints:

- 1. The road to Dubai** outlines vital stages of UN decision making and poses questions for students to critically discuss global responses to the climate crisis.
- 2. Get ready for your conference** sets out the countries and has an optional planner for students' opening speeches.
- 3. COP26 comes to school** guides you and your students through your own UN-style climate conference and includes specific notes for the conference chair.

#### B) Student pack

- \* **COP28 Overview Briefing** to be used alongside sessions 2 and 3 as it includes background information and statistics, as well as a summary of all country positions. Potential collaborations are offered on the final page.
- \* **16 Country Briefings** from which to select your conference delegations. 12 to 14 countries may be the ideal number for your conference: each opening speech will take 1-2 minutes and all countries will undoubtedly want to contribute to the debate and put forward collaborations. Select from across the four headers in Table 2 below so that a range of perspectives is represented.
- \* **Opening statement planner** to help students develop their brief (1 minute) speech to conference.

#### Box 2 Country briefings available for your conference

| LDCs/SIDS/Vulnerable (V20) | BRICS*       | Other Emerging Economies | Industrialised (HICs) |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bangladesh                 | Brazil       | Chile                    | Australia             |
| Barbados                   | China        | Egypt                    | European Union        |
| Marshall Islands           | India        | Indonesia                | United Kingdom        |
| Uganda                     | South Africa | United Arab Emirates     | USA                   |

#### Final note about the resource content

Throughout the sessions you will see that we have suggested critical questions as stimuli for discussions and negotiations, anticipating that you will use your own preferred participative methodologies.

Timings for the conference itself are given as an indication only. Needless to say, time will be tight!

#### Thanks go to:

Samantha Mackenzie-Smith, Head of Year at the Green School for Girls in Hounslow who shared her lesson presentations, which have helped shape the activities.

ICN team of associates, trustees and expert volunteers who have researched, written and developed the briefings.

## 3. Other useful sources of information

Whilst ICN strives to provide only links to useful and ethical websites, we have no control over their content and the links do not imply a recommendation for all the content found on these sites.

### United Nations (UN) and other international bodies

|  |   |
|--|---|
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | <a href="https://unfccc.int/">https://unfccc.int/</a><br>Follow <a href="#">@UNFCCC</a>               |
| COP28 UAE  | <a href="https://www.cop28.com/en/">https://www.cop28.com/en/</a>                                     |
| Climate Action Tracker                             | <a href="https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/">https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/</a> |
| Intergovernmental Panel on CC                      | <a href="https://www.ipcc.ch/">https://www.ipcc.ch/</a>   |
| Climate Champions & campaigns                      | <a href="https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/">https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/</a>               |

### Useful information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| COP Timeline                                       | <a href="https://cop-timeline.wearetilt.com/">https://cop-timeline.wearetilt.com/</a>   |
| Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research | <a href="https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2023">https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2023</a>                                     |
| NASA   | <a href="https://climate.nasa.gov/">https://climate.nasa.gov/</a>   |
| UK Government                                      | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained#history">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained#history</a> |
| UNFCCC   | <a href="https://unfccc.int/resource/bigpicture/">https://unfccc.int/resource/bigpicture/</a>   |

### Cities, Energy, Forests & food, Oceans

#### Cities

- C40 Cities Climate Group <https://www.c40.org/>
- Global Covenant of Mayors <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/>

#### Energy

- International Energy Agency <https://www.iea.org/>
- Our World In Data <https://ourworldindata.org/energy>

#### Forests

- Global Forest Watch <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/>
- Size of Wales <https://sizeofwales.org.uk/forestprojects/>
- WWF [http://wwf.panda.org/our\\_work/forests/climate\\_change\\_and\\_forest/](http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/forests/climate_change_and_forest/)

#### Oceans

- UN Ocean Panel <https://oceanpanel.org/the-agenda/>
- UN High Seas Treaty [https://www.highseasalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HSA\\_Treaty\\_Factsheet\\_27June23.pdf](https://www.highseasalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HSA_Treaty_Factsheet_27June23.pdf)

### Climate Finance

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bridgetown Initiative | <a href="https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/barbados-bridgetown-initiative-climate-change/">https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/barbados-bridgetown-initiative-climate-change/</a>                     |
| Green Climate Fund    | <a href="https://www.greenclimate.fund/home">https://www.greenclimate.fund/home</a>   |
| Loss and Damage Fund  | <a href="https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-you-need-know-about-cop27-loss-and-damage-fund">https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-you-need-know-about-cop27-loss-and-damage-fund</a> |