



**United Nations**  
Climate Change Secretariat

Executive Secretary

**Nations Unies**  
Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Secrétaire exécutive

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## **MESSAGE TO PARTIES FROM THE COP 25 PRESIDENT AND COP 26 PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE**

### **Climate Ambition Alliance**

I am pleased to convey to Parties to the Convention and Parties to the Paris Agreement a letter from Her Excellency Ms. Carolina Schmidt (COP 25 President) and His Excellency Mr. Alok Sharma (COP 26 President-Designate) regarding the Climate Ambition Alliance.

The Alliance was originally launched at the UN Secretariat General's Climate Summit in 2019, and the letter outlines how the current and incoming COP Presidencies wish to accelerate the work of the Alliance to support a successful outcome at COP 26.

National Focal Points are kindly requested to transmit the letter to the responsible Minister. The letter is contained in the annex to this note.

Yours sincerely,

(signed by)

Patricia Espinosa

**Distribution:** To Parties and observer States through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

20 April 2021

Excellency,

In less than 7 months' time, the world will come together at COP 26 to respond to the climate crisis. Together we must increase ambition on mitigation, adaptation, finance, and complete the outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook.

The COVID-19 pandemic and climate change present us all with enormous challenges, which require bold leadership to address if we are to keep 1.5 degrees in reach. We have seen many within and outside government take the lead already through vital commitments moving us closer towards a net zero future.

Through the Climate Ambition Alliance launched in 2019, over 120 governments joined together, committing to come forward with plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).<sup>1</sup> This means countries covering around 70% of global GDP have made net zero commitments.

Beyond governments, over 3,000 organizations have joined the Race to Zero campaign led by the High-Level Champions. Financial institutions have committed over 30 trillion USD to net-zero investments.

This leadership from governments and non-state actors starts our pathway to net zero. But it is not enough. The recent UN Report<sup>2</sup> on NDCs in 2020 shows us that we are currently a long way off what science tells us is needed over the course of this decade. Together we need to go further and faster to ensure that we build a healthier and more sustainable future, one which respects the natural systems that underpin our existence and delivers dignity for all of humanity. We have an opportunity to set ourselves ambitious targets and drive real change. We share the responsibility to do all we can to show the world that COP26 can deliver what is expected, and required, of us, as we all committed to in Paris.

That is why, as the current and incoming COP Presidents, we are inviting all countries to join this momentum and to either follow through on commitments made under the Climate Ambition Alliance, or to join our efforts now. We call on all countries to present enhanced NDCs before 30 July that keep 1.5 degrees in reach. And we encourage all countries to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cop25.mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Alianza-11122019-INGL%C3%89S.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/268571>

commit to mid-century net-zero ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, underpinned by robust long-term low emission development strategies and aligned with COVID recovery plans.

Collaboration and mutual support are important in setting these targets and policies, as is increased ambition in the provision of finance and commitment to the \$100bn goal. Moving forward on the road to Glasgow, we will work to foster and harness greater ambition together through the Climate Ambition Alliance. We will embrace opportunities to share best practice and create platforms for collaboration between governments and stakeholders. Current plans and further information around how your country can participate are included in the accompanying Annex.

Excellency, please accept assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(signed by)

**H.E. Minister Carolina Schmidt**  
President of COP 25

(signed by)

**The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP**  
COP 26 President Designate

## **Annex**

### **The Road to COP26**

To assist us in moving forward together, we invite Parties to inform us of their plans for raising mitigation ambition and, to this end, to nominate an individual government contact for communication and coordination relating to upcoming CAA activities, to the UNFCCC Secretariat ([LT-LEDS@unfccc.int](mailto:LT-LEDS@unfccc.int)).

There will be opportunities throughout the year to collaborate on the road to Glasgow. Plans are under development, but so far we expect the following:

- Regional Climate Weeks<sup>3</sup> will provide opportunities for information exchange and peer learning on national and sectoral approaches to delivering net-zero emissions;
- High-Level Regional Climate Week events in August and September will showcase and recognise the leadership of members of the CAA; and
- Sectoral- and technical-level dialogues, including under the Marrakech Partnership, will support national planning exercises.

### **Background**

The Climate Ambition Alliance brings together countries, businesses, investors, cities and regions which are working towards achieving net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050, as well as countries committed to updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Country engagement in this Alliance is led by the governments of Chile and the United Kingdom, with support from UN Climate Change and UNDP, while mobilization of non-government actors is led by the High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action – Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz – under the ‘Race to Zero’ campaign.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/regional-climate-weeks>