**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL ET TECHNOLOGIQUE**

**ÉPREUVE ORALE DES SECTIONS EUROPÉENNES ET DE LANGUES ORIENTALES**

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| **DNL :** physique chimie | **Toute Spécialité**  |
| **Langue :** anglais | Voie générale |
| THEME : La Terre, son climat, ses changements |
| SOUS-THEME : L’atmosphère terrestre | NOTION : **1.1.3 Cycle du carbone** |

**COP26 Is Over – What’s Next for Forests, Coal, and Fossil Fuel Finance?**

The Glasgow climate summit (COP26) produced a [new global pact](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf) committing governments to take increasingly ambitious steps to address the climate crisis. But, while pointing in the right direction, the commitments fall well short of what is needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and avert the most catastrophic outcomes of climate change.

Among the areas where new commitments were made—and more ambitious action is urgently needed—are three that have been the focus of research and advocacy by Human Rights Watch: preserving forests, phasing out coal, and ending public financing and subsidies for fossil fuels.

Deforestation is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, after the combustion of fossil fuels. Industrial agriculture is the leading driver of tropical deforestation, and most of this environmental destruction is illegal. While the final COP26 agreement didn’t include new commitments regarding deforestation, more than 100 countries signed [a declaration](https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/) to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

The final Glasgow climate pact called for “accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power.”  It is the first time coal has been explicitly addressed in a COP agreement. Yet an eleventh-hour intervention by India that resulted in the substitution of the phrase “phasedown” in place of “phase out,” diminished the significance of its inclusion.

Going forward, governments, and in particular major coal power nations, need to take immediate and concrete steps to end coal power use, including phasing out all power plants. Governments should halt financial support to any infrastructure for thermal coal not yet fully built and remove subsidies and other support to industry entities whose revenues come from coal. The development or expansion of thermal coal mines should be ended altogether.

Ultimately, the value of the COP26 pledges regarding fossil fuel public finance and subsidies—as with those regarding forests and coal—will depend on whether they spur the urgent and long-overdue actions governments need to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avert the most catastrophic outcomes of climate change.

[*Daniel Wilkinson*](https://www.hrw.org/about/people/daniel-wilkinson)*, Acting Director, Environment and Human Rights- 12 November 2021, UK, Glasgow :*

[*https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/16/cop26-over-whats-next-forests-coal-and-fossil-fuel-finance*](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/16/cop26-over-whats-next-forests-coal-and-fossil-fuel-finance)

1. Present and comment on the document.
2. Focus on at least one scientific topic such as the impact of the Human on the preservation of the planet.
3. Do you think this new agreement is good news for our planet ?