

Last week, one of our advanced English courses conducted a simulation of a “World Climate Conference”. Present were not only a multitude of developed and developing countries, but also some students who took on the role of reporters from the famous magazine “The Guardian” and observed the event. The following article is a summary of the conference from the journalists’ perspectives.

## Will we save the world?

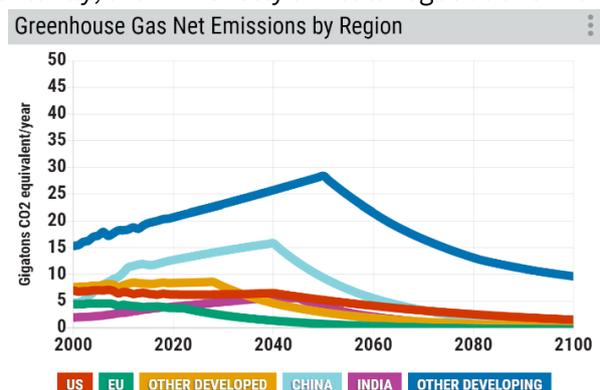
written by Philine Wernicke and Elisabeth Hube (October 2022)

At last week’s “World Climate Conference”, the US, China, the EU, India and representatives of other developed and developing nations came together to discuss the path towards reaching the 1.5 °C goal in 2050. The nations’ opening statements already showed a great variety of focus points as well as a general understanding of the importance of the topic and willingness to achieve change.

5           The EU and other developed nations communicated solidarity and an eagerness for international teamwork from the beginning on. India and the other developing countries showed an interest in change as well, but made it clear that they would need financial support in order to start anti-climate-change-initiatives. China and the US were aware of their status as “number one emitters” and promised to use their power to make a great impact. Afterwards, the first exchanges began. Main focus of the discussions were the peak year of emissions, the year of beginning reductions, the annual reduction rate, decreasing deforestation, promoting afforestation and contributions to or requests from a so-called “Global Climate Fund” fund. In a following round of consultations, the representatives each announced their first proposal of numbers. Here the US’ statement of being willing to contribute 5 billion \$ per year met a lack of understanding from the other participants.

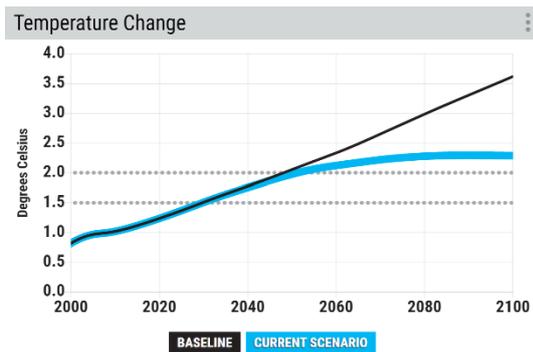
15           This discrepancy led the sequent discussions. During the first negotiations the EU, the most generous contributee with 200 billion \$, demanded the US to justify their numbers. As a result the US explained their need for money in order to change their economy. This made the EU request the US to extend their contribution to the fund in the discussion round. However, the US abruptly decided not to participate in the fund anymore, as they believed the international fund to be corrupt. In a private exchange with China, the US asked why they should take the first step if China was the world’s leading emitter. In response, China then requested instead of contributed more money throughout the whole meeting. The nation justified their demands with plans to invest in “greener ways of transportation nationally and internationally“, as they have the highest numbers of export.

25           Especially the other developing countries emphasised their disappointment in the sudden change of events, as their stage of development requests large amounts of finances in order to improve the sustainability of their energy sources. Eventually, the immensely difficult negotiations with the US reached the peak in an emotional discussion between the EU, the other developing countries, China and the US. At this point, it became clear that the US’ refusal to contribute to the fund was caused by their conflicted relationship with China. Simultaneously, China decided to negotiate privately with India. In an effort to convince India to lower their request of 160 billion \$ to be



35 able to up their own numbers, China completely forgot India’s need of financial support in order to promote afforestation and decrease deforestation.

After several exchanges about which countries need financial support and which countries already managed to build partially sustainable economies, the representatives found a common ground. If China sends transparent reports that explain how the money from the fund is used, the US will contribute 160 billion \$ per year. In a following round of speeches the US announced this agree-  
 40 ment and stated being “better than other developed countries“ as a reason. China increased their takings from the fund once again to 100 billion \$. Therefore, the other developing countries pointed out that they had to limit their demands to prevent the fund from being exhausted. Additionally, the developed nations requested the US to rethink their numbers as the chosen annual reduction rate  
 45 of 2 % as well as the emission peak year 2040 were not sufficient.



After consulting the final changes, all of the represent-  
 atives came together for presenting the closing state-  
 ments. Every nation expressed thankfulness for and  
 contentment with the discussions and cooperation  
 which led to the final agreement. China used the op-  
 portunity to illuminate that their numbers only count  
 under the condition of receiving 100 billion \$ per year.  
 Moreover, the US, in a change of mind, demanded the  
 other developing coun-

55 tries to take more action. Furthermore, India emphasised their hopes of being able to raise the standard of living in their nation. Finally, the EU expressed their satisfaction with the US generous final contribu-  
 tion of 200 billion \$ and the general outcome of the exchanges.

60 Despite the ongoing efforts of the nations, the temperature in 2050 would only decrease to 2.3°C and the 1.5°C goal remains unac-  
 complished. More conferences will have to follow. Nevertheless, the most recent negotiations offer hope to a future where climate change might be under control.

**+2.3°C**  
 +4.1°F  
**Temperature Increase by 2100**

*source of the screenshots:*

*The “C-ROADS Climate Change Policy Simulator” is a free computer simulator that helps people understand the impact of agreements on greenhouse gas emission reductions at the global level. Our screenshots show the results of the percentages and numbers agreed upon in our simulation.*

» <https://www.climateinteractive.org/c-roads/>