COP 26

COP-OUT IN GLASGOW
Introduction

The physicist Niels Bohr once said, 'Prediction is hard, especially of the future'. Bohr was a genius, of course, but it's clear that he'd never observed the annual ritual of the Conference of the Parties (usually referred to as a ‘COP’) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As we at Net Zero Watch have been pointing out in recent years, the COPs have been following an entirely predictable pattern since the first one back in 1995. Hundreds of posturing delegates and thousands of protestors, celebs, and assorted hangers-on fly in from around the world to lecture us all on our carbon footprints. They then start up the negotiations, rapidly reach deadlock, before announcing a last-minute breakthrough.

Then, with weary inevitability, a glance at the small print reveals that nothing of any substance has been achieved, beyond vague promises to be good in future, and hard and fast commitments to do it all again next year.

As this record shows, the climate COPs are now a pantomime, a meaningless ritual with a comfortable and familiar liturgy that makes everyone involved feel good about themselves, but in which nobody really has the slightest faith.

Take a look, and see what we mean.
The莱普 off ourselves

Not us!
`The conference hopes to make progress towards a “Kyoto II” deal.¹`

`Bali could be the last chance to avoid the worst effect of global warming.²`

`Evidence is fast mounting that time is running out for nations to unite in a credible response to climate change.³`
`Bali attendees `Local Governments for Sustainability’] has registered 282 delegates [including] a selection of Hollywood celebrities such as Michelle Yeoh, Brad Pitt, Cameron Diaz and George Clooney…`

`The Bali talks are deadlocked over terms for launching two years of negotiations on a new climate deal.`

`A compromise deal for a new international climate change agenda was agreed at the UN summit in Bali today. The move was hailed by environment secretary, Hilary Benn, as "an historic breakthrough."`

`Bali…may make things worse.'
A [carbon dioxide] level of no more than 350 ppm is still feasible, with the help of reforestation and improved agricultural practices, but just barely -- time is running out.\textsuperscript{11}

`[UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon] voiced hope that the next set of UN climate change talks in the Polish city of Poznan in December will produce results...\textsuperscript{8}

`The world will “suicide” if it cannot strike a strong climate pact soon'.\textsuperscript{9}

`[The summit is] the world’s last chance to stop climate change before it passes the point of no return.'\textsuperscript{10}
`Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Scarlett Johansson and Annie Lennox… said leaders meeting for UN climate talks in Poznan, Poland, this week must step up their commitment.'

"…environmentalists said the talks were deadlocked in a committee.'

"Poznan talks `step on way to new climate regime.'

`…we were disappointed with the lack of progress made at the UN climate negotiations…'
The summit “hangs in the balance”, [President Obama] said. “We are running out of time”.¹⁹

`Copenhagen summit is last chance to save the planet: Lord Stern.¹⁷

`Copenhagen Climate Talks are last chance, says Gordon Brown¹⁸

`...world leaders hope to come to an agreement on a new climate treaty as a successor to the Kyoto protocol.¹⁶

`The summit “hangs in the balance”, [President Obama] said. “We are running out of time”.¹⁹
'Though many throughout the world hoping for a binding international treaty viewed Copenhagen as a disappointment, it was never likely that the 2009 UN climate change conference could have ended in a binding agreement.'

'Up to 80,000 will gather for mass demonstrations in Copenhagen today…Celebrities including Danish supermodel Helena Christiansen, Helen Baxendale of Cold Feet and Bollywood actor Rahul Bose will take part.'

'…the United States, China and several other countries reached an “unprecedented breakthrough” Friday to curb greenhouse gas emissions…'

'…US bids to break Copenhagen deadlock.'
Ministers have begun talks at the UN climate summit in Cancun amid warnings that time is running out to curb climate change and save the UN process.

Jairem Ramesh, the Indian environment minister, sees [the meeting] as the ‘last chance’ for climate change talks to succeed.

‘Climate envoy…has high hopes for Cancun.’

‘Ministers have begun talks at the UN climate summit in Cancun amid warnings that time is running out to curb climate change and save the UN process.’
'Last year’s talks in Cancun, Mexico, left open the most difficult issue of whether to extend emissions limits in Kyoto or start afresh with a new treaty.'

'Environmentalist meanwhile are staging protests and stunts around the luxury conference centre to raise awareness…'

'Deadlock over Kyoto means Cancún talks have little to show after two weeks… turning into a never-ending global talking shop, say many of the ministers involved.'

'Scarlett Johansson, Helena Christensen and Bill Nighy are among celebrities who are petitioning negotiators at next week’s climate change summit in Cancun, Mexico.'

'Cancun climate breakthrough: It’s not perfect, but it’s a deal.'
`Time is not on our side; report after report has shown this. This is not a trade discussion and we cannot wait until the next meeting or the meeting after that to take action. Time is running out for the planet.‘

`Our partners are planning a ‘Caravan of hope’ where campaigners from across Africa will travel through 10 nations en route to Durban.’

`…the World Council of Churches general secretary, Reverend Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, called the United Nations UNFCCC COP 17 meeting a “last opportunity for the international community to be responsible in addressing climate change”‘

`Time is not on our side; report after report has shown this. This is not a trade discussion and we cannot wait until the next meeting or the meeting after that to take action. Time is running out for the planet.’
…world-famous celebrities will attend the upcoming UN climate change conference scheduled to start in Durban later this month…including Arnold Schwarzenegger and British billionaire Sir Richard Branson. Other celebrities also planning to attend include Leonardo DiCaprio, Angelina Jolie and U2 frontman Bono.

‘Deadlock looms over CO2 cuts as Durban summit begins.”

‘Durban climate change conference: breakthrough reached on course for future accord’

‘The UN climate talks in Durban followed a familiar script of inaction’
Ms. Figueres stressed that countries can still reverse [emissions] trends if they decide to act, since the knowledge, technology and policy options needed to curb emissions are already available to them. However, she emphasized that time is running out.\textsuperscript{39}
For all the blustering commendations from politicians accompanying the 11th-hour “Doha Climate Gateway”, the outcome was disappointing.

Paul McCartney wants climate talks not to forget about the meat industry.

Qatar deports activists after climate talks protest.

Climate change talks deadlocked on final day of UN summit.

Doha climate talks throw lifeline to Kyoto Protocol.

…for all the blustering commendations from politicians accompanying the 11th-hour “Doha Climate Gateway”, the outcome was disappointing.
Time is running out to counter adverse impacts of climate change: Christiana Figueres.47

As the Philippines lead negotiator Naderov “Yeb” Saño so poignantly requested on the opening day, let’s hope the talks in Warsaw do reach a “meaningful outcome.”45

Is the Warsaw Climate Change Conference a last-chance summit? …this summit could represent a turning point in the fight against global warming.”46
Experts say the failure of November’s UN climate change conference in Warsaw to agree on measures that would lead to a sustained market price increase for CDM credits is likely to discourage…

Thousands march outside the UN climate talks in Warsaw, Poland.

Fears of deadlock at UN climate talks in Warsaw.

Warsaw climate talks end with foundation for a global agreement.

Experts say the failure of November’s UN climate change conference in Warsaw to agree on measures that would lead to a sustained market price increase for CDM credits is likely to discourage…
`Scientists warn time is running out to tackle climate change`.

`Diplomats said they hoped that the [recent] US--China deal would provide momentum to climate negotiations.`

`Last chance: Change needed for climate negotiations in Lima 2014...A repeat performance next year would be disastrous, not just for the progress of these negotiations, but more importantly for vulnerable communities everywhere and the natural world on which we all depend...`

`Scientists warn time is running out to tackle climate change`.
‘The Peru meeting was nothing much, it disappointed me. I think there was a lack of courage. They stopped at a certain point.’

‘Thousands of marchers demand just solution at UN climate talks in Lima.’

‘UN Lima climate talks go into overtime as deadlock persists.’

‘Lima climate change talks reach global warming agreement. Deal would for first time commit all countries -- including developing nations -- to cutting emissions.’

‘The Peru meeting was nothing much, it disappointed me. I think there was a lack of courage. They stopped at a certain point.’
“Science is telling us that time is running out”: UN climate chief warns the world is “playing with fire” unless agreement on climate change is reached at international summit.61

`Pope Francis has ‘great hope’ that Paris climate summit will succeed.’59

“The next climate summit in Paris (COP21) may be the “last effective opportunity” to negotiate arrangements that keep human-induced warming ‘to a limit safe for humanity, while protecting the poor and the vulnerable from ongoing climate change that gravely endangers their lives.’60

COP 21
PARIS, 2015
`Hollywood actor Sean Penn believes the UN climate change conference to be held in Paris in early December is the last great hope to combat climate change.‘62

‘Paris climate talks deadlocked, India is the key’.63

‘Paris climate summit breakthrough delivers legally-binding global agreement’.64

‘The COP21 climate talks in Paris were not the success that governments claim, but a disastrous failure’.65
There should no longer be any doubt that we are quickly running out of time.  

Governments are drinking in the “last chance saloon”.  

Hopes are high for these talks, dubbed “Action COP”, to make progress.
Campaigners have expressed “extreme disappointment” at the outcome of the United Nations climate change summit in Marrakesh.

In a historic breakthrough, 48 climate vulnerable countries clear the way towards a safe and prosperous future for everyone and commit to 100% renewable energy by mid-century.

There was a deadlock over finances for developing countries.

There are plenty of celebrities that you can encounter at COP22, should you choose to tune in for the conference. Leonardo Dicaprio, Paul David Hewson, Diego Maradona, Akon, Robert Redford, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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'The UN hopes to create an “operating manual” for implementing the Paris agreement on climate change, with talks in the next two weeks in Bonn.'\textsuperscript{73}

'The Bonn Conference may be our last chance to get it right.'\textsuperscript{74}

'We are running out of time to turn things around.'\textsuperscript{75}
`A shadow delegation stalks the official US team at climate talks'.

`Breakthrough eludes climate talks, scientists concerned over US role'.

`After years of gridlock, negotiators make breakthrough on agriculture-related climate issues'.

`Unfortunately, we haven’t really seen the kind of progress that’s needed.'
"Three years after the Paris Agreement was adopted, the EU hopes that all parties in Katowice will show the commitment and determination necessary to secure an ambitious and comprehensive work programme."\(^{80}\)

"Katowice offers last chance to limit warming to 1.5°C; countries must revise national plans at the upcoming climate conference."\(^{81}\)

"We’re running out of chances to save the planet from climate change."\(^{82}\)
‘Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has long campaigned against climate change, is expected to draw crowds, while there are reports that other Hollywood celebrities will make an appearance as well.’

‘First day of ministerial meetings fails to resolve deadlock.’

‘Climate negotiators reach an overtime deal to keep Paris pact alive.’

‘UN climate accord “inadequate” and lacks urgency, experts warn.’
“Guterres has issued a dire warning that humanity is running out of time to save itself from climate change.”

“‘Signals of hope’ multiplying in face of global climate crisis, insists UN’s Guterres.”

“UN climate change summit opens in Madrid amid last chance warnings.”

‘Guterres has issued a dire warning that humanity is running out of time to save itself from climate change.’
The 16-year-old environmental activist Greta Thunberg sailed into the port of Lisbon this morning after crossing the Atlantic in a yacht on her way to a two-week global climate summit that opened yesterday in Madrid.

'Splits widen over global climate goals as UN summit gathers.'

'COP25: Longest climate talks end with compromise deal.'

'There is a terrible empty feeling following the outcome of the UN climate talks in Madrid.'
‘COP26 climate summit opens as “best hope” for tackling global warming.’  

‘COP26 Glasgow: Climate summit is world’s “last chance” to aver disaster.’

“This is our last chance”: Biden urged to act as climate agenda hangs by a thread.’

‘COP26: Prince Charles says “time has quite literally run out”.’

‘Pope says success of COP26 vital as “time is running out”.’
Leonardo DiCaprio brings star power to Glasgow for COP26.  

‘COP26 faces its final stretch with a deadlock in the negotiation.’

‘COP26 seals breakthrough climate deal after major compromises.’

“Blah blah blah!” Greta launches scathing attack on world leaders after COP26.
Notes

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For further information about the Net Zero Watch and the Global Warming Policy Forum, please visit our website at www.netzerowatch.com.