

LfS Scotland AGM and Networking event 10 January 2020

Preparing for COP26 : Caroline Rance, Friends of the Earth (Scotland)

Workshop Notes

1. What it is:

- Annual 'Conference of the Parties' under the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC)
- UN Climate Change Conference(UNCCC) being held in Glasgow from 09 – 20 November 2020

2. What we can expect:

2 x 'layers':

a. 'Inside' – UNCCC space:

- Parallel negotiations: influencing strategy; particularly around accelerating ambition: esp. in terms of help from global north to south
- Often dominated by larger, wealthier nations
- Very few have access: NGOs can get 'observer' status but are not allowed to contribute
- Includes 'side events' – press conferences & side events on vast range of themes. Contributions from government representatives and accredited organisations.

b. 'Outside' – civil society

- Parallel Youth Conference being put together now. Youth NGO 'constituency' are allowed as 'inside' observers and are permitted to give some speeches
- Most important aspect is holding what's happening 'inside' to account
- Still all very controlled: e.g. permits needed to organise any kind of actions.
- Also the 'counter-summit' = 'people's summit': space for people to come together.

3. How you can get involved:

- Depends on your organisation and its priorities.
- There will be:
 - Marches
 - Youth conference
 - Alternative People's Summit
- However, on offer are several key opportunities:
 - Build the climate movement
 - Raise awareness of what 'climate justice' means
 - Advance climate action here in Scotland
 - Ensuring we are good allies to those affected by climate change, and being aware of 'greenwash' and corporate agendas.

The COP26 Coalition has been set up with representatives from Scotland/Rest of UK to pull together consensus/activity from civil society.

It comprises a steering group with 'task groups' looking at logistics, fundraising and communications.

2 meetings have been held so far in Scotland and 2 in the Rest of UK.

A central website is being set up to ensure co-ordination of events

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) are co-ordinating this.

More here: <https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/sccs-members-cop26-briefings/>

4. Questions from workshop attendees & answers from Caroline:	
a. Do external questions from e.g. NGOs ever make their way into the main 'inside' discussion?	A – Some NGOs have 'passes' that can enable them to have access to the 'inside' discussions but there is no formal mechanism for this. Doors can also be closed on negotiations...
b. How do you get one of these passes?	A – You need to be accredited – this can take up to two years. There are several organisations that are accredited in Scotland, including FoES.
c. It's anticipated that there will be tension between the UK and Scottish governments on this. Thoughts?	A – Scotland doesn't have her own seat at this – we are part of the UK delegation. Role of Scottish Government still to be decided. The UK has been part of an EU bloc until now.
d. How do we ensure effective links/avoid reinventing the wheel?	A - Workshop attendees were invited to leave their email addresses with Caroline in order to be added to the Coalition's mailing list.
e. What's happening beyond Glasgow?	A - Joined-up thinking needs to go beyond this location and this November timeframe. COP26-related events ahead of and after the conference should be branded as such.
f. How is SCCS spreading the word about their co-ordinating role and the central website so that others/everyone can be part of it?	A – Caroline is to liaise with SCCS on this – a media pack was mentioned for organisations like LfSS to help spread the word; to include Rest of UK-facing messages as well as Scottish.

Kirsten Leask 10 Jan 2020