



Policy Brief

# Ignite Fireworks of Action through Climate Initiatives

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# Abbreviations

AGHA	Africa Green Hydrogen Alliance
AIM4C	Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate
BOGA	Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance
CBGSC	Clydebank Declaration for green shipping corridors
CCMM	Climate Investment Funds
CCRI	Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment
CGAF	Champions Group on Adaptation Finance
ETC	Energy Transition Council
FACT	Forestry, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue
GAAIIA	Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture
GB	Glasgow Breakthroughs
GCTCP	Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement
GDFLU	Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use
GFFP	Global Forest Finance Pledge
GMP	Global Methane Pledge
IACAC	International Aviation Climate Ambtion Coalition
IDDI	Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative
IPSCETS	International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition
NZWI	Net Zero World Initiative
PECTA	UK-IEA Product Efficiency Call to Action
ZE-MHDVs	Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles
ZEVTC	Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council



## Introduction

At the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (COP26), several multilateral initiatives were launched that manifest the ongoing development of a more polycentric and complex international climate governance. Initiatives and so-called climate clubs can potentially close the 2030 ambition gap and implement climate action more quickly. They can speed up the Decade of Implementation and support the realisation of sector specific targets.

The Climate Action Tracker (CAT) calculated that the potential impact of the COP26 announcements could close the emission gap by around 9% (CAT 2021). Only a small amount of research exists for assessing the impact, accountability, transparency, and implementation of these initiatives in general and the COP26 announcements in particular. Even a ready-to-use, single overview of all COP26 initiatives and its respective memberships is still missing. As accountability is becoming a guiding theme for 2022 and the upcoming years, the need for transparency and impact assessment is even more eminent.

The year of 2021 was an exciting one for international climate governance, especially in comparison to the quiet year before, which was marked by the pandemic. Several high-level international events took place, various countries submitted their enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the scientific community released new reports. After a two-year break, the UN climate conference COP26 in Glasgow marked one of the highlights of the climate year. Although the international community is still not on track to keep global warming within reach of the 1.5°C limit, it made



remarkable announcements and launched several initiatives. Multilateral initiatives serve as “friendly competitor” (Unger & Thielges, 2021) to the UNFCCC, and they have the potential to be faster than UNFCCC processes and to close the 2030 ambition gap (Bausch, 2020; UBA, 2021). Often pursuing a building block approach, they unite like-minded states (as well as sub-national and non-state actors) on specific sectors, themes, or measures (Unger & Thielges, 2021).



## COP26 Climate Initiatives

According to the Global Climate Action Ecosystem<sup>1</sup> provided by Friends of Climate Cooperation, more than 150 cooperative climate initiatives were launched at COP26. They include a variety of different actors, such as national governments, philanthropic funders, civil society, and companies as well as different sectors, such as energy, industry, land use, and nature. Table 1 gives an overview of the COP26 cooperative climate initiatives between national states in which at least one G20 country is a member (no claim for completeness). Collectively, the G20 are responsible for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and thus have a particular responsibility to combat climate change and keep 1.5°C within reach. The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use is the initiative with most G20 members (17 G20 members), followed by the Global Methane Pledge (14 G20 members). Out of the 35 identified initiatives, the United Kingdom takes a lead with 28 memberships, Germany signed 22, and the US and Canada 19 respectively. Russia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa support the least initiatives.

BOGA	
GDFLU	
GMP	
Transition to 100% zero emission cars and vans	
Just transition partnership with South Africa	
IDDI	
PECTA	
CGAF	
GCTCP	
U.S.-China Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s	
CBGSC	
COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement	
IACAC	

<sup>1</sup> <https://kumu.io/FCC/global-climate-action-ecosystem>.

### COP26HP: Climate Resilient Health Systems



### COP26HP: Sustainable low carbon health systems



### Clean Heat Forum



### IPSCETS



### CCMM



### Declaration on Zero Emission Shipping by 2050



### Advancing Support for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Tenure Rights and their Forest Guardianship



### AIM4C



### ZE-MHDVs



### NZWI



### Statement on the Breakthrough Agenda



### CCRI



### GB



### GAIIA



### GFFP



### FACT



### ETC



### Commitment To Addressing Climate Crisis Through Infrastructure Development



### AGHA



### ZEVTC



## Climate Initiatives Can Accelerate Action...

After finishing the Paris Rulebook at COP26 in Glasgow, the Decade of Implementation begins. In addition to their efforts to address questions about loss and damage, climate justice, and adaptation, the UNFCCC countries agreed on intensifying mitigation efforts. This requires not just small changes but a systemically all-encompassing transformation of sectors, ways of life, politics, and economics. However, there is not much time left for lengthy negotiations. It is therefore crucial to observe the rapidly increasing climate initiatives closely and to make sure that the stakeholder keep their promises and reach the claimed targets.

As a starting point, we took a closer look at three COP26 initiatives: The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land-Use (GDFLU). They differ in sectors, members, and state of institutionalisation, but share the goal to accelerate climate action. From a structured analysis<sup>2</sup> of the three initiatives, we inferred several demands and requirements for the initiatives as well as for national governments in order for the initiatives to be effective.

### Beyond Oil and Gas:

**Ambitious, but responsible nations must follow**

Initiated by Costa Rica and Denmark at COP26, BOGA aims to phase out oil and gas production. There are 14 national and sub-national members—including Denmark, Wales, and Greenland—in three membership categories (core, associate, and friends). Although its core member obligations are quite ambitious and promise to be Paris aligned, it becomes crucial for the success of the initiative to gain support from top oil and gas producing countries. Collectively, associate and core members are responsible for less than 1% of global oil and gas production. The initiative runs a secretariat and website, but further institutionalisation is needed, such as regular meetings and reports. In addition, BOGA needs to elaborate on transparent review mechanisms, for example, by periodically publishing updates on recent developments and increasing transparency concerning ongoing processes and status.

Read full Fact sheet here:

<https://www.germanwatch.org/en/87200>



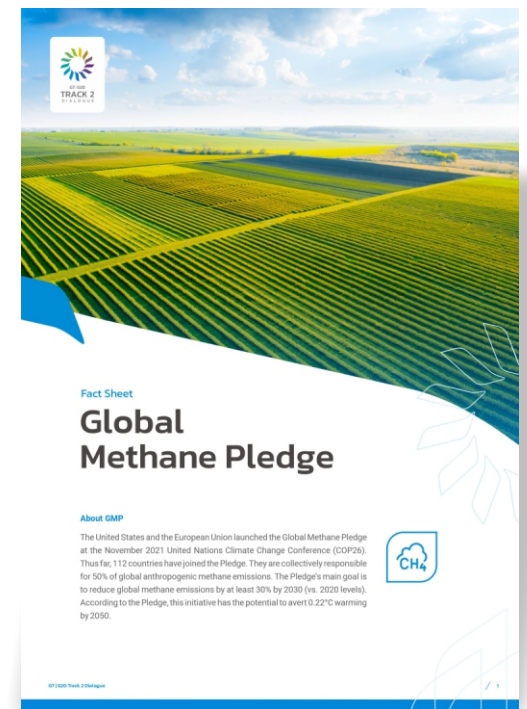
### Global Methane Pledge:

**On the right track**

The United States and the European Union launched the GMP at COP26. Thus far, 112 countries have joined the Pledge. They are collectively responsible for 50% of global anthropogenic methane emissions. The Pledge's main goal is to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030 (vs. 2020 levels). According to the Pledge, this initiative has the potential to avert 0.22°C warming by 2050. Though the GMP's main target is nearly in line with Paris, the emission reduction goal should be national and not global. One important measure on that account could be an inclusion of binding methane-reduction pathways in NDCs. Although the initiative's website and secretariat are already in place, further information on the planned meetings at ministerial level is still missing. Apart from further institutionalising the pledge, the GMP requires accessible and regular review mechanisms to measure the initiative's progress.

Read full Fact sheet here:

<https://www.germanwatch.org/en/87202>



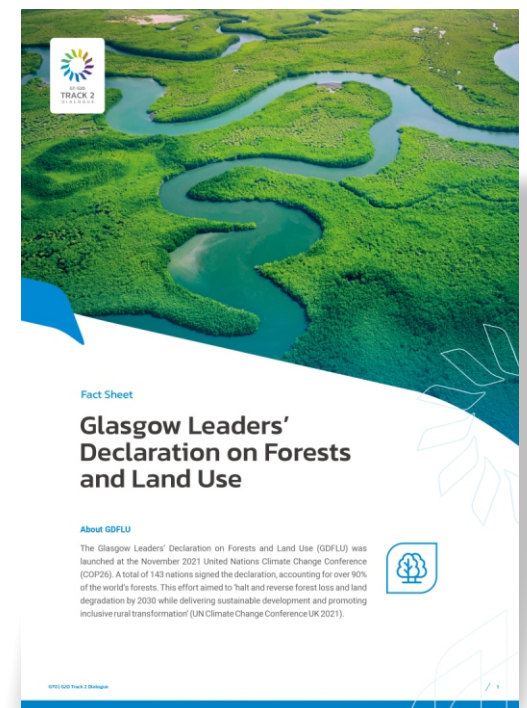
### Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land-Use:

**More liability needed!**

A total of 143 nations signed GDFLU, accounting for over 90% of the world's forests. This effort aimed to 'halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030' (COP26, 2021). Since its announcement, there have yet to be taken any further steps as missing press briefings, member meetings, or other activities indicate. Not even a website is available. Although GDFLU contains a clear vision and a variety of targets, the initiative does not provide any specific measures to reach them.

Read full Fact sheet here:

<https://www.germanwatch.org/en/87201>



<sup>2</sup> We developed an analysis matrix comprising categories such as membership, institutional status, targets, additionality, transparency and reduction potential.

As diverse as the different initiatives are, we were able to derive some general demands for climate initiatives.

Initiatives have to ...

- advance their institutionalisation by establishing a secretariat, allocating resources (staff, finance, etc.) and conducting regular meetings, among others
- include relevant actors, in particular national governments, and build alliances with civil society, the private sector, and other actors
- develop specific measures and recommendations for the implementation of the defined targets, including a precise time schedule
- display their complementarity with earlier promises (in particular NDCs)
- provide accessible and transparent review mechanisms for targets, measures, progress, and success

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... But Need to Enhance Transparency

However, the initiatives themselves cannot account for all of the demands and necessary improvements. National governments involved in them are also responsible for their success and need to address the mentioned concerns.

National governments must...



Build up a tracking system to report on the implementation progress of the initiatives, including status updates or the number of memberships



Integrate the pledges in their NDCs and indicate the implied changes for the headline target, following the G7 Leaders and Ministers announcement



Fund and build independent facilities that will follow up on initiatives, for example:

- by providing funding for civil society
- by creating official entities tied to ministries
- by including them in the UNFCCC process, for instance, within the framework of the new 2030 mitigation work programme

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Conclusion

The design of climate initiatives must allow external stakeholders to monitor and follow up on their progress and therefore make any relevant information in this respect transparent and accessible. It is therefore necessary to implement review mechanisms as well as specific measures and schedules. At large, initiatives have the potential to accelerate climate action, but this is only the case if national governments take their promises seriously and deliver on the agreed targets. In order to reach their goals and enhance transparency, states should keep track of their membership and evaluate the implementation of the respective pledges in an annual report.

In terms of accountability, the G20 should lead by example and commit to present their first initiative implementation progress reports by 2023. Furthermore, G20 communiqués should monitor and evaluate the initiatives linked to the G20 programme, which could also point the way for the UNFCCC negotiations. It is indispensable to create independent institutions, allocated, for example, in international organisations, for the monitoring processes.

Although the COP26 initiatives have hardly had the chance to get up and running, new initiatives are already in the pipeline for the upcoming COP27 in Egypt: The COP presidency has already announced the launch of 17 new initiatives resonating with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, among others. If they are to meet their targets, national governments and initiative initiators must ensure that their design includes accountability mechanisms.



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## G7 | G20 TRACK 2 DIALOGUE

G7 | G20 Track 2 Project is a channel to allow 'trickle-down / bottom-up' dialogues between civil society and governments to discuss climate change policies in the context of G20. Our partner CSOs in each country represent the global south countries in these dialogues.



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