

# COP26 – ‘Multilaterals’

Agreements which are outside the unanimous final agreement

Stewart Edge Dec 2021

# ‘Multilateral’ agreements

- Enabled many ‘agreements’ without the difficulties of getting unanimous agreement
- Enabled positive news stories during first week of conference!
- Methane )
- Trees ) To cover details
- Coal )
- Zero Emission Vehicles ‘Zero emission by 2035 in ‘leading markets’
- (Finance included specifically in some of the above)

# Methane - 1

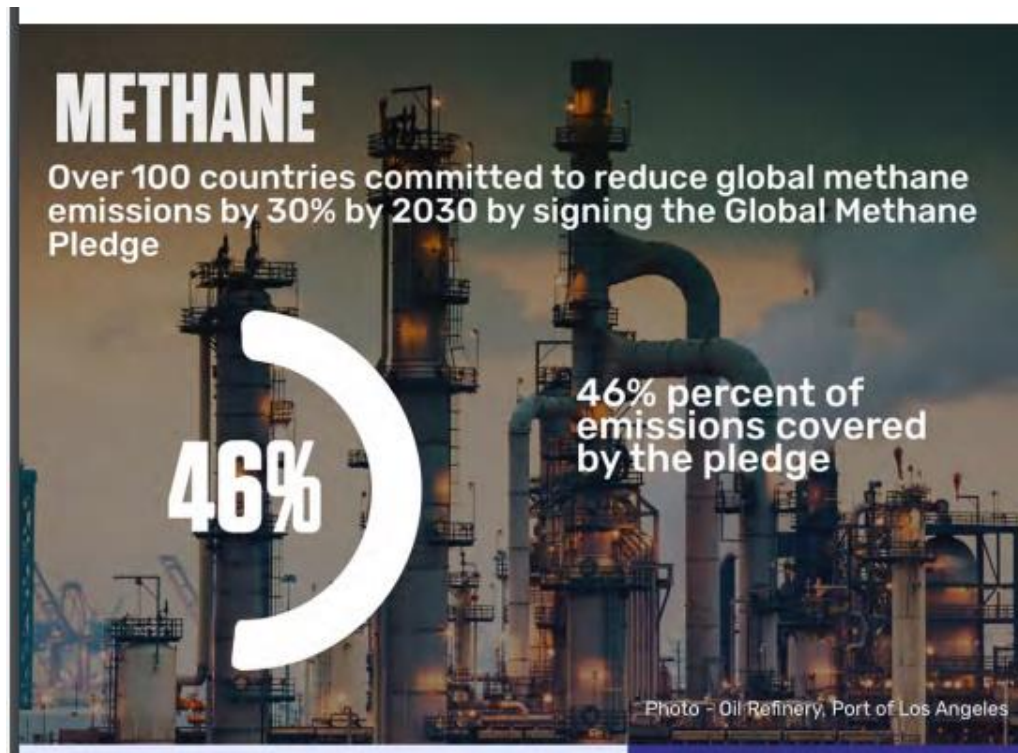
- Methane has far greater warming effect than Carbon Dioxide, though lasts for shorter time (12 years versus centuries).
  - IPCC-assessed impact over a 20 year timeframe is 86 times as bad
  - COP26 report assesses methane as '17% of global greenhouse gas emissions'
- Methane releases are 40% natural: eg from wetlands, (tundra issue)
- 60% due to human activity
  - Agriculture
  - Oil/gas/coal
  - Waste
  - Other
- Reducing methane releases realistically assessed as able to reduce warming by 0.2 degC by 2050..... A massive contribution
  - (Already at 1.1deg C.....target < 2.0 degC, hopefully 1.5 degC)

# Methane – 2

- Significant reductions technically possible (eg for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of oil/gas emissions, 40% of which at no cost)
- ‘Global methane Pledge’
  - Commit to work together in order to collectively reduce global anthropogenic methane emissions across all sectors by at least 30 percent below 2020 levels by 2030.
  - Commit to take comprehensive domestic actions to achieve that target, focusing on standards to achieve all feasible reductions in the energy and waste sectors and seeking abatement of agricultural emissions through technology innovation as well as incentives and partnerships with farmers.

# Methane-3

- Pledge signed by 100 countries
  - Includes USA, Brazil, EU, Indonesia, Pakistan, Argentina
  - Does not include countries emitting together 54% of (human-activity) methane such as Russia, Saudi Arabia, Australia, India
- A very important contribution..... (but I question the 'spin')



# Trees - 1

- Contribution of trees (and wider land protection) to absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> is very significant:
  - Claim in 'UK Presidency outcomes' document is 'Potential to reduce net emissions' by 7Gigatonne
    - 7GTonnes is 14% of 50GT worldwide net Greenhouse Gas emissions.
      - Seems high.....but
      - this benefit includes effect of removal of CO<sub>2</sub> .....valuable to offset some difficult to eliminate emissions
      - (UK 6<sup>th</sup> Carbon budget has UK potential savings of 5% of UK GHG by 2050 through trees / peat etc)
  - Recent activity (eg destruction of Amazon rainforest) has increased emissions: the commitments represent halting destruction and new planting
    - Amazon fires produce 1.5 Gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year

# Trees - 1

- COP26 'Declaration on forests and land use'
  - Conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration;
  - Facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote sustainable development...and that do not drive deforestation and land degradation;
  - Reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering communities,
  - Implement and, if necessary, redesign agricultural policies and programmes to incentivise sustainable agriculture, promote food security, and benefit the environment;
  - + Finance ...
    - ...(12 countries + donors..\$12B; \$1.5B Congo basin; \$1.7B indigenous peoples)

# Trees – 3

- Signed by 141 countries, covering 90% of world's forests
  - Includes USA, Russia, China, Indonesia, **Brazil**, Congo
  - Does not include India
- Most significant is Brazil's 'commitment'
- Rather unclear how realistic is the pathway to the significant savings suggested



# An omission....Population Control

- Human activity causes climate change: more people causes more
  - Continuing population growth, though rate has reduced:
    - 1950 2.6B; 1987 5B; **2020 7.7B** ) In 30 years...doubled, then +50%;
    - UN expects to **in 2050 9.7B** (peaking at 11B in 2100) ) ...then +25%, then + 15% in 50yrs
- Everyone wants standards of living, particularly of poorest, to increase
- Increasing population increases demands for land for agriculture ...quite apart from directly increasing CO2 emissions
- Food production is responsible for 20% (to 40%?) of GG emissions
- Reducing rate of population growth would help address climate change
- IPCC Technical report identifies population growth as one of the 'challenges' to mitigation efforts

BUT....complete silence on the issue

Could at least propose funds for (voluntary) contraception..(instead UK has halved its family planning overseas aid during recent Aid cuts)

# Coal - 1

## **COP26 - Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement**

includes.....

- To rapidly scale up technologies and policies in this decade **to achieve a transition away from unabated coal power generation in the 2030s** (or as soon as possible thereafter) for major economies and in the 2040s (or as soon as possible thereafter) globally
- **To cease issuance of new permits for new unabated coal-fired power generation projects; cease new construction** of unabated coal-fired power generation projects and to end new direct government support for them.
- + Finance    \$2B for coal transition; \$8.5B for South Africa; Asian Bank for Indonesia and Phillipines

# Coal - 2

- Coal is greatest producer of Carbon Dioxide emissions of all fuel-types
    - 15 Gt per year - 41% of world total Co2 emissions
  - 53% of world CO2 emission from coal is in China; 11% from India.
  - 37% of world electricity supplies from Coal
  - COP26 agreement signed by 44 countries...
    - Including UK, EU, **Vietnam; Indonesia-** but excluding key phase out clauses
    - Excluding **China**, USA, Australia, Russia, **India**, Brazil, **Turkey. Bangladesh,** South Africa
- Countries in bold type have 82% of pipeline for new coal power generators

END

# Backup

# Finance

- Various multilateral agreements within sector announcements.

# Population

- Food system responsible for 40% of GG emissions (20% on farm)
- <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/10062021/agriculture-greenhouse-gas-emissions-food-production-climate-change-paris-agreement/>

# Zero Emission Vehicles

- Road transport accounts for over 10% of worldwide GG emissions
  - 2.6 Gt (1/2 of this 10%) possible by 2030 (claimed in 'Presidency outcomes')
- Zero Emission Action Plan
  - We have agreed that our shared aim is to make zero emission vehicles the new normal by making them accessible, affordable, and sustainable in all regions by 2030
  - Policies on charging infrastructure; standards and regulations; Heavy duty vehicle development; ensuring transition is global
- COP26 pulled together commitments from 30 countries / 6 major manufacturers for all new car and van sales to zero emission by 2035 in 'leading markets'.

(No country phase out dates at start of 2020)