# Spread the word

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Slide 3**Please refer to the facilitator handbook

**Slide 4**The UNFCCC (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change) entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 197 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.

**What is the COP?**

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.

The Paris Agreement seeks to accelerate and intensify the actions and investment needed for a sustainable low carbon future. Its central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Agreement also aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.

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Climate experts have projected future outcomes under four hypothetical scenarios (Representative Concentration Pathways, RCP) depending on greenhouse gas emission trends.

* Three of the four trajectories analyzed by the IPCC lead in 2100 to an increase in temperature of more than 2 degrees compared to the pre-industrial era (1850). The most optimistic scenario is the only one in which we dot not exceed 2°C augmentation.
* **In the most pessimistic trajectory** (the one that will occur if we do not act to protect the climate by limiting our greenhouse gas emissions), **temperatures could rise by as much as 5.5°C.**

**Explanations :**

In fact if we set a limit at 2°C not to be exceeded we still have a few years to stabilize our emissions (because until now they are still increasing). And about 50 years to completely stop emitting greenhouse gases.

* With the Paris agreement, all states agreed for the first time on the need to limit climate change to 2°C compared to the pre-industrial era.
* Before the Paris agreement, the UN tried to reach a consensus with all states by imposing "quotas" of emissions not to be exceeded for each country. With this system, an agreement was never reached in 20 years of negotiations.
* With the Paris Accord, each state published a roadmap (its NDC, National Determined Contributions) and its commitments to limit its GHG emissions. In addition, all states signed a text affirming their will to limit global warming to 2°C before 2100. If we compile all this, we arrive on a trajectory between 2.3°C and 3.5°C. So the crucial objective of the next negotiations, which take place every year, will be to reinforce the commitments of the states so that this trajectory is aligned with the 2°C target. This also proves that we must remain mobilized and that the climate issue has not been eliminated with the Paris Agreement.
* As we saw in the previous ppt, setting up a below 2°C objective is a way to simplify the problem, we may think we have a clear objective now, but we still have a large variety of actions to take to achieve carbon neutrality.

**Key messages :**

1.The Paris agreement is indeed historic. It was about time after 21 years of negotiations... But that doesn't mean that the climate has been saved yet...

2.It highlights a new mechanism: NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), or voluntary "national contributions" to GHG reduction.

3.The "climateactiontracker" tool gives a temperature rise of around 2.8°C following the compilation of pledges from each State. Countries must be even more ambitious.

4.There is still no supra-national body allowing sanctions in case of non-compliance with commitments. The post-Kyoto Protocol analysis bears witness to this failure...

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The [**European Green Deal**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) is a set of policy initiatives by the [European Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Commission) with the overarching aim of making Europe climate neutral in 2050.

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, the European Green Dealwill transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring:

* no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050
* economic growth decoupled from resource use
* no person and no place left behind

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It is not easy to know how many GHG we can emit before reaching a 2° global warming, but climate experts estimated in 2018 that this threshold will be reached if we emit 1170GtCO2 more, and 420GtCO2 for a 1.5° augmentation. At the actual level of emission : 50GtCO2/an, we only have few years to take action.

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There is and will be less and less fossil fuels because they are not renewables. But we have already discovered enough gas, oil and coal to take us far beyond & +2°C global warming. Then the question is not, whether we will lack of fossil fuels or not, but will we be able to stop burning fossil fuels fast enough to limit global warming and its consequences ?

**Slide 9**We know we should reduce our GHG emissions a lot to maintain global warming below 2°C. We can take several actions individually but as we need to change our society as a whole, we need to act collectively at different levels, we must rethink our local and national organizations and change the way we produce and consume at companies and businesses levels. Now that you learnt a lot in this project you have the possibility to raise awareness around you and involve other people to massively reduce our emissions !

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We only have a few years to act, but we should keep reducing our emissions in the long term, that is why it is important to develop a transition strategy. Carbon accounting allows the evaluation of emissions, and therefore the first impacts on climate change. However, it is necessary to go further to really trigger the low-carbon transition: organizations need to put in place action plans, and apply them over time.

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To achieve a low carbon transition, it is important to focus on what is our task and what is not. It is not our job to define objectives, the objectives are set by the climate experts from the IPCC and the efforts shared among all countries and sectors of activity in the COP or other institutions like the International Energy Agency (IEA). What we should focus on is how to effectively reduce our emissions, what changes can we make to our societies.

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As we said earlier, in 2021, we have international objectives and an international agreement called the Paris Agreement. It is not a binding commitment and there is no sanction if countries do not reach their national objectives but it is drawing a first step for establishing a low-carbon transition.

A lot of countries complete their commitment to the Paris Agreement by national objectives and national laws specifying, for example, the sectoral objectives of certain industries.

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Here is the example for France and its National Low Carbon Strategy. We can see that there are a lot of efforts to make to reach our goal of carbon neutrality.

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It is important to set up a strategy and to draw action plans, but what matters are the actions that are taken. In France, we are not keeping up with our objectives and we must make more efforts.

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It is important to take actions at all levels and especially at the local level. Indeed, climate change is already having big consequences on local communities whether by the increase of natural risks or the reducing of natural resources. For many territories, they should not only think how to reduce their emissions but also adapt to climate change right now and anticipate the future risks.

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To maintain climate change below 2°C, we should make drastic changes in our societies, drastic changes that may seem unthinkable but are necessary. Well beyond our individual actions, it is high time to organize collectively and find alternatives to create a new society.

On this slide, you can see some propositions that was made by a french consulting firm who tried to establish a road map for France to be in line with a 1.5°C trajectory. If nothing else is done in the next few years, the same actions will soon be needed to stay below 2°C.

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Hopefully, reducing our GHG emissions and creating a new society is not only about efforts and constraints. On the contrary, it is the opportunity to improve our quality of our entire life. It is not only avoiding the extra degrees but also a real social project that remains to be built! Of course, decarbonizing a world is not something that can be done overnight, everything takes time, but by changing our starting point, a lot of new perspectives are offered to us.

Here are some advantages that are in line with reducing our GHG emissions:

* Higher standards in our diet and a different way of getting around represent a positive impact on our health.
* Energy transition also means reducing the amount of waste at source, and implementing the right heating and insulation measures in our homes means more comfort in our daily lives and definite savings on our bills.
* Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels is also a way to gain independence from producer countries and to build a world that is less conflict-ridden.
* Finally, the transition that is taking place in the sectors that are evolving is the creation of a number of jobs that cannot be relocated and that have high added value.

You see, finally, less CO2 doesn't imply a return to the Middle Ages, sleeping on the floor lit by candlelight, but on the contrary a more comfortable way of life, less conflicts, more equality, better health, more solidarity.... It's a dream come true!

**Key messages :**

Less CO2 does not mean that life will be ruined or that you'll have to go back to candlelight. On the contrary, it also means a more comfortable life, improved health, more solidarity, healthier food, a more peaceful world...etc.

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