

# **Making COP26 work**

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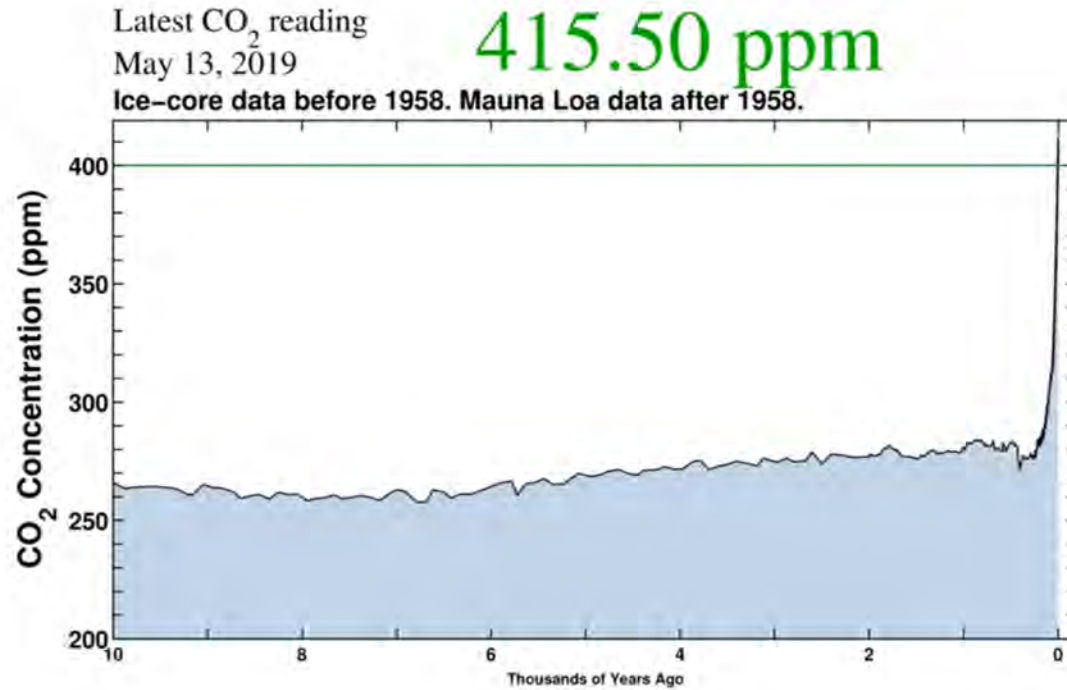
**« Searching for a new moral compass », Windsor Energy Group  
Consultation, Windsor Castle, U.K., 8 March 2020**

Thanks to the Walloon government for supporting [www.pplateforme-wallonne-giec.be](http://www.pplateforme-wallonne-giec.be), my team at UCLouvain, and Sophie Closson for the Article 6 slides

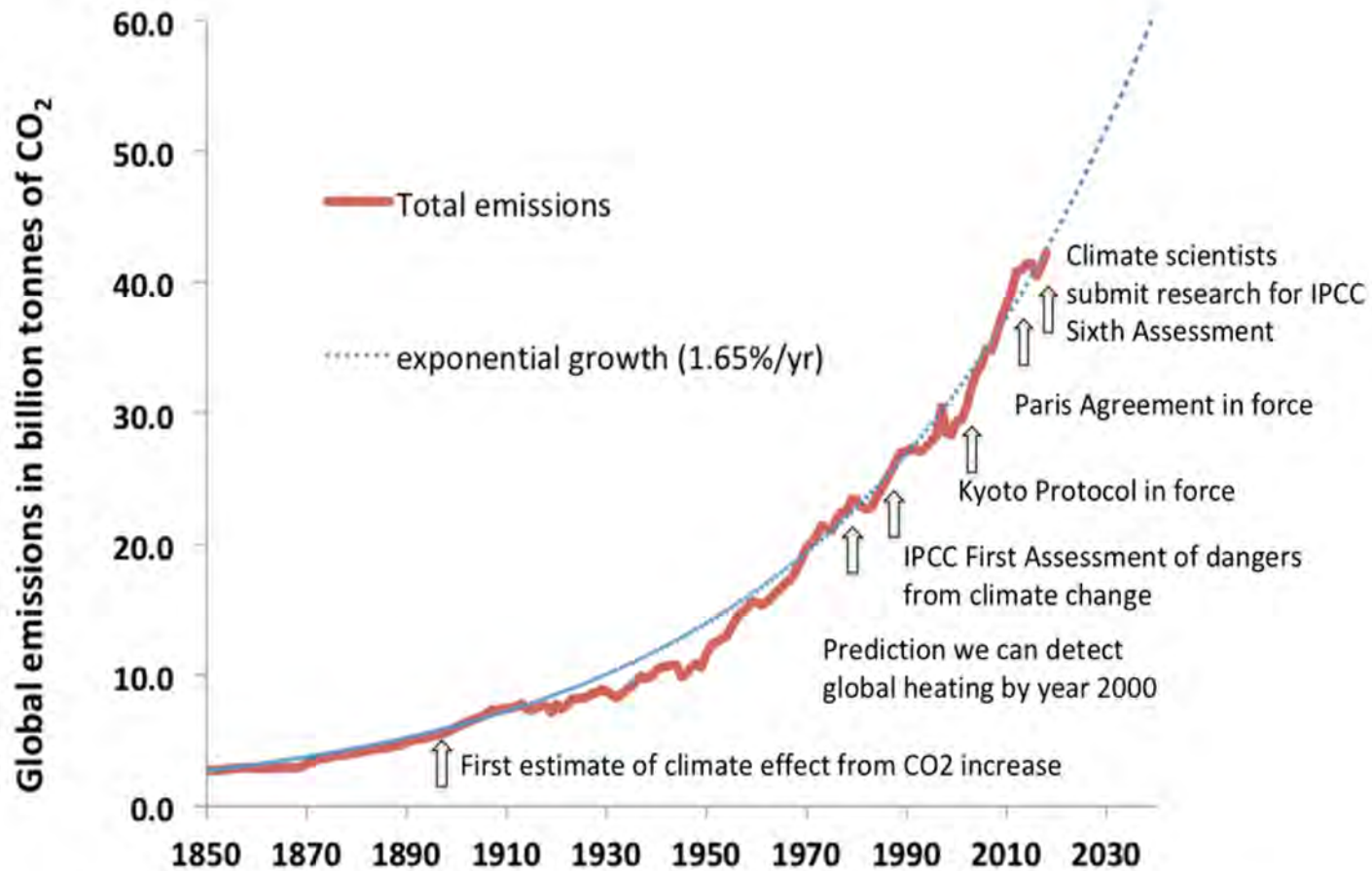
# 30 years old: IPCC first report warning of global warming-induced climate change



# CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration, 13 May 2019 (Keeling curve)



Source: [scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/keelingcurve/](https://scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/keelingcurve/)



Source: Wolfgang Knorr, in The Conversation (2019)

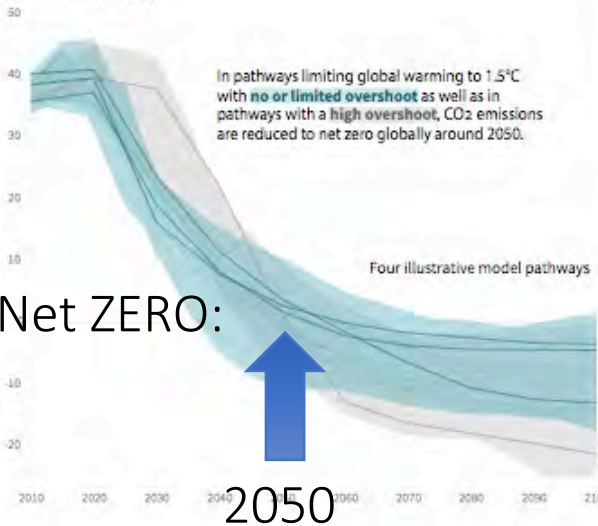
# To stay below 1.5°C warming:

## Global emissions pathway characteristics

General characteristics of the evolution of anthropogenic net emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, and total emissions of methane, black carbon, and nitrous oxide in model pathways that limit global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot. Net emissions are defined as anthropogenic emissions reduced by anthropogenic removals. Reductions in net emissions can be achieved through different portfolios of mitigation measures illustrated in Figure SPM3B.

### Global total net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

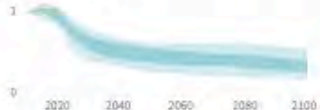
Billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/yr



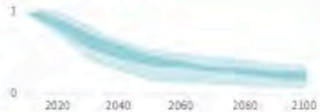
### Non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions relative to 2010

Emissions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> forcers are also reduced or limited in pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with **no or limited overshoot**, but they do not reach zero globally.

#### Methane emissions



#### Black carbon emissions



#### Nitrous oxide emissions



### Timing of net zero CO<sub>2</sub>

Line widths depict the 5-95th percentile and the 25-75th percentile of scenarios



Source: IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

Source: IPCC SR15

« Wouldn't be time  
to do something? »

« No panicking »

« Any coffee? »





# I want you to panic... and act

“I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic ... and act as if the house was on fire. ”

Greta Thunberg  
Environmental Activist



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Maldives



Photo: @JpvanYpersele, August 2015





Photo: @JpvanYpersele, August 2015

# COP 26

(26th Conference of the Parties to the UN  
Framework Convention on Climate Change)

# Nations Unies Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques

COP21/CMP11

Paris, France



# The Paris Agreement (COP21, December 2015)

- **Vision**

- « ...strengthen the **global response to the threat of climate change**, in the context of **sustainable development** and efforts to **eradicate poverty** »

- **Objectives**

- a) **Holding the increase in the global average temperature:**

- « **to well below 2 ° C** above pre-industrial levels »
- « **pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 ° C** above pre-industrial levels,  
*recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change* »

- b) **Adaptation and Mitigation**

- « **Increasing the ability to adapt** to the adverse impacts of climate change and **foster climate resilience** and
- **low greenhouse gas emissions development**, in a manner that does not threaten food production»

- c) **Finances**

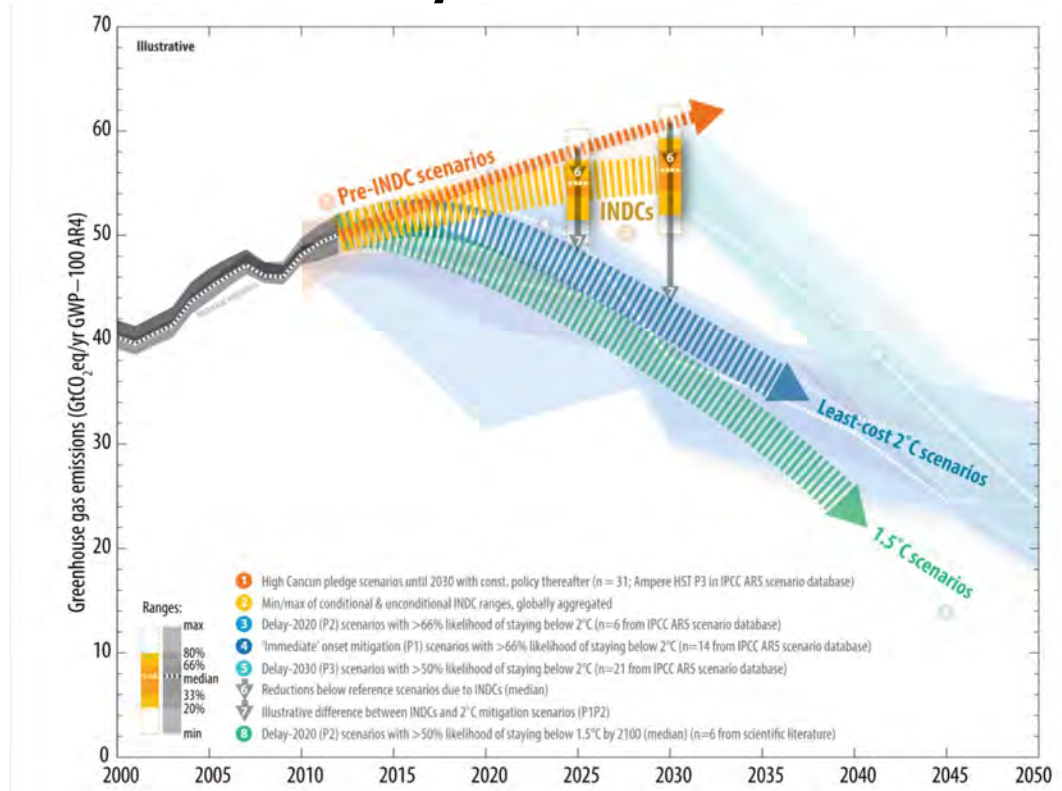
- « **Making finance flows consistent** with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. »

# **COP26 key issues include:**

- Upgrade Ambition of National plans (NDCs)
- Finalize Paris Rulebook (i.e. Article 6 – carbon markets etc.)



# Comparison of global emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions



UNFCCC, Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/02.pdf>

# Ambition (emissions, but also climate finance):

- EU Green Deal ?
- China?
- US election results?

# Paris Agreement Article 6

## SITUATION (2)

- **Article 6.1**
  - Cooperation contributes to mitigation and adaptation
- **Article 6.2**
  - International transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs)
    - Ex: linking of ETS, transfers of ER from 6.4, airlines
- **Article 6.4**
  - New mechanism under Board supervision
    - (to replace KP CDM after 2020)
- **Article 6.8**
  - Framework to promote 'non-market approaches'
    - Adaptation, finance, tech transfer, forests...

## SITUATION (1)

- **COP24, Katowice**
  - Adoption of Paris rulebook
  - No agreement on Article 6
- **COP25, Madrid**
  - Political focus on Article 6
  - Result: No agreement, not even a work program, footnote refers to 4 previous texts
- **Reasons**
  - Political
  - Technical
  - Organisational
    - *NB: First Pcdy text on Friday, ~50p, ~200 brackets*



## POLITICAL CHALLENGES (1)

### *DIVERGING PRIORITIES*

- **Brazil**
  - Full carry-over of KP CERs, no accounting for 6.4, continuation of CDM, Art6.4 baselines based on BAU
- **LMDC (India, China, Saudi)**
  - Non-GHG metrics (kWh from RE), Article 6.8 (finance, response measures), Share of proceeds (SoP) for 6.2, avoidance of emissions
- **AOSIS (Small Island States)**
  - Overall mitigation of global emission (OMGE), SoP for 6.2, robust accounting, environmental integrity, sustainable development, human rights

## POLITICAL CHALLENGES (2)

### *DIVERGING PRIORITIES*

- **AGN (Africa Group)**
  - SoP for 6.2, balance between 6.2 and 6.4, outside scope allowed, no carry-over of KP CERs, forests included
- **AILAC (Latin America)**
  - SoP for 6.2, environmental integrity, no carry-over of KP CERs, San Jose Principles (high ambition coalition)
- **Umbrella Group (US, Japan, Australia)**
  - Airlines (CORSIA), accounting (point year target), KP AAUs, no SoP on 6.2 (red line)
- **EIG (Environmental Integrity Group: Switzerland, Monaco, ...)**
  - Environmental integrity, robust accounting, sustainable development, human rights

## TECHNICAL CHALLENGES (1)

- **Art.6.4 baselines**
  - Below BAU, contribution to NDC, benchmark/BAT, PAMs
- **KP units**
  - Diverging numbers, vintage date, limited time, also AAU?
- **Share of proceeds (SoP)**
  - Not in PA for Art6.2, not for ETS linking, predictable finance for adaptation, balance between 6.2 and 6.4
- **Accounting for all transfers**
  - Also for Art.6.4, outside scope, KP CERs, 'other uses' (voluntary market) or not? Limited opt out period
- **Non-GHG metrics**
  - Only between same types of NDC, no conversion factors

## TECHNICAL CHALLENGES (2)

- **Forest, avoidance of emissions**
  - Leakage, permanence, crediting period, baselines
- **Point year target**
  - Annual comparison with target, trajectories, averaging
- **Banking between NDC period / timing of adjustment**
  - 'No increase in emission within and across NDC period'
  - Adjustment when the outcome occurred, and on use
- **Quality of ITMOs, avoidance of 'hot air'**
  - Robust definition, ITMO generated from real 'approach' (not only NDC overachievement), high risk (3 to 40 Gt)

# Some recipes for success (1):

- Involvement of highest government level
- Diplomatic network focussed on COP26 success (compatible with Brexit negotiations?)
- Understand the scientific, technical, and socio-economic aspects (incl. Finance!)
- Emphasize positive narratives (incl. business opportunities)



# Some recipes for success (2):

- Empathy for particular concerns (LDCs, most vulnerable countries, fossil-fuel dependent economies, just transition, youth...)
- Search synergies with other SDGs
- Never loose sight of the common purpose: maintain the Earth inhabitable for all
- Political courage



Joel Pett, USA Today

This gives me  
hope:

Well-  
informed  
young people  
speaking  
truth to  
power

With @GretaThunberg at COP24



# Greta is inconvenient, like the truth

Greta is inconvenient, like the truth<sup>1</sup>

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Former IPCC Vice-Chair (2008-2015),  
Member of the Académie royale de Belgique*

Greta Thunberg is inconvenient, and has been the subject of renewed criticism since her [speech](#) to the United Nations in New York. Some, often older white men, criticize her appearance or her so-called "mental illness." They call her "unstable" and seem to take pride in bullying her.

But maybe they feel threatened because Greta is gifted. She understands the challenges of the climate crisis much better than most political or economic leaders.

I have seen this myself. As a physicist and climate scientist for nearly 40 years, and a former Vice-Chair of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), I am no stranger to the climate crisis. But Greta has raised awareness about the climate crisis to a level never before seen.

I first saw Greta at the Katowice Climate Conference in December 2018. She was alone on a podium at a United Nations climate conference, answering questions from a host and the audience. She has no cards, but answers without hesitation, sometimes simply saying: "I don't know, I'm only 15 years old, ask the experts." But she already knows a lot. She also recognizes that "no one is too small to make a difference." I am blown away by the accuracy of her words, based on a serious knowledge of the mechanisms at work and the causes of the climate crisis.

A few days later, I heard Greta addressing the diplomats and negotiators in the plenary room. "The year 2078, I will celebrate my seventy-fifth birthday. If I have children, then maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything, while there still was time to act. You say that you love your children above everything else. And yet you are stealing their future." The [video](#) of her speech was shared around the world.

In all my years working on climate change in the United States, Belgium, and with the IPCC, and having participated in each meeting of the UN's climate treaty, I had never heard such a strong and moving climate speech. Her heart was talking, and she was right.

Greta read the IPCC reports. She understands the immense risks that the accumulation of greenhouse gases poses to life on Earth. She does not confuse the ozone hole, air pollution or the daily weather forecast with the climate crisis.

Few leaders can say the same.

Greta speaks without any shame about her Asperger's syndrome. In fact, it probably helps her see the contradiction between the speeches of world leaders and their actions. With great emotional intelligence, she expresses her fear of this gap. A fear that is shared by millions of young people.

The adults who blame Greta for sharing her concern would do better to listen to this fear, and to take action. Many adults defend themselves by attacking or devaluing youth. They try to make people believe that the decarbonization Greta is demanding implies a return to the Stone Age and poverty. They believe that they must protect the status quo of unlimited economic growth that relies on fossil fuels—their status quo.

Clearly these critics of Greta and the climate strikers have not read the IPCC reports. A just energy and ecological transition can lead to a better quality of life for everyone, particularly if it's integrated with the pursuit of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The recent [UN Global Sustainable Development Report](#) has just emphasized this point.

Greta is no longer alone, as she was at the beginning of the [movement](#) she started. In many countries, including the United States, young people are rising to the challenge through dialogue and collective non-violent action. Greta's leadership and ability to speak truth to power has earned her a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize...and I hope she receives this prize of prizes.

We have so much to learn from them. It is our generation's short-term thinking and actions that have brought us to the brink. We must listen to these young people who dare to speak about their fears for their future, and stop believing that we know better than they do. We must change our attitudes, and utilize the technological, economic, and political tools that will make it possible to transform young people's fears into a force of hope for a sustainable and just future.

Those who refuse to do this have signed their own death wish—for themselves, their children and their grandchildren.

I support Greta because she supports life.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the tribune published in « Le Monde » on Octobre 1st 2019 ([https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2019/10/01/jean-pascal-van-ypersele-greta-derange-comme-la-verite\\_6013798\\_3232.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2019/10/01/jean-pascal-van-ypersele-greta-derange-comme-la-verite_6013798_3232.html)); this text is available on [www.climate.be/vanyp](http://www.climate.be/vanyp)

**That small blue dot is the Earth, as seen from  
Cassini, orbiting Saturn, 1.44 billion km from  
us, on 19-7-2013**



Photo: Nasa

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# **Our atmosphere is thin and fragile (as seen by ISS crew on 31 July 2013)**

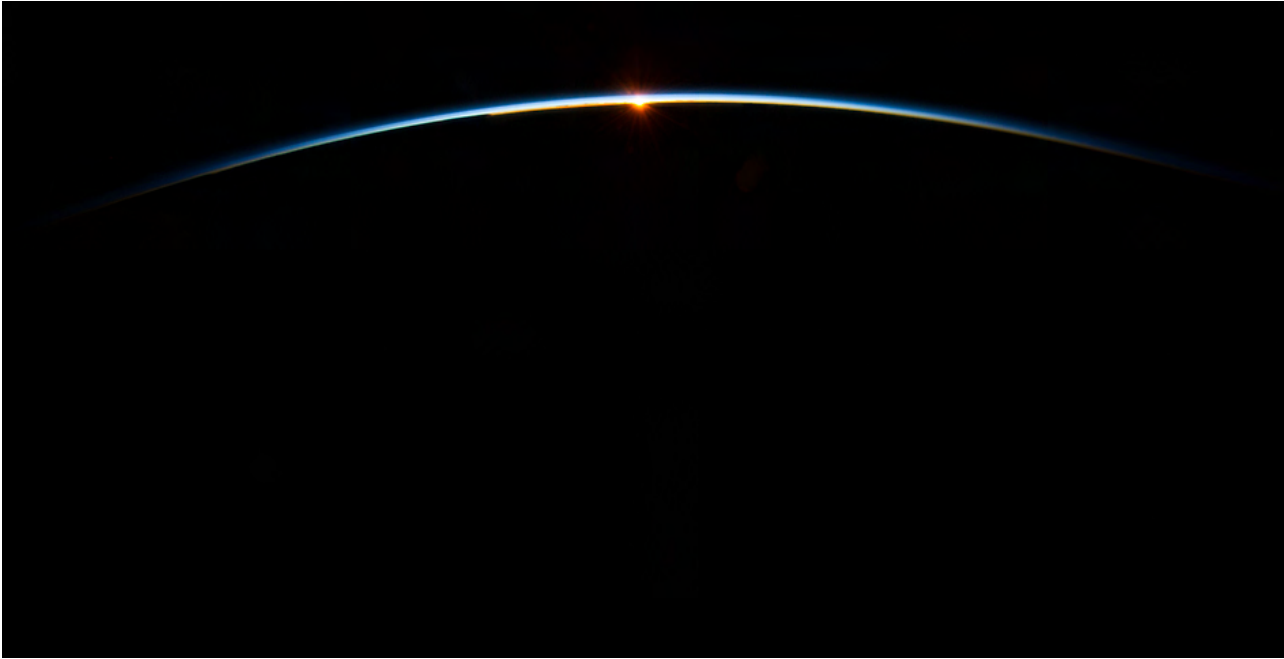


Photo: Nasa

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# To go further :

- [www.climate.be/vanyp](http://www.climate.be/vanyp) : my slides (under « conferences ») & my letter for Greta
- [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch) : IPCC
- [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/gsdr2019](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/gsdr2019)  
GSDR2019: Global Sustainable Development Report 2019
- [www.skepticalscience.com](http://www.skepticalscience.com) : answers to the merchants of doubt arguments
- [www.plateforme-wallonne-giec.be](http://www.plateforme-wallonne-giec.be) : IPCC-related in French, Newsletter, latests on IPCC Special Reports, next on COP25
- **Twitter: @JPvanYpersele & @IPCC\_CH**

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