

Overview of the COP Simulation Programme

Background

Driven by the shared goal of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and accelerating climate action, The British University in Egypt (BUE) and UNDP Egypt organize the annual COP Simulation, a youth-led climate conference where students worldwide simulate the COP negotiations and engage with country delegates and international climate stakeholders.

Each year, the COP Simulation is held in collaboration with a leading academic institution from the COP host country. The first edition, COP27 Simulation, took place in Egypt, supported by the COP27 Presidency. The second edition was organized in partnership with Zayed University, the UAE's leading academic institution. The third edition was successfully hosted by ADA University in Azerbaijan, with support from the COP29 Presidency.

Main Deliverables

- **A two-week online capacity-building programme** offered by global academic institutions and organisations on climate literacy, youth-led climate action, diplomacy, debate and conflict resolution.
- **Mentored policy papers on climate-related themes**, guided by Egyptian and International mentors from relevant academic and professional backgrounds.
- **COP Mock Conference on the campus of The British University in Egypt.** Around 150 students from across the world are invited to Egypt, to simulate country delegates, chief negotiators, and non-state actors. Discuss and vote on their research-based resolutions. Selected students are funded for a six-day stay in Egypt.
- **The COP simulation declaration.** The youth voted resolutions are presented in the published declaration which is then presented at the actual COP.
- **COP participation:** Around 20 students are selected to present the outcomes of the Mock Conference Declaration at the actual COPs' blue and green zones sessions. Selected students are funded for the trip to COP.

Highlights of the COPsimulation

The COP Simulation is an innovative and unique initiative that brings together a diverse group of participants from around the world to engage in climate negotiations and policymaking simulations.

Magnitude, Outreach, and Global Reach

The programme has been growing significantly over the years. It brings around 160 delegates - carefully selected from a pool of around 3,000 applicants - representing over 40 countries and coming from around 90 universities around the globe. To ensure broad reach, the call for

applications has been shared with prominent academic networks, including the European Union Association, the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), the Association of African Universities, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, among others. It engages academics, professionals, and organizations from institutions such as UNFCCC, UNDP, Oxford Net Zero, and Stanford University, ensuring high-level expertise. The outcomes of the COP Simulation, published in the COP simulation annual declaration, successfully culminate in participation at COP, in a number of sessions across various pavilions in the blue zone with the presence of distinguished ministers, diplomats and global experts. At COP29, the program secured nine official sessions in the Blue Zone, featuring discussions at WHO, UNCP, and the League of Arab States pavilions. Notably, proposals from the Cairo Simulation on NCQG closely aligned with the COP29 final statement, showcasing the program's realistic and impactful approach.

Official Support

The COP Simulation receives strong backing from governmental and international institutions, including the COP Presidency, High-Level Climate Champions, Egyptian Ministries of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Youth and Sports, as well as the British Embassy in Egypt. It also benefits from the foundational support of Professor Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Agenda and Honorary Chair of the COP Simulation. Notably, the COP Simulation delegation is one of the largest youth delegations at the COP, reflecting its significance in climate discussions.

Impact

The programme builds youth capacities across multiple areas, fostering climate literacy, diplomacy, negotiation, and advocacy skills. It equips participants with the necessary tools to actively engage in global climate action while also promoting cultural exchange, enabling students from diverse backgrounds to collaborate effectively.

Future Collaboration:

Given that the COP30 is taking place in Brazil this year, we are eager to continue growing our COP Simulation and collaborating with key institutions in Brazil to amplify its impact.

For more information on the COP Simulation, please check the link to our COP Simulation website and check out the link to the COP Simulation Documentary Video:

COP simulation video: <https://youtu.be/E3tclz9Y0JA>

COP Simulation Link : <https://www.bue.edu.eg/about-cop-simulation>