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| |  | | --- | | Each week, some of our Councillors and interns share a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week, our Councillors examine Australia's submarine capability, Colin Powell and COP26.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors and interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A person standing at a podium  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [**200 Dimensional Chess: Making Sense of COP26**](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/11/02/100-countries-join-methane-pledge-china-india-australia-russia-stay/?utm_source=Climate+Weekly&utm_campaign=8b65a258ec-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_29_04_03_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bf939f9418-8b65a258ec-407979977)  COP26, this year’s UN climate change conference, began last weekend in Glasgow. Arguably the most hotly anticipated diplomatic event of the year, the conference is like a high stake games of 200 dimensional chess. Every country in the world is manoeuvring around each other, business lobbies, activists, civil society, indigenous peoples and numerous other groups. But not only are there a huge number of players, there are a huge number of issues on the table. From carbon trading to green hydrogen, it is nearly impossible to track all of them. If you want an introduction to international environmental agreements I strongly recommend watching [**our presentation**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhPAvbHav1Q) with Professor Susan Park, broadcast last week, which analysed the effectiveness of international environmental agreements. If you are looking for more specific issues to track at the COP these are my three picks.   Firstly, [**climate finance**](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/10/25/donor-countries-set-reach-100bn-climate-finance-target-2023-three-years-late/) will be a huge part of the conference. A global target of $100 billion to help developing nations transition to low carbon economies was agreed in 2009. It was meant to be met by last year, but that target was missed. This issue is a crucial bellwether for relations between developed and developing nations at the conference, though the BBC is reporting the target may not be met and a different agreement based around small groups of countries banding together to help particular developing economies transition may the eventual outcome.  Secondly, methane emissions are coming to the forefront. On Tuesday [**104 countries agreed**](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/11/02/100-countries-join-methane-pledge-china-india-australia-russia-stay/?utm_source=Climate+Weekly&utm_campaign=8b65a258ec-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_29_04_03_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bf939f9418-8b65a258ec-407979977) to reduce their methane emissions by 30% by 2030. Australia was notably absent from the list, but interestingly New Zealand, a country with a strong agricultural lobby, was amongst the signatories.  Thirdly, follow the High Ambition Coalition (HAC). The HAC was the dark horse of Paris, a group of countries that coordinated their climate diplomacy before the conference but largely flew under the radar until they staged a dramatic intervention in the final days of COP21, galvanising support for the Agreement’s 1.5 degrees warming limit. Now [**the US has rejoined**](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/02/us-rejoins-coalition-to-achieve-15c-goal-at-un-climate-talks) the alliance, a major boost for their lobbying power. Can the HAC drive the conference to success again?  Image credit: [**COP26**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/186938113@N07/51647830868/in/album-72157720094213749/) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was contributed by Alex McManis. Alex holds a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Government and International Relations from the University of Sydney and was previously the Climate and Energy Security Fellow at Young Australians in International Affairs. Alex has served on the Council since 2019. | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Niki Beri. Niki is a fourth-year student at the University of Sydney, studying a Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Politics and International Relations, Music). She is currently a Parliamentary Liaison at Jasiri Australia, facilitating the NSW Girls Takeover Parliament program and Secretary of the Sutherland Shire Chuo Sister City Association. Through her studies she has developed a keen interest in human rights, ethnic conflict and women’s issues and rights. | |

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