Guidelines for deliberative focus groups including fictional protest event scenario

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CiDAPE

Climate, Inequality & Democratic Action:
The Force of Political Emotions

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Dissemination level

PU – Public

Type

DEM – Demonstrator, Pilot, Prototype

CIDAPE
Climate, Inequality, and Democratic Action: The Force of Political Emotions

Guidelines for deliberative focus groups including fictional protest event scenario

Deliverable 1.6

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Executive Summary

This deliverable is a research design document, that will serve to guide all the deliberative focus groups conducted within Work Package 6 (WP6) of the CIDAPE research project. In the subsequent chapters of this document, we introduce deliberative focus groups as a method, explain how this method is particularly suited to study political emotions and then introduce the program of deliberative focus groups as a research methodology of WP 6. In WP 6, we study how climate emotions interact with emotions of inequality and gendered identities in reaction to climate activism. We investigate how this emotional reaction is formulated and reformulated through peer-to-peer discussions. We utilize deliberation as a research method, because it empowers participants, and uncovers the processes through with emotions are framed and understood in real life.

1 Deliberative Focus Groups (a brief description of the method)

Deliberative focus groups are designed to empower citizens to produce knowledge, share knowledge, and co-produce knowledge; it is a type of so-called mini-publics: "Despite their differences, mini-publics do have some features in common when it comes to format and process. All involve information gathering, (this may include presentations from academic/legal experts, stakeholders, witnesses) and small group-moderated deliberations that lead to some form of publicly presented opinion or recommendation." (Harris 2019: 45) The aim here is to democratize expertise in an open and inclusive debate, involving not only the potentially disconnected scientific elite but also those affected by scientific results, the actors of everyday life (see Nowotny 2003, Jasanoff and Simmet 2017). Only in this way can scientific results contribute not to the alienation of parts of society that see them only as a manifestation of elitist arrogance that silences their specific experience, but to the greater integration of social groups that are drifting apart in current democracies.

The term *deliberation* and it's methodological meaning originates in paradigm on *deliberative democracy*. The shift towards more deliberative democracy would, according to its proponents, bring society several advantages: it would mean better political decisions, as it would allow them to come out from a range of different representations of the public good (thus leading to greater accountability of political authorities to the interests they represent); and it would eliminate publicly untenable positions (Habermas 1996). It would also bring greater unity and solidarity in society. A social cement would be formed in the public debate and a genuine sense of belonging (Fung 2003). Political decision-making would be much more legitimate because everyone who should be affected by the decision would have a chance to express their opinion (for example Dryzek 2010).

1.1 Emotions as a Social Experience, Emotions in Deliberation

Emotions are increasingly recognized as a driving force that shapes politics and policies and how these are debated, understood and interpreted. Evidence suggests that emotions interact with values and identities. Emotions are relational and deeply embodied. They are relational because "they involve (re)actions or relations of 'towardness' or 'awayness' […] to […] objects" (Ahmed, 2014, p. 8) and they are embodied because they are often accompanied by bodily feelings and sensations (Ahmed, 2014). It is doubtful whether we can distinguish between thoughts, emotions and bodily feelings analytically because it is not certain if these three realms of human experience can even be experienced as distinct (Ahmed, 2014, p. 6). Therefore, following Ahmed (2014) we do not distinguish between them and approach these three realms as "impressions".

In this research, we utilize deliberative focus groups to study the intersection of climate emotions and emotions of inequality with gender identity (Daggett 2018; Nelson 2020; Anshelm and Hultman 2014). We understand climate emotions as: "a wide range of affective states and emotional responses that individuals and communities experience in relation to climate change" (Roelvink and Zolkos 2011; Pihkala 2022a; Mosquera & Jylhä 2022). We understand emotions of inequality as: "the affective dimensions of social structures and situations characterized by disparities in power, status, and resources based on categories such as race, class, and gender" (Slaby and Scheve 2019). We understand them as political emotions because they stem from both individual and collective sources and involve shared experiences, values, and concepts of morality.

Understanding emotions in this way, deliberation is uniquely suited for our research intent because it allows us to: (1) give citizens agency and a feeling of empowerment in their reactions; (2) observe reactions and further investigate their emotional background; and (3) to observe how reactions are shaped by other members of the public and their emotions. Deliberation in the modernist paradigm has been framed as a rationalized procedure opposing emotions. In line with feminist epistemology, we argue that the emotions elicited through public engagement are crucial for framing and reframing of political discourses and that identities, including gender identities, contribute to the emotional framing.

2 Research Design

We will conduct 4 deliberative focus groups, 2 in Czechia, 2 in Italy. Each deliberative focus group will have 15 participants. In each country, one deliberative focus group will be held in major urban area and the one will be held in a rural area. Participants of the focus group will be selected through stratified or quota sampling based on age, gender and education to represent the population of the country. Each deliberative focus group will last 3.5 hours. First part of the programme will be dedicated to information gathering, second part of the programme will be dedicated to selection process based on the information gathered in the first part, and the last part of the programme will be dedicated to deliberative group work with facilitators, which will then be followed by a reflection of the group work.

2.1 Scenario of Climate-activism focused Deliberative Focus Groups

Program of Deliberative Focus Groups:

20 minutes of introductions
30 minutes: lecture - basic facts of climate change
break 10 minutes
30 minutes: presentation of three model scenarios (this will likely take less time, resulting in time buffer for the group work)
15 minutes: recap of scenarios and voting on the “worst” scenario
break 15 minutes
1 hour: group work to redesign the voted scenario to make it “better”
20 minutes: a final conversation with facilitators about the reworked scenario
10 minutes: farewell and conclusion

2.2 Basic Facts of Climate Change presentation

The presentation, including all the visuals, has been sourced from UN's climate change information website. *What Is Climate Change?* (2024). United Nations. https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

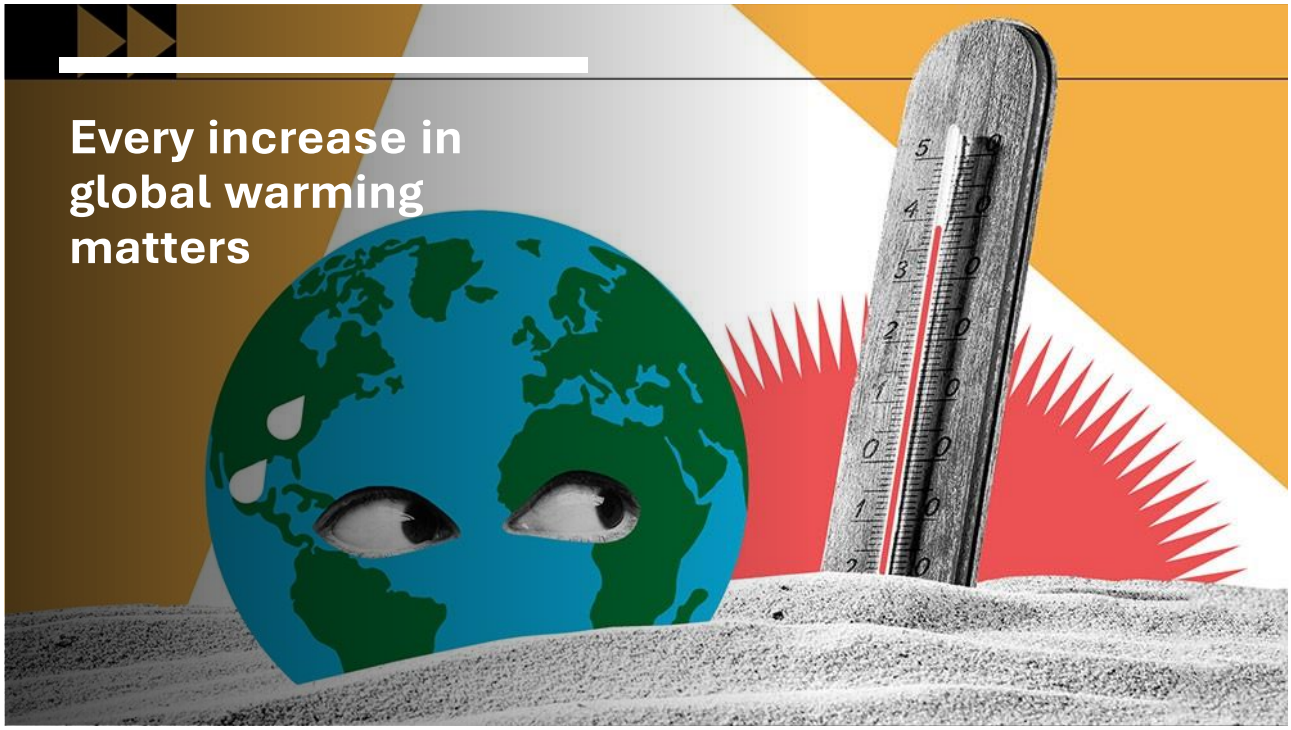
The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane.

Climate scientists have showed that humans are responsible for virtually all global heating over the last 200 years. Human activities like the ones mentioned above are causing greenhouse gases that are warming the world faster than at any time in at least the last two thousand years.

The average temperature of the Earth's surface is now about 1.2°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s (before the industrial revolution) and warmer than at any time in the last 100,000 years. The last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record, and each of the last four decades has been warmer than any previous decade since 1850.

Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperatures. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story. Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others.

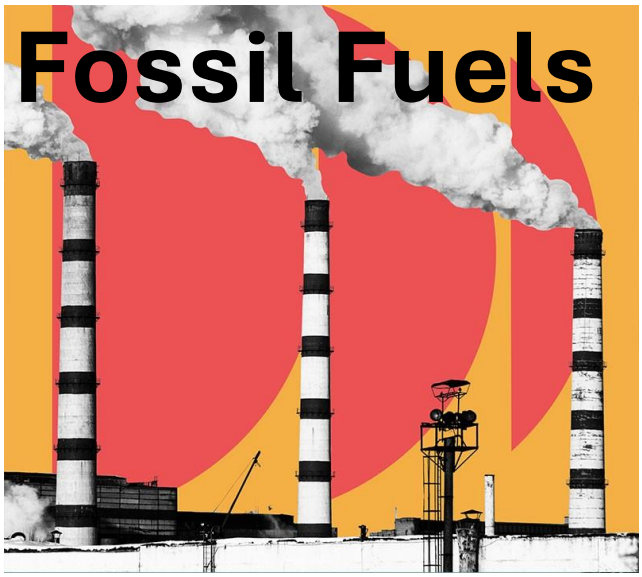
The consequences of climate change now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity.



In a series of UN reports, thousands of scientists and government reviewers agreed that limiting global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C would help us avoid the worst climate impacts and maintain a livable climate. Yet policies currently in place point to up to 3.1°C of warming by the end of the century.

The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others.The six biggest emitters (China, the United States of America, India, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and Brazil) togehter accounted for more than half of all global greenhouse gas emissions in 2023. By contrast, the 47 least developed countries accounted for only 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first.



Generating power

Manufacturing goods

Cutting down forests

Using transportation

Producing food

Powering buildings

Consuming too much

Generating power

Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels causes a large chunk of global emissions. Most electricity is still generated by burning coal, oil, or gas, which produces carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide – powerful greenhouse gases that blanket the Earth and trap the sun's heat. Globally, a bit more than a quarter of electricity comes from wind, solar and other renewable sources which, as opposed to fossil fuels, emit little to no greenhouse gases or pollutants into the air.

Manufacturing goods

Manufacturing and industry produce emissions, mostly from burning fossil fuels to produce energy for making things like cement, iron, steel, electronics, plastics, clothes, and other goods. Mining and other industrial processes also release gases, as does the construction industry. Machines used in the manufacturing process often run on coal, oil, or gas; and some materials, like plastics, are made from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels. The manufacturing industry is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

Cutting down forests

Cutting down forests to create farms or pastures, or for other reasons, causes emissions, since trees, when they are cut, release the carbon they have been storing. Each year approximately 12 million hectares of forest are destroyed. Since forests absorb carbon dioxide, destroying them also limits nature's ability to keep emissions out of the atmosphere. Deforestation, together with agriculture and other land use changes, is responsible for roughly a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Using transportation

Most cars, trucks, ships, and planes run on fossil fuels. That makes transportation a major contributor of greenhouse gases, especially carbon-dioxide emissions. Road vehicles account for the largest part, due to the combustion of petroleum-based products, like gasoline, in internal combustion engines. But emissions from ships and planes continue to grow. Transport accounts for nearly one quarter of global energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions. And trends point to a significant increase in energy use for transport over the coming years.

Producing food

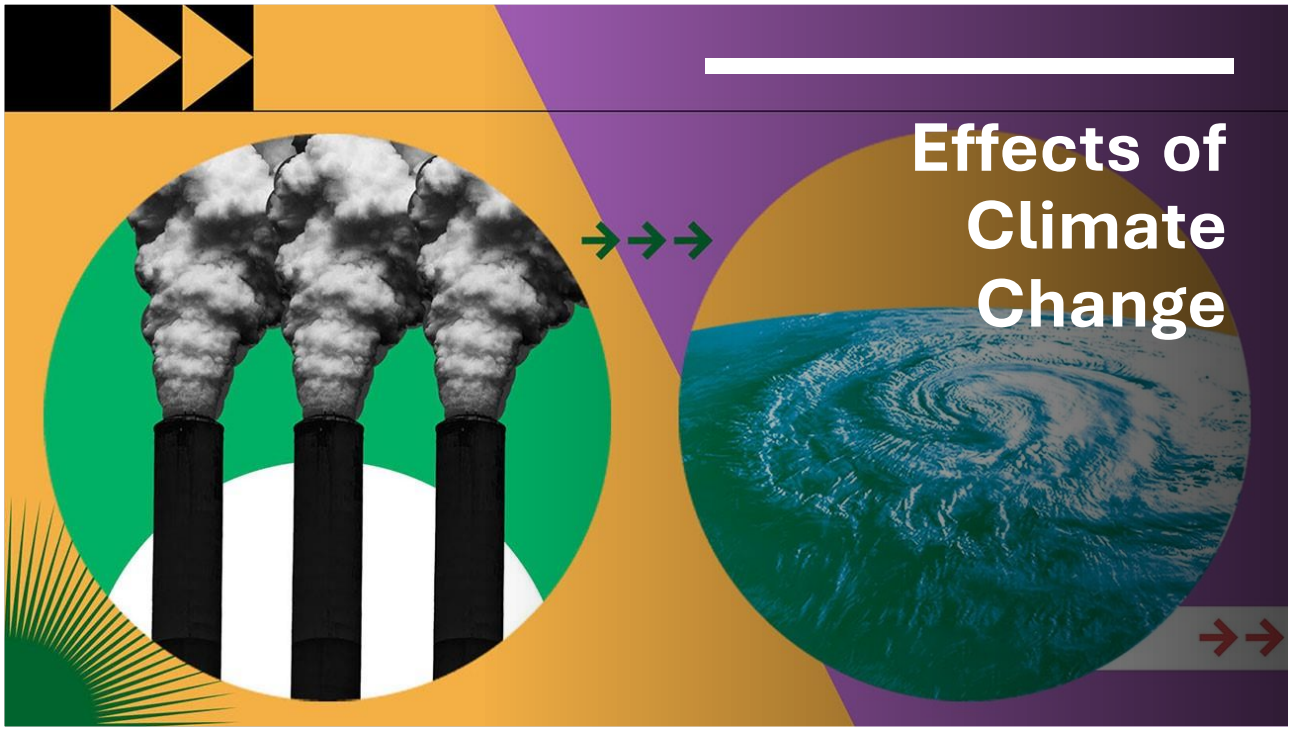
Producing food causes emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases in various ways, including through deforestation and clearing of land for agriculture and grazing, digestion by cows and sheep, the production and use of fertilizers and manure for growing crops, and the use of energy to run farm equipment or fishing boats, usually with fossil fuels. All this makes food production a major contributor to climate change. And greenhouse gas emissions also come from packaging and distributing food.

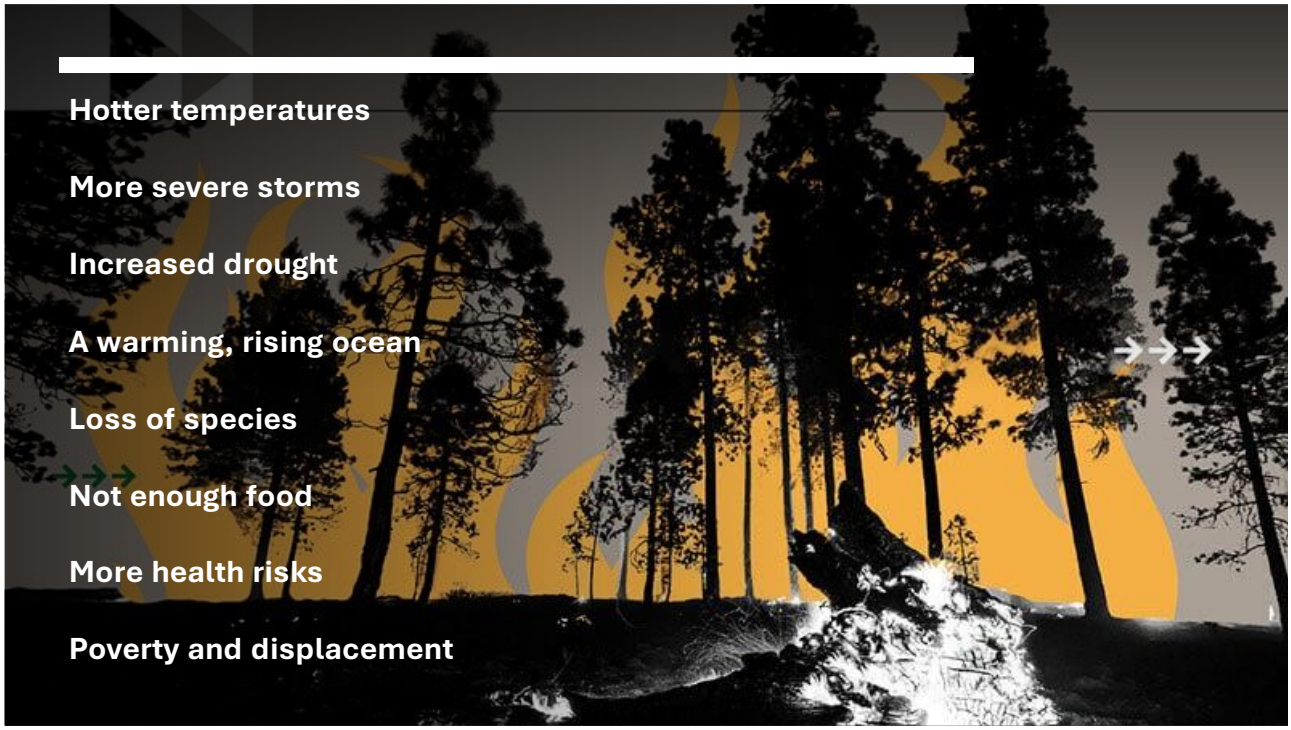
Powering buildings

Globally, residential and commercial buildings consume over half of all electricity. As they continue to draw on coal, oil, and natural gas for heating and cooling, they emit significant quantities of greenhouse gas emissions. Growing energy demand for heating and cooling, with rising air-conditioner ownership, as well as increased electricity consumption for lighting, appliances, and connected devices, has contributed to a rise in energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions from buildings in recent years.

Consuming too much

Your home and use of power, how you move around, what you eat and how much you throw away all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. So does the consumption of goods such as clothing, electronics, and plastics. A large chunk of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to private households. Our lifestyles have a profound impact on our planet. The wealthiest bear the greatest responsibility: the richest 1 per cent of the global population combined account for more greenhouse gas emissions than the poorest 50 per cent.





Hotter temperatures

As greenhouse gas concentrations rise, so does the global surface temperature. The last decade, 2011-2020, is the warmest on record. Since the 1980s, each decade has been warmer than the previous one. Nearly all land areas are seeing more hot days and heat waves. Higher temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and make working outdoors more difficult. Wildfires start more easily and spread more rapidly when conditions are hotter. Temperatures in the Arctic have warmed at least twice as fast as the global average.

More severe storms

Destructive storms have become more intense and more frequent in many regions. As temperatures rise, more moisture evaporates, which exacerbates extreme rainfall and flooding, causing more destructive storms. The frequency and extent of tropical storms is also affected by the warming ocean. Cyclones, hurricanes, and typhoons feed on warm waters at the ocean surface. Such storms often destroy homes and communities, causing deaths and huge economic losses.

Increased drought

Climate change is changing water availability, making it scarcer in more regions. Global warming exacerbates water shortages in already water-stressed regions and is leading to an increased risk of agricultural droughts affecting crops, and ecological droughts increasing the vulnerability of ecosystems. Droughts can also stir destructive sand and dust storms that can move billions of tons of sand across continents. Deserts are expanding, reducing land for growing food. Many people now face the threat of not having enough water on a regular basis.

A warming, rising ocean

The ocean soaks up most of the heat from global warming. The rate at which the ocean is warming strongly increased over the past two decades, across all depths of the ocean. As the ocean warms, its volume increases since water expands as it gets warmer. Melting ice sheets also cause sea levels to rise, threatening coastal and island communities. In addition, the ocean absorbs carbon dioxide, keeping it from the atmosphere. But more carbon dioxide makes the ocean more acidic, which endangers marine life and coral reefs.

Loss of species

Climate change poses risks to the survival of species on land and in the ocean. These risks increase as temperatures climb. Exacerbated by climate change, the world is losing species at a rate 1,000 times greater than at any other time in recorded human history. One million species are at risk of becoming extinct within the next few decades. Forest fires, extreme weather, and invasive pests and diseases are among many threats related to climate change. Some species will be able to relocate and survive, but others will not.

Not enough food

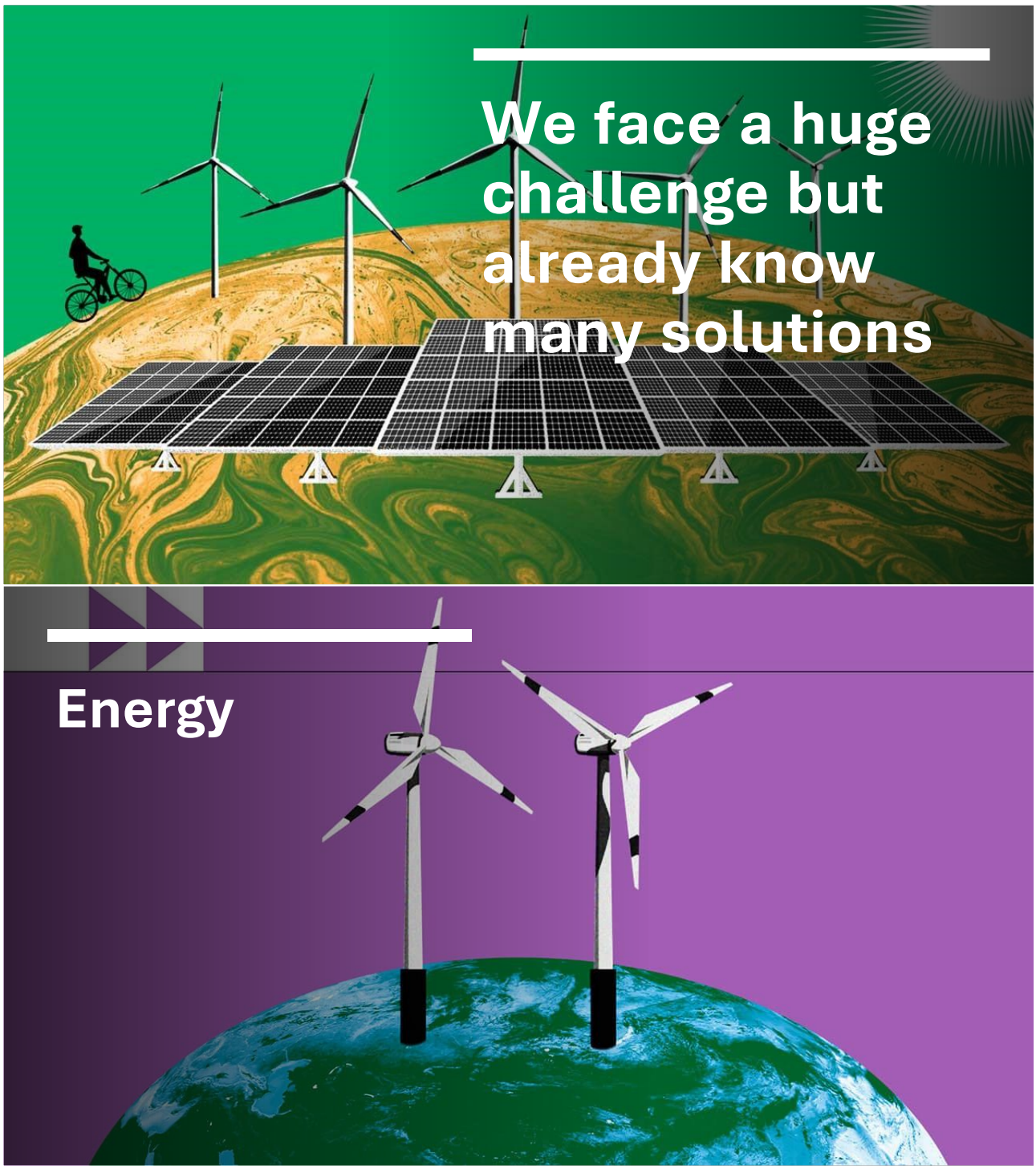
Changes in the climate and increases in extreme weather events are among the reasons behind a global rise in hunger and poor nutrition. Fisheries, crops, and livestock may be destroyed or become less productive. With the ocean becoming more acidic, marine resources that feed billions of people are at risk. Changes in snow and ice cover in many Arctic regions have disrupted food supplies from herding, hunting, and fishing. Heat stress can diminish water and grasslands for grazing, causing declining crop yields and affecting livestock.

More health risks

Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. Climate impacts are already harming health, through air pollution, disease, extreme weather events, forced displacement, pressures on mental health, and increased hunger and poor nutrition in places where people cannot grow or find sufficient food. Every year, environmental factors take the lives of around 13 million people. Changing weather patterns are expanding diseases, and extreme weather events increase deaths and make it difficult for health care systems to keep up.

Poverty and displacement

Climate change increases the factors that put and keep people in poverty. Floods may sweep away urban slums, destroying homes and livelihoods. Heat can make it difficult to work in outdoor jobs. Water scarcity may affect crops. Over the past decade (2010–2019), weather-related events displaced an estimated 23.1 million people on average each year, leaving many more vulnerable to poverty. Most refugees come from countries that are most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change.



1. Renewable energy sources are all around us

About 80 percent of the global population lives in countries that are net-importers of fossil fuels -- that's about 6 billion people who are dependent on fossil fuels from other countries, which makes them vulnerable to geopolitical shocks and crises.

In contrast, renewable energy sources are available in all countries, and their potential is yet to be fully harnessed. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates that 90 percent of the world's electricity can and should come from renewable energy by 2050.

Renewables offer a way out of import dependency, allowing countries to diversify their economies and protect them from the unpredictable price swings of fossil fuels, while driving inclusive economic growth, new jobs, and poverty alleviation.

2. Renewable energy is cheaper

Renewable energy actually is the cheapest power option in most parts of the world today. Prices for renewable energy technologies are dropping rapidly. The cost of electricity from solar power fell by 85 percent between 2010 and 2020. Costs of onshore and offshore wind energy fell by 56 percent and 48 percent respectively.

Falling prices make renewable energy more attractive all around – including to low- and middle-income countries, where most of the additional demand for new electricity will come from. With falling costs, there is a real opportunity for much of the new power supply over the coming years to be provided by low-carbon sources.

Cheap electricity from renewable sources could provide 65 percent of the world's total electricity supply by 2030. It could decarbonize 90 percent of the power sector by 2050, massively cutting carbon emissions and helping to mitigate climate change.

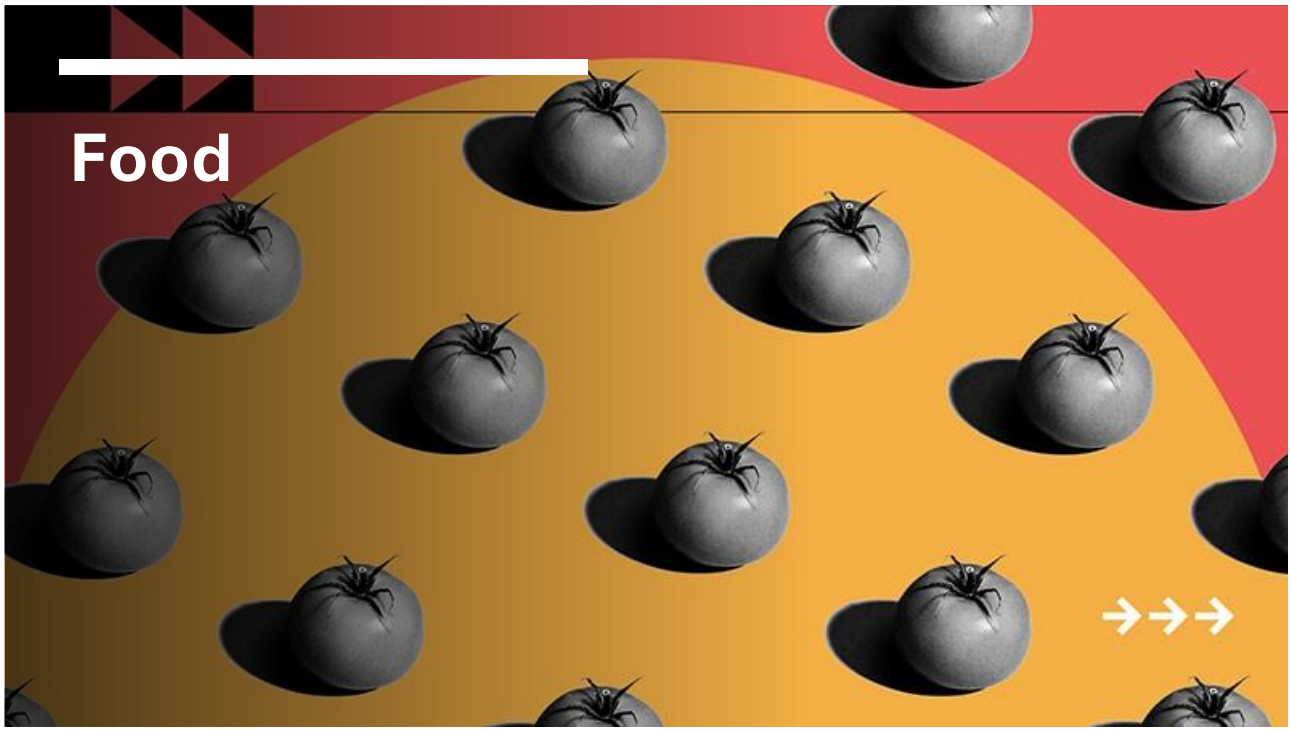
Although solar and wind power costs are expected to remain higher in 2022 and 2023 then pre-pandemic levels due to general elevated commodity and freight prices, their competitiveness actually improves due to much sharper increases in gas and coal prices, says the International Energy Agency (IEA).

3. Renewable energy is healthier

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 99 percent of people in the world breathe air that exceeds air quality limits and threatens their health, and more than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes, including air pollution.

The unhealthy levels of fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide originate mainly from the burning of fossil fuels. In 2018, air pollution from fossil fuels caused $2.9 trillion in health and economic costs, about $8 billion a day.

Switching to clean sources of energy, such as wind and solar, thus helps address not only climate change but also air pollution and health.



What we eat, and how that food is produced, affects our health but also the environment.

Food needs to be grown and processed, transported, distributed, prepared, consumed, and sometimes disposed of. Each of these steps creates greenhouse gases that trap the sun's heat and contribute to climate change. About a third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions is linked to food.

The largest chunk of food-related greenhouse gases comes from agriculture and land use. This includes, for instance:

- methane from cattle's digestive process,
- nitrous oxide from fertilizers used for crop production,
- carbon dioxide from cutting down forests for the expansion of farmland,
- other agricultural emissions from manure management, rice cultivation, burning of crop residues, and the use of fuel on farms.

A much smaller share of the greenhouse gas emissions of food are caused by:

- refrigeration and transport of food,
- industrial processes such as the production of paper and aluminum for packaging,
- the management of food waste.

The climate impact of food is measured in terms of greenhouse gas emissions intensity. The emissions intensity is expressed in kilograms of "carbon dioxide equivalents" – which includes not only CO2 but all greenhouse gases – per kilogram of food, per gram of protein or per calorie.

Animal-based foods, especially red meat, dairy, and farmed shrimp, are generally associated with the highest greenhouse gas emissions. This is because:

- Meat production often requires extensive grasslands, which is often created by cutting down trees, releasing carbon dioxide stored in forests.
- Cows and sheep emit methane as they digest grass and plants.
- The cattle's waste on pastures and chemical fertilizers used on crops for cattle feed emit nitrous oxide, another powerful greenhouse gas.
- Shrimp farms often occupy coastal lands formerly covered in mangrove forests which absorb huge amounts of carbon. The large carbon footprint of shrimp or prawns is mainly due to the stored carbon that is released into the atmosphere when mangroves are cut down to create shrimp farms.

Plant-based foods – such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, beans, peas, nuts, and lentils – generally use less energy, land, and water, and have lower greenhouse gas intensities than animal-based foods.

Here are three charts showing the carbon footprint of different food products. Emissions can be compared based on weight (per kilogram of food), or in terms of nutritional units (per 100 grams of protein or per 1000 kilocalories) which shows us how efficiently different foods supply protein or energy.

Reducing emissions from the food sector requires changes at all stages, from producers to consumers.

Where appropriate, shifting food systems towards plant-rich diets – with more plant protein (such as beans, chickpeas, lentils, nuts, and grains), a reduced amount of animal-based foods (meat and dairy) and less saturated fats (butter, milk, cheese, meat, coconut oil and palm oil) – can lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to current dietary patterns in most industrialized countries.

Alternative proteins – such as plant-based meat and dairy substitutes, insect-based proteins, and cell-based/cultivated meat – provide promising prospects and are attracting growing demand, financial investment and technological innovation.

But animal products remain an important source of food security, nutrition, livelihoods for large numbers of rural populations around the world. Improved feeds and feeding techniques can reduce methane generated during cattle's digestion as well as the amount of gases released by decomposing manure. Smaller herd sizes, with fewer, more productive animals can also help. And better agricultural practices, such as improved manure and fertilizer management, rotational grazing to maintain healthy soil to store carbon, and the restoration of degraded lands can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

At the same time, reducing food waste is key. Almost 1 billion tons of food – 17 percent of all food available to consumers worldwide – goes into trash bins every year. Producing, transporting, and letting that food rot contribute more than 8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitting country in the world.

Plastics generated 1.8 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 – that's 3.4 per cent of the world's total emissions, a number that is set to grow considerably as the production of plastics is expected to triple by 2060.

The rise in plastic pollution is not only extremely harmful to the planet's biodiversity but also contributes to climate change. Some 98 per cent of single-use plastic produced today is made of petrochemicals – components derived from oil and gas. The extraction and transport of those fossil fuels, and the manufacturing and disposal of plastics, all create carbon emissions that are responsible for global warming.

To limit climate change, the world needs to transition away from fossil fuels.

Oil is increasingly replaced by renewable energy in the power sector, and the use of oil in road transport and electricity generation is dropping significantly. But the booming production of plastics and other products made from oil and gas is keeping the demand for oil high, with petrochemicals expected to account for more than a third of the growth in world oil demand to 2030, and nearly half the growth to 2050.

Biological diversity — or biodiversity — is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms, from genes and bacteria to entire ecosystems such as forests or coral reefs. The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution, increasingly influenced by humans.

Biodiversity forms the web of life that we depend on for so many things – food, water, medicine, a stable climate, economic growth, among others. Over half of global GDP is dependent on nature. More than 1 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods. And land and the ocean absorb more than half of all carbon emissions.

But nature is in crisis. Up to one million species are threatened with extinction, many within decades. Irreplaceable ecosystems like parts of the Amazon rainforest are turning from carbon sinks into carbon sources due to deforestation. And 85 per cent of wetlands, such as salt marshes and mangrove swamps which absorb large amounts of carbon, have disappeared.

Why is biodiversity essential for limiting climate change?

When human activities produce greenhouse gases, around half of the emissions remain in the atmosphere, while the other half is absorbed by the land and ocean. These ecosystems – and the biodiversity they contain – are natural carbon sinks, providing so-called nature-based solutions to climate change.

Protecting, managing, and restoring forests, for example, offers roughly two-thirds of the total mitigation potential of all nature-based solutions. Despite massive and ongoing losses, forests still cover more than 30 per cent of the planet's land.

Peatlands – wetlands such as marshes and swamps – cover only 3 per cent of the world's land, but they store twice as much carbon as all the forests. Preserving and restoring peatlands means keeping them wet so the carbon doesn't oxidize and float off into the atmosphere.

Ocean habitats such as seagrasses and mangroves can also sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at rates up to four times higher than terrestrial forests can. Their ability to capture and store carbon make mangroves highly valuable in the fight against climate change.

Conserving and restoring natural spaces, both on land and in the water, is essential for limiting carbon emissions and adapting to an already changing climate. About one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed in the next decade could be achieved by improving nature's ability to absorb emissions.

Summary

United Nations

Climate Action

All the information presented to you was sourced from the United Nations Climate Change Information Website

2.3 Fictional Protest Events Scenarios

2.3.1 Scenario 1

Activists Block Major Arterial Road in Prague to Protest Against Fossil Fuels

Prague - On Tuesday morning, a group of activists took to the streets of Prague in a bold move to protest against the government's lack of action on climate change. The activists blocked a major arterial road in the city, causing significant disruption to the morning commute. Some of them even went to the extent of sticking themselves to the roadway, demonstrating their commitment to the cause.

Their goal was to pressure the government to take concrete steps to transition the economy away from fossil fuels and reduce car traffic in the capital city. The arterial road was impassable for two hours before police managed to unstick the stuck activists.

When asked about whether the traffic blockade creates dangerous situations for people rushing to the hospital, one activist responded, "Traffic in a big city creates such situations every day because everyone is always in a traffic jam anyway."

The event quickly gained traction and was extensively covered in the media. Newspapers reported on the incident, bringing the activists' message to a wider audience. The evening news also televised the event, providing visuals of the protest and the subsequent police action.

Furthermore, the protest became one of the most discussed topics on social media for several days, sparking widespread debate about the government's environmental policies and the effectiveness of such protests. The activists' actions have sparked a state-wide conversation about the urgent need for climate action and the role of civil disobedience in achieving it.

As the city returns to normalcy, the impact of the protest continues to resonate. The question remains whether this demonstration will spur the government into taking the necessary steps toward a more sustainable future.

The timeline of the protest from the activist perspective:

6:00 AM: Activists gather at a predetermined location, preparing for the protest.
7:00 AM: The activists move to the major arterial road in Prague and begin their protest against the government's lack of action on climate change.
7:15 AM: Some of the protestors stick themselves to the roadway, demonstrating their commitment to the cause and effectively blocking the road.
7:30 AM: The morning commute begins, and the disruption caused by the blockade becomes significant.
8:00 AM: The police are notified of the situation and dispatched to the location.
8:30 AM: The police arrive at the scene and begin assessing the situation. They start devising a plan to unstick the protestors without causing harm.
9:00 AM: After negotiating with the protestors and ensuring their safety, the police manage to unstick the activists from the roadway.
9:15 AM: The road is cleared, and normal traffic flow resumes.

2.3.2 Scenario 2

Protest at CSA Mine Draws Attention to Fossil Fuel Impact

On Friday morning, a group of protesters occupied an excavator at a CSA mine, effectively blocking its operation from the early morning until 4:00 p.m. The protest was aimed at drawing attention to the negative impacts of fossil fuel use.

The event was conducted without conflict, with police maintaining a presence throughout the day to ensure safety and order. Despite the peaceful nature of the protest, the mine owner estimates that the disruption resulted in a loss of profit in the hundreds of thousands.

The protest did not go unnoticed by the media. Newspapers covered the event with the television broadcasting a report on the evening news.

The occupation of the excavator at the CSA mine serves as a stark reminder of the growing concern over the environmental impact of fossil fuels. It underscores the urgent need for industries to consider more sustainable energy sources. As the world grapples with the effects of climate change, such protests highlight the pressing need for change.

The timeline of the protest from the activist perspective:

6:00 a.m.: Protesters gather at the CSA mine and occupy an excavator. They chain themselves to its metal arms, aiming to draw attention to fossil fuel impacts.
7:30 a.m.: Mine workers arrive, surprised by the protest. Some sympathize, while others express annoyance. The protestors chant slogans against fossil fuels.
9:00 a.m.: Police arrive, keeping a watchful eye. The mine owner worries about profit loss.
11:15 a.m.: Media arrives, capturing images.
4:00 p.m.: Protestors unlock chains, leave the excavator, and disperse.

2.3.3 Scenario 3

Climate Activists Stage Peaceful Protest in Prague's Old Town Square

Prague - On Saturday morning, Old Town Square in Prague became the stage for a unique and peaceful protest aimed at promoting a faster transition away from fossil fuels. The event, which lasted for an hour, saw 250 activists lying down on the ground with arms outstretched in the shape of a cross.

The symbolic act was designed to draw attention to the fact that climate change is projected to bring an estimated 250,000 additional deaths every year in future years due to disease, nutritional problems, rising temperatures, and extreme weather events.

The activists, lying in the shape of a cross, represented the victims if immediate action is not taken to combat climate change. Their silent protest was a powerful reminder of the urgent need for action.

The event was conflict-free and was attended by journalists and bystanders. The unique nature of the protest drew media attention, with TV stations reporting the event on their evening news broadcasts.

The timeline of the protest from the activist perspective:

9:00 AM: Activists arrive at Old Town Square, carrying signs and banners advocating for climate action. Some wear green armbands to identify themselves.
9:30 AM: Organizers guide everyone into position. Activists lie down on the ground, forming a cross shape.
9:45 AM: The crowd remains silent, focusing on their message. Passersby watch curiously.
10:15 AM: Journalists interview activists.
10:30 AM: Some bystanders join in, lying down alongside activists, some take pictures.
10:45 AM: Activists chant slogans like “Save our planet!” and “Act now!” Their voices echo through the square.
11:30 AM: The protest ends peacefully.

2.4 Voting on the “worst” scenario

We are leaving the term deliberately vague, so that participants interpret for themselves what this “worst” mean. We invite them to share their understanding of this “worst” at the beginning of the group work. Each participant will get two votes. One red for 2 points, one orange for 1 point. They should vote for the “worst” scenario using the red vote and the “less terrible" scenario by using the orange vote. The points for each vote will then be added up during the break and the scenario with most points will be selected for group work redesigning.

2.5 Guidelines for Facilitators of Group Work

You have a group of 5 people. You have 80 minutes (1 hour and 20 minutes).

The aim of the group work is to redesign the protest event scenario that was chosen in the previous activity. The whole idea of this group work is to establish certain trust among you and the participants, so that they increasingly open more about their internal experiences of climate change as a political issue.

10 minutes: find out how the members voted and how satisfied are they with the resulting scenario to be re-designed. Encourage them to share their “why”. This should take about 10 minutes but can take longer.

20 minutes: encourage the group to brainstorm what about the selected scenario makes it problematic. Through this, encourage them to share their own perceptions of such activism. Write down the identified issues with the protest scenario and repeatedly ask group if they agree on how you formulated the issues when writing them down. You should identify 3 – 5 issues that the group wants to change about the protest.

Use these questions:

- “Imagine you are passing this protest by, what do you think of it?”,
- “Is there anything about this protest that makes you feel uncomfortable?”,
- “If you were confronted with the activists, what would you tell them?”,
- “Why did the protest get so much/so little attention on social media?”,
- “Is there anything about this protest, that makes you feel good or hopeful?”

10 minutes: Go through each issue and discuss how should this be solved in an ideal protest event. Generate ideas for the improved protest event scenario.

15 minutes: Redesign the scenario based on the ideas generated in previous discussion, write down the new protest timeline.

5 minutes: Recapitulation of the new protest, last minute changes.

20 minutes: Thank them for their engagement with the redesigning process. Say: "We will communicate your design with our civil society partners. I would now like to ask you to reflect on what we just did and on the new protest scenario." You will now guide the reflection of participants about their emotions regarding climate protests and their take aways from the group work.

Ask these questions:

- "What made an impression on you during the discussion we just had?",
- "How did you feel about the protest event we just redesigned?",
- "How do you feel about the new version of the protest event?",
- "Remember the presentation about basic facts of the climate change, anything stood out to you?",
- "How did you feel during the presentation?",
- "What will you leave today with?"

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