

Hot topics at Cop27, Lula's triumph and midterm fears in US

Cautious optimism followed the 2021 Cop climate summit in Glasgow, where international agreement was reached to keep the world within 1.5C of global heating. On the eve of Cop27 in Cairo, however, a slew of alarming reports have shown that carbon emissions are still rising.

Accelerating carbon cuts therefore ought to be a priority for Cop27, say scientists. However, it's likely to be dominated by debate about compensation that poorer nations feel richer countries should be paying for climate damage. Observer science and environment editor Robin McKie sets the scene for a Cop27 summit that seems engulfed in a storm of its own. And there's a fascinating report by Mark Townsend on the Just Stop Oil protests, as debate stirs among activists about whether direct action tactics are effective in changing attitudes.

The big story *Page 10* →

Jubilation and relief accompanied Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's narrow election victory in Brazil, ending Jair Bolsonaro's era of Amazon destruction. Latin America correspondent Tom Phillips reports on a much-needed moment of hope for the region and the world, but Andrew Downie warns that difficult challenges await the returning president-elect.

Spotlight *Page 15* →

The US midterm elections next week could see the Democrats lose control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate to a Republican party still dominated by Donald Trump. David Smith asks whether an intervention by former president Barack Obama could give a late kickstart to the Democrats' hopes.

Spotlight *Page 32* →



4-14 GLOBAL REPORT
Headlines from the last seven days
10 **Cop 27** Why loss and damage could dominate

15-33 SPOTLIGHT
In-depth reporting and analysis
15 **Brazil** Lula's remarkable return to the presidency
18 **South Korea** Halloween disaster stuns a nation
24 **UK** The Avanti west coast railway nightmare
30 **Technology** Fight or flight for Elon Musk's Twitter?
32 **US** Can Obama kickstart the Democrats?
33 **US** Kanye West's shame

34-44 FEATURES
Long reads, interviews and essays
34 The megalopolis that will shape the century
By Howard W French
40 Damian Lewis's new direction born of grief
By Simon Hattenstone

45-50 OPINION
45 **Fintan O'Toole**
A new election in Northern Ireland solves nothing
47 **Steven Pifer**
US Congress should stick by Kyiv for everyone's sake
48 **Ian Jack**
The BBC maps all our lives

51-59 CULTURE
TV, film, music, theatre, art, architecture & more
51 **Art**
The worrisome world of David Shrigley
55 **Music**
Dry Cleaning venture out
57 **Books**
John le Carré's craft laid bare through letters

60-61 LIFESTYLE
60 **Ask Annalisa**
My family Christmas hell



Join the community
Twitter: @guardianweekly
facebook.com/guardianweekly
Instagram: @guardian

SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS:
MATT BLEASE



On the cover

Climate damages could overshadow other issues at Cop27. "You can imagine what will happen when the Pakistan delegation presents its claim for compensation for floods that have just put a third of their country under water," said Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.
Photograph: Fayaz Aziz/Reuters