

Post-printing additions SUMMER

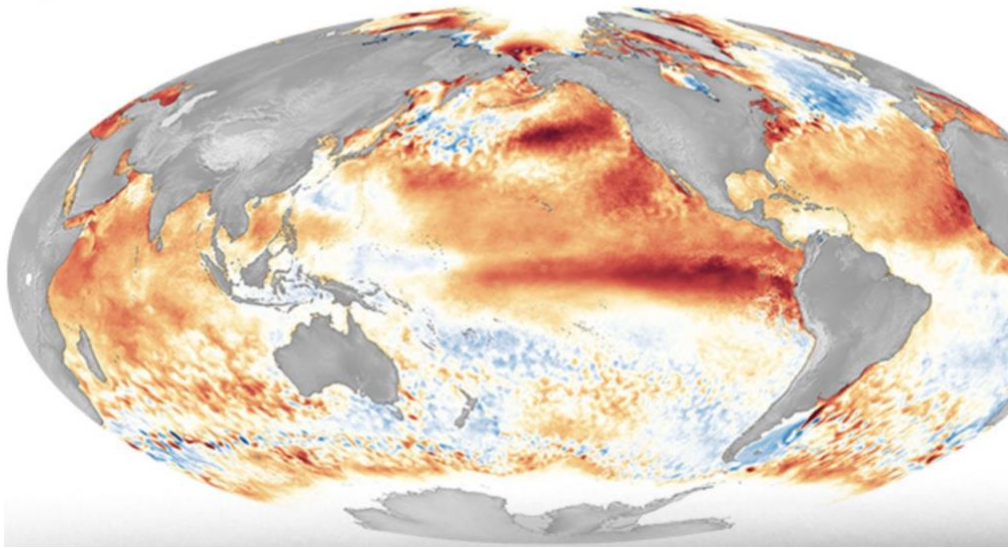
Fall (Autumn): September (22nd), October, November

- **Winter:** December (21), January, February
- **Spring:** March (20th), April, May
- **Summer:** June (21st), July, August

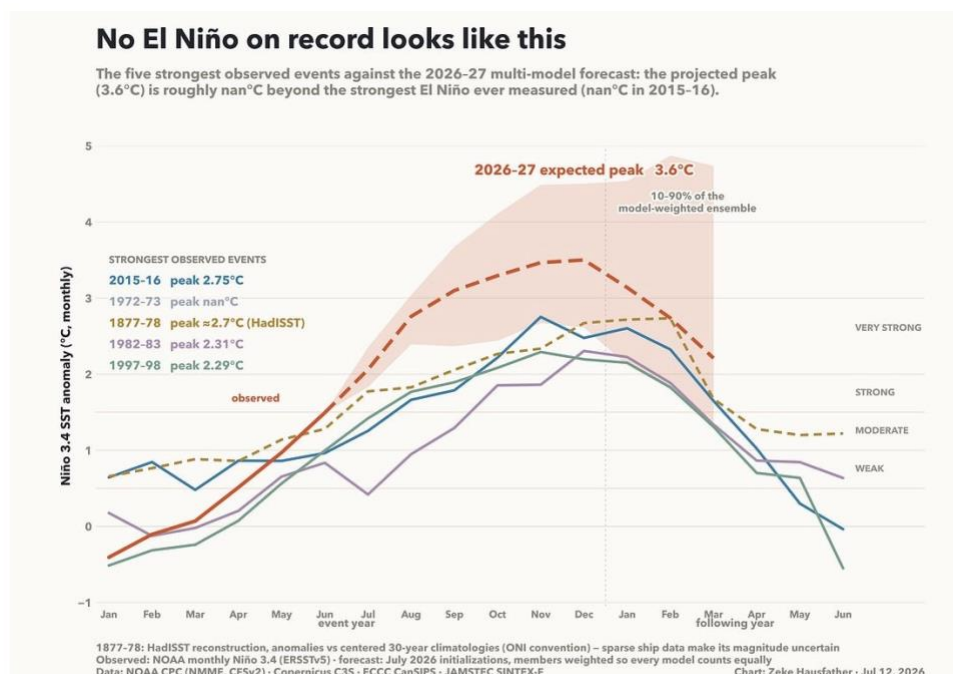
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1. The summer of 2026 saw the Strongest El Nino Ever

This is illustrated in the following illustrations.



This map shows the intensely hot (red) area of the El Nino in the equatorial Pacific.



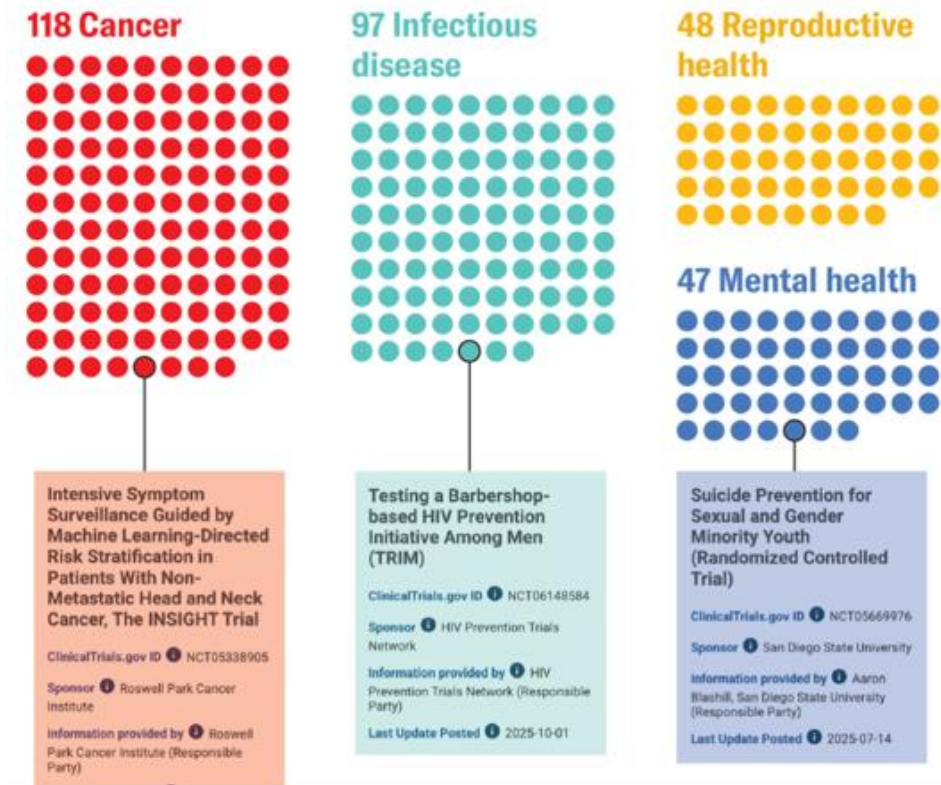
The peak temperature is the highest ever.

El Niño is a natural climate pattern that raises temperatures and disrupts weather around the world. It typically happens when the trade winds blowing east to west over the central Pacific weaken, reducing the upwelling of deep cold water and

2. Canceled Clinical Trials.

RCTs or Randomized Controlled Trials are the "gold standard" for testing the efficacy and safety of a new treatment. The design involves randomly assigning participants to either the experimental group (receiving the new treatment) or the control group (receiving a placebo, or inactive substance). Participants are randomly assigned to different groups to minimize bias and ensure that the groups are comparable at the start of the study. In a double-blind trial, neither the participants nor the researchers know who is receiving the active treatment and who is receiving the placebo. This prevents bias in reporting or evaluating the results.

Top 4 Conditions Studied in 383 Shelved Trials



Carefully designed RCTs guard against the use of testimonial evidence in medical practice, where some patients claim a given treatment was effective for them. During the COVID epidemic this led to claims by Trump 1 and Fox News that Ivermectin could cure COVID. Well-designed RCTs showed it was not effective, yet many took it when they should be taking drugs such as Paxlovid, that really worked.

Another potential source of error occurs when an under-powered (not enough test subjects) reports that a certain drug works, while a study with many more subjects, is negative.

Now Trump 2 is at it again, this time, again without any real evidence they (Trump and Robert Kennedy Jr.) claim Tylenol taken by pregnant mothers, can cause autism. In a press conference seen by millions he said, “Don’t take it if you’re pregnant. Don’t take Tylenol,” President Trump said, repeatedly emphasizing that pregnant people with fever should “tough it out” as much as they can, despite evidence that uncontrolled fever and infections during pregnancy can themselves increased risk of autism.

The moral of the story is, **don't take medical advice from politicians who are not physicians and who have a political axe to grind.**

3. California steps in as U.S. skips climate summit

Golden State aims to build on its reputation as a global leader at talks in Belém, Brazil. By Hayley Smith and Melody Gutierrez

Nearly 200 nations are gathering in Belém, Brazil, to kick off the annual United Nations climate policy summit, but there is one glaring exception: **The Trump administration is not sending any high-ranking officials.**

California hopes it can fill the gap. The state, as it usually does, is sending a large delegation to the Conference of the Parties, including first-time attendee Gov. Gavin Newsom and top officials from the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Food and Agriculture, Air Resources Board, Public Utilities Commission and Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs.

The state aims to build on its reputation as a global climate leader, sharing its experience with clean energy technology and job creation and showcasing its track record of climate agreements with other countries and regions. Newsom, who is positioning himself for a 2028 presidential run, told The Times he “absolutely” sees California as a proxy for the U.S. at this year's conference, which is the main global venue for countries to strengthen their commitments to reducing greenhouse gases.

“California has a responsibility, but also a unique opportunity at this moment, to remind the world that we're here, that we believe these issues matter, and that there's an opportunity here to reinforce existing alliances and develop new ones,” the governor said..

California's strong presence at COP30, which officially begins Monday, also marks an escalation of Newsom's ongoing battle with President Trump. The two have clashed over immigration and climate, with the president's energy and environment agenda often targeting the state. **The Trump administration this year canceled funding for major clean energy projects such as California's hydrogen hub and moved to revoke the state's long-held authority to set stricter vehicle emissions standards than the federal government.**

But this year's Nov. 10-21 gathering also comes at a critical moment for the world. It's the 10th anniversary of the Paris agreement, a seminal treaty signed at the 2015

COP in which world leaders established the goal of limiting global warming to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) above preindustrial levels, and preferably below 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius), in order to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

Most experts and scientists agree that the 2.7-degree target is no longer within reach. The last 10 years have been Earth's hottest on record, driven largely by greenhouse gas emissions that come from the burning of fossil fuels.

"One thing is already clear: We will not be able to contain the global warming below 1.5 degrees [Celsius] in the next few years," U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said at a recent gathering of the World Meteorological Organization. "The overshooting is now inevitable."

The U.N.'s annual Emissions Gap report released in conjunction with the conference finds that **without immediate and aggressive action, the world is on track to warm between 4.14 and 5.04 degrees (2.3 and 2.8 degrees Celsius) over this century. Yet Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris agreement on his first day back in office, a move he also made during his first term as president.** In a January executive order he stated that the Paris accord and other international climate compacts pose an unfair burden on the U.S. and steer American dollars to other countries.

The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris agreement is expected to add an additional 0.18 degree to the latest warming projections, in effect nullifying a small gain made since last year, the U.N. report says. It notes that every fraction of a degree of warming means more losses for people and ecosystems, higher costs to adapt, and more reliance on uncertain techniques to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

However, the report underscores that the technology to deliver big emissions cuts already exists, pointing to **booming developments in wind and solar energy, much of which is occurring overseas.** It's a sector where California can lead, Newsom said, adding that **the Trump administration has "doubled down on stupid"** by ceding so much ground to China. The Golden State has invested heavily in renewables, battery energy storage and the electrification of buildings and vehicles. California has also set ambitious decarbonization targets and reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 21% since 2000 while its economy has grown 81%.

"We want to continue to tip the scales, and this is about economic growth, this is about jobs, and this is about addressing the other crisis of our time: affordability,"

Newsom said. “When you talk about energy efficiency, you’re talking about affordability. When you talk about wind and solar, you’re talking about abundance and you’re talking about affordability.”

California has already helped to spread a lot of real technology. The state’s aggressive emission rules were pivotal in pushing automakers toward electric vehicles, with Toyota largely developing its Prius for California’s market. **The state was the first to mandate battery energy storage at its major utilities,** helping jump-start the modern grid-battery market, while its cap-and-trade carbon market program has been emulated in places around the world.

State leaders hope to highlight more than their progress at home. In recent years, California has also forged subnational agreements and partnerships with other regions and countries on issues such as delivering clean transportation, cutting pollution and developing hydrogen and renewables.

Newsom is expected to sign additional agreements at COP this year, although his team declined to provide a preview of what they will entail.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection also has partnerships with several countries that are sharing resources and best practices for managing vegetation and combating wildfires.

Focusing on these actions at the state and regional level has become a key part of COP conferences as the conversation gains urgency and shifts to deployment, according to Rachel Cleetus, senior policy director at the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists.

“There is a whole other face of the United States — we have a lot of subnational actors, including leading states and cities and forward-looking businesses, who will be at COP showing the rest of the world that the United States does understand that it’s both in the interest of our country, as well as the global interest, to tackle climate change,” Cleetus said.

“This year, our federal government is totally missing in action ... and the rest of the world needs to understand that America is still in this fight, and we’re moving forward,” Crowfoot said in a briefing.

also focuses on through its 30x30 program to conserve 30% of the state’s lands and coastal waters by 2030, Crowfoot said. The Golden State already has deep ties to the region stemming from its landmark 2019 Tropical Forest Standard program, which set guidelines on carbon credits awarded for reducing deforestation. Still, there is much work to be done.

4. Antarctic glacier's retreat is fastest in modern history

Tides and glacial earthquakes caused record ice loss at Hektor Glacier
HANNAH RICHTER

In 2022, something shocking happened to the Hektor Glacier, a small river of ice that slips into the sea near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Over 16 months, it retreated by 25 kilometers, and it lost a whopping 8 kilometers in just two of those months—the fastest glacial retreat in the modern record. Now, after a forensic analysis of the event reported this week in *Nature Geoscience*, researchers say they have identified the worrisome mechanisms behind it: a combination of glacial earthquakes and a swath of thinned ice popping afloat and breaking apart in a geological instant. If the same processes were to occur at larger Antarctic glaciers, they could rapidly accelerate the retreat of ice sheets and raise global sea levels, says Jeremy Bassis, a glaciologist at the University of Michigan.



The study is “telling us that **those worst-case scenarios are maybe not as implausible as some people might have thought.**” To figure out what happened to Hektor, the researchers first had to establish its original grounding line: the point at which a coastal glacier is no longer attached to bedrock and becomes a

floating ice tongue. Using satellite data on the height of the ice surface, as well as images of surface depressions—a marker of thin, floating ice with cracks underneath—they determined that half of the 25 kilometers of lost ice was grounded. Using additional satellite data, the team then worked backward to develop a theory **explaining how both grounded and floating ice retreated.** Their massive, Rhode Island–size, 200-meter-thick slab of ice. Larsen-B broke up spectacularly in 2002, undamming Hektoria, which initially retreated. In the years that followed, sea ice formed and thickened, slowing the glacier and keeping it in place for more than a decade. But at the same time, Hektoria’s ice was stretching and thinning out across the flat bedrock underlying it, forming what’s known as an ice plain. Warmer ocean temperatures, meanwhile, began to prevent sea ice formation in the surrounding Weddell Sea, exposing Hektoria to open seas. When storms sent large waves crashing into its margin in 2022, they cleared out the sea ice and **Hektoria’s 12 kilometers of floating ice broke up into icebergs.** With the buttressing effect of the floating ice gone, Hektoria’s ice plain began to float, periodically rising and falling with the tides **until it lifted fully off its bedrock and began snapping apart into smaller icebergs.** This process, called buoyancy-driven. A typical iceberg calving event. But at Hektoria Glacier, icebergs split off differently, crashing into the remaining glacier and accelerating its retreat.

c/o **CLIMATE CHANGE**

5. PFAS chemicals are 5000 times more potent than carbon dioxide for climate change

A new analysis of Environmental Protection Agency data has revealed that PFAS chemicals – often known as "**forever chemicals**" due to their longevity in the environment – are contributing to the climate crisis as their production involves the emission of potent greenhouse gases.

In recent years, an ever-expanding body of scientific research has shown that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are among the most toxic substances widely used in consumer products.

Now the new report shows that one of America's largest PFAS manufacturing plants is also the second largest polluter of the destructive greenhouse gas HCFC-22, which is about **5,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide.**

"This is a sad-but-clear example of how toxic chemicals and climate change are connected: manufacturing PFAS chemicals not only pollutes people and the environment, but releases potent greenhouse gases, adding to the climate crisis," said Erika Schreder, co-author of the report and science director for Toxic-Free Future.

The plant of the PFAS manufacturer Daikin in Decatur, Alabama, **released about 240,000 pounds of HCFC-22 in 2019 – the equivalent of more than 1bn pounds of carbon dioxide.**

6. Something else to worry about - CF4.

As shown above, forever chemicals have a great deal to do with global warming. An article in *Science Focus*, October 2025 was entitled “New Type of acid rain could threaten life on Earth. With a subtitle of “We don’t know the long-term consequences of this, but if a long-term consequence occurs, it will occur on a global scale.”

At issue is the widespread occurrence of CF4, a fluorinated compound found in insecticides, pharmaceuticals, and gases used in refrigeration and air conditioning, landfills and sewage. It is the smallest of the Poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) known as ‘forever chemicals. The following figures show the extent of the problem.

50% = the number of fruits and vegetables in the UK that contain PFAS.

97% = the number of U.S. citizens with PFAS positive blood tests.

1,000 years = the time PFAS can exist without breaking down.

The story was based on an interview with Prof Hans Peter Arp, of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Because of its small size it dissolves easily in water. As a result, it is found in rivers, lakes, groundwater, and the ocean. It is almost impossible to remove from drinking water.

The question is, “Does it harm humans and other living organisms? Some have argued that because of its small size, it passes quickly through the body into the urine. However, Prof Arp said **it can enter cells and become part of the building blocks for lipids, proteins, and cell walls.** He said that until more research is done to determine its threat level, we should do all we can to lower emissions.

Another question is, are ‘**forever chemicals related to global warming**’? **The answer is absolutely!!** "Forever chemicals" (PFAS) can act as greenhouse compounds, contributing to climate change, and can be far more potent than carbon dioxide, although their atmospheric concentrations are currently much lower. Their production can emit potent greenhouse gases like HCFC-22.

Global Warming Potentials (GWP100)

Gas	Type	GWP100	Notes
CO ₂	Baseline	1	Reference gas
Methane (CH ₄)	GHG	~30	30× CO ₂ over 100 years
HCFC-22 (R-22)	HCFC	1,810	Ozone-depleting + strong GHG
HFC-134a	HFC	1,430	High GWP but no ozone depletion
HFC-404A	HFC blend	3,922	Very high GWP refrigeration gas

Production and import of HCFC-22 for new equipment is banned in many countries, and existing systems may continue to use recycled or reclaimed HCFC-22 until fully retired. Controlling the emission of ‘forever chemicals’ should be added to the addenda of future COPs.

7. Many Countries have dangerously low fertility rates.

Some have suggested that one way to cut emissions and thus combat global warming is to encourage birth control practices throughout the world. This, however, may not be necessary. Currently, most countries of the world have birth rates well below replacement levels of 2.1 children per couple. The following is list.

1. **South Korea** — 0.72 (record low; only OECD country <1 in 2023). [Reuters+1](#)
2. **Hong Kong (SAR)** — ~0.75 (2023 World Bank / national stats). [Trading Economics+1](#)
3. **Taiwan** — ~0.85 (2023 official / reporting; severe school closures and demographic stress reported). [The Guardian+1](#)

4. **Singapore** — ~0.97 (resident TFR ~0.97 in 2023; long-standing low fertility). [The Straits Times](#)
5. **China** — ~1.0–1.1 (continuing decline since end of one-child policy; large national economic implications). [United Nations+1](#)
6. **Japan** — ~1.25 (~1.2–1.3) (long period of low fertility; marked population aging). [Our World in Data](#)
7. **Spain** — ~1.20–1.25 (Southern Europe: persistent low birth rates and ageing). [Our World in Data](#)
8. **Italy** — ~1.20–1.25 (similar Southern Europe pattern; fiscal stress from ageing). [Our World in Data](#)
9. **Greece** — ~1.30 (post-crisis demographic decline; government concern about costs). [Our World in Data](#)
10. **Portugal** — ~1.30–1.35 (low birth rate and rapid ageing). [Our World in Data](#)
11. **Germany** — ~1.35 (recently classified among EU countries with “ultra-low” fertility; rising median childbearing age). [Financial Times+1](#)
12. **Austria** — ~1.35–1.40 (joined several EU peers in dropping below UN’s “ultra-low” threshold). [Financial Times](#)
13. **Poland** — ~1.32 (Central/Eastern Europe: sustained below-replacement levels). [Our World in Data](#)
14. **Czechia / Slovakia / Hungary** (selected Eastern EU states)— typically ~1.4–1.6 (many EU countries now close to or below 1.5). [Our World in Data](#)
15. **Netherlands / France / UK** (selected Western EU) — many Western European states have TFRs in the ~1.3–1.6 band; still below replacement and pressure on long-term finances. [Our World in Data](#)

These findings show that most countries are more concerned about low fertility ratee than high ones since **low rates can have serious financial**

consequences including depletion of the labor force, need to shut down schools and hospitals, crashing real estate market, and financial stress from a rapidly aging population.

Ironically, the one reason the fertility rates are not this low in the U.S. is because of our immigrants – and the Trump administration is trying its best to eliminate that protective factor.

8 Trump opens Marine Preserves to fishing.

In April 2025, President Trump signed an executive proclamation reopening nearly half a million square miles of Pacific Ocean, coral reef and island habitats to commercial fishing. The order covers the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument, stretching over Palmyra and Johnston atolls and Kingman Reef, among others.

Soon after, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a letter to commercial fishermen letting them know the monument was open for business.

The monument was established in 2009 by President George W. Bush, and expanded in 2014 by President Obama. It's frequented by rare and endangered animals such as melonhead whales, Hawaiian monk seals, and hawksbill and green sea turtles.

Trump is targeting the roughly 400,000 square miles of the preserve added by Obama.

This action violates several environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act.

This is one more example of Trump doing everything in his power to destroy all efforts by prior administrations to protect the earth and environment.

9. Trump cancels protections for endangered species.

By Matthew Brown

One more action by the Trump administration to remove environmental protections

The U.S. Interior Department on Friday canceled a rule meant to protect plants and animals that are determined to be threatened with extinction, **the latest step by the Trump administration to dismantle key provisions of the landmark Endangered Species Act at the behest of industry.**

Instead of receiving automatic protections, imperiled species will need individualized protection plans once they are added to the threatened species list. That's a potentially lengthy process in which companies could seek exemptions for oil and gas drilling, mining and other development where those species live.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a statement that the Endangered Species Act had been used for too long “to stop almost any new project in America, driving up costs for families, weakening our competitiveness, and undermining our national security.”

A second change finalized Friday requires officials to analyze economic effects when deciding whether habitat is critical to a species' survival. Critics say it gives corporations an opportunity to put their thumb on the scale so officials will allow development in those areas.

“If you're exempting certain industries that cause habitat destruction, in many instances you'll be exempting the main threat to those species,” said Noah Greenwald with the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity.

The rules that gave what some consider “blanket protections” to threatened species were first adopted for wildlife in 1975 and for plants in 1977.

There have been no species added to the endangered or threatened lists in Trump's second term. By comparison, more than 20 species were added in Trump's first term, and about 60 under President Biden.

The Endangered Species Act is credited with bringing back animals including the California condor, the bald eagle and the American alligator from the brink of extinction. Burgum noted Friday that 97% of the species that have been given protections still have them.

That's a frustration for Republican lawmakers who say species should be taken off the endangered and threatened lists more quickly once they've recovered.

Brown writes for the Associated Press.

10. Leaders at the Global Climate Summit Highlight the Rising Toll of Warming

By David Gelles and Brad Plumer 2025 NYTimes.

This was particularly interesting because provide insight into the unique problems different countries.

In Spain, intense heat waves and floods have claimed thousands of lives in recent years. In Namibia, higher temperatures have resulted in drought and widespread hunger. And in Haiti, Hurricane Melissa, which was made more violent by global warming, last week killed more than 40 people.

World leaders shared vivid stories about the increasingly severe effects of a warming planet on Friday, the second day of the United Nations climate summit in Belém, Brazil. "Forests are vanishing, water levels are rising and, in turn, peoples' livelihoods are being disrupted," Salah Jama, the deputy prime Minister of Somalia, said. "In a nutshell, we are living on a planet in crisis."

Politicians, diplomats, scientists and business executives are gathering for the event, [known as COP30](#), during another year of record heat and extreme weather that scientists say is being worsened by human-caused climate change.

This week, the United Nations announced that the world was far off-track from keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, compared with preindustrial levels. That was a goal that virtually every country agreed to 10 years ago as part of the Paris climate agreement. 10 Years After a Breakthrough. Climate Pact, Here's Where We Are.

Has anything really changed in the decade since the Paris Agreement was reached? Actually, quite a lot. Instead, with heat-trapping emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation continuing to rise, the world is on track to

warm by roughly 2.8 degrees Celsius. Scientists have said that every additional fraction of a degree of warming brings greater risks from heat waves, wildfires, drought, storms and species extinction.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world **not** attending the summit. President Trump routinely dismisses the threats posed by climate change and is promoting fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, while penalizing the renewable energy industry.

The environment minister of the small island nation of Tuvalu, Maina Vakafua Talia, referred to Mr. Trump directly. “Tragically, the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases has withdrawn from the Paris agreement,” he said. **“Mr. President, this is a shameful disregard for the rest of the world.”**

“All we have to do is look outside our front doors to witness the impacts of climate change,” Kalani Kaneko, foreign minister of the Marshall Islands, said. “The sea rises, the coral dies and the fish stock leaves our shores for cooler waters.”

In Kenya, millions have been affected in recent years by cycles of extreme drought and devastating floods. “As I traveled here, we’re still searching for scores of people who went missing after a landslide affected one part of our country,” Kithure Kindiki, the Kenyan vice president, said at the summit. “Such incidents have become common.”

Hallo Mustafa Al Askari, the Iraqi environment minister, spoke of the challenges facing a country **where temperatures routinely approach 50 degrees Celsius, or 122 Fahrenheit.** “Water scarcity has become an existential challenge in Iraq alongside waves of drought, desertification and sand and dust storms,” he said. “The crisis threatens biodiversity, agriculture and undermines the livelihoods of local communities.”

And Bernadette Arakwiye, the Rwandan environment minister, spoke of floods in 2023 that killed 130 people and inflicted \$200 million in damages in 24 hours. “This was not an isolated tragedy, but another example of how much damage can be done in one single climatic event,” she said.

COP 30 Coverage The United States is absent from the international talks in Brazil. Other countries are calling for action, showcasing their progress and making new pledges.

At a time when international cooperation is flagging and many countries are more focused on issues like trade and energy security, officials are hoping to use the U.N. summit to direct global attention to the dangers of climate change and the benefits of

switching to cleaner forms of energy. “There’s a real focus in these first few days on going back to basics, that climate change is real and it matters,” said Kaysie Brown, the associate director for climate diplomacy and geopolitics at E3G, a European research and advocacy group. “That basic message can’t be taken for granted.” In between the warnings were calls to overhaul the modern economy

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez of Spain said his country was working with other nations to place additional taxes on premium class air travel and the use of private jets. “This is only fair,” he said. “Everyone needs to pay their due.” He added that he hoped to stop using public funds to finance new fossil fuel projects. Many leaders also called for rich nations to make more money available to developing countries. “We must reform the current global financial architecture to make capital more accessible and affordable for climate action in the developing world,” Mr. Kindiki, the Kenyan vice president, said.

The pleas for more money come at a time when aid is tough to come by. The amount of financial assistance that rich nations give to poor ones to adapt to storms, heat waves and other perils of climate change dropped 7 percent in 2023, according to the United Nations Environment Program.

A charitable fund for helping poor countries recover from extreme disasters, announced years ago, has not yet raised \$1 billion and is not yet operational. But on Thursday, a new fund for protecting forests that promises financial returns to countries that contribute money raised more than \$5 billion.

The debate over financing also comes as the Trump administration has sought to undermine global climate policies. Mr. Kaneko of the Marshall Islands condemned efforts by nations, including the United States, to scuttle a treaty that would have limited emissions from the shipping industry. “The behavior last month around the International Maritime Organization was shocking,” he said. “It cannot happen again.”

World leaders also used their time to talk about issues beyond climate change. As often happens in international forums, geopolitical rivalries and grievances loom over every discussion, making it more difficult for countries to reach consensus.

Shina Ansari, the Iranian vice president, assailed the attacks on her country this year by the United States and Israel. “This act not only violates international law and constitutes war

crimes, but has also caused extensive and lasting environmental destruction,” she said.

Surangel Whipps Jr., the president of Palau, and Mr. Talia of Tuvalu called on Taiwan to be more fully integrated into the United Nations process.

President Xiomara Castro of Honduras took aim at Israel on Thursday, the first day of the summit. “Genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip cannot go unpunished,” she said.

Edgars Rinkevich, the president of Latvia, spoke out against President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Thursday. “Russia’s aggression against Ukraine seeks to reshape the global order through conflict,” he said. “It takes human lives and inflicts harm on nature for no good reason.”

And Gustavo Petro, Colombia’s president, on Thursday criticized the Trump administration’s military buildup in the Caribbean. “We have the threat of invasion,” he said. “Invading Venezuela, or maybe threats to invade Colombia, invade Cuba.”