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iPhone 12: Promotion or Environment?

UN CLIMATE AMBITION SUMMIT AMBITIOUS ENOUGH? DEEP SEA MINING AN OVERVIEW GENDER GAP AND ENERGY SECTOR

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UN Climate Ambition Summit: Ambition Enough?

Selin Kumbaracı in

On December 12, 2020, five years after the Paris Agreement was created, 76 heads of state and government met virtually in the Climate Ambition Summit, co-hosted by the United Nations, United Kingdom, and France. It comes in lieu of the postponed 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) that would have been held in Glasgow last month had it not been for the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Climate Ambition Summit is not only unique in its virtual format and status as the only major climate meeting of the year—again due to the Pandemic—but it has also made it so that there are conditions that leaders have to meet to be able to take part. Due to the virtual nature of the Summit, it was essentially a series of videos of world leaders highlighting the commitments they have made to tackle climate change. As stated by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), "There will be no space for general statements."

Indeed, a number of countries had apparently submitted expressions of interest but were not invited to send their videos. UN officials are practicing discretion with regards to those countries who were turned down, however, it seems that countries with very high emissions, such as Australia and Brazil, were not permitted to submit their videos. In essence, only those countries putting forward both consequential and new climate pledges were able to take part.

Perhaps the Summit's most anticipated speaker was Chinese leader Xi Jinping, whose surprise declaration in September of China's aim to become carbon neutral by 2060 had kickstarted the Summit. Though many were hoping Xi would announce 2025 as the concrete date by which emissions would peak, such a pledge did not materialize. Nonetheless, the pledges that Xi made were still received in a positive, albeit cautious, manner, as being in the right direction.

Other pledges that can be seen as significant were those of the UK and the EU. Though the UK had announced its pledge to raise its 2030 emissions reduction target to 68%, the state of the EU's pledge was only finalized the day before the Summit, in a meeting of EU leaders in the European Council.

"PARIS PROMISED TO LIMIT TEMPERATURE RISE TO AS CLOSE TO 1.5 DEGREES AS POSSIBLE. BUT THE COMMITMENTS MADE IN PARIS WERE FAR FROM ENOUGH TO GET THERE. AND EVEN THOSE COMMITMENTS ARE NOT BEING MET."



The EU, nevertheless, came bearing good news, having been able to agree to raise its emissions reduction goal by 2030 from 40% to 55%.

New pledges came from other countries as well, with Argentina promising to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and Canada pledging to raise its 2030 goals and raise the price of carbon. Furthermore, Pakistan also declared that by 2030, it would halt coal power plants and pledged to increase its share of clean energy to 60% by that time.

One country whose absence was particularly noted was the United States, which under the Trump administration had withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, but now with the nearing inauguration of President-elect Biden, it appears as if this situation will prove to be short-lived. Biden tweeted on the day of the Summit that the US would be rejoining the Paris Agreement in 39 days, on January 20—inauguration day.

Despite such new pledges and positive developments, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was not satisfied, saying, "Paris promised to limit temperature rise to as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. But the commitments made in Paris were far from enough to get there. And even those commitments are not being met."

Indeed, based on the annual Emissions Gap Report produced by UNEP, the world is on course for warming upwards of 3 degrees within this century. While many welcome the increasing targets set by countries, where according to the UK 24 countries have announced net-zero emissions commitments, it is clear that this is not enough to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees.

A specific area which can be said to be characterized more by underperformance is that of the climate finance pledge by wealthy countries, which was supposed to reach \$100 billion this year, but according to OECD data on 2018, is at \$78.9 billion. Even this number seems to be the best-case scenario due to the impact the Pandemic has had on countries' economies.

Such skimming down on the climate pledge leads to serious concern because this pledge is meant to address the needs of developing countries. In the case where such finance is not adequately mobilized, developing countries—particularly in Africa—may decide that they would rather exploit the fossil fuel reserves they hold.

While ambition when it comes to national net-zero targets, even in the midst of a pandemic, seems to be promising, a similar level of commitment is difficult to detect in the area of climate finance geared toward supporting developing countries. As Mohamed Adow, director of the think tank, Power Shift Africa, has said, "It's striking how many countries are still missing when the urgency of addressing climate breakdown has never been clearer. COVID-19 may have occupied the headlines, but 2020 has seen floods, hurricanes and droughts continue apace throughout the world."

iPhone 12: Promotion or Environment? Başak Bozoğlu

"When Apple announced their new phone, they also explained why they removed the usual devices selling with the phones. Apple authorities make a statement that it was related to their new environmental policies."

Apple, one of the largest technology giants in the world, made crucial statements at the launch of the iPhone 12 on October 13. This announcement is different from other brands and previous iPhone promotions because they announced that they had removed the charging adaptor from the iPhone 12 boxes. If people want to use the charger, they have to pay for a charger beside the phone. From now on, packages are not included in charging adaptor and wired headphones. Of course, this move takes both customer's and other tech brands' attention and looks like Apple's new promotion method for iPhone 12. Was this unconventional selling style just for money, or could it really be beneficial for climate change?

When Apple announced their new phone, they also explained why they removed the usual devices selling with the phones. Apple authorities make a statement that it was related to their new environmental policies. In the launching meeting, they say that without charging adaptor and wearing headphones, the boxes will be significantly smaller, and in one shipping pallet, 70% more iPhone can be placed. The significance of improving shipping palettes' capacity is related to the carbon emission and carbon footprint of the brand.

Lisa Jackson is Apple's vice president of Environment, Policy, and Social

cables or third companies' devices for both adapter and headphones. They believe that Apple produces billions of adaptors unnecessarily. In Apple's environmentalist policies, they state that by redesigning, restructuring, and rethinking the materials and energy used for Apple products, they can further reduce carbon emissions from manufacturing. The average amount of energy consumed by Apple products since 2008 has decreased by 73%. The goal is to have a net-zero carbon impact by 2030.

THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF ENERGY CONSUMED BY APPLE PRODUCTS SINCE 2008 HAS DECREASED BY 73%

Initiatives argues that people do not use not only Apple's charging adaptors, they generally use their USB Apple is not a brand that just made these environmental decisions. In their data centers, distribution centers,



retail stores, and offices had already reduced the carbon footprint, and all these areas run on 100% renewable energy since 2018. The new decisions focus on low carbon product design.

Apple products are popular in many countries and preferable mostly for their minimalist designs. It becomes a social status and represents the idea of cool people generally. People love their color, and they also prefer

products' packaging, even products' boxes because of their design. Apple analyzes the environmental, social, and global supply impacts of 45 materials and their materials for both production and packaging. They prioritize

renewable and recycle materials as a result and focus on fourteen materials as a resource: aluminum, cobalt, copper, glass, gold, lithium, paper, plastic, rare earth materials, steel, tantalum, tin, tungsten and zinc. In this way, Apple reduced its carbon footprint by 4.3 million tons in 2019. It is still continuing to reduce recycling materials and different technologies used for adapting materials in the design and products. In the latest iPhone 12 launch, Lisa Jackson says it is a unique opportunity to move the planet forward. It is also sending a message to lawmakers for renewable energy not only significant but also good for business. According to Jackson, Apple's support and lead a crucial role to make an impression on other tech giants with intense climate change action and cooperation. In the paper distribution chain, Apple works with The Conservation Fund and the World Wildlife Fund to ensure

WHILE DOING THIS, THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MORE THAN 400,000 HECTARES OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTS IN THE USA AND

CHINA.

the continuity of reliable paper supply worldwide. While doing this, they contribute to the conservation and management of more than 400,000 hectares of sustainable forests in the USA and China.

Many people criticize Apple because of removing chargers and headphones from the iPhone's boxes, and these people argue that not shipping these devices might be helpful to save the environment. But the reality for them is that Apple's decision is not an environment-centric movement; it is made for the company's financial benefit. Before we decide it is a financial decision or environmentalist action, the significant thing is that even it is made for the company's financial benefit, it is a fact that they defend their stories with a sufficient underlying argument. Even it is not about the environment, and their policies started to shape a few years ago.

> At least, the company, which has such a massive production and distribution chain, moves that can help climate change. Removing the charging adaptor maybe tomorrow will be Samsung's

move. The significant issue for giant tech companies is not only saying that they have made a profit in the distribution by removing their charging devices, but also using recycled materials, finding new technologies to implement energy-saving developments, and using renewable energy in their offices, and productions. It seems that Apple chooses influential promotion for iPhone 12 under environmentalist policies.

Deep Sea Mining: An Overview

Hande Mert



The demand for precious minerals and metals is increasing day by day. The decrease in land-based resources has led manufacturers and the metal industry to the resurgence of interest in different types of resources that can replace the traditional ones. Therefore, engineers have started to investigate the wonders of deep-sea.

The massive amounts of polymetallic nodules, copper, nickel, zinc, cobalt compounds, manganese, sulfides around hydrothermal vents, and also the idea of extracting methane from gas hydrates created an interest in potential seabed mining projects. Because these rich metal contents are essential for many industries, including mining, electronics, and technology. But there are no deep-scale mining operations, and only shallow seabed operations are active. However, the exploration and research process of deep-sea resources are still happening. Sixteen mining companies have explored the seabed for mineral content research. The main reason why there are no significant ongoing operations is the environmental issues that deep-sea mining would cause. The mining industry and environmentalists have different opinions about this subject.

According to a report by the Deep Sea Mining Campaign and MiningWatch Canada, the damage that seabed mining, in other words, polymetallic nodule mining, would cause is inevitable. The ecosystems, biodiversity, and fisheries around targeted areas for the operations are under a serious threat. Because nodules are natural harbors to lots of brittle living organisms. That's why the correct approach here must be precautionary.

A Canadian mining company, Nautilus Minerals Inc., did an exploratory study in the sea off the coast of Papua New Guinea in 2007. The drill holes' penetration was 1,600 meters, and it was very near to a hydrothermal vent. It was a good place for the company to search for gold, silver, copper, and zinc. But the whole process disturbed the unique sea life. Unfortunately, the exploration stage went on and on in



the following years. These bad influences resulted in campaigns against seabed mining operations. Residents said their community experienced serious impacts when the company began exploring the seabed. They were worried about the whole mining operations' reliability because there were not any examples or project reports around the world to follow bothered them. They also pointed out the ground conditions of the seabed of Papua New Guinea. The active undersea volcano was and still is a threat to both undersea life and Papua New Guinea residents. Overall the whole operation has had a remarkable negative effect on the nation's economy. Because Nautilus had gone bankrupt before the actual process of extracting minerals began, and a vast depth was left on the Papua New Guinea government because they invested in the project in the first place.

Deep-Sea Mining Campaign published a report in May 20201 and remarkably mentioned the studies and negative aspects that happened in Papua New Guinea. But this report also examines another worthy form of polymetallic nodule called potato-sized rock accretions on the seabed, which contains nickel, copper, manganese, and nickel. According to the report, a wide-ranging aggregation occurs in the Clarion Clipperton Zone, which is 4.5 million square kilometers, including Hawaii and Mexico in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The report Among metal-rich nodules of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, a sea anemone–like cnidarian trails 2-meter tentacles. Diva Amon & Craig Smith



analyses the possible negative impacts on many different dimensions like fisheries, ecosystems, biodiversity, unknown deep-sea species and habitats, and social and economic. It also highlights the lack of knowledge about the process, which could end with a catastrophe.

"The reason we decided it was urgent to put this report out is that... the International Seabed Authority is under a lot of pressure to get the regulations finalized that would allow the mining to start," Catherine Coumans, one of the report's editors and the Asia-Pacific program coordinator for MiningWatch Canada, told Mongabay. "The mining could start within the next couple of years."

On the other hand, mining companies point out that deep-sea mining is less harmless than land mining; polymetallic nodule usage is obligatory to provide the needed materials for renewable energy technologies. And they also add they can benefit from the social and economic standards that Pacific island countries have, which includes other authorities into the subject. "Deep-sea mining is a cross-cutting topic that could affect both progress on climate action as well as the preservation of biodiversity and is connected with the transition to a circular economy," Dominic Waughray, Managing Director, World Economic Forum, said in a media statement.

To be able to analyze every possible outcome, further years are critical. The knowledge and the mistakes of the traditional mining methods and the other industries (like oil, nuclear power generation) must guide any potential mining project. Also, new technologies must be implemented, and the best investment options must be considered carefully to determine the actual environmental and social impacts of deep-sea mining because that decision will designate whether a project is sustainable or not.

Ukraine's Relations With Russia and the EU

Atahan Tümer 🛽 i 📠

Ukraine means border country in the old Slavic language. It has maintained its feature of being a border country for centuries. Having a key position between the Russians and Europe, the country has often been the center of conflicts. Although it has consistently had anti-Russian movements, Ukraine has been a strategically important country controlled by Russian forces for centuries. As a natural result of these close ties, the two countries have close ties due to their religious and cultural similarities. These close ties are also the reason behind the strong economic relations between the two countries. However, especially after the collapse of the Soviets, anti-Russian movements in Ukraine gained strength and found a space for themselves. This has deeply affected the relationships they had before. In this article, we will examine the effects of this rupture on energy politics.

Problems began to arise between the two countries immediately after the Soviet dissolution. However, the most serious crisis after the Soviet dissolution occurred in 2006. Today, Ukraine buys natural gas at the same price as other European states because of Ukraine's anti-Russian events. Ukraine has paid the price of moving away from Russia by taking a heavy blow to its economy. The crisis in 2006 is such a crisis that some countries' natural gases in the European Union have been greatly interrupted during this crisis.

Considering that the European Union countries depend heavily on Russia to meet their energy needs, we can better understand the scale and importance of this crisis. Russia used its energy supplier role as a weapon in this incident. It tried to punish a country acting against its interests and leaving its sphere of influence by closing its valve. Russia's use of natural gas lines as a kind of threat increases the pressure upon Europe. However, it is a fact that Russia also needs the European market. Still, Russia's hand is much stronger in negotiations. The reason for this is that Europe does not have an alternative to Russia.

Ukraine is a very important factor in the equation between Russia and the European Union. For this reason, Ukraine mostly applies a balanced policy. Ukraine, which also depends on investments from Europe, continued this balanced policy very successfully until 2014.

However, the Euromaidan events in 2014 upset these balances, and anti-Russian thought came to power in Ukraine. Especially the annexation of Crimea and the conflicts in Donetsk-Lugansk spread anti-Russianism to all segments of society. The high tension in the region is dangerous for the security of Europe's energy supply. At this point, even the sanctions that should naturally be imposed on Russia could not receive direct support from many countries in Europe. For example, Germany didn't support sanctions immediately due to the high trade volume with Russia. If we consider Germany's role in Europe today, we can understand the importance of Russia better.



At this point, if we are to examine Russia's relations with Europe in terms of energy trade, we should not ignore Russia's security paranoia. Ukraine is very critical for Russia in terms of its strategic and geopolitical position. A possible NATO or European Union membership of Ukraine, which was spoken in 2014, although not very strongly, is not something that Russia can accept. In such possibilities, Russia cannot be expected to accept this situation by taking no action. It wouldn't be realistic to expect them to admit.

Considering that Russia uses its energy supply as a weapon or a tool, new crises will await the European Union as Ukraine approaches the west. Today, even though the tension has decreased significantly with Zelensky's coming to power, conflicts continue on the Donets-Lugansk front. Solving the crisis between Ukraine and Russia is of vital importance for Europe as well. At this point, providing realistic solutions for this problem will contribute to peace in the region. Russia does not trust Ukraine, which it has used as a transit country for years, and is looking for alternatives. After these crises, European countries realized how risky and unsafe it is to depend on Russia in energy and started to search for alternatives. At this point, pipelines coming from the south are important. Since almost all the pipelines coming from the south pass through Turkey, the tension between Ukraine and Russia increases Turkey's geopolitical importance. These events also contribute to Turkey's goal of becoming a transit country for energy trade. So much so that some projects that envisage the marketing of Central Asian natural gas to Europe are much more seriously spoken than before. At this point, Turkey can utilize the tension to its benefit and can acquire a bigger share from the European energy market.

We can say that there is a possibility of a crisis in the region today. If we ignore this, we cannot interpret the region correctly. At this point, although the European Union and Russia are dependent on each other, they do not hesitate to look for alternatives. While Europe is looking south, Russia looks east and signs energy trade agreements with China. We can clearly say that the commercial relations between Russia and the European Union will not suffer in the short term, and both countries will continue their energy trade. Ukraine will maintain its importance by keeping its critical position in the long run. Undoubtedly, the country that will benefit most from the continuation of these commercial relations will be Ukraine.

The Role of Energy In The Mega Project of Canal Istanbul

Can Arıhan in

Although Turkey is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas imports for its energy needs, it has a unique advantage in the regional energy matters: its highly strategic geopolitical position. Major energy pipelines such as Trans-

Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP), Blue Stream Natural Pipeline, Gas TurkStream Natural Gas Pipeline, Tabriz-Ankara Natural Gas Pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline, and Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline go through Turkey either with the intention of

delivering energy only to Turkey or to ultimately deliver energy resources to Europe. Also, as a result of the energy pipelines bringing significant energy resources there, the small port city of Ceyhan is emerging as an energy hub. Therefore, any observer who studies European and Middle Eastern energy matters would notice that Turkey is emerging (or has already emerged) as a regional energy hub.

The Mega Project of Kanal İstanbul is set to play (if constructed) a major role

in this energy puzzle in the region, for Turkey's significance in the regional energy matters is not confined to energy pipelines it hosts. Turkish Straits (i.e., Bosporus Strait and the Strait of Çanakkale), one of the most

"I MUST BRIEFLY STATE THAT SUCH A HUGE PROJECT SHOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF IT HAS NO OR MINIMAL DAMAGES ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND IF IT IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE."

> strategic waterways globally, sees over 40.000 vessels each year. Included in this number, many vessels carry oil and other energy resources. In 2019, almost 9000 tankers that carried energy resources (e.g., LNG, oil) sailed through the Turkish Straits. Parallel to that figure, a report by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that 8832 vessels with hazardous cargo (including oil tankers) passed through the Turkish Straits in 2017. The cargo they carried was at 146.943.000 million tons. For example, shipments from

major Russian oil ports in the Black Sea, Novorossiysk and Tuapse, have to pass the Turkish Straits to reach the world energy markets (according to Anadolu Ajansı, 38 percent of Russian maritime crude oil exports pass through the Bosporus).

As we have seen the strategic importance of the Turkish Straits (and Turkey in general) in the regional energy puzzle, we shall now move onto the megaproject Kanal İstanbul and

its role in this energy puzzle. Although this project might seem like a novelty, it has been discussed many times throughout history. Dating back to the era of Suleiman the Magnificent, even Ottomans had ideas to connect the Black Sea and the Marmara Sea with a canal. The same idea has been proposed several times in the modern Turkish Republic as well. Now once again, this mega project is on the table after the Turkish government is finalizing its plans to initiate the construction of the canal, which will



be around 45 kilometers long, that will connect the Black Sea and the Marmara Sea with another waterway (in addition to the Bosporus).

Any person, who has been following the Turkish media lately, would have noticed how fiercely the debates about this mega project continued. These political debates and environmental considerations are out of this article's scope (and outside of my expertise). Still, as a concerned Turkish citizen, I must briefly state that such a huge project should only be constructed if it has no or minimal damages on the environment and if it is economically feasible.

We now continue with the potential benefits that the Kanal İstanbul project may bring about after these reservations. Milliyet notes that the average waiting time at the Bosporus for large vessels is over 14 hours, and this waiting may be as high as 3-4 days if there is an accident. And Bloomberg notes that in 2019 oil tankers waited around 13 days to exit the Black Sea, and tankers holding about 39 million barrels of oil were lined up to cross the Turkish Straits. In addition to these long waiting times, according to the Petroleum Economist, over 400 serious accidents (including tanker collisions) have taken place in the Bosporus since 1948.

Kanal İstanbul can help to limit these problems (if not solve them). Although it is difficult to project the exact number of vessels carrying energy resources that will pass through the Kanal İstanbul; it is certain that, when there is another waterway available from the Black Sea to the Marmara Sea, both the waiting time of the vessels and the possibility of accidents due to congestion will decrease. Therefore, this mega canal's construction will help ease the congestion in a waterway, where 3 million barrels of oil transit through each day, and contribute to both Turkish and world energy markets. With oil (and other energy resources like LNG) crossing the Turkish Straits faster, world oil markets will become more efficient. Turkey will benefit from the increased importance of its waterways.

Apart from these positive effects in terms of transmission of energy and energy geopolitics, Kanal İstanbul will also generate energy. According to Daily Sabah, 14.000 megawatts per hour of electricity will be generated by an underwater turbine power plant installed below Kanal İstanbul. It is a very ambitious claim, but the Turkish energy markets will hugely benefit from it if this project materializes.

All in all, (if constructed), Kanal İstanbul is set to contribute to Turkey's strategic geopolitical position regarding energy matters. After noting the reservations above about the environment and economic feasibility, it seems valid to state that Turkey, which already enjoys unique importance in the regional energy puzzle, will strengthen its role in energy matters after the Kanal construction.

Five Years of the Paris **Agreement: Class and Climate**

Mihael Gubas

in

Just before the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) published a regular report on the state of greenhouse gas emissions, concluding that the world is on the path to global warming. "The world is still rushing towards a catastrophic rise in temperature of an average of 3 degrees per year - which far exceeds the 'obligations' of the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep warming below the average of 2 degrees Celsius per year," UNEP concluded.

Recall, 2 average degrees per year on a daily basis means a rise in temperature of 6 to 12 degrees Celsius. This daily increase on an annual basis makes a difference in the number of days of snow cover over, for example, agricultural crops, or the number of dry days. Water movements and the amount of available drinking water in certain parts of the world also depend on this. And just severe climate change, only this year has caused the emergence of a global virus, fires in Australia, Siberia and the Arctic Circle in general. Half a billion animals and significantly more plants died in the torch this year alone. The list of endangered species is increasing, the number of individuals in all animal populations has halved and continues to decrease, all of which is affecting the growth of the list of already extinct species.

Systemic global problems at the micro level are reflected, among other things, in the famine disaster, so the World Food Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP) announced last month that 7 million people have died of hunger this year alone, more are hungry hundreds of millions (the data vary slightly, but we can round the number of hungry to 300 million), and in the group of the very poor there are two billion people on the planet (one quarter of the total world population). With the spread of climate catastrophes in the US - especially in its south (e.g. in Louisiana - soil loss due to rising sea levels) and the west (fires in California have already displaced millions of people) parts of the planet undamaged by climate change



are becoming increasingly difficult to find privileged countries of the economic core.

On the other hand, in addition to environmental changes, climate change has increasingly severe political and social consequences for peripheral countries. While Pacific island countries are building dams against the rising sea or giving up sovereignty by accumulating land in other countries on nearby lands, in Europe the debate is still about the degree of discourse adequate to communicate with the public about climate change. Climate funds are opening that gape empty, policies to force capital to finance remediation of the damage it has caused are still reduced to innocent flirtations with an overpowering partner. A new green terminology is being introduced, the emergence of which is inversely proportional to the functional green legal and financial framework, the introduction of which is much more talked about than implemented in practice.

In our region, southern Romania is slowly turning into a desert, the Black Sea is left without oxygen and life, tornadoes are forming in Slovenia, and southern Croatia is flooding and slowly turning into a tropical area. The inevitable collapse of the ecosystem awaits the Neretva Valley, and the state limits the powers of the Parliament over the issued energy concessions. According to his own confession, the line minister is a layman in the ecology sector, which can be seen in



the issued concessions for the exploration of fossil energy resources and a comfortable attitude towards environmental impact studies. As we lose gas (and political) platforms, there are fewer and fewer fish in the sea, and the rules to limit the catch of marine life, we stick to it until we come face to face with a delicious octopus. Only a few years after we thought there was hope for saving Periski, this year we added that shellfish to the list of extinct species.

The self-proclaimed champions of defense against climate change regularly celebrate all anniversaries, including this one, the fifth since the signing of the Paris Agreement, and yet practical changes are still cosmetic, designed to change anything that can change without changing anything. How little has been achieved can be painfully seen from the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the signing of Paris on the media dedicated to informing about climate change. So the successes are: normalization of the 1.5 percent target, normalization of the idea that by 2050 we have zero net greenhouse gas emissions and the like. The "normalization" of these ideas only means that businessmen and politicians from core and peripheral countries no longer get up from the table when discourse moves in the direction of limiting their privileges. Yet the political elite is still resilient to climate change, meaning capital is still secure. The normalization of ideas and the path to resolving climate change is a much longer process than civilization has time to wait. There are no institutional changes, the Paris Agreement does not have a central executive mechanism. This does not mean that it is unenforceable in practice. Despite all the warnings, despite all the studies, and despite this year's economic slowdown, we have added another billion tons of CO2 to greenhouse gases this year. While politicians are currently agreeing to all the goals for 2050, they are doing so only because they are aware that it means a few more decades of "laissez-faire" logic, while at the same time there is nothing "trickle-down" towards us except trouble. In the words of the President of the World Food Program: "There is no vaccine for poverty, hunger, climate change and inequality.

Gender Gap and Energy Sector Batuhan Özkan

Genderinequality, e.g., the gender wage gap, is one of the most accentuated issues within academia and international institutions. Promoting gender equality is considered as one of the most important targets to be achieved, especially in developing and undeveloped countries in the scope of development goals. In this context, there are many projects and models that have been developing worldwide on different platforms (universities, NGOs, public institutions, etc.). The energy sector is a field in which the gender gap is concretely valid. The reason why I propose this topic for the plan is a new development from the sector. The trio of women (Stacie Pitts, Carolyn Comer, and Alice Acuna) has been promoted to conducting the Royal Dutch Shell Plc's biggest trading business. Concerning this event, I will discuss the overview of women's standing in the sector, the aforementioned event itself, and implications and analysis of the current situation.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc's move follows the rival BP Plc's appointment. They charged Carol Howle as the leader of the trading and shipping unit. However, these developments draw attention and point out that the gender gap still exists in the rest of the industry, especially when we talk about top jobs. The new head of the crude trading Pitts says that:" Twenty years ago, when I started on the trading floor I was one of the few women working in this industry" and "It is so encouraging to see the progress we're making on diversity, and our leadership talent developing in the company." When we go beyond Europe, Mariam Almaszade, the CEO of Azerbaijan's SOCAR Trading SA, comes to the front, and another non-European woman Hong Zhu the founders of Switzerland-based Mercuria. However, it can be said that

Entry-level and C-suite¹ women by industry, 2018

these form the minority of the senior executives of the sector.

McKinsey has discussed this subject. The consulting firm exhibits the situation of women in the energy industry with numbers and graphs. Figure 1 demonstrates that oil and gas have the lowest percentage of entrylevel women and the lowest C-suite women. It can be deduced that this sector is not so attractive and does not provide a high opportunity for advancing in the career. In figure 2, we can observe the women's representation in different kinds of companies. The downward trend





Promotion of women working in the oil and gas industry also lags.

Women representation at each level, 2018, %



Source: Women in the Workplace 2018, LeanIn.Org and McKinsey 2018

of women's representation in higher positions and relatively representation in STEM low and oil &gas companies is clear. However, other data may lead to wishful thinking despite the current situation. The graph prepared by S&P shows that the gap between the percentage share of female board members in other industries and the oil & gap is closing. Another aspect of the gender gap in the energy sector is renewable energy. In addition to reflecting the other side of the coin, women's employment in renewable energy is important because of the development of this area and the substitutability of fossil fuels with renewable energy. In this context, the situation of the labor market of renewable energy is not only critical for today but also gives clues about the future. The study conducted by Julian Emmons Allison, Kirin McCrory, and Ian Oxnevad shed light on this issue. The article focuses on the United States and Canada, and it suggests that "The renewable energy sector is already more gender diverse than the fossil fuel industry, and promises to provide an increasing number of jobs for women as well as men, particularly in high growth solar and wind industries." Furthermore, as the article's name suggests, it emphasizes the important role of women's professional networking. When we resort to visualization as it is done for oil and gas, according to IRENA's study, it can be said that renewable energy is a field which is much more open to advancing in career for the women in comparison with oil and gas companies.[3]

In conclusion, the oil and gas sector is a realm in which the gender gap is deeply felt. According to my interpretation, two reasons lead to this result. The first one is the perception of this sector. Since the oil and gas sector comes to minds with technical occupations, and these jobs are mainly identified with men, women can be cool towards this field. Secondly, the current situation of the industry is paving the way for the patriarchal hegemony. In my opinion, more active participation of women in the energy sector would contribute to the destruction of gender roles and change the stereotypes in the business world.



Female board members in global energy vs. other industries (%)

Other industries based on S&P Global BMI (all sectors). Sources: S&P Global Market Intelligence; S&P Global Platts Analytics



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