

Question 1: Introduce yourself and your interest in climate change negotiations.

My name is Arnault Barichella. I am finishing my PhD in political science at Sciences Po.

I'm in my fifth year at the Center for European Studies and Comparatives Politics.

My topic focuses on the role of cities in sub-national actors in the global climate regime.

I focus more specifically on three cities, Paris, Boston and New York City, and multi level interactions with the higher echelons of governance.

Question 2: Why access to COP26 as part of the ScPo delegation was useful to your PHD work and what did you do on location ?

Access to the COP26 was extremely useful for my doctoral research because I was able to attend a number of different conferences and seminars, workshops and events on the role of cities and sub-national actors more generally in the global climate regime.

More specifically, I was able to attend these types of events.

At three or four different types of pavilions, the main one was the multi level action pavilion. That focus is really specifically on this topic. Also the global Climate Action Center, which is the hub at the cup for non-state actor contributions more generally.

Also, interestingly, there is a parallel American delegation known as US climate action, a center that is made up of non state actors. It was created under the Trump presidency to show that almost half the country who remained committed to the Paris Agreement and it's still are continuing even under President Biden in order to show that the renewed American pledge to the Paris Agreement enjoys broad based support across American Society.

Question 3: Provide some input about how the growing role of cities played out during that COP and the extent to which it confirms your main argument.

Before going to the COP 26, I had done a lot of research and interviews on what are the potential contributions of cities and of sub-national actors in the global climate regime and the interviews I was able to conduct at the COP 26 in many ways corroborate these findings.

The cities can provide the climate actions that are additional to those of national governments, and in that respect that they can help to close. But it's called the global emissions gap, which stems from inadequate pulses at the national level and in cases where the policies of citizen and sub national actors overlap with those of national governments, they can help us so governments implement their national pledges more rapidly as well as one stolen.

So those are points which were seminars, interviews I was able to conduct and really corroborated my funds.

Then, there was a second aspect which I would like to emphasize is that my doctoral research pointed to two main weaknesses in the platforms which have been established to associated cities and sub-national actors.

So first thing there *is a problem* in terms of the inconsistency of metrics and measurement criteria for subnational actors and how they report their pledges, and there was also an issue with the fact that existing UN platforms do not track implementation over time.

These were two issues that were addressed in Cop 26 and a new framework was established in Glasgow known as improved Marrakech Partnerships for global action which specifically seeks to address these two weaknesses.