

Climate talks held as Arctic ice melts, concerns grow

June 17 2019, by Frank Jordans



In this photo taken on Thursday, June 13, 2019 sled dogs make their way in northwest Greenland with their paws in melted ice water. Diplomats and climate experts gathered Monday in Germany for U.N.-hosted talks on climate change amid growing public pressure for governments to act faster against global warming. Over the weekend, a picture taken by Danish climate researchers showing sled dogs on the ice in northwest Greenland with their paws in melted ice water was widely shared on social media. Greenland's ice melting season normally runs from June to August but the Danish Meteorological Institute said this year's melting started on April 30, the second-earliest time on record going back to 1980. (Danmarks Meteorologiske Institut/Steffen M. Olsen via AP)

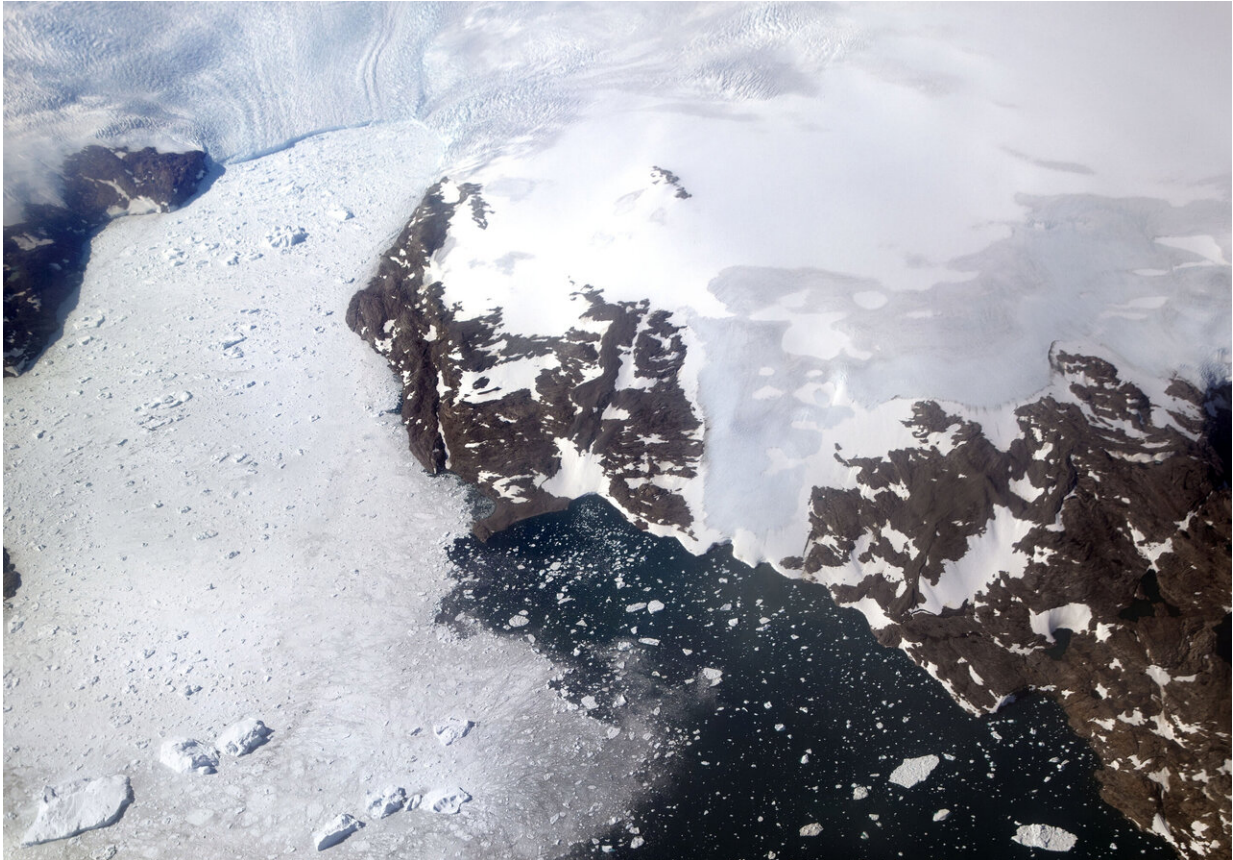
Diplomats and climate experts gathered Monday in Germany for U.N.-hosted talks on climate change amid growing public pressure for governments to act faster against global warming.

Officials meeting in the western city of Bonn for the June 17-27 talks are focusing on resolving issues that couldn't be agreed upon at last December's climate summit in Poland . This includes the rules governing the international trade in carbon certificates, which allow countries or companies to offset greenhouse gas emissions by paying for projects in poor nations.

The talks are taking place against a backdrop of mounting concerns about global warming that have been heightened by extreme weather events and other signs that man-made climate change may already be leaving its mark on the planet.

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Students in Europe and beyond have staged regular street protests demanding leaders do more to meet the 2015 Paris accord's goal of keeping average temperature increases below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit)—ideally 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F)—by the end of the century, compared to pre-industrial times.



In this file photo dated Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017, a glacier at left calves icebergs into a fjord off the Greenland ice sheet in southeastern Greenland. The Danish Meteorological Institute said Sunday June 16, 2019, the melting season in Greenland has started a month earlier than usual, and issued a photo by climate researcher Rasmus Tonboe on Twitter showing what they say are sled dogs dragging a sleigh on the ice in Greenland with their paws in melted ice water.(AP Photo/David Goldman, FILE)

While experts discuss technical issues in Bonn, European Union leaders will be debating the 28-nation's long-term strategy on climate change Thursday in Brussels.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has indicated that she backs

proposals to stop adding further greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere by 2050—a move that will require ending almost all fossil fuel use by then. Britain, Germany and France are expected to pass national legislation this year enshrining this "net zero" target in law.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has invited world leaders to outline their countries' efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in September.



In this Tuesday April 23, 2019 file photo, climate change protesters march along Whitehall toward parliament, in London. Britain's prime minister has announced plans to eliminate the country's net contribution to climate change by 2050. Theresa May said the plan will be put before Parliament Wednesday, June 12. She says the amendment to the 2008 Climate Change Act will intensify Britain's push to drastically reduce carbon emissions because "standing by is not an

option." (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, file)



In this Thursday, April 25, 2019 file photo, Extinction Rebellion climate change protesters hold up a banner near the Bank of England, in the City of London. The environmental activist group Extinction Rebellion has postponed a plan to shut down London's Heathrow Airport with drones after it was criticized by politicians and police. The anti-climate change group said Sunday, June 16 it would "not be carrying out any actions at Heathrow Airport in June or July." (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, file)

They'll likely face no letup in pressure there.

Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish activist who has inspired the student protests and harangued the global elite in Davos and elsewhere,

has announced she will take a year off from school to attend the New York summit and the U.N.'s annual climate meeting, being held this year in Chile.

"The tricky thing is that it's on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. And there are no trains going there," she said Monday on Instagram . "And since I don't fly, because of the enormous climate impact of aviation, it's going to be a challenge. I haven't quite figured that out yet."

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Citation: Climate talks held as Arctic ice melts, concerns grow (2019, June 17) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-climate-held-arctic-ice.html>

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