

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PODCAST “CLIMATE CHANGE - 2050 PROSPECTS”

Male: “Can you imagine what the climate will be like on Earth in 2050?”.

Female: “2016 was the hottest year since 1880. It has exceeded by 1.1 degrees the temperature of the pre-industrial era, and almost a degree, exactly, 0.99 degrees Celsius the average temperature from 1950 to 1980 according to data from NASA”.

Female: “According to the UN, if we do not stop the impact of climate change the average temperature of the lower layers of the atmosphere could exceed four degrees above pre-industrial levels, before the end of the 21st century and sea levels will increase by 82 centimeters”.

Male: “Scientists predict that the rise of over 1,5° will disproportionately increase events such as droughts and the melting of the layers of Arctic and Antarctic ice”.

Male: “The main cause of climate change is the high concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, the result of energy production using fossil fuels and transport emissions, as well as industrial activity, agricultural and livestock and the production and use of fertilizers”.

Female: “The effects of climate change are already beginning to be felt: heat waves are more frequent; In some areas, it rains more intensely, while in others with a tendency to drought, these have been accentuated. There are more and more virulent cyclones and some coastal areas are flooding”.

Male: “The effect of melting ice on land temperature and sea levels can also be devastating. The Arctic ice sheet acts as a large mirror, which produces a reflection effect of sunlight, which prevents the surface of the Earth from getting hot”.

Female: “On the other hand, if the immense mass of ice covering Greenland is dissolved, if only in part, that increase freshwater input would reduce the salinity of the seas and change the circulation of ocean currents, adversely affecting the seas and oceans. Can you imagine what would happen in Europe, bathed by the warm Gulf current, if it diverted and flowed to other latitudes?”.

Male: “Another possible effect of global warming is the gradual melting of permafrost, the soil layer that is permanently frozen in the countries closest to the Arctic. Large tracts of Canada, Siberia, Alaska and Nordic countries are permanently frozen”.

Female: “These territories haven't thawed in hundreds of thousands of years. And in that time they have accumulated large reserves of organic compounds, capable of generating huge amounts of carbon dioxide and methane. It is estimated between 1.4 and 1.8 trillion metric tons”.

Male: “What if, because of global warming, that layer of permafrost begins to melt and release the greenhouse gases it has trapped inside? Maybe a heating process of no return”.

Female: “What would happen if sea level rises almost one meter above the current level? According to Oxfam, in the Pacific Islands alone has it estimated that 8 million people should emigrate. On the other hand, urban areas, where four out of five Europeans live, will be exposed to heat waves, droughts, fires, floods and rising sea levels”.

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Female: “Is believed that about 2050, if we reach two degrees of temperature increase, the performance of such staple crops as corn can be reduced up to 60% in the case of Brazil and Ecuador, and up to 50% in the Balkans, where they can also half the yield of wheat crops, vegetables and grapes”.

Male: “With a warming of between one and a half to two and a half degrees, scientists warn that between 20% and 30% of species will be threatened with extinction”.

Female: “The World Health Organization predicts that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause an additional 250,000 deaths each year, due to malnutrition, malaria, other diseases and heat waves”.

Male: “By 2050, the EU has set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels. The plan to achieve this is to reduce by 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040”.

Female: “How? By producing electricity using renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric, or biomass. Also with low emission sources or, for example, thermal power technology, carbon capture and storage; while electricity can significantly substitute the use of fossil fuels for heating and transportation”.

Male: “In the construction sector, residential and office building emissions could be reduced by around 90% by 2050 with energy efficiency measures. The technology could mean that by the same year the industries of great consumption of energy have reduced their emissions by more of 80%”.

Female: “Our will and the decisions we make daily are the solutions. What energy we consume, what we buy, what we eat, how we move or how we dress are, according to this expert, activities that influence the fight against climate change”.

Expert: “All of us who already know that with our daily acts as consumers and as people we are generating greenhouse gases that affect and accentuate global warming. Each of us must took and assume that responsibility, there is information on the Internet and elsewhere what is what we can do”.

Male: “In the coming years, there will be a clear commitment by companies and administrations to the use of renewable energy in all sectors of the economy, but we, as citizens, with our daily actions, we have much to say. 2050 depends on each one of us and it depends on you”.

