

EDITORIAL

The 69th General Assembly of the United Nations is in full swing at the moment, so this issue includes a preview, prepared on the basis of pre-circulated documents, including draft resolutions and decisions. The full report and overview of the session will be published early next year in the first issue of the next volume of our journal.

For this issue, we received two long and exceptionally informative articles, one of which will be published in two parts, with Part 1 appearing in this issue and Part 2 in issue 6.

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We congratulate the Secretary General of the United Nations not only on initiating the World Climate Summit (see p. 416), but also on appealing strongly to the heads of State and government to take the necessary measures. He stated that the world leaders need “to make history”. This goes not only for matters directly linked to the climate itself, but also to other aspects, such as the call for food security for 9 billion people.

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We are particularly excited to hear of the US-China announcement on the reduction of carbon emissions, in which China reportedly agreed that its emissions will reach their peak “around” 2030 and announced its intent to try to beat that deadline by boosting its use of non-fossil-fuel energy to 20 percent and the US promised a 26 percent cut (based on 2005 levels) by 2025 — a very ambitious goal that calls for cuts of 2.5 percent per year over each of the next nine years. We are heartened by the fact that experts are describing these goals as significant extensions beyond the two countries’ former predictions and commitments. EPL will obtain and analyse the agreement itself, hopefully in time for issue 44(6), and would welcome any climate expert’s article or perspective on the Agreement.

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We also congratulate Inger Andersen, World Bank Vice President for Middle East and North Africa, who has been selected to fill the post of Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, following the departure of Julia Marton-Lefèvre, whose contribution we commend.

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- Wolfgang Breyer -