

COP Chat

Jonas Persson

Head of Sustainability and ESG Finance at Lloyds Banking Group



"We have to ensure that the policies match the ambitions so we don't only talk about what we like to do; we have to demonstrate that we have got the infrastructure and policies behind it in support of this as well. The other thing is I hope there's going to be a strong focus on how we accelerate in the coming years, making sure we understand the urgency of what we are doing. Only by doing that will we give ourselves a chance to be on track by 2030, and that is really appreciating the aggregated impact of actions taken early so we don't leave things too late on because we do not have the time or capacity for that. Urgency is something I'm really behind; I would like to hope that there's going to be plenty of that in Egypt when we get to it. I also think there are plenty of lessons learned from the pandemic - as bad as it was - but we know now how to confront a global crisis. We should take a lot of comfort from the material impact policies can have if you really want to make a difference, so hopefully there's going to be a little bit of focus on what we learned from that event."

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"Lastly, I'm hoping to see a good level of reaffirmation about commitments and some cohesiveness because we are under some challenge - and even attack, I would say - from some voices to say that we have different priorities. However, I certainly don't think now is the time to start backtracking or making excuses of what we should not be doing. We have to rely on strong data: data, facts and results are very important. This part needs to be our North Star throughout the journey, otherwise there's a huge risk again that we will not get a large portion of the public or the people with us on the journey. We need to demonstrate that we are making impacts, making changes and that results are coming, so we get some comfort from what we are doing. That's probably at the top of my priorities."

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