



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNDP: Climate Change

Hey everyone my name is Will Pless and I am very excited to be your head chair for UNDP this year at the Mission Viejo High School Conference. I'm currently a junior at Mission and have been doing MUN since sophomore year. At Mission I'm also involved with Mock Trial and a few clubs. Outside of school I love to skate and hang out with friends. It's going to be great meeting you all and I'm looking forward to have a great, fun committee this year!

I. Background

Climate change is a problem on the global scale and its impacts are felt by all on Earth. Some of the many examples of climate change include sea level rise, global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets, declining arctic sea ice, ocean acidification, and extreme, peculiar weather events. The current warming trend is of particular significance because most of it is very likely human-induced and proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented in the past 1,300 years. Most scientists attribute this alarming trend to the expansion of the "greenhouse effect", or warming that results when the atmosphere traps heat radiating from Earth toward space. Gases such as water vapor, methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide block the heat from escaping Earth and are largely the cause of climate change. Humans, however, are the main culprit in releasing detrimental levels of these gases with the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil. The industrial activities that our modern civilization depends upon have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million in the last 150 years. Additionally, climate change most greatly affects poorer nations where poverty is commonplace. Without proper infrastructure and aid in these poverty-stricken regions, the effects of climate change are more pronounced. These effects then make those areas more difficult to survive in, increasing poverty even more. This is a dangerous cycle. Climate change is a global issue that if not promptly and efficiently dealt with, could lead to drastic long-term negative consequences on all forms of life on Earth.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has many organizations whose goal is to solve and alleviate the effects of climate change. Some of these include: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), The World Health Organization (WHO), The United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UNSD), The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and many more. UNDP is working to help countries address the challenges of climate change and remains the largest service provider in the UN system on climate change adaptation and mitigation. UNDP supports countries to transition toward low-emission and climate-resilient sustainable development, helps them to prepare for and build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and pursue low carbon development pathways that guarantee a cleaner, greener future. UNDP has even helped prepare its partners and countries to participate in the UN Secretary General's Climate Change Summit. UNDP has even gone so far as to provide countries through global support programmes and national level projects to develop and implement Low-Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), Nationally



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Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Steps have been taken to recognize and solve the issue of climate change, but more can be done considering this issue is only getting worse.

III. Possible Solutions

One possible solution is presented by Goal 13 in UNDP's agenda called Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 13 states: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. To achieve this goal, the agenda contains five targets to reach. 1st target: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. 2nd target: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. 3rd target: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. 4th target: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible. 5th target: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities. These ideas need to be combined with the combined efforts of many countries to develop a successful solution.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

African: People in Africa are at most risk of the impacts of climate change on water supply. One of the areas most affected by climate change.

Western: Western countries face warming of mountains which lowers snowpack and increased flooding, increase of droughts, and lowering of agricultural yields.

Asia/Pacific: Rising seawater threatens coastal areas and increases risks of flooding, freshwater availability expected to decrease.

Europe: Effects of climate change have been clearly observed in Europe such as retreating glaciers, sea level rise, longer growing seasons, and heatwave related health impacts.

Middle East: Precipitation expected to decrease, increase of droughts, and an overall warming of the region.

V. Questions to Consider

1. How has climate change affected your country?
2. Has your country made steps to solve this problem?



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3. What can be done to subdue the effects of climate change and climate change in general?

VI. Works Cited

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