



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNEP: Socioeconomic Impact of Climate Change

Good evening delegates :D My name is Spencer Churchill and I am your head chair for UNEP. I am a junior at Mission Viejo High School and Middle Secretary of Technology. I am in the IB program, have been in MUN for 5 years (since 7th grade), run cross-country and track and field, play cello and guitar, and will definitely be jammin' during lunch. I also really hope you enjoy our conference and pretend to enjoy this topic!

I. Background

The environment has huge impacts on the economy whether beneficial or detrimental. Everybody in the world is impacted by the environment from energy to food; specifically 20% of the world's population is involved in agriculture (1,460,000,000 people). As you can see, the environment is incredibly important to the economic status of developing and developed countries. In recent years, the temperature has been rising due to primarily to pollution and the greenhouse gas effect. Climate change is an effect that is widely accepted to be caused by human actions on Earth. It is the aggrandizing of the greenhouse effect causing heat which normally radiates into space to be trapped and causes a rise in global temperature. Research towards what may be causing this once again all points to human action. Certain countries like Japan, Canada, Russia and China are involved in some way at least making some pledge to lower emissions by a certain amount. The main efforts are put in by private organizations like Greenpeace for example. If Climate change is not stopped and temperature rises to an irreversible level changes in weather patterns and temperature in certain regions would cause natural disasters and would alter the sustainability of life towards certain animal species living in certain places, and in extreme cases would even affect our ability to live in the regions we currently inhabit. The economic impact of climate change brings a food crisis onto the horizon which requires many countries to take active parts in innovating new farming techniques and promoting new job opportunities to keep people employed.

II. UN Involvement

Climate change is a hot topic on the international stage and the U.N has worked towards ending it with the help of contributing nations. In order to combat climate change countries signed on the the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris which took place on the 12 of December 2015. Countries signing this agreement agreed to work towards limiting global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius. The 22nd session of the Conference of the parties, or COP 22, will take place in Marrakesh Morocco. This will be a follow up to the last conference in which countries will check up on the agreements made in Paris. The UN got involved earlier on bringing light to the subject, in 1992 its "Earth Summit" produced the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change this was their first step in confronting the problem. Then in 1988 the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This was the start of UN involvement. The Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of over 430 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



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Change (UNFCCC) the Kyoto Protocol set standards for certain industrialized countries to reduce their emissions by 2012. In December 2010, climate change talks in Cancún ended with a package of decisions to help countries advance towards a low-emissions future. These were named the “Cancún Agreements,”

III. Possible Solutions

The Issue at hand is dealing with the problems brought by the change in climate. mainly concerning the effect on agriculture or other jobs relying on the environment. In order to first solve these problem new regulations must be made in regards to curbing climate change. In writing resolutions we encourage all delegates to be thoughtful and creative, whilst at the same time adhering to country policy and proposing realistic solutions to problems. For these solutions to be the most effective they must offer insight on both the short term and long term. An example of this would be offering solutions that would work immediately and also proposing those that can be implemented over the course of many years. Countries could propose tax incentives for the purchase and use of electric vehicles over gasoline. This would be an immediate solution to the regulation of emissions, as it takes effect on the population immediately. Another possible solution would be the building of renewable energy sources that rely on geography rather than fossil fuels; this would include hydro dams, geothermal steam plants, solar power farms, wind farms etc... A solution like this can be implemented over time and would aid the long term. We encourage delegates to not only think of solutions to their nation but also for the international platform. Besides direct action through a nation the use of NGOs, the education of people, or media campaigns are also useful in trying to curb climate change. With all these in mind coming up with solutions to climate change should prove very easy. In dealing with the repercussions of climate change on jobs one can consider that building new infrastructure like hydro dams and wind farms can create jobs for a population. Delegates are encouraged to expand upon these economic factors and include solutions to any population affected by climate change or the changes made in a nation.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Western/North American: Strict policies regarding emissions as well as proposing highly innovative renewable resource ideas. Uses more and has more access to energy than any other place in the world.

Latin American: Relies heavily on agriculture based economies and is hugely affected by climate change since most of the population engages in agriculture based work. Implementing long term environmental changes such as Comisión Nacional para el Uso Eficiente de la Energía (CONUEE).

Asia/Pacific: Asian areas are being affected more than any other area in the world partially due to huge population and population densities along with absolutely immense carbon emissions. Economies of these areas are heavily reliant on industry and need to focus on long term solutions



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as to not disrupt the work force too much or have all industry leave the areas and leave a huge population unemployed.

African: Due to the developing of the African bloc climate is not held in that deep of regard. Their policy may bend either way but nations in this bloc to not have the funds or the power to act upon climate and would rely upon international funding as well as NGOs to put any ideas into action.

Middle East: Because of the Middle East's reliance on fossil fuels to fuel their economy their policies would be more lenient on changes and would focus more on trying to disprove climate change and conserve current policies.

V. Questions to Consider

Is there any current international pressure on your nation to make environmental changes? If so how does that affect your policy?

Do any of your nation's inhabitants hold jobs that pose a negative impact on climate?

What would curbing the use of fossil fuels do to your nation's economy? Would it create or destroy jobs?

Is your nation's agricultural sector at risk due to climate change? What possible actions could be done to prevent harm?

How could you promote change while keeping the workforce employed?

“What steps will your energy policy take to meet our energy needs, while at the same time remaining environmentally friendly and minimizing job loss...” -Kenneth Bone

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