

Committee: UNDP**Topic: Addressing the Effects of Climate Change on Developing Nations****Report of the Chairs**

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

Climate change most negatively affects developing nations; these nations are most impacted due to their unstable economies that revolve heavily around activities dependent on weather, such as farming¹. Changes in weather force people in these nations to change their lifestyle, which can be difficult due to an unreliable economy. Currently, many regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South America, are reliant on agriculture; thus, the detrimental effects of climate change will doom them to economic failure. With the collaboration of delegates, we hope to slow the effects of climate change on developing nations while preserving their commitment to development and economic growth.

III. Background of the Topic

Greenhouse gasses absorb and emit radiant energy, and often become trapped in the atmosphere, leading to an increase in temperature. This rise of temperature affects weather patterns, increases the frequency of natural disasters, and causes a rise in sea level⁵. Examples of greenhouse gasses include methane and carbon dioxide. Greenhouse gas emission first began rising considerably at the start of the first industrial revolution. Emissions continue to rise today

and are higher than ever. A significant amount of developing nations depend upon climate-related activities such as agriculture and tourism. Most of the people of these countries need agriculture in order to make a living as well as food for themselves and their families. With the disruption of the climate, farming will become less efficient and yield less profits. One step that has been taken by the UN is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)⁴. The IPCC was established in 1988 and is an NGO whose goal is to procure scientific information on climate change including the potential trajectory and risks that come with the change, as well as to provide possible adaptation and mitigation efforts. This committee hopes to encourage delegates to construct solutions to this issue based on climate research and thus spearhead a climate movement in which all nations have a voice.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Developing nations have been the most heavily affected by climate change because of their climate-dependent economy. Countries such as Liberia³, with a 76.9% GDP dependence on agriculture, will be devastated by poor agricultural yields due to climate change. Change in climate will disrupt growing patterns, making growing seasons shorter and causing a higher failure rate among plants. Not having as long of a growing season can lead to a small harvest. This small yield can cause many economic problems due to dependence on farming for an income and as a food source. Because of agriculture's dependence upon climate, the slightest change can disrupt current growing patterns as well as the success of crops. With the economy depending on agriculture, climate change not only harms farming but also destroys the economy. Currently, many other countries are conducting greenhouse gas emission studies, which are used to find which factors contribute most to emissions. Using this data, nations can easily prioritize what needs to be fixed in regard to their nation's impact on the climate. After completing the aforementioned studies, nations begin finding ways they can cut down on gas release. Costa Rica is one country that has done this; they discovered that the transportation and energy sector are releasing the most greenhouse gasses and can now work to cut down on emissions². The UN created the IPCC, which more clearly states the human role in greenhouse gas emissions to help people be more mindful of their detrimental habits. Because this is a scientific issue stemming

from human action, solutions should address ways that human action can be changed to stop further damage due to climate change.

V. References and Research Resources

1. Zavatta, G., Perrone, T., & Figus, C. (2014, October 27). Agriculture Remains Central to the World Economy. 60% of the Population Depends on Agriculture for Survival. Retrieved from <http://www.expo2015.org/magazine/en/economy/agriculture-remains-central-to-the-world-economy.html>
2. UNDP. (n.d.). Costa Rica. Retrieved from <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/costa-rica>
3. Sawe, B. E. (2017, June 15). Countries Most Dependent on Agriculture. Retrieved from <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-most-dependent-on-agriculture.html>
4. (n.d.). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Retrieved from <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
5. (n.d.). Extreme weather gets a boost from climate change. Retrieved from <https://www.edf.org/climate/climate-change-and-extreme-weather>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings delegates! My name is Galilea Cervera, and I am one of the two United Nations Development Program Co-Chairs at the MUNSA XXIV conference. My Co-chair's name is Evan Wiedenhofer. If you have any questions regarding the background papers or about the conference itself, please feel free to contact Evan or me at our emails; gcervera7533@stu.neisd.net or ewiedenhofer4229@stu.neisd.net. We are so excited to see you at MUNSA XXIV!

VII. Director General Contact Information

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