

CANIMUN

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

MITIGATION AND
ADAPTATION

MARCH 14-17, 2019



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

A WELCOME FROM THE DIAS

Dear Delegates,

We would like to welcome you all to the 2019 Canadian International Model United Nations (CANIMUN) Conference. We are pleased to serve as your dais for this year's exciting Conference of the Parties (COP) to The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)! This committee staff consists of Committee Director and Chair Maheep Sandhu and the Vice Chair is Allison Lunianga.

Maheep is currently completing a Bachelors in Global International Studies at Carleton University. With a focus on migration, Maheep is very passionate about environmental migration and issues that migrants face in instances of environmental hardship. He is also a founder and active participant of a multiple environmental clubs at Carleton. Maheep is the founder and President of the Student Energy Carleton chapter and has created opportunities for students to learn more about sustainable energy. Lastly, Maheep spent the past summer working for the Enlight Solar Academy in Kampala where he was able to work on solar systems and energy access in developing countries.

Allison is in her final year of her Undergraduate Degree at Carleton University as well. She is completing a Bachelors of Arts, Law with a Concentration in Business Law. She spent the summer of 2016 taking part in the European Union Study Tour and has since worked on papers with Carleton professors regarding European Intellectual Property cases. Allison spent three years living in Harare, Zimbabwe when the country had the highest inflation in the world (2008-2011). She has since spent a lot of time traveling in Continental Africa and has seen the impacts that anthropogenic climate change has had in sub-Saharan Africa.



INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the largest issues facing the earth today and we find it imperative to determine manners at which nations can part take in an environmentally conscious and environmentally sustainable future. The purpose of this committee is to truly assess the impact that climate change has on the manner at which people live their day to day lives. It is imperative that delegates reflect on the manner at which individuals in their nations are impacted by adaptation and how this should be reflected in mitigation efforts. We encourage delegates to do addition research and grasp a better understanding of these issues before beginning the committee.



The global fight against climate change is a collective action problem, requiring all member states to take the necessary steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while preparing themselves for the multifaceted impacts of climate change. The negotiation process outlined below is the global framework and mechanism for addressing climate change.

ABOUT THE UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is among the largest comprehensive is an international environmental treaty adopted signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.¹ Annually, the parties to the UNFCCC meet at the Conference of the Parties (COP), the 2015 COP21 was significant for the adoption of the Paris Treaty. Alongside other precursors such as the Kyoto Protocol,



Paris was heralded as the opportunity for the nations of the world to come together and develop a comprehensive solution.² Over three years later, many states have made progress while others are far from reaching their agreed-upon targets.

The UNFCCC Secretariat was created under the pretext of negotiating the terms of the UNFCCC and continues to focus on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement in

¹ About The Secretariat, UNFCCC Sites and Platforms. Retrieved from: <<https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>>

² Decisions, UNFCCC Documents and Decisions. Retrieved from: <<https://unfccc.int/decisions>>

nations that have signed and ratified these agreements.³ Now it is the time to negotiate treaties and shift from the key climate change topics discussed previously in the UNFCCC committee.

We believe that 2024 is the year for true change within the realm of climate change as a focus on adaptation and mitigation is key in understanding how we will move forward in this changing climate. Mitigation is addressed in The Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and in the Paris agreement with a focus on land use and greenhouse gas emissions.⁴ Conversely, as a result of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, the UNFCCC has an Adaptation committee that provides its members with support regarding adaptation. This support includes technological advancements, reports, statistics regarding the effects of climate change in a particular region, and providing adaptation good practices/ actions.⁵ These attempts at addressing the issue of adaptation and mitigation have not helped in the areas most affected. For this reason, delegates are expected to work together and formulate a paper that will truly help the individuals living in regions being affected greatly by climate change.

TIMELINE OF THE UNFCCC AND GLOBAL CLIMATE COOPERATION

JUNE 1972 – UN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

The first ever United Nations environment conference is hosted in Stockholm, Sweden. This leads to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya. The first leader was a Canadian; Maurice Stong.

NOVEMBER 1988- IPCC ESTABLISHED

World Meteorological Organization WMO and UN Environment Programme UNEP establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC. To this day IPCC assessments are the scientific underpinning of international negotiations while also providing unique insights into, for example, managing the risk of extreme events and disasters.

³ Decisions, UNFCCC Documents and Decisions. Retrieved from:
<<https://unfccc.int/decisions>>

⁴ Adaptation Fund. UNFCCC Sites and Platforms. Retrieved from:
<<https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/funds-and-financial-entities/adaptation-fund>>

⁵ Framework Convention on Climate Change. FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1

NOVEMBER 1990 – IPCC AND SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE CALL FOR A GLOBAL TREATY

The IPCC releases the first assessment report saying 'emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases' leading to calls by the IPCC and the second World Climate Conference for a global treaty.

DECEMBER 1990 – UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEGOTIATIONS ON A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION BEGINS

On 11 December 1990, the UN General Assembly establishes the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Framework Convention on Climate Change. The INC held five sessions where more than 150 states discussed binding commitments, targets and timetables for emissions reductions, financial mechanisms, technology transfer, and 'common but differentiated' responsibilities of developed and developing countries.

MAY 1992 – THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS ADOPTED

The text of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is adopted at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

JUNE 1992 – UNFCCC IS SIGNED AT THE RIO EARTH SUMMIT

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change opens for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio, bringing the world together to curb greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The UNFCCC has two sister Conventions also agreed in Rio, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification.

MARCH 1994 – UNFCCC ENTERS INTO FORCE

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, spawned two years earlier in Rio, enters into force. Countries that sign the treaty are known as 'Parties'. With 196 Parties, the UNFCCC has near-universal membership. Parties meet annually at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to negotiate multilateral responses to climate change.

APRIL 1995 – COP 1 BERLIN

Germany's then environment minister, Angela Merkel, presides over the first Conference of the Parties (COP 1) in Berlin, where Parties agreed that commitments in the Convention were 'inadequate' for meeting Convention objectives. The Berlin Mandate establishes a process to

negotiate strengthened commitments for developed countries, thus laying the groundwork for the Kyoto Protocol.

AUGUST 1996 – UNFCCC SECRETARIAT MOVES TO BONN

The UNFCCC secretariat relocates from Geneva to its current home in Bonn, paving the way for the city to become an international sustainability hub and home to 18 UN organizations employing around 1.000 staff, of which the UNFCCC is the largest.

DECEMBER 1997 – KYOTO PROTOCOL

The third Conference of the Parties achieves an historical milestone with adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, the world's first greenhouse gas emissions reduction treaty.

This sets the targets for industrialized nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions if enough countries signed onto the treaty. Unfortunately, this was rejected by the United States of America's Senate.

JULY 2001 – DECISION ON KYOTO

A major breakthrough is achieved at the second part of the sixth Conference of the Parties meeting in Bonn, with governments reaching a broad political agreement on the operational rulebook for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

NOVEMBER 2001 – COP 7 MARRAKESH

The seventh Conference of the Parties results in the Marrakesh Accords, setting the stage for ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. This would formalize agreement on operational rules for International Emissions Trading, the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation along with a compliance regime and accounting procedures.

JANUARY 2005 – EU EMISSIONS TRADING LAUNCHES

The seventh Conference of the Parties results in the Marrakesh Accords, setting the stage for ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. This would formalize agreement on operational rules for International Emissions Trading, the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation along with a compliance regime and accounting procedures.

FEBRUARY 2005 – KYOTO PROTOCOL ENTERS INTO FORCE

History is made when the Russian Federation submitted its instrument of ratification to the Kyoto Protocol, sealing its entry into force.

DECEMBER 2005 – COP 11 / CMP 1 MONTREAL

Following the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol earlier in the year, the eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP 11) for the first time is held in conjunction with the first Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP 1).

NOVEMBER 2006 – COP 12 NAIROBI

The Clean Development Mechanism, a key mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, opens for business.

DECEMBER 2007 – COP 13 BALI

The thirteenth Conference of the Parties adopts the Bali Road Map, including the Bali Action Plan, charting the course for a new negotiating process to address climate change. The Plan has five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing.

JANUARY 2008 – JOINT IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM STARTS

The Kyoto Protocol mechanism 'Joint Implementation' starts. This allows a country with an emission reduction or limitation commitment under the Protocol to earn emission reduction units (ERUs) from an emission-reduction or emission removal project in another country with similar commitments.

DECEMBER 2008 – COP 14 POZNAN

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties in Poznan, Poland, delivers important steps towards assisting developing countries, including the launch of the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol and the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer.

DECEMBER 2009 – COP 15 COPENHAGEN

World leaders gather for the fifteenth Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen, Denmark, which produced the Copenhagen Accord. Developed countries pledge up to USD 30 billion in fast-start finance for the period 2010-2012.

DECEMBER 2010 – COP 16 CANCUN

The sixteenth Conference of the Parties results in the Cancun Agreements, a comprehensive package by governments to assist developing nations in dealing with climate change. The Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Cancun Adaptation Framework are established.

DECEMBER 2011 – COP 17 DURBAN

At the seventeenth Conference of the Parties, governments commit to a new universal climate change agreement by 2015 for the period beyond 2020, leading to the launch of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action or ADP.

DECEMBER 2012 – COP 18 DOHA

At the eighteenth Conference of the Parties, governments agree to speedily work toward a universal climate change agreement by 2015 and to find ways to scale up efforts before 2020 beyond existing pledges to curb emissions. They also adopt the Doha Amendment, launching a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

SEPTEMBER 2013 – IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT (FIRST HALF)

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) releases the ground-breaking Working Group 1 contribution to its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), on the science of climate change.

NOVEMBER 2013 – COP 19 WARSAW

The nineteenth Conference of the Parties produces the Warsaw Outcomes, including a rulebook for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and a mechanism to address loss and damage caused by long-term climate change impacts.

MARCH 2014 – IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT (SECOND HALF)

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) releases the Working Group 2 contribution to its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.

DECEMBER 2014 – COP 20 LIMA

At the twentieth Conference of the Parties, world governments will have the opportunity to make a last collective push towards a new and meaningful universal agreement in 2015.

DECEMBER 2015 – COP 21 PARIS AGREEMENT ADOPTED

195 nations agreed to combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low-carbon, resilient and sustainable future, on 12 December 2015.

The Paris Agreement for the first time brings all nations into a common cause based on their historic, current and future responsibilities. The treaty requires transparency in measuring GHG

emissions, with a collective global goal to keep the expected rise of Earth's mean surface temperature to below two degrees centigrade.

This is also the year that the Sustainable Development Goals are agreed upon.

NOVEMBER 2016 - COP 22 - MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION LAUNCHED

A crucial outcome of the Marrakech climate conference was to move forward on writing the rule book of the Paris Agreement.

The Conference successfully demonstrated to the world that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway, and launched the Marrakech Partnership for Climate Action.

NOVEMBER 2017 – COP 23 BONN / FIJI

The 2017 UN Climate Change Conference will take place from 6 to 17 November at the World Conference Center in Bonn, Germany, the seat of the Climate Change Secretariat.

Bonn will also make history by being the first COP to be presided over by a small island developing state: in this case by the Presidency of Fiji

OCTOBER 2018 – SPECIAL IPCC REPORT ON 1.5C RELEASED

The IPCC releases a special report on global temperature increases essentially stating that catastrophic climate change will occur at 3°C, while significant impacts would devastate natural and human environments at the Paris target of 2°C, with 1.5°C being the best feasible scenario. Global emissions trends in 2018 suggest the world has until 2028 before temperatures rise to 1.5°C and on track to reach 3°C by 2100. This causes several cities such as Vancouver to declare “climate emergencies” and strongly impacts discourse heading into COP 24. This is the most recent IPCC report.

DECEMBER 2018 – COP 24 KATOWICE

23,000 delegates arrive in Katowice, Poland to develop the “rulebook” for the Paris Agreement which comes into play in 2020. David Attenborough speaks for “the people’s seat” as global communities are represented in negotiations for the first time. ⁶

⁶ Timeline Retrieved from: <http://unfccc.int/timeline/>

NOVEMBER 2019 – COP 25 SANTIAGO

Costa Rica and Chile jointly host the 25th Conference of the Parties. Despite American, Saudi, and Russian hesitancy around the proposals, the final enforcement mechanism for the Paris accord are agreed to. All African states and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) endorse a global pledge calling on a global coal phase-out and expansion of the Climate Adaptation Fund.

JANUARY 2020 – PARIS AGREEMENT COMES INTO FORCE

The Paris Agreement becomes the primary governing document of the global climate strategy as its enforcement mechanisms, nationally determined contributions and targets become adopted worldwide – with few exceptions. Global emissions continue to rise modestly, along with sea levels. The 2018 IPCC Report is reaffirmed as the world has only 8 years before passing the 1.5°C target.

NOVEMBER 2020 – COP 26 VENICE

Mass flooding in coastal communities becomes a major issue of focus at the Venice round. Nations begin negotiating on more severe enforcement mechanisms for climate reduction as some states are clearly emitting above their Paris targets. China is applauded for emissions reductions due to Carbon Capture Technology and coal phaseouts. Global funding for climate resiliency increases.

DECEMBER 2021 – COP 27 KAMPALA

COP 21 sees a technological focus on Carbon Capture and Store (CCS) technology alongside reforestation. With encroaching desertification and plateauing emissions rates, progress towards the Paris targets is marginal while the need for climate resiliency is great. The G77+China Bloc leads the world in pushing for the increase of the Climate Adaptation Fund.

NOVEMBER 2022 – COP 28 SAPPORO

The 28th Convention of the Parties was originally intended to occur in Tokyo but was moved due to issues of air pollution and mass youth protests calling for more aggressive climate action. The negotiations did not start much better, with 40 coastal nations staging a “die in” where they occupied the doorways to demonstrate the precarious status of millions in coastal regions. The later negotiations effectively contributed to the goals for the target reviews at the 2024 summit.

NOVEMBER 2023 – COP CANCELLATION

The 29th Convention of the Parties, to be held in Mexico City, was cancelled days before as over 5 million people globally attended massive protests calling for global emissions reductions. Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City was occupied by protestors preventing all inbound

flights for 3 days before Mexico finally reached a deal with the protestors – enacting a national carbon price.

The 29th Convention was held in emergency videoconferencing for the annual review where it was determined that despite progress towards emissions reductions; many developed states continue to underfinance adaptation while maintaining high per-capita carbon emissions.

The 29th Convention was therefore ended early, forcing the Secretariat to move up COP 30 to March 2024. The Ottawa Round.

CURRENT STATUS

The global community is at a crossroads. With political pressure around the world for meaningful climate action alongside the economic impacts of climate change being in the trillions; action has become a necessity. Climate change denial is steadily disappearing as the impacts of climate change become more and more visible – with massive droughts and devastation.

Going into COP 30 in Ottawa, the nations of the Global South are largely standing together within the context of their regional negotiation blocs calling for greater access to adaptation funding and emissions capture technologies. Global North states are largely focused on accelerating transitions to sustainable energy and transmission systems – along with pushing for more ambitious reduction strategies. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change on some states such as the Small Islands Developing States

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

NORTH AMERICA

Canada and the United States are facing massive wildfires and droughts, alongside the degradation of the Eastern Seaboard. Politically, climate change has become a security issue pushing many on the right to begin developing aggressive climate adaptation plans in addition to the strengthened leftist and centrist calls for transitioning the energy system faster – and fully phasing out coal in its last few jurisdictions. Opposition to climate change action has fell significantly since farms in the Midwest have seen rapid reductions in output as a result of drought and cold snaps.

EUROPE

European states are largely united in their commitments to further global reductions and transition the global energy system at COP 30. Although some states in Eastern Europe are standing with France, India, Brazil and others in their calls for greater nuclear energy in the transition, the EU as a whole is divided with Germany fiercely opposing this. Heat waves in summers and cold snaps in winters have had negative impacts on tourism and agriculture.

AFRICA

North African states are largely benefitting from the advancement of solar energy – becoming global leaders in macro-solar projects as a tool for economic development. That said, food prices continue to surge as agricultural output is threatened. In Sub-Saharan Africa, climate change has displaced many agricultural communities affected by desertification. Economic investments in African cities have led to greater urbanization and financing for smart cities, yet congestion becomes an issue and smog is beginning to impact many in cities such as Nairobi and Lagos. African states seek direct compensation for climate resiliency projects during COP 30 negotiations.

ASIA

Asia faces the largest climate migration crisis in human history with millions of climate refugees moving away from rising sea levels in areas such as Bangladesh. Massive advances in carbon capture technologies in China; alongside thorium energy in India have made the two states major players in assisting the adaptation and mitigation of their regions. Political will for greater emissions targets are largely tied into resentment of western states such as the USA for incredibly high per capita emissions. Millions die annually from lung disease associated with smog – leading to the declaration of a health crisis in many major Asian cities.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Latin America's current wave of populism is also tied into a broad public desire for climate action. Depending on the context, both the wealthy and the Americans have largely been blamed for climate change and therefore many governments have prioritized ensuring that COP 30 becomes a platform for national commitments on a global deal. Desertification and rising sea levels are also major issues, alongside health complications from smog.

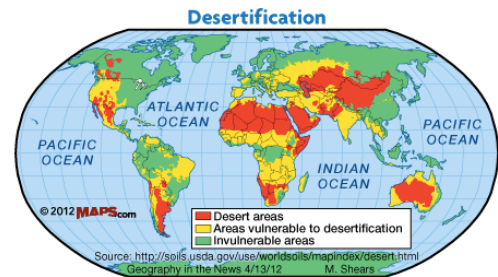
OCEANIA

Australia is facing mass desertification in the interior as freshwater reserves dry up and rising sea levels cause massive damage to coastal cities. Similar impacts are seen in other coastal cities in the region. Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Micronesia, and much of French Polynesia are facing existential threats as most of their islands are threatened with near-total submersion by 2040. Oceania largely desires concrete global support for both island refugees and for developing coastal protection infrastructure during the COP 30 Negotiations.

TOPIC A: ADAPTATION

DESERTIFICATION

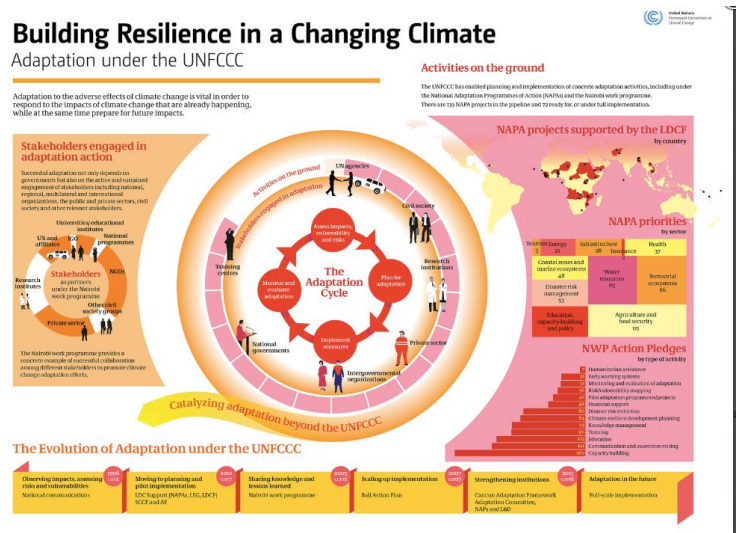
Desertification presents one of the greatest threats to food security, primarily in the Sahel region of Africa but also increasingly in North and South America, and Asia. Desertification is the environmental process by which fertile land around desert regions become draught or infertile and become an expansion of the desert. As natural irrigation systems dry up, farmers are seeing reduced crop yields as many move out of their homes. There are, however, means of reducing desertification through investment in irrigation systems, drought-resistant plant life and mitigating the proliferation of single-use seeds.⁷



RISING SEA LEVELS

Sea Levels are rising due to the melting of glacial ice in the arctic, antarctic and mountainous regions. The impacts of rising sea levels directly impact thousands of communities in low-lying coastal areas.⁸ Specifically in the South Pacific, many states are already moving entire communities to Fiji, New Zealand and other neighbouring states as they lose their coastlines. In the Bay of Bengal, millions stand to be displaced. Meanwhile climate resilience projects such as mangroves are showing promise.⁹

Rising Sea Levels also bring the worry of saline infusion, as salty ocean water rises above natural barriers and enters freshwater reservoirs, agricultural lands such as rice paddies, and groundwater aquifers. This has the potential of increasing food insecurity for hundreds of millions while also destroying coastal ecosystems and killing freshwater fauna and flora.¹⁰



⁷ Land degradation and desertification. World Health Organization. Retrieved from: <<https://www.who.int/globalchange/ecosystems/desert/en/>>

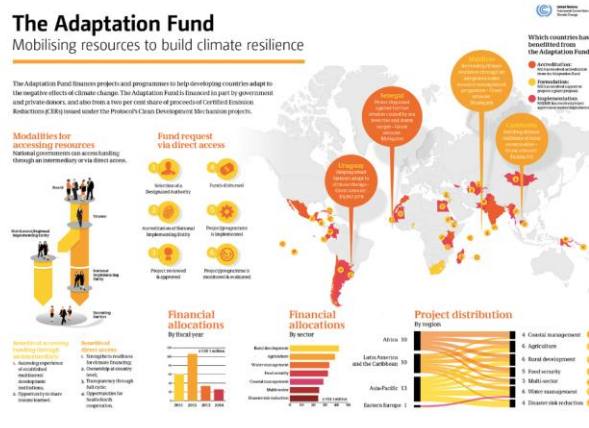
⁸ Sea Levels, NASA global Climate Change. Retrieved from: <<https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/sea-level/>>

⁹ Ghosh, Surajit & Hazra, Sugata et al. (2017). Trends of sea level in the Bay of Bengal using altimetry and other complementary techniques. Journal of Spatial Science. 1-14.

Creating funds for programs such as dykes and sea walls could potentially address this concern

AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution is a result of the release of pollutants into the atmosphere. Specifically the release of particular chemicals such as sulfur oxides or carbon oxides creates an unsafe environment for those breathing this air. Air pollution may also be a result of the sunlight creating a chemical reaction with the toxins in the air.¹¹ Air pollution remains a major threat to respiratory health in many urban centres; particularly in East and South Asia. Millions within these urban centres live with grey smog-covered skies and have very little access to air filtration systems.¹² This issue further translates into a socialized health program as low-income families face direct health issues associated with air pollution. Different programs such as urban vegetation and direct-air carbon sequestering provide opportunities to reduce localized air pollution while also mitigating global GHG emissions.¹³



NEXUS WITH MIGRATION

Under the 1951 Refugee Convention, environmentally displaced persons are not afforded the same rights as regular refugees.¹⁴ Yet millions of people are displaced and will continue to be due to the impacts of environmental degradation as a result of anthropogenic climate change. Creating realistic global responses to climate migrants is necessary in order to help manage the mass movement of peoples.

143 Million people could be displaced by climate change in the next 30 years.¹⁵ This displacement is due to a number of factors such as water scarcity, crop failure, rising sea levels and extreme temperatures from

¹⁰ Han Xiao, Dingbao Wang et al. Assessing sea-level rise impact on saltwater intrusion into the root zone of a geo-typical area in coastal east-central Florida. *Science of The Total Environment*, Volume 630, 2018.

¹¹ Air Pollution: Everything You Need to Know. (2016). Retrieved from: <<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/air-pollution-everything-you-need-know>>

¹² Air pollution measures for Asia and the Pacific. Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Retrieved from: <<http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/content/air-pollution-measures-asia-and-pacific>>

¹³ Churkina Galina. *The Role of Urbanization in the Global Carbon Cycle*. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. Vol 3:2016. Pg 144.

¹⁴ The Refugee Convention, The UNHCR. Retrieved from: <<https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>>

¹⁵ Rigaud K, de Sherbinin A, et al. World Bank Group US. "Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration" Retrieved from: <www.openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29461>

heavy heat concentrations, and freezing in others. The temperature and drought associated with climate change will also strengthen natural disasters.

Most of those displaced by climate change will be in the Global South, and will move either internally in their nation of origin, or into other bordering Global South states. That said, the Global North is not immune. Coastal cities like Miami, Naples and Nagoya are all at risk of mass infrastructure damage and property loss due to rising sea levels.¹⁶ Furthermore, the destruction of agricultural lands in Central America and North Africa will likely contribute to move South-North migration.

CONSIDERATION QUESTIONS

1. How can the international community support poorer member states in financing climate adaptation strategies?
2. How can innovative technologies be deployed to mitigate land degradation and rising sea levels?
3. How will you deal with the migration issue? Are these people refugees? Should states be left to their own devices to manage them?

¹⁶ Environmental Displacement and Migration. Environmental Law Institute. Retrieved from: <https://www.eli.org/migration>

TOPIC B: MITIGATION

EMISSIONS PRICING

Commonly referred to as carbon taxes, or cap-and-trade systems, these policy tools are used in a variety of jurisdictions from the European Union to the Canadian province of British Columbia to try and reduce GHG Emissions by creating a cost to emissions.

Emissions taxation works by tracking net emissions from industrial, residential and other pollution sources and applying a price per megaton on the emitted GHG Gas. This price is usually increased over time to allow emitters to gradually transition to low-emissions operations.

The revenue from this is normally not absorbed into the government account, but rather usually invested into other areas - such as green energy systems - or given directly as tax returns to constituents to help offset the transition costs.¹⁷

Cap-and-Trade is a system where the government caps the total amount of carbon emissions allowed. The government then issues permits to companies, specifying exactly how much carbon that company can burn. If a company wants to burn more than its share of carbon, it must buy extra permits from other companies that have burned less.

The laws of supply and demand govern exactly what the price of a carbon permit ends up being. Over time, the government gradually lowers the cap, cutting the number of permits it issues and driving up their price.¹⁸

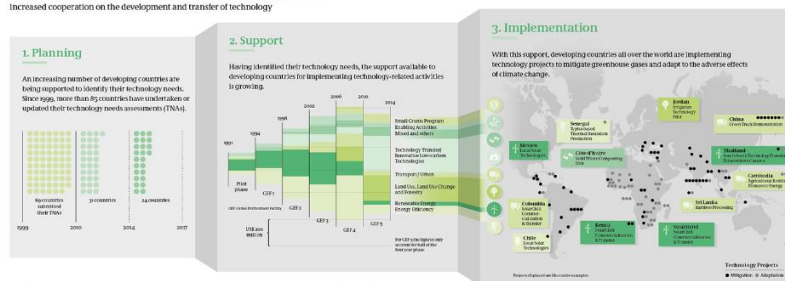
EMISSIONS CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY

Often referred to as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies, these tools work by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere - and sometimes water bodies - to concentrate and store it

Technology Cooperation for Action on Climate Change

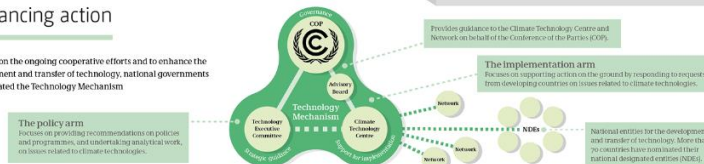
Making a difference

Since the establishment of the UNFCCC, national governments have encouraged and increased cooperation on the development and transfer of technology



Enhancing action

To build on the ongoing cooperative efforts and to enhance the development and transfer of technology, national governments have created the Technology Mechanism



¹⁷ Effective Carbon Rates 2018. Pricing Carbon Emissions Through Taxes and Emissions Trading. (2018). Retrieved from: <<http://www.oecd.org/tax/effective-carbon-rates-2018-9789264305304-en.htm>>

¹⁸ Cap and trade explained: What Ontario's shift on emissions will mean. (2018). The Globe and Mail.

so that it does not contribute to the greenhouse effect, or air pollution generally.

There are questions around the affordability and sustainability of these measures, yet they can play a major role in *both* adapting cities against air pollution and smog, along with mitigating global GHG emissions.

In addition to high-tech CCS systems, natural sequestering through fauna such as trees is efficient and proven to be effective globally.¹⁹

EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TARGETS

Since the Paris Accord, most states have made some progress towards carbon emissions, yet they are not on track to meet the 2030 Emissions commitments. Emissions need to be significantly reduced globally to cap further global warming to 1.5-2 degrees centigrade.²⁰ Most climate vulnerable nations, such as small island states, low-lying coastal states and desert frontier states will be devastated in the event of 2 degrees or more of warming.

Yet emissions reductions come at an economic cost. Many Global South states find it offensive that they are being asked to stifle their economic development when the West industrialized off coal. Some developing states advocate for emissions quotas globally, based off of historical emissions, while others have called for allowances based off of further economic growth. Most Global North states support the current model as it puts the least burden on their economies.

Global emissions negotiations should have both *regional* and *industry-based* focuses, in order to ensure that the world meets its targets by 2030.

The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement continues to be widely condemned, as have the “clean-coal” movement. After COP 24, The United States, Saudi Arabia, The Russian Federation and Kuwait faced a wave of international backlash for their decision to obstruct pledges and research.²¹ As a result of this, the international community is actively isolating and ostracizing states that do not get in line with the climate agenda. Gulf Arab countries, Russia and the United States have all softened their

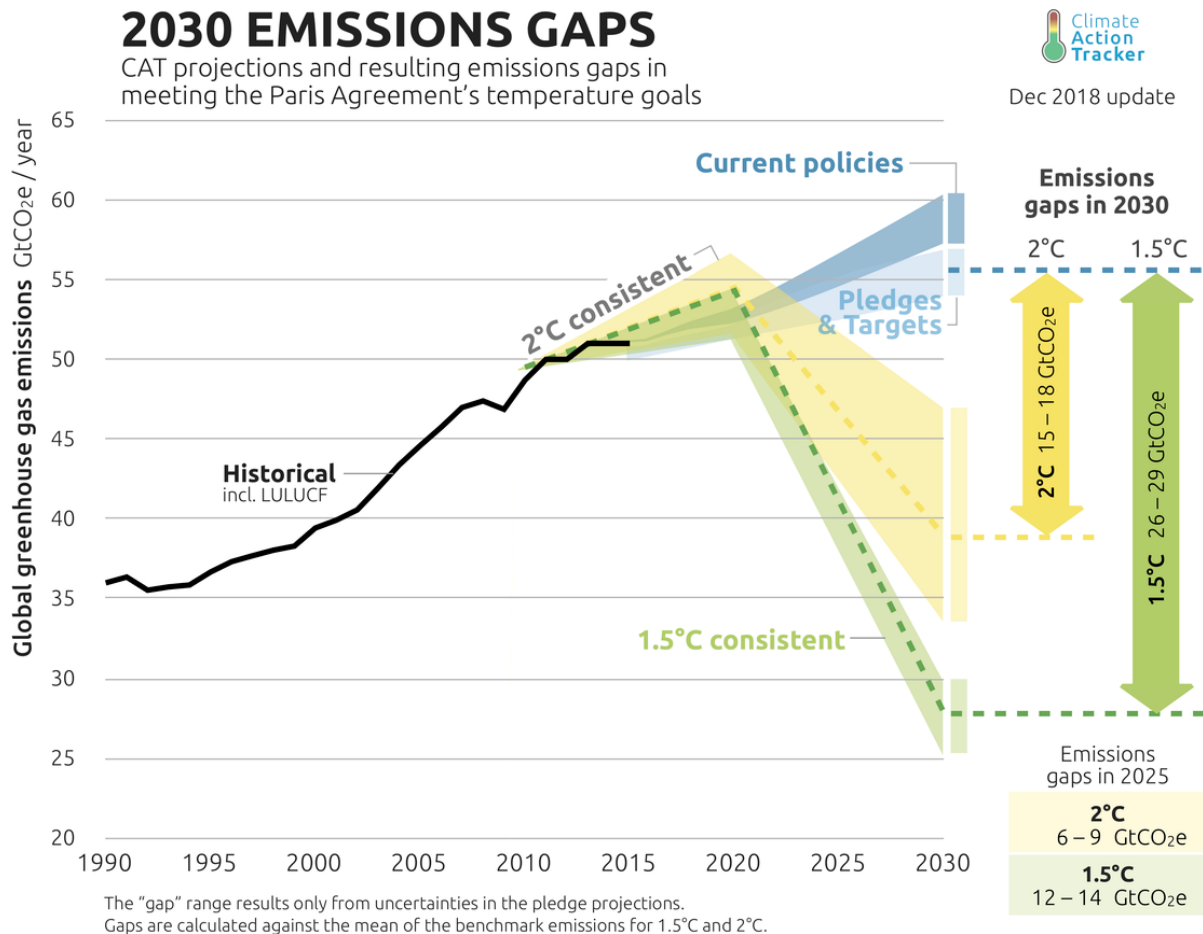
¹⁹ Carbon Capture & Storage. Natural Resources Canada. Retrieved from:
<<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/coal/carbon-capture-storage/4295>>

²⁰ Paris Agreement, climate negotiation. European Commission. Retrieved from:
<https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en>

²¹ Matt McGrath. (2018). Climate change: COP24 fails to adopt key scientific report.

stances since COP 24, as global oil prices have continued to be volatile and their own states face extreme climate threats.

Globally, all states must act collectively to restrict emissions if extreme temperature increases are to be avoided.



CONSIDERATION QUESTIONS

1. What is the balance between natural sequestration (i.e. trees, algae, etc) and mechanic CCS systems?
2. How will you determine who is the most responsible for lowering their emissions?
3. In the past, there has been no strict enforcement of emissions reductions and target failures. Will you establish an enforcement mechanism?
4. How can existing carbon markets and pricing policies be included or expanded in this agreement? Should there be a global price on GHGs?

EXTRA RESOURCES

We suggest you take the time do additional research on the topics that will be discussed throughout this committee as to familiarize yourself with the stance your state may have in 2024. To aid in this additional research, a few additional sources have been selected to help one understand the the issue of climate change in a global context and how adaptation and mitigation are a result of climate change but may also be a part of the solution.

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