**Code: DR/1/Clydesdale**

**Committee:** United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

**Topic:** The Disproportionate Effect of Rising Sea Levels on Coastal Regions

*The United Nations Environmental Programme,*

*Considering* with respect the sovereignty of nations and the decisions they make in their own interests, with recognition of the social repercussions of introducing one population into another if a sovereign nation is lost or significantly reduced due to sea level rise,

*Addressing* the correlation between sea level rise and the contamination of groundwater and, subsequently, groundwater salinity as well as issues with food and water safety, as well as the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP’s) involvement with sustainable development, in conjunction with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Heifer International and the Food and Water Watch,

*Keeping* in mind the important role wetlands play in absorbing floodwaters and reducing the potential impact of floods, hurricanes, typhoons, tropical storms, monsoons, and other natural disasters and acknowledging the positive role NGOs such as the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Wetlands International have played in the defense of wetlands,

*Recalling* the functions of the Design for Sustainability are limited to conducting cleaner production audits between multinational corporations and Member States,

*Recognizing* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptations, Vulnerability Yearly Reports as well as the work done by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to consider the needs of different geographical regions, especially in rising sea levels,

*Identifying* the purview of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to call for economic and social summits and to establish Ad-Hoc committees and to oversee the regional subsidiary bodies, including UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA),

*Recalling* the establishment of the Adaptation Fund that provides direct access of funding for developing nations to combat the negative effects of climate change,

*Recognizing* that the current UN Adaptation Fund (AF) uses a quota system among member nations for funding, and the benchmark of $100 billion United States Dollar (USD) set by 195 nations with the Paris Agreement (COP21) aiming to aid developing nations in combating climate change,

*Aware of* the lack of recognition of climate refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) while recalling the success of previous UNEP-UNHCR joint programs, such as the Sustainable Environmental Management Practices in Refugee Hosting Areas,

*Understanding* the issue of deforestation, particularly in situations where deforestation occurs in order to access fossil fuels beneath wooded areas,

*Acknowledging* research carried out by the IPCC,

1. *Calls upon* information and suggestions from Assessment Reports, Special Reports, and Methodology Reports generated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be used for Member States, in order for citizens to understand the harm of greenhouse gases (GHG) and reduce their personal emissions, to implement awareness-raising programs such as;
   1. Calling upon widely-respected figures to speak in favor of minimizing GHG emissions, ranging from rural communities to political environmentalists who cooperate on the reduction of carbon footprints and other similar goals;
   2. Using educational programs to create widespread advertisements available to citizens of all consenting member states, such as using Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change (AIACC) for educational opportunities to increase awareness about adaptation, UNEP has also launched a Green Economy Initiative which is in favor of both public and private opinion to have low carbon emissions;
2. *Requests* the limitation of deforestation by Member States for the purpose of accessing fossil fuels, noting that the cessation of drilling oil in forested areas by some countries would result in economic recession and therefore must be limited;
3. *Calls upon* the aid of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to reassess

its definition of refugees, adopting the idea of a refugee as “any person displaced due to a harmful situation such as persecution based on race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social or political group, or the presence of damaging environmental factors, so long as the issue is widespread enough to require action beyond said person’s control” in order to recognize those resituated due to climate change as refugees and then call upon UNHCR to:

* 1. Respect and preserve indigenous culture when said people are displaced from their homes,
  2. Understand that some countries may not be able to supply adequate placement of said displaced people,
  3. Grant selective permission of nations affected, giving said states power to limit or grant jurisdiction of the UNHCR;

1. *Requests* nations with Gross Domestic Product (nominal) greater than $2.5 trillion USD as listed by the United Nations to contribute an amount to the existing Adaptation Fund that is equivalent to 0.4% of their GDP the previous year, and promotes nations with an annual GDP lesser than $2.5 trillion to contribute at least .009% of national GDP to the fund, for the specific purposes of:
   1. Establishing oil refinery and carbon scrubbing technology in oil-dependent developing countries through UNDP,
   2. Constructing flood and erosion resistant dams, dikes, and infrastructure to prevent flooding and mudslides in vulnerable regions, especially low-lying coastal regions, through UNDP and its associate groups such as the Global Environment Facility, the Small Grants Programme, and COP21,
   3. Development, through the UNDP using the research of the IPCC, renewable energy to enable the wider use of clean and sustainable energy in the future, in the form of hydroelectric, offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms and secure nuclear energy,
   4. Sharing with all participants of the Adaptation Fund, which enables member states to further develop systems of data analysis that increase the effectiveness of preventing and predicting natural disasters brought by global warming and sea level rise;
2. *Requests* that the UNFCCC add an advisory council to the Advisory Board composed of economists, environmental scientists, oceanographers, and biologists to provide guidance to the Adaptation Fund Board for the purposes of deciding and supervising the allocation of funds, with the advisory council consisting of sixteen experts in the aforementioned fields, including:
   1. Non-representative of the political and economic interests of a specific nation,
   2. Selected by UNEP and ECOSOC based on their credentials as experts in the aforementioned fields and in the realms of sustainable development and resource allocation,
   3. Sworn in as UN personnel to view science and objectivity as their sole reasoning basis in making decisions;
3. *Recommends* that ECOSOC develop solutions to diversify the economies of fossil fuel-dependent nations, including:
   1. Establishing biannual summits of localized oil-dependent regions such as Northern Africa and the Middle East to discuss regional action to develop new industries aside from fossil fuel, under the purview of UNECA and UNESCWA,
   2. Creating an Ad-Hoc body of internationally accredited economists that dedicate to finding long-term solutions specific to the diversification of oil-dependent economies and that produce an annual report that acts an advisory capacity to the summits of localized oil-dependent regions;
4. *Asks for* the creation of a list of Member States based on the findings in the IPCC Reports and collaborations with the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) to be utilized by the UNEP that:
   1. Prioritizes the order in which nations shall be assisted with flood prevention measures considering; first loss of human life, ,then economic value of lost territory, then land area lost,
   2. Considers both short-term threats affecting nations before 2031 and long-term threats affecting nations between 2031 and 2100;
5. *Requests* Member States to share GHG emission-scrubbing technology in order to create cleaner fossil fuel electricity and establish renewable energy by having Member States cooperate with multinational corporations to fund renewable energy through:
   1. calling upon the Design for Sustainability to extend its functions to:
      1. include technology sharing while acting as an intermediary between national governments and multinational corporations,
      2. include audits for the sharing of technology,
   2. supporting the definition of renewable energy as provided by the International Energy Agency (IEA),
   3. asking the Global Environmental Faculty Team to assist acquiring renewable materials and resources;
6. *Urges* that the United Nations recognized the necessity of wetlands in defending coastal regions from floods caused by rising sea levels and requests that Member States protect their wetlands by:
   1. Cooperating with national NGOs for the protection of wetlands such as the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) and international NGOs for the protection of wetlands such as Wetlands International to maintain the fragile ecosystems of wetlands,
   2. Legally prohibiting the destruction of wetlands for the purpose of construction,
   3. Creating laws against the pollution of wetlands through pollutant dumping and industrial contamination;
7. *Urges* the UNDP to focus its plans for sustainable development in collaboration with the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) and the Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL) Organization to prevent coastal erosion, providing sustainable agriculture in conjunction with Heifer International, and working on the Coastal Region Water Security and Climate Resilience Project to implement irrigation, and, in communication with the Food and Water Watch, to protect food and water stores, as funded by a small amount of the Adaptation Fund;
8. *Suggests* that nations with severe danger of displacement form plans for citizens, and begin communications with neighboring Member States and allies to support climate refugees, in such way as:
9. Social programs concerning employment and asylum of displaced people as well as opening to non-meritocratic proposals in a circumstance as disastrous as this,
10. Programs to preserve culture and establish safe cultural communities for displaced peoples, as well as the safety and communication of such cultures in environments that may be have hostile mentalities towards incoming refugees in terms of culture, religion, and ethnicity,
11. Inserted opportunity for diplomats from displaced groups to represent and negotiate policies to handle displaced people and to build some autonomy within the harboring country.