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Model United Nations

United Nations Security Council

JMI Model United Nations, 2023



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the future!

Usually when these lines are spoken it is with a sense of optimism and excitement, however in the current context of things the future looks pretty grim. The latest IPCC report has highlighted a temperature rise of 4 degrees by the end of the century.

Despite being a futuristic committee, we do not aim to weave fiction but have conversations based on scientific facts and ground realities. When we look into the future from the perspective of climate change, we see massive droughts, floods, displacement and a general dissolution of our society and ours is the generation that will have to deal with it.

The position that you are in as delegates to the Security Council, is a grim one and will be the exact place some of you might be in three decades from now. We have created a scenario based on scientific predictions and social realities. The problems are the same ones you have dealt with in countless MUNs in the past- refugee crisis, terrorism, food security, sovereignty and state rights- they are just compounded exponentially due to man's slaughter of nature.

Climate change was never a scientific problem, in fact the proper title for this issue is anthropogenic climate change, it has a massive social component. Even today there are nations trying to put climate change in the mandate of the UNSC and nations opposing it.

The central debate around solving the climate crisis is about fixing responsibility on the developed nations of the world for their historic emissions and making a way for the developing world to do so without following the same trajectory. However, we had the 27th Conference of Parties last year in Cairo and even after 27 years of the world governments reiterating the need to solve this crisis and how dire the consequences would be otherwise we have all failed to do so. This is a battle we can not afford to lose and this committee is the consequence of that.

Our hope is that you are able to appreciate the magnitude of the crisis. We want you to put a human face to these statistical numbers of sea level rise and temperature rise and what not and explore what that really means for the current global order. We are sure that a lot of the discoveries you will be making will be historic in their own right and can certainly give a taste of what is to come to the lawmakers of our times. But more importantly, we want that through this endeavour you to become conscious of what you and the people you put in power are doing for the generations to come.

We view the climate crisis first as a child's rights crisis and it is the voice of the youth that is our greatest weapon in confronting it- so welcome to the committee, the responsibility bestowed on you is immense and so is the work we have cut out for you. Our hope is that, unlike our current leadership, this one is able to constructively deal with this issue and maybe come up with some solutions as well. In these two days, we will debate, appeal, lobby and create for what we think is the future we want to have and god knows maybe at the end of the day whatever we learn might serve to help a lot of people not so long from now.

Yours sincerely
The Executive Board,
UNSC



TOPIC BACKGROUND

One of the biggest challenges encountered by the international community has been the issue of climate change and its effects. According to data from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA), the Earth's average surface temperature increased by about 1.4°F in the last 100 years.

Oxfam study shows that low and lower-middle-income nations, such as India, are over four times more likely to be affected by climate-fuelled displacement than high-income countries like Spain or the US. To think of it, should climate change or natural disasters cause people to flee across borders, they may not come under the definition of refugee as a person who has crossed an international border “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.” So, although the term “climate refugee” is often used in the media, it does not actually exist in international law. The latest IPCC report shall be considered the main source of competent evidence.

- **Circa 2045- The Great Flood**

What was predicted in countless IPCC documents from the beginning of the century is starting to come true, the loss of the great ice caps including the doomsday glacier in the Antarctic region of the world has produced a terrible rise in global sea levels. While the island nations of the Pacific Ocean faced the worst of the floods with most being completely wiped out, other nations that shared coastal territories also faced the extreme loss of territory and internal displacement.

At least 2 islands across the world are expected to disappear over the next few decades. It's predicted that by 2100 the sea will rise enough to sink eight cities on the east coast of the United States. Unprecedented bleaching events have been recorded in the remote Phoenix Islands (Kiribati), with nearly 100% coral mortality in the lagoon and 62% mortality on the outer leeward slopes of the otherwise pristine reefs of Kanton Atoll.



Due to the rising sea levels and climate change, 80% of the Maldives will vanish in 2050. The people of Kandholhudoo island in the Maldives had experienced flooding and land degradation due to the Indian Ocean tsunami hit. The impacts of the tsunami, however, finally resulted in plans for their permanent relocation to the previously uninhabited Dhuvaafaru island. Despite Japan being one of the world's most disaster-prepared countries, some evacuation centres were also located in areas prone to flooding or were unable to withstand heavy rainfall, which made them unusable. Storm Gloria led to more than 2,200 displacements in southwestern France and eastern Spain in January.

Geopolitics: Implications of the Great Flood- Migrants, Economies, Energy, Sovereignty

Countries like Maldives, New Zealand, and Malaysia have been wiped off from the planet in a new phenomenon called "Atalntisization".

The floods have triggered massive internal migration in most countries of the world increasing the load on the already dwindling state of Agriculture and Food Security. This has been followed by a sharp increase in crime rates with riots, theft, and rape becoming a common site in most parts of the world that is still above water. This has also resulted in an extreme reaction from many governments with martial law being imposed in most of Asia and Africa to control the situation.

The death toll due to the floods, followed by the riots has crossed 40 million so far, with a majority coming from the lower income and social classes.

The question of the rescue of the peoples of the nation states being or on the way of submerging lays large in front of the global community- this extraordinary session of the UN Security Council has been called to create a comprehensive framework for rescuing and rehabilitating the people affected in the crisis.

However, the global migrational movements happening as a result of changing climatic conditions of the last decade have already unleashed a wave of protectionary reactions from the governments of the world. The European Union already facing massive cold waves in certain parts has finally stopped the free movement of its people and is heavily guarding its borders. West and Central Asia are facing the worst crisis in terms of numbers, with multiple waves of migration from Africa and neighboring Asian countries.

Countries Today (2050)

COUNTRY	PORTFOLIO
China	As the single largest emitter in the world, China may not share the Global North's historic responsibility, but it is actions in the present and the future that can make or break a pathway that keeps 1.5 in reach
United States of America	The bombardment of climate impacts like the California wildfires, extreme temperatures in Alaska and Hurricanes like Harvey and Irma have had a noticeable impact on American public opinion
India, Sweden	Average temperature in India and Sweden is expected to climb by 2.4 to 7 °C by 2071–2100.
Australia	Australia faced major risks to its coastal infrastructure. According to Climatecentral.org, much of the east coast has been on course for a sea-level rise that impacted many popular tourist spots

COUNTRY	PORTFOLIO
Bahamas	The Bahamas intended to achieve its mitigation contribution through an economy-wide reduction GHG (Green House Gas) emissions of 30% when compared to its Business as Usual (BAU) scenario by 2030
Tuvalu	At the Copenhagen Conference of Parties, the Tuvaluan delegation firmly maintained a position of vulnerability. It made significant waves in the negotiations and in the media insisting that a 1.5°C temperature limit be agreed upon
Kiribati	The government of Kiribati made an agreement with the Australian Prime Minister to get better access to adaptation funding, in return for relinquishing their commitment to a 1.5°C increase
Maldives	More than 90% of the islands in the Maldives have severe erosion, and 97% of the country no longer has fresh groundwater
Austria	Austria worked to be completely dependent on renewable energy sources by 2030
Montenegro	Climate change in Montenegro resulted in more droughts, and heavy rains affecting agriculture, forestry, water resources and natural environments, coast and the coastal region-causing increased sea surface temperature and a rising sea level by 62 cm by the end of the century
West Indies, Puerto Rico	Caribbean nations like West Indies and Puerto Rico are affected by the rise in sea levels, changes in rain patterns and temperatures, and increasing intensity of natural disasters as identified by the IPCC
Cuba	As climate change is tinkering with the raw elements of productivity, Cubans have been leaving the island in the highest numbers in decades



COUNTRY	PORTFOLIO
France, Germany	German government and the French government agree to China's goal of becoming carbon-neutral before 2060
United Kingdom	The UK committed to carbon neutrality by 2050
Russia	Greenhouse gas emissions by Russia are mostly from fossil gas, oil and coal
Iran, Thailand	According to Cimatetracker, Iran and Thailand are doing critically insufficient work towards 4°C+ world
Saudi Arabia, South Korea	According to Cimatetracker, Saudi Arabia and South Korea are doing highly insufficient work towards 4°C+ world
Italy, Japan	Italy and Japan agreed on strategic partnership in combating climate change
South Africa, Equatorial Guinea	Climate change could reduce the availability of labour and productivity, costing South Africa up to 11% of GDP per capita by the end of the century. Equatorial Guinea continues to have higher temperatures.
Brazil, Indonesia	40 per cent of deforestation happens in Brazil and Indonesia



COUNTRY	PORTFOLIO
Estonia	Estonia committed to reducing its GHG emissions and contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change.
Canada	Under Paris Agreement, Canada agreed to lower GHG emissions by 2030.

2050: Annus horribilis

Major Challenges

1. Terrorism

Most climate change displacements have been internal, with those affected remaining within their national borders: according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, there were 18.8 million new disaster-related internal displacements recorded in 2017. According to the World Bank, climate change may cause as many as 143 million people to be internally displaced by 2050 based on scenarios in three major climates “hot spots” Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.

Climate change is emerging as one of the key security challenges of the 21st century, a challenge that will increasingly have effects in the realm of counter-terrorism. Since January 2002, the United States Government has grounded its counter-terrorism policies within an international/diplomatic framework of well-governed states that have the capacity and willingness to cooperate with the United States. Climate change threatened to undermine this objective. For example, several countries with which the United States hopes to forge long-term counter-terrorism alliances are geographically situated in areas that may be strongly affected by climate change. In Asia, three countries, in particular, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh demonstrate the nexus between possible climate change effects and counter-terrorism. In these countries, increased poverty and reduced state capacity, a foreseeable outcome of predicted climate change events, contribute to the creation or sustenance of functional space which may allow terrorist groups to flourish.

In Iraq and Syria, the terrorist group Daesh, also known as ISIL, has exploited water shortages and taken control of water infrastructure to impose its will on communities. In Somalia, charcoal production provides a source of income for Al-Shaabab.

NSAGs (Non-State Armed Groups) use natural resources as a weapon of war. The case studies show that in resource-scarce and fragile environments, NSAGs use natural resources such as water as a weapon of war or inhibit access to natural resources. This in turn further compounds and exacerbates resource scarcities. This dynamic gets exacerbated as climate change increases the scarcity of natural resources in some areas of the world: the scarcer resources become; the more power is given to those who control them.

2. Sovereignty

Studies show that countries particularly vulnerable to climate change incur a risk premium on their sovereign debt, reducing their fiscal capacity for investments in climate adaptation and resilience. International financial institutions including the IMF, multilateral development banks, and regional financing arrangements have a special role to play in supporting member countries to address climate-related sovereign risks and strengthen adaptive capacity and macro-financial resilience. Poorer countries tend to be economically less diversified and more reliant on sectors that are particularly vulnerable to physical risk (including agriculture, fishing, and tourism) and transition risk (such as fossil fuel extraction), while limited financial and institutional resources tend to constrain their capacities to adapt to climate change.

3. Food Security

The latest IPCC report confirms the main findings of previous IPCC reports on the evolution of the climate as well as its main physical effects, such as consequences for land and ocean temperature change, sea level rise and ocean acidification. It also brings a better understanding of potential spatial changes in precipitation, intensity and seasonal distribution. Moreover, improvements in modelling as well as in data collection enable us to improve the projections of climate change impacts in the medium term and at local scales.

The populations at greatest risk are those that are dependent on agriculture and natural resources, with livelihoods that are highly exposed to climate change impacts, and who have very limited capacity to respond. In regions with high levels of food insecurity and inequality, increased frequency of droughts will particularly affect poorer households and may disproportionately affect women, given their vulnerability and restricted access to resources.

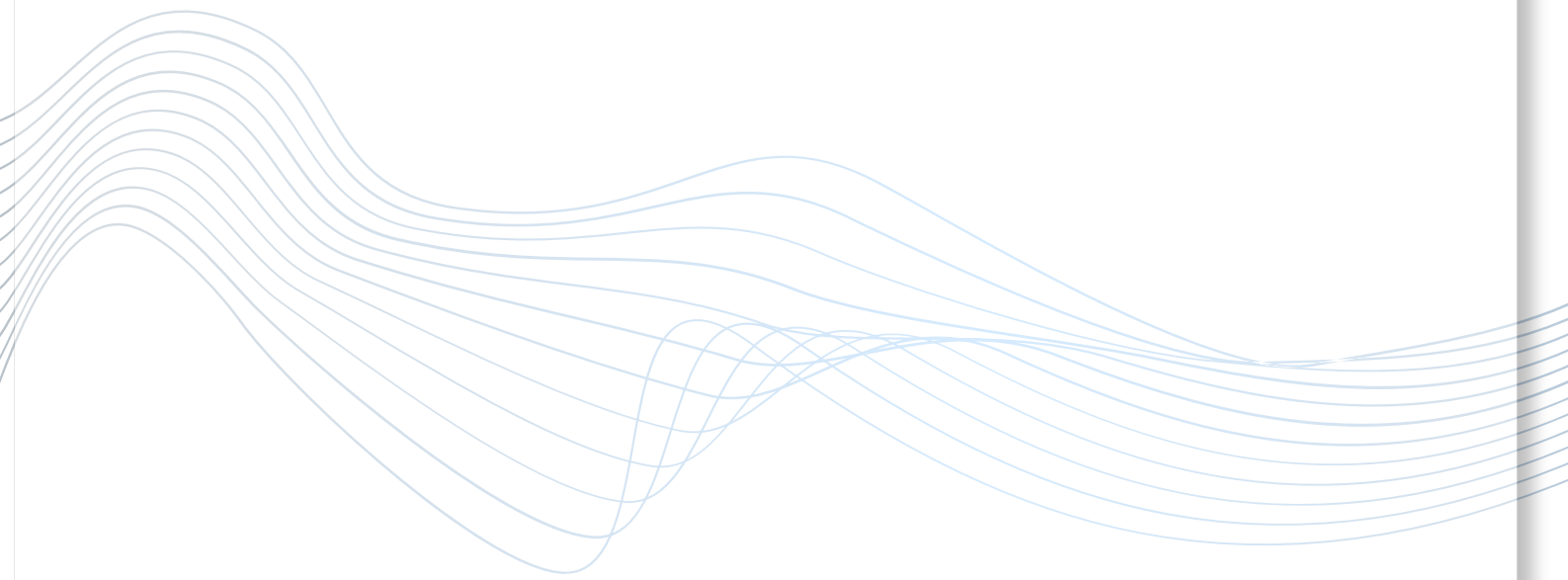
4. Energy Security

Global fossil fuel use had grown alongside GDP since the start of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century: putting this rise into reverse will be a pivotal moment in energy history. The share of fossil fuels in the global energy mix in the Stated Policies Scenario falls from around 80% to just above 60% by 2050. Global CO₂ emissions fall back slowly from a high point of 37 billion tonnes per year to 32 billion tonnes by 2050. This would be associated with a rise of around 2.5°C in global average temperatures by 2100, far from enough to avoid severe climate change impacts. Full achievement of all climate pledges would move the world towards the safer ground, but there is still a large gap between today's pledges and a stabilization of the rise in global temperatures around 1.5 °C.

5. Economy/production

The dramatic falls in the price of low-carbon technology demonstrated that cost is not the biggest barrier to ambition. Without tackling the political and institutional implications of the transformation the sectors, regions and entire nations that depend on high carbon for their current prosperity will continue to resist. The tools of diplomacy must therefore utilise changes in the real economy to shape perceptions around the national interest and unlock greater ambition. The alternative of a power-based world, as championed by autocracies and strongmen, would make keeping global temperature increases below 1.5°C impossible. Climate being at the top table of geopolitics helps in this regard, but it will also mean that it is subject to the traditional horse-trading between nations that have been a feature of trade and security for so long. Countries dependent on fossil fuel imports may be able to substitute these with domestic renewable energy.

Indeed, fossil fuel importers may benefit from a double dividend from a reduced energy import bill and the ability to spend leftover income in the domestic economy. Fossil fuel exporters, in contrast, would stand to lose a source of revenue. For instance, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development estimated that Kazakhstan, the exports of which comprise more than 50% fossil fuels, could have experienced its fiscal revenues declining by 40% by 2040 compared with business as usual if the global economy were to transition to a green scenario.





PROOF/EVIDENCE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources, with regards to establishing the veracity of facts including through points of order. However, that in no way should deter you from referring to a broad spectrum of resources for your research.

1. IPCC Report 2022 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>)

2. News Sources:

- Reuters: Any Reuters' article which unambiguously makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in the council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee.
(<https://in.reute.com/news/world>)

- State-operated News Agencies: These reports can be used in support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. They, however, can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are:

- o RIA Novosti (Russia): <http://ria.ru/>
- o IRNA (Iran): <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
- o Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (PR China)
- o <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

1. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a report being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Some examples are- Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>

• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>) or the People's Republic of China (<https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>)

• Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports

• Multilateral Organizations:

- o NATO
- o ASEAN
- o OPEC

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered credible information for this simulation-

- UN Bodies:

o UNSC

o UNGA etc

• UN Affiliated bodies:

- International Atomic Energy Agency

- International Monetary Fund

- International Committee of the Red Cross

• Treaty-Based Bodies:

- Antarctic Treaty System

- International Criminal Court

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CONCLUSION

As rightly said, “For large countries with solid tax bases and relatively favourable climates, the socialization of climate risk may be manageable. For smaller, highly exposed island nations, it will be overwhelming. Before they are physically inundated, their sovereignty will be drowned under an economic and financial deluge.” -Adam Tooze. Climate change can have substantial impacts on an economy’s trade in goods and services and capital flows with others. Moreover, it leads to an increase in IDPs and terrorism. Marginalized people are more vulnerable to climate disasters. Regions that face high levels of disaster risk and high economic losses due to disaster tend to cope with high inequalities of income and opportunity, which can incite social and political tensions.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How do we address the concept of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibility' in 2050 keeping in mind the changing profile of major geopolitical actors?
2. How do submergent nations retain their right to self-determination?
3. Does Intellectual Property Rights alleviate the issue of unequal access to new technological development and innovations?
4. Understanding the politics of semantics: Who are environmental terrorists and defenders?
5. Do host nations (nations providing refuge to submergent nations) have a stake in the affairs of the submergent nations?



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