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TOPIC: LIMITS ON EXTRACTION OF CARBON BASED FUELS IN VULNERABLE CONDITIONS, SUCH AS POLAR REGIONS.

***“The proper use of science is not to conquer nature but to live in it.” —Barry Commoner.***

It is abundantly clear that the rising levels of carbon dioxide being emitted every minute, due to drilling of resources like coal, crude oil and natural gas contribute towards the biggest threat to mankind, - Global Warming. These fuels are swiftly transforming icy glaciers into distant memories for us and the animals that consider them home. The significant rise in sea levels is a poignant reminder of humanity's urgent need to confront the crisis of climate change. However, it is not only the polar region being adversely affected but also the African region as well as the Amazon region, where the indigenous and local tribes are being displaced and rendered homeless. Belgium is a strong supporter of multilateral efforts to address environmental challenges, and is an important partner to UNEP.

Although Belgium doesn't produce most of these carbon-based fuels directly, its reliance on its imports makes it significantly affected by emissions. Even though their use of fossil fuels is decreasing, it still makes up roughly 70% of the country's energy usage. The Belgian Federal Government intends to phase out fossil fuels for electricity generation by 2050, and is determined to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by the same time. Belgium being the first country in Europe to exit coal, with its last coal plant closing down in March 2016, it also becomes the first formerly coal-burning country in Europe to go coal free. By 2021, Belgium achieved a 24 per cent reduction compared to 1990 in terms of emissions.

**“All we have to do is to wake up and change.” —Greta Thunberg.**

We stand at such a point of time in our lives where the decisions we make today as a community; will profoundly shape the world we pass on to our future generations. The citizens of Belgium believe in bringing in unique and useful solutions to reduce carbon emissions as well as extractions. To prevent carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere, Belgium in collaboration with Norway join forces to transport and store carbon dioxide. Belgium advocates for transport and global adoption of storage of carbon dioxide. The citizens of Belgium believe that the UNEP should explore the possibility of creating a global carbon capture market similar to the Australian model and the Kyoto Protocol.

Belgium is steadily steering towards a future where the reduction of carbon-based fuels isn't just an aspiration, but a tangible achievement, fueled by determination and hardwork.

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