

Committee Name: United Nations Framework on Climate Change

Topic: (I) The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

Country: The Gambia

Delegate Name: Cara Webber

School: St. John's-Kilmarnock

Climate change has a huge impact on human health. Climate change is defined as the ongoing change in climate patterns due largely to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. These increased levels of carbon dioxide along with stronger heatwaves, droughts and floods, and changing rainfall patterns have impacted human health intensely. Examples of this impact are increased mortality rates, faster spreading disease, and malnutrition. Therefore, it is extremely important that the UN is trying to solve this issue in order to improve human health.

The Gambia is highly affected by the impact of climate change on human health. The Gambia is only 183rd on the list of 213 countries who emit the most carbon dioxide.<sup>1</sup> However, despite not being a main contributor to climate change, The Gambia is at extremely high risk of the health issues that have arisen from it. To prevent these issues, The Gambia signed the Paris Agreement in 2015 and The Gambia's First Lady launched a "Gambia is green" initiative in an attempt to aid the government's vision of food self-sufficiency and raise awareness of the impact climate change has on agriculture.<sup>2</sup> The UN has also made progress on the issue through the Kyoto Protocol, which encouraged countries to reduce GHG emissions. Currently, The Gambia feels that climate change has a huge impact on human health, especially in developing countries. Therefore, the Gambia is working on 10 priority NAMAs, such as promoting the cultivation of high-yielding rice, which work towards limiting the affect climate change has on human health as well as tackling the issue as a whole.<sup>3</sup>

As mentioned, The Gambia feels that climate change is a very important issue that has a huge impact on human health. The first solution that The Gambia proposes is to create "enclosed" farmland that limits the negative affect climate change has on agriculture. All farmland will be covered using recycled, clear material so that crops still have access to natural sunlight. The roof will be able to open in order to regulate the amount of rainfall the crops get. Therefore, crops can still survive through the changing climate and humans will not suffer from malnutrition as a result. The second solution that The Gambia proposes is to force all factories to operate using renewable energy sources in an attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Gambia's standard is to reduce the impact climate change has on human health by preventing the average global temperatures rising about 2°C. The Gambia would agree to a solution that focuses on resolving health issues as a result of climate change in only developing countries. At the very least, The Gambia would settle for a resolution that improves health care in all developing nations in an attempt to cure the health issues arisen from climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> "Country Comparison :: Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Consumption of Energy." Central Intelligence Agency. Central Intelligence Agency, n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2016.

<sup>2</sup> "First Lady Zineb Jammeh Launches Gambia Is Green." Islamic Republic of The Gambia Office of The President The State House. N.p., 7 Nov. 2016. Web. 09 Nov. 2016.

<sup>3</sup> "Pre-2020 Action by Countries: Gambia." United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. N.p., 2015. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

Committee Name: United Nations Framework on Climate Change

Topic: (II) Climate Refugees

Country: The Gambia

Delegate Name: Cara Webber

School: St. John's-Kilmarnock

Climate refugees are a rising concern that is anticipated to become more problematic in the upcoming years. In fact, it is estimated that by 2050, there will be between 25 million to 1 billion climate refugees.<sup>4</sup> Climate refugees are people who are forced to flee their country as it's no longer safe due to natural disasters, malnutrition, and other impacts of climate change. However, it is very hard to identify climate refugees as there are many factors to take into account. The UN is also currently not doing much to address climate refugees as an individual issue.

The Gambia is at risk of increased numbers of climate refugees due to the terrain and ecosystems there. As a result of the low-lying coastal plains in The Gambia, natural disasters pose a great risk and are forcing citizens to move.<sup>5</sup> The number of refugees from The Gambia, who have fled due to climate change, poverty, and repression is increasing.<sup>6</sup> The Gambia has not done much to target climate refugees as an individual issue, however The Gambia has taken many precautions to prevent climate change as a whole. For example, The Gambia signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, agreeing to take action to prevent the average global temperatures rising above 2°C. The United Nations has also not taken much action to target climate refugees. However, the UN did formally recognize the issue in 2009 and several UN agencies and NGOs are working with governments to create National Adaptation Plans.<sup>7</sup> The Gambia is currently suffering badly from climate change and risks increased numbers of climate refugees, but is not doing anything to solve the problem.

The Gambia believes that climate change is an pressing issue and is affected by climate refugees as a result. Therefore, The Gambia proposes the solution to drain large bodies of water by a substantial amount every 10-20 years. Then, we will filter that water so that it can be used in developing countries, such as The Gambia, as drinking, bathing, and cooking water. This would prevent sea level rise, reducing the number of refugees that flee due to this issue, while also providing water to dehydrated countries. The Gambia's standards are to succeed worldwide in preventing the average global temperatures rising above 2°C by 2020 and to create a society that can sustain these changes. The Gambia would agree to solutions that aid developing countries in reducing the number of climate refugees. At the very least, The Gambia would settle with a solution that helps climate refugees move safely to more environmentally stable countries.

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<sup>4</sup> "Where Will the Climate Refugees Go?" - Al Jazeera English. N.p., 22 Dec. 2015. Web. 09 Nov. 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Myers, Norman. "Environmental Refugees in a Globally Warmed World." *BioScience* 43.11 (1993): 752-61. Oxford University Press, 18 Mar. 2014. Web. 9 Nov. 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Cooke, Kieran. "Changing Climate Swells Tide of Migrants." *Climate Home*. Climate Home, 18 Dec. 2015. Web. 09 Nov. 2016.

<sup>7</sup> "World Needs to Prepare for Climate Displacement." *UNFCCC*. N.p., 24 July 2014. Web. 09 Nov. 2016.

Committee Name: United Nations Framework on Climate Change

Topic: (III) Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Country: The Gambia

Delegate Name: Cara Webber

School: St. John's-Kilmarnock

Climate change is an issue of huge global importance. It is defined as the ongoing change in climate patterns due largely to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. This change in climate patterns threatens ecosystems, human health, and economic stability. As the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is seen as the most effective solution, it is often discussed in the United Nations and protocols such as the Paris Agreement have been implemented in an attempt to enforce it.

The Gambia is extremely vulnerable to climate change as a developing nation that is highly dependent on the agricultural industry. Therefore, The Gambia is actively fighting against it and has done so for several years. In 2015, The Gambia signed the Paris Agreement, agreeing to act in order to prevent the average global temperatures rising above 2°C.<sup>8</sup> The Gambia has also implemented many mitigation and adaptation strategies in an attempt to prevent the issue. Currently, The Gambia is focusing on 10 Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, for example; promoting the use of energy-efficient cooking stoves, which contribute towards the Paris Agreement.<sup>9</sup> The UN created the Convention in 1994, which set out to encourage countries to stabilize GHG emissions. Following that, the UN implemented the Kyoto Protocol, which committed developed nations into stabilizing GHG emissions based on the principles of the Convention.<sup>10</sup> The Gambia is involved in every attempt to terminate the issue, however feels that developed nations should be doing more to limit their substantial emissions.

The Gambia is very involved in preventing climate change, but feels that developed nations should play the largest role in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. The first solution that The Gambia proposes is to globally limit the number of vehicles allowed per family to 1 per 2 people in attempt to decrease fossil fuel emissions and encourage public transport. All families will have to register their vehicles and not be allowed to register more than the previously prescribed limit. Vehicles that are not registered are not allowed on the road. The second resolution that The Gambia suggests is to globally force all factories to use sustainable energy, such as solar and hydro power, in order to operate. In order to enforce this, all factories will be investigated by a UN representative and given funding if they cannot afford to make these changes themselves. Factories that fail to make these changes will be shut down. The Gambia's standards are to succeed worldwide in preventing the average global temperatures rising above 2°C by 2020 and to create a society that can sustain these changes. The Gambia would agree to a solution that focuses on reducing greenhouse gases of solely developed nations. At the very least, The Gambia would settle for a resolution that gives rewards to environmentally conscious businesses and factories.

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<sup>8</sup> "The Gambia Submits Its Climate Action Plan Ahead of 2015 Paris Agreement." UNFCCC. N.p., 28 Sept. 2015. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

<sup>9</sup> "Pre-2020 Action by Countries: Gambia." United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. N.p., 2015. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

<sup>10</sup> "The Kyoto Protocol." United Nations Framework on Climate Change. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.