

The Russian Federation

United Nations Framework on Climate Change: COP 22 (UNFCCC)

The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

Current trends of energy consumption, development, and population growth continues and nonetheless increases the severity of climate change. As a result, climate change increases the rigorousness and occurrence of health complications already agitated or brought on by climate and weather factors. 250,000 additional deaths annually are predicted to happen between the years 2030 and 2050 from Malaria, malnutrition and further heat waves. An increase in temperatures, storm surge, oceanic blooms, quality of agriculture, and vector surge are among the many health deterrents that must be closely monitored to prevent any and all opportunities of mass devastation. Although this issue dominantly affects the economic and social systems of developing nations, the topic of climate change also brings new challenges to threatening the well-being of billions on a global scale. "High temperatures also raise the levels of ozone and other pollutants in the air that exacerbate cardiovascular and respiratory disease." Prolonged exposure to conditions in thermal stress are associated with higher instances of hospitalization. Clean air, water, sufficient food and adequate shelter are all basic human necessities currently being threatened by the looming consequence of irresponsible energy practices, mainly carbon.

The Russian Federation has been ranked the 4th highest contributor to global warming, trailing behind the nations of China, India, and the United States. Russia roughly contributes what is 5% of the total global carbon emissions due to its large population of over 144 million and industrial systems. The Russian Federation, party to the new Paris Convention signed in 2015, is making strides to compensate for the disproportionate amount of environmental damage that they are partially responsible for due to industrial developments. Russian Federation is a supporter of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a signer of Kyoto Protocol on 11 December 1997. Among health threats, those who are likely to be the most devastated are the populations of the Arctic region- the Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the Arkhangelsk. "Global warming will have more impact on Russia than any other area of the world, says Head of Russia's Agency on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Aleksander Frolov." In 2009, the World Health Organization partnered with the Northern Medical State University based in Russia, organized a workshop aimed to building the resources necessary to combat the negative and dangerous effects of global warming.

The Russian Federation believes in strengthening public health resources in accordance with other nations due to the detrimental long term health effects that climate change ultimately proposes. "Climate-change scientists have found Russia has been warming at a rate 2.5 times faster than the average country, with its temperature rising by 0.42 degree Celsius (0.76 degree Fahrenheit) per decade since 1976." Projects such as protecting health from climate change in the Russian Federation aim to provide a basis for a national health strategy that exclusively encompasses all of the health factors and risks associated with climate change. Providing insight to governmental bodies, this particular project fulfills the gap between information and readability concerning the detrimental health effects of climate change.

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Climate Refugees

Starting with the advent of technology and the rise of sedentary life styles, the environment has begun to evolve as a direct result of human activities. Today, this is manifested in the significant rise of water levels, especially in the tropics where most island countries are located. “In fact it is estimated that by 2050, there will be between 25 million and 1 billion refugees.” The main concentration of populations predicted to be most affected are those of coastal and island nations. This is due to a plethora of factors such as drought, rising sea levels, erosion. The response of these countries is quite logical: make a deal with larger countries that are projected to be less impacted by these increases in sea level. Among these countries that have made these arrangements are Australia, who partnered with the Maldives to create an arrangement in which the Maldives surrendered mineral rights to their territory in return for land in Australia to move their population, should the situation come to require such a significant progression. International law codes and agreements attempting to govern the activities of all nations are now more than ever important to the continuity of island nations remaining above the encroaching waves.

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In order to effectively solve this issue, the Russian Federation believes that it is of most importance to recognize what needs to be done to ensure that all aspects of the topic are addressed. The delegation from Russia believes that the Paris Agreement of 2015 addressed prevention and of further damage that would cause populations to relocate. Russia perceives this issue as one in which the international community must consider the worst possible scenario: relocating the entire population of an island country. In order to present the most inclusive basis for addressing the issue, expanding the legal definition of refugee to include “environmental refugees”. To ensure that environmental refugees have a safe environment to relocate to and economic opportunities to prosper for the future, guidelines need to be instilled. Using the United Nations High Commission on Refugees Handbook for Emergencies as a guideline to create Fortune 500 (F500) “Communities” in order to provide and develop safe and opportunity laden populations that environmental refugees could be located to in time of need. Not only would these communities offer vocational training to those, but also urge cultivation and expansion throughout groups. Through these communities, the Russian Federation believes that the issue can be alleviated and the environmental refugees be well attended to.

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Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions

Globally the largest source of power is coal. While coal only produces 40% of the world's overall power, it is the largest contributor to the Green House Gas crisis; 70% of the Green House Gas emissions come from the harvesting of energy from coal alone. "At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. The agreement is due to enter into force in 2020." Finance, adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation strategies and solutions are among the many aims of the UNFCCC COP 21, and must be reflected upon at COP 22 with goals oriented towards healthy and safe future.

The Russian Federation, party to the new Paris Convention signed in 2015, is making strides to compensate for the disproportionate amount of environmental damage that they are partially responsible for due to industrial developments. Russian Federation is a supporter of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a signer of Kyoto Protocol on 11 December 1997. "Russian Federation therefore calls upon all states to take the responsibility for their activities that they have otherwise right to perform. However, international community must bear some common responsibility to follow orders under international law, already mentioned documentation and also other relevant anticipations of the United Nations in order to control activities that may provoke concerning consequences." Not only is Russia a major emitter of greenhouse gases, but also it is a leading global supplier of fossil fuels, which remains an influential force in international politics, and is predisposed geographically to the impacts of climate change. Russia occupies more than a tenth of the global land area, with nearly two thirds of the country underlain by methane-rich permafrost. The Russian Federation aims to uphold its promise to the 2015 Paris agreement and believes that any and all nations who contribute towards the GHG Epidemic take responsibility and put forward ways into reversing the disastrous effects already in effect. "On 31 March 2015, the Russian Federation submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), proposing to reduce its emissions of net greenhouse gases (GHG) by 25% to 30% below the 1990 level by 2030. After accounting for forestry this is a reduction of only 6% to 11% below 1990 levels of GHG emissions excluding land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), and an increase of 30% to 38% compared to 2012 levels."

The Russian federation would like to draft a low carbon development plan in order to effectively appease the already dominant and dependent fossil fuel industry. Russia will not ratify the Paris Agreement until strategies are implemented in order to beneficially and inclusively encompass all and any factors of debate. The Russian Federation urges for the integration of a Bioplastic Feedback Alliance (BFA) in order to reverse the hazardous and detrimental process of producing plastic. Also the implementation of widespread wind power using wind turbines, which can offset GHG by the "clean power" and the turbines produced within a mere 9 months of operation.

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