Committee: United Nations Framework Commission on Climate Change
Position: Equatorial Guinea
Delegation: Wyoming High School

Climate change, is a serious, man-made problem that causes direct and indirect problems for every citizen of this planet. Since weather began being recorded in 1850, 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have all been in the 21st century. The IPCC, or Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, predicts a 1.4-5.6 degree Celsius temperature rise over the next century. Other scientists foresee a sea level rise of up to two meters by 2100, with more dire estimates reaching seven meters–enough to submerge the city of London. While recognizing these threats, the developing nation of Equatorial Guinea must use cheaper energy in order to industrialize its economy. In the past, this process has often be resulted in the emission of carbon into the atmosphere; therefore, without a more reliable solution in the future, the planet as we know it will forever be changed. Equatorial Guinea believes that a balance between these two interests is absolutely necessary if the twin ideals of growth and sustainability are to be achieved for the collective international community.

On the topic of climate refugees, 36 million people have been displaced from their homes due to environmental issues (as reported by the UNHCR in 2009). That number is expected to grow to 50 million by 2050. This means significant increases in the population of the countries who are not as harshly affected by climate change. Such demographic shifts will cause a significant reshuffle in the international globalized economy, as people, jobs, and means of production enter a period of flux.. As an island nation threatened by global warming, Equatorial Guinea is concerned on both environmental and economic front. A more philanthropic solution must be made.

In September of 2008, an integrated pilot-scale carbon capture and storage, (CCS) power plant was designed for the eastern German power plant Schwarze Pumpe. Utility corporation Vattenfall began this project to test the technological feasibility and economic efficiency of CSS; applied to a modern conventional power plant, this innovative idea could reduce carbon-dioxide emissions to the atmosphere by approximately 80–90% compared to a plant without CCS. Researchers at the Center for Applied Energy Research at the University of Kentucky are currently developing algae-mediated methods to purify flue gas of coal-fired power plant . Algae is capable of capturing the carbon-dioxide from these gasses, and can be collected easily. Malaysia also has sincere concerns for climate refugees, but does not have the current assets to support this The facts stated above indicate that carbon capture technology may be the only way to put a real stop to climate change. The planet as a whole and the countries that inhabit it need to work together to advance and fund these carbon capture technologies in any way possible. It will not work immediately; in fact, it may take years for progress to yield results. But overall, the effect of being able to pull carbon out of the atmosphere will help “stop the bleeding” if you will, halting the sea level rise and the intense global warming that has occurred over the past century or so. It would cost around $50.00 to remove one tonne of carbon-dioxide from the atmosphere, which means that it would cost around 70 million USD per year per nation to cut the current carbon emissions in half. To put that in perspective, if every person on earth paid just 1000 dollars for this cause, it would be funded for more than the next nine years to come. The salvation of our environment would also solve the climate refugee problem.