

Valeria Luna
valeluna44@hotmail.com
United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate
Change
Finland
Colegio Episcopal de Panamá
Advisor: Laura Pollock

For the last few decades, climate change has been an issue that gets left out of the priorities of most governments. However, nowadays it is something that concerns each and every person around the globe. Basing ourselves on a controversial article published on the New York Times in October 2015, the Earth has warmed by about 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit since 1880, when records begin at a global scale. This number may sound low, but setting it from another comparison, the heat from human emissions is roughly equal to 400,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs exploding across the planet every day. It has also been proven that climate change is caused by anthropogenic factors such as methane and carbon emissions from industrialization. It is evident that climate change and gas emissions not only affect the planet, but humans as well, and they specially jeopardize human health.

The delegation of Finland has a well-funded public health care and a much smaller private sector. According to the Finnish Medical Association, 17% of Finnish doctors work solely in the private sector, generally in primary care. Finland offers its citizens health promotion, with an inclusion of a prevention of diseases program that has been the main focus of its healthcare policies over decades. This program has resulted in the eradication of certain communicable diseases and the improvement of general health. According to a survey published by the European Commission in 2000, Finland is one of

the top five countries that have efficient healthcare methods and policies.

In 2014, Finland became the latest country to announce a new climate change act, which would put in practice a long-term mitigation target of 80% emissions reduction by 2050. Environment Minister Ville Niinistö expressed in an interview that these acts would place Finland on a path towards “a position as a pioneer of low-carbon society”. According to the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, some key elements of the act include: a planning system for administrative actions for reducing emissions in sectors outside the Emission Trading System and monitoring of the implementation of the plans, regulation and guidance related to mitigation of climate change and adaptation to it in different administrative branches, etc. The reason why this delegation decided to update this act is because it has already been left clear that harmful carbon emissions create air pollution that leads to diseases such as asthma, pulmonary diseases, and respiratory infections on the Finnish population.

Finland’s main goal in these meeting of countries is to tackle climate change is to reach consensus by creating effective policies, public health care institutions with qualified doctors that benefit each bloc. Taking into consideration that not every country has the same health casualties and mortality rate, the delegation of Finland considers that it is pertinent to create an NGO specialized in diseases related to climate change and natural disasters with various headquarters. We should also implement the WHO’s work plan for 2015 that included awareness raising to provide and disseminate information on the threats that climate change presents on human health, and opportunities to promote health while cutting carbon emissions; coordinating scientific research, developing a global research agenda, and last but not least, assisting developing countries in order to build capacity to reduce health vulnerability to climate change.

References:

1. [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/28/science/what-is-climate-change.html?
_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/28/science/what-is-climate-change.html?_r=0)
2. http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/geh/climatechange/health_impacts/index.cfm
3. <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2014/06/06/finland-reveals-new-climate-change-laws/>
4. [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/geh/climatechange/health_impacts/asthma/
index.cfm](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/geh/climatechange/health_impacts/asthma/index.cfm)
5. http://www.who.int/globalchange/health_policy/who_workplan/en/

Secondary Schools United
Nations Symposium 2016
United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate
Change
Finland
valeluna44@hotmail.com
Colegio Episcopal de Panamá
Advisor: Laura Pollock

The term “climate refugee” or “environmental migrant” refers to someone who has been forced to move due to sudden or gradual alterations in the natural environment related to the impacts of climate change. According to the Warsaw International Mechanism some of the factors making people leave their home countries because of environmental causes include: increases on the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as natural disasters, drought that affects agricultural production and access to clean water; and sea level changes that make coastal areas uninhabitable. Considering the impact of weather related hazards or shocks, between 2008 and 2015, there was an average of at least 21.5 million displacements of people each year. The cross-cutting issue faced by these displaced persons is that a climate refugee is not legally recognized by the international community. Although efforts have been made in addressing both internal and cross-border displacement in international congresses such as The Nansen Initiative, the WHS, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the topic of climate refugees is something that still remains in the shadows. This delegations’ goal on this framework is to implement strengthened action on humanitarian response, human rights protection, and migration management for these refugees.

Even though, the Nordic countries of Europe are popularly known for being more conservative on taking in refugees, Finland and Sweden are the only countries in the world that include environmental migrants as “persons otherwise in need of protection” in their official

immigration and asylum policy. Finland has received more than 30,000 migrants and asylum seekers trying to enter Europe through an alternative route over the last 18 months. This delegation could afford to take in climate refugees because of its low population density and well-kept natural environment. Emissions from large industrial facilities have been curbed significantly, favoring refugees fleeing because of illnesses due to pollution. There has also been progress in controlling emissions from agriculture, transport, and homes.

As diplomatic countries in this convention we must protect refugees by tackling climate change itself, however, displaced persons are at a crucial situation and need assistance when moving to a foreign country. The delegation of Finland believes that once refugees enter another country they should be provided with medical care given the fact that most of them have limited financial resources. Right now, many refugees get short-term health insurance called Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). It is available for up to eight months. Some refugees may be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which is available for several years. Finland will also negotiate with the other countries on funding refugee camps, temporary asylums, and furthermore, discuss goals to reduce carbon emissions.

References:

6. <http://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html>
7. <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/environment/581870687/policy-brief-displacement-at-cop-22.html>
8. <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/environment/57459e3d7/warsaw-international-mechanism-executive-committee-wim-excom-work-plan.html>
9. <http://www.citylab.com/weather/2015/12/cop21-paris-climate-refugees/418656/>

Secondary Schools United
Nations Symposium 2016
United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate
Change
Finland
valeluna44@hotmail.com
Colegio Episcopal de Panamá
Advisor: Laura Pollock

At the Paris Climate Conference on December 2015, 195 countries agreed to a binding universal action plan to tackle climate change by setting an ambitious goal to hold warming below 2°C. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require strong economic collaboration by every country. Previous action to this agreement includes the Kyoto Protocol that was adopted at the third session of the Conference of the Parties on December 1997, the Montreal Protocol, and the Earth Summit. The Kyoto Protocol's main focus was to rely on a Subsidiary Body for Implementation and Scientific Advance to develop sustainable forms of agriculture, enhance sinks containing greenhouse gases, and provide data of carbon stocks. Although some countries benefitted from the Kyoto Protocol, some of its solutions to carbon emissions were relatively ambiguous and were not favorable to a large number of its signatories. What concerns us at this point as a global community is to collectively strive for a low-carbon future by providing technology, strengthening institutions, and financing more secure energy supplies.

After signing the Paris Agreement, climate analysts in Finland have been working on determining what emission reductions are needed for the country and European Union's climate policies to be compatible with the 1.5°C limit. Report authors took this analysis from two perspectives: the least-cost approach and the equity approach, which takes into account historic

responsibility and current capability to determine a fair effort reduction. The least cost approach provides an indication of the domestic reductions needed. The equity approach, from another perspective, provides an indication of the additional emission reductions that wealthier countries need to support or fund in developing countries. This project on cutting down emissions by 60%, under the least-cost approach was done by Sitra, a Finnish public fund tasked with ensuring Finland's sustainable development, economic growth, and international competitiveness and cooperation. One of Sitra's key areas of focus is promoting a resource-wise and carbon-neutral society.

In conclusion, the goal of the Finnish delegation, as mentioned in the introduction, is to fund a sustainable energy industry. Beyond complying with the requirements mentioned on the Paris Agreement we must unite to decarbonize and redesign the electricity market and the transport system. Countries such as Finland are already relying on alternative sources of electricity such as solar power plants, biodiesel instead of petroleum, wind power, etc. What we must do is create institutions that teach developing countries about these alternative fuels and at the same time help with financing the building of solar panels and wind mills. It is also pertinent to implement economic sanctions on large developed countries that pollute their cities causing more drastic effects on climate change.

References:

10. http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/items/1678.php
11. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris/index_en.htm
12. http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/session/9057.php
13. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2012/nov/26/kyoto-protocol-carbon-emissions>

14. <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2015/02/16/kyoto-protocol-10-years-of-the-worlds-first-climate-change-treaty/>
15. <http://climateanalytics.org/projects/finland-and-the-paris-agreement.html>
16. <http://www.eco-friendly-emporium.com/eco-friendly-energy.html>