

Delegation from Romania
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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Out of all the topics we will be discussing at the UNFCCC: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health, Climate Refugees and Steps to enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce GHG emissions, Romania strongly believes the first topic is the one that should be debated first, since it naturally brings up the other two. Romania feels strongly about GHG emission reductions and they are its priority concerning climate change. This goes with why this country feels the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol are two crucial treaties. Because without them, countries wouldn't have, among other things, the fixed goals about GHG emissions reductions they have now.

The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

Romania recognizes that climate change is not only a global phenomenon, but affects each country locally and that it is crucial to reduce green house gas emissions (GHG). The summers in Romania are long and hot with averages around 29°C. Winters are mild, with averages being no more than 3°C.(1) However, global warming is slowly making the summers longer and hotter, the winters less cold and dryer. From 1980-2000, precipitations are less frequent, which leads to droughts, which, in turn, leads to crops being no longer viable. On the contrary, in the years 2005-2006, Romania experiences heavy rainfall, causing floods this country has never seen before. Also, the cities prone to floods are close to industrial areas or mining operations. This means the inhabitants are at risk of being in contact with contaminated and toxic waters. Anxiety and depression often appear at the same time as floods and can last for months or even years. "The vulnerability of a person or group is defined in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural hazard" (2) Those who are most vulnerable are children, the elderly, the sick, the poor, the disabled, etc. Romania is also at risk of a disease known as Leishmaniasis, caused by the bite of an infected sandfly. Sandflies are a type of insect living south of Europe and less than 800m above sea level. If conditions allow it, the insect, as well as the disease, could spread to the north. If the climate gets too hot, the disease could spread in the south. Climate affects the direction of the spread of leishmaniasis. This country is a part of the European Union, whose objective is becoming energy efficient and having a low carbon economy. Romania and the EU has adapted a National Climate Change And Low Carbon Green Growth Program, aiming to reduce their GHG emissions. Regarding mitigation, the EU's goal is to reduce by 40% their GHG emission levels from 1990 by 2030. (3) They will achieve this by using low carbon energy sources. Romania is way ahead of them. From 1998 to 2011, they reduced their GHG emissions by 61,97%! (4) Romania has achieved this by cutting in the Solvent, Industrial Process, Energy and other products sectors. Concerning adaptation, this country aims to develop drought-tolerant crops (5) , so they can be prepared for the number of droughts predicted to increase in the coming years.

(1) https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Romania

(2) <http://www.climatechange.org/romania/health/>

(3) <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/romania/brief/romania-climate-change-and-low-carbon-green-growth-program>

(4) [https://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/submitted_biennial_reports/application/pdf/annex_1_biennial_report\[1\].pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/submitted_biennial_reports/application/pdf/annex_1_biennial_report[1].pdf)

(5) <https://olc.worldbank.org/content/what-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation-romania>

(6) <http://www.climatechange.org/romania/river-floods/>

Romania also needs to educate people on how to act before, during and after a flood. Also, avoiding the development of cities in areas vulnerable to toxins, which could arise during a flood, is preferable. (6)

Climate Refugees

On May 8th 2008, the Tri-Parite Agreement was signed between Romania, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). This Agreement establishes the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timisoara. The ETC's goal is to provide a shelter for immigrants from countries facing extreme climate and are in grave danger. Machiel Salomons, UNHCR'S representative in Romania gave his opinion on this project. "It's an extraordinary gesture for an EU member state to make available sovereign territory to accommodate the most destitute refugees awaiting permanent resettlement in a third country." (7) The centre can hold up to 200 people and they may stay no longer than 6 months, after which they will find a permanent solution. (8) On the contrary, some families must evacuate Romania because of the flood risk. Some move elsewhere while staying inside the country, these are called internally displaced persons (IDP). Others change countries entirely, these are called Climate Refugees.

Steps to enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce GHG Emissions

Romania feels the Paris Agreement was a huge step towards a greener future. A good way to convince countries who have not signed this treatise to do so, would be through awareness. Giving conferences and lectures in these countries could be helpful. Even speaking to children in primary schools so they can grow up educated about how climate change is real and is affecting some countries more drastically than others, is a way to raise awareness. Romania feels that education is the key, because it is future generations that will define the Earth's future. It is equally important that every country works together, because through cooperation, we can make the world a better, greener place. (9)

(7) <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2008/5/482469974/romania-set-evacuation-transit-centre->

refugees.html

(8) http://www.mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/mae_old/poze_editare/unhcr_brosura.pdf

(9) [https://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/6th_nccc_and_1st_br_of_romania\[1\].pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/6th_nccc_and_1st_br_of_romania[1].pdf)