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Delegation of Namibia

Namibia United Nations framework on climate change

Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

Climate change is wreaking havoc upon the way our society functions, as we know it. The increase in temperature is having drastic effects on both our population and the tendencies of the earth. The change is having 3 dire consequences. First, the effects of the thermal stress: The heating up of the earth, which is projected to heat up by between 1.4 and 5.8°C by the end of the century (Easterling), is supposed to increase mortality rates. Second, the heating up of the earth will enhance the spread and creation of infectious diseases, and lastly, there will be an increase in floods and droughts, further impacting the lives of many people.

Namibia's climate is highly variable, and climate change is only expected to worsen this variability. Their economy is highly dependent on their natural resources and their main source of employment is the agriculture sector. These increases in temperature are expected to devastate these areas so vital to Namibia's well being and only worsen their development as a nation. As of now they are proposing a strategic action plan for 2013-2020 to combat climate change through the use of sustainable energy and prioritize low carbon emissions development and transport. The program in use is called the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA).

The delegate of Namibia proposes to increase the role of adaption as a possible solution. Namibia is not a country that needs to focus on lowering its emissions of GHG because inventories by studies have shown that they don't contribute very much to global

emission. Therefore the delegate proposes to increase the use of sustainable energy technologies that will be able to withstand the effects that the increase in temperature will cause. Through funding provided by various organizations such as ngo's and the Green climate fund, technologies suitable to the climate will be able to be implement that have the dual goal of mitigation and adaptation, but a primary focus on adaptation.

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Topic 2: Climate Refugees

The disastrous effects of climate change not only affect our planet as a whole, but the people directly living in the effected areas. Climate refugees, or environmental refugees, are people who are migrating to other areas of the globe in order to escape from or are forced to leave from their homes due to the effects of climate change. There are the physical effects of climate change that make people migrate and become refugees, for example floods and droughts, but there are also government driven ones. For example, a country could be trying to combat climate change in a way that new, more efficient technologies are put into place, taking away human capital that used to be necessary for jobs, and force people to leave. Although a climate refugee isn't technically a refugee, the effects of climate charge are displacing people and it is a real problem in our world today.

The country of Namibia has many people leaving due to climate change in search of new homes and are labeled as climate refugees. Floods are increasing and displacing people, along with many other climate change factors. The government within the country is in search of new ways to find an adaptive strategy to climate change but they are neglecting to help the refuges being created.

The delegation of Namibia projects a new plan in order to help the refuges of the environment in Namibia. Also expressed by professor Oliver Ruppel, a new climate change law must be put into place that punishes the government for not taking care of these people. The law would entail monetary punishments from organizations to the government officials. Another solution is that the term climate refuges should be recognized. Climate refuges are not seen as real refugees and they should be. Once they are recognized it would bring more attention to the problems of climate change and the severity of what climate

changes entails if not stopped or slowed. This enhanced awareness would not only help the refugees but the problem of climate change as a whole.

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Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further

Reduce Green House Gas Emissions

The Paris agreement made in April of 2016 is an agreement in which the reduction of green house gases was made an imperative operation. But in order for the agreement to be put into effect, three steps must be undertaken. One, have the agreement passed on the conference day. Two, get the heads of state to sign the agreement at a meeting in New York. And three have the agreement ratified by each countries individual legislative body. The first step is complete and the second is almost complete but the challenge lies within the third step. Countries in the past have failed at the last step because it wasn't seen as a smart economic decision, and could have other personal effects to a nation. In order for something like this to be ratified it must be mandatory with consequences.

Namibia is one of the countries that has signed the treaty during the step two process of the Paris agreement. The countries hope is that the agreement will lead to sustainable development in their nation as a result of overcoming the challenges of climate change. Their hope is to follow the lead of the powerful developed nations.

The delegation of Namibia's solution is to offer greater incentives to the on the edge countries created by the more developed nations. Developed countries must offer greater support and even monetary subsidies in order to incentivize this agreement. More awareness must be spread and must stem from the public opinion that will make the countries government more aware and learn towards more environmentally friendly policies. In Namibia the hope of gaining help from developed nations has already inspired them to ratify the agreement, but for other countries this hope is not enough of an incentive. Other groups such as the Green Climate fund could help with money as well.

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