

Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

It is evident that climate change has a deteriorating impact on human health. Sufficient research provided by organizations like WHO has gone towards proving that rising temperatures world wide are causing destruction of life through every facet, ranging from thermal stress and more frequent and intense heatwaves to changes in the distribution of vector-borne diseases. France believes that the focus of this conference shouldn't be on regurgitating what we already know about climate change and human health, rather this committee should be taking steps towards ensuring that the potentially disastrous impacts of climate change on human health can never be realized.

Recognizing this, France has taken a number of steps in the past to try and stop negative impacts of climate change on human health. In response to the health crisis in the summer of 2003, the French government had enacted a variety of measures to avoid further repercussions of climate change. First, a "Heat Health Watch Warning System" was developed on the basis of retrospective analysis of mortality and meteorological data in fourteen pilot cities to anticipate heat waves that may result in high mortality rates.<sup>1</sup> Second, a national action plan was activated on 1st June 2004. The system calls for close cooperation between the French Weather Bureau, the National Institute of Health Surveillance and the Ministry of Health and is supported by a panel of preventive actions, to prevent the sanitary impact of heat waves.<sup>2</sup> On a greater scale, France has supported key international organizations like CCAC, GFCS, WHO Climate and Health Office that are grounded in the need to improve public health through the mitigation of and adaption to climate change.

France believes that a solution to this issue must be multi-faceted and deal with both mitigation and adaption in order to ensure that climate change can no longer harm public health. Through mitigation of climate change, public health can be greatly benefited. France believes that policies like mass transport systems, investment in renewable energy and investment in green infrastructure can put us on the right path to stopping climate change and thus improving human health. In order to achieve this in developing nations, international aid, specifically donations, will be required to help facilitate sustainable development. Additionally by inculcating the use and support of organizations like WHO, WMO, CCAC this committee can raise awareness of the issue more effectively, and ultimately work together to create comprehensive mitigation plans. However, France sees mitigation as a long term goal and believes that in the short term this committee should focus on adaptive solutions, focusing on sustainable economic development, and raising the standard of living to make society less vulnerable to repercussions of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> "Health in France." Climate Change Post. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Oct. 2016. <<http://www.climatechange.org/france/health/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

## Topic 2: Climate Refugees

Rising sea levels, extreme weather and drought: climate change is already causing tens of thousands of people to migrate,<sup>3</sup> and yet given current international framework and policy on refugees a large of percentage of these people cannot seek safe haven. Although climate refugee is a relatively new term, climate change is causing an increasing need for its adoption into the current definition of refugee. France believes that successful adoption of climate refugees into the broader category of refugees is an obligation for this committee and it hopes that a successful solution will be reached.

In the past, France has attested to the importance of making a decision on climate refugees and has advocated for the need to accept them into current definition of refugee, allowing them to seek protection and governments to ensure it. France's environment minister, Ségolène Royal, told representatives from 170 countries at the UN environment assembly in Nairobi that climate change is linked to conflicts, which in turn causes migration.<sup>4</sup> France has plans to adopt climate refugees into its broader category of refugees, however still needs to create the infrastructure surrounding this, in regards to background screening and establishing safe havens for these climate refugees.

France believes a solution to this issue, like most dealing with climate change, must be multifaceted. A specific guideline must be established that allows nations to identify climate refugees, whether that may be people fleeing from uncontrollable forest fires, or citizens of an island fleeing from their homes that have been flooded due to rising sea levels, or both. It is also crucial to identify the differences between refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP), while refugees cross borders to seek safe haven, IDPs move around in their own countries to seek refuge. It is important to recognize that there are cases when crossing borders makes more sense than moving internally within a country and vice-versa. Additionally in order to combat climate incidents to avoid large scale displacements, it is crucial for all nations to adopt some form of Natural Disaster Emergency Plan (NDERP), for nations in the developing world adopting this kind of infrastructure may require Western or European aid. NDERPs, however, can also be established on an international scale, and made in cooperation with UN Relief Agencies and its partners. However, while adaptive techniques like creating NDERPs are important, it is just as essential to work towards mitigation of climate, to ensure that further displacement cannot exist. Mitigation of climate change does pose many challenges, however through international cooperation and methods like investing in sustainable growth, France believes that this committee will be able to oversee a comprehensive plan.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://FRANCE24.English>. "Environmental Migrants: The Neglected Refugees - France 24." France 24. N.p., 04 Jan. 2016. Web. 31 Oct. 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Vaughan, Adam. "French Minister Warns of Mass Climate Change Migration If World Doesn't Act." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, 26 May 2016. Web. 31 Oct. 2016. <<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/26/french-minister-warns-of-mass-climate-change-migration-if-world-doesnt-act>>.

### Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions

France believes that with a framework like the Paris Agreement the international community will be able to successfully phase down green house gas emissions, and set the planet on the right course. However, quick and successful implementation of the Paris Agreement is of the utmost importance, as every day it is delayed the planet is more vulnerable to climate change.

France was the first industrialized nation to ratify the Paris Agreement.<sup>5</sup> Since then President François Hollande has called on other European countries to follow France's lead by the end of the year. As noted by President Hollande "Signing is good, ratifying is better," France urges all nations to ratify the agreement and intends to take action during this committee to ensure that this framework is effectively implemented.

The Kyoto Protocol entered into force 8 years after it was introduced in 1997, France believes that action must be taken to ensure that the Paris Agreement can be implemented on a faster timeline. In order to do this France believes that the international committee must expedite the approval of a new Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement that will prepare for entry into force of the Agreement and will prepare for the first session of the Paris Agreement governing body. This Ad Hoc committee will significantly aid in the recruitment of nations that have not wanted to commit to past climate change frameworks. Additionally, France believes that the transparency system that is inculcated into the Paris Agreement will help in convincing nations that are not fully committed. In terms of phasing down green house gas emission France believes that the current framework provides a comprehensive solution. By establishing binding commitments to prepare, communicate and maintain nationally determined contribution (NDC), the Paris Agreement allows and encourages nations to pursue domestic measures to achieve lower GHG emissions. Since the environmental situation is distinct across every nation setting binding goals, allowing nations to achieve goals internally is the best way forward. The agreement also calls for all member parties to communicate their NDCs every five years and sets targets by having each successive NDC representing a progression. Developed nations should take lead on this by undertaking absolute economy-wide reduction targets and by aiding developing nations in reaching their targets. The current \$100 billion fund is more than sufficient, what this committee should now focus on the successful implementation of this fund towards enhancing mitigation efforts in developing nations. Effective implementation of the Paris Agreement through the methods described above, and through supporting international mitigation and adaption efforts, France believes that zero emissions can be achieved between 2050 and 2100.

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<sup>5</sup> "France Becomes First Major Nation to Ratify UN Climate Deal." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, 15 June 2016. Web. 31 Oct. 2016. <<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jun/15/france-becomes-first-major-nation-to-ratify-un-climate-deal>>.

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