

Committee: UN FCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

Country: Honduras

Delegate: Christian Argyropoulos

Climate change is among the most prevalent and threatening issues demanding immediate resolution in the 21st century. As global temperatures rise and weather patterns become more sporadic, the imminent threat of climate change is being felt around the world. For the nation of Honduras, climate change is being felt at the highest of levels, as the country topped the list of countries most affected by climate change in period between 1992 and 2012, as 6 of the 12 strongest hurricanes in 20th century have impacted country. As one of the poorest countries in Central America, Honduras has struggled with the repercussions of consistent natural disasters and unpredictable weather patterns. Honduras seeks for increased efforts by the world's most prominent polluters, including The United States and China, looking for these superpowers lead the offensive against climate change as to protect the safety and security of its country and citizens.

Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

The lives of those in Honduras have not been spared by the destructive path of natural disasters, as the country has experienced 65 extreme weather events within the 19 years period of 1992 - 2012, and an average 329 climate change-related deaths per year. With 65% of the 8 million citizens of Honduras living below the poverty line, floods, droughts, landslides, hurricanes, and other natural events that have resulted from climate change (in particular Hurricane Mitch which devastated the country in 1992, killing 5000) have, as stated by Carlos flores, the former president of Honduras, "set economy back 50 years." Drought conditions have become increasingly common in Honduras and have made crop production, a primary practice and source of income for many Hondurans, extremely difficult as planting periods become more difficult to predict. Malnutrition among citizen continues to rise as drought conditions have decreased the overall yields of maize and beans, core components of diets and culture of most smallholder farmers. Honduras recognizes the need for action against this issue, and the delegate of Honduras is open to working with other struggling countries, as well as global superpowers to combat climate change, and also to develop a fund to assist countries heavily affected by climate change to rebuild and recover from destruction caused.

Topic 2: Climate Refugees

The issue of climate refugees has grown substantially over past decade, however in Honduras, significant portions of the population look to flee the country which has become economically torn by the effects of climate change. Approximately 150 000 citizens of Hondurans attempt to leave the country every year as to seek new life in the United States, of which almost 40 000 are deported back for illegal entrance. The United States has offered Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to many citizens of Honduras, allowing individuals to obtain work authorization in the country, although they are not eligible for permanent resident status. The government of Honduras condemns the United States for its effort to aid Honduran citizens, and has recognized the pressing reality of climate refugees. Our government is taking many steps to improving the economic position of the country, as to decrease the effects of climate change on the population, and thus discourage the need for emigration. However, more effective solutions can come

through a more widespread recognition of climate refugees, thus prompting creations of new legal legislature to protect the safety, freedoms, and rights of those climate refugees fleeing countries in critical environmental state. Honduras is willing to collaborate with neighbouring countries of the United States, and other South American countries to expand the legal coverage of emigrating Hondurans, and as well to expand the economic focus of the country to be less centered around environmentally dependable industries.

Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The achievements made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference laid the stepping stones essential for the global community to take steps forward as a unified body in combatting climate change. Honduras, being among the 180 countries involved, is incredibly optimistic of the results of this conference, as it represents a hope for the future where the impacts of climate change are subdued, and therefore the suffering that has been brought to the country through global warming is reduced. The goal of limiting rising temperatures to less than 2 degrees celsius is an ambitious, but achievable goal which Honduras believes is most realistic considering current political states of countries involved. With over 100 countries still needing to, or in the process of having the agreement ratified in their home legislative bodies, there is still a great deal of work that must be done by countries around the world to bring about true security of the environment, but the current status of the agreement is very promising. For Honduras, only positive can come from steps taken to reduce global emissions, and for this reason the Honduran government is fully committed to fulfilling their goals agreed upon to in Paris, and are adamant that the efforts made around the world will ensure a positive future for the environment.

The prominent threat of climate change is an issue which requires the utmost commitment and attention from bodies across the globe. The current state of the environment foreshadows an unfavourable future, making intervention and change in global polluting habits crucial. It is the responsibilities for the world's largest polluters to turn words into action and begin to make a difference in the environment, as it is the 100 poorest countries in the world (responsible for less than 5% of emissions) that are being most affected by the issue of global warming. Honduras is open and willing to have discussions with other countries about the steps that can be taken to make positive advancements in the fight against climate change, and is optimistic that through current, and developing agreements, real change can happen.