

Country: São Tomé and Príncipe

Committee: UNFCCC

Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

It is no secret that the world around us is ever changing. While a society adapts to the environment around them, environments also change to reflect a society's actions. This relationship leads to changes that are not always beneficial to life, a prime example of this type of change would be global warming, or climate change, sparked by carbon gas emissions. These outputs of carbon gases into earth's atmosphere have led to several unfavorable impacts on human health. From physical illnesses that range from more controllable to even uncontrollable malignant cancer tumors, to mental and neurological illnesses. The unfortunate possible impacts as well as the (frequency of the) harm being caused to individuals are increasing at relatively alarming rates. The World Health organization has concluded that the climatic changes that have occurred since the 1970s currently account for approximately 150,000 deaths annually.

This situation affects São Tomé directly, specifically the foodborne diseases and nutrition factor. Sea levels rising have led to the salinization of crops, which in turn leave people without proper nutrition. Another effect of the rising sea levels, because of climate change, is damaged coastal infrastructure. The second sewage systems break down, more health problems are created, because the country's hygiene level plummets. These are just some of the specific examples in which health is affected because of climatic change.

The Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe proposes the creation of a Climate Change Committee (CCC) whose sole focus will be to work towards improving the problems that have been created because of carbon gas emissions. The committee's first task will be to make suggestions to the countries within the United Nations to come together to form regional blocs that have similar climates. Once those blocs have been formed, the CCC will initiate an annual forum that it will advise countries to attend, along with NGO representatives, to discuss current and estimated future carbon emissions and losses of life caused directly and indirectly from these emissions. Also among topics that shall be discussed is new technologies that could be implemented within all or specific blocs, or even parts of these blocs, to aid in reducing the detrimental health impacts on humans because of climate change. The CCC will also be partaking in the diffusion of the data collected from these regional blocs during the annual forum, so as to educate people on what is happening in their environments. Once the data has been collected and analyzed, the CCC will create a world map that shows the high carbon emitting countries (colored in red), to the lowest carbon emitting countries (colored in green). The CCC, keeping in mind that developing nations don't always have access to technology that outputs carbon gas, will be making note of this on the map (by coloring them in white). These maps, along with other valuable information will be put on technological tools that are specialized for the developing and developed nations of the world so as to efficiently share get the information out. Another responsibility of the Climate Change Committee shall be to advise large companies to make long term vision plans that make them more environmentally friendly corporations. São Tomé knowing full well that that these companies tend struggle on following through with these vision plans, also proposes to advise them on how to follow through on their

plans. By incorporating all the parts of this multi step plan, São Tomé believes the effects on human health because of climate change, can be positively impacted.

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Topic 2: Climate Refugees

One in every two hundred people worldwide is an environmental refugee. This statistic is already shocking, but as time continues to pass it will only become more sizable. This number, and any future number relating to this subject is one the United Nations has to bring significance to. These are people, they are more than a factual statistic on paper. They deserve a home, food, and safety. The Human Declaration of Rights clearly states this within Article 25. By denying these refugees the right to legally be considered environmental refugees, their rights to “a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself or his family...” are also being ignored. Therefore Sao Tome believes it is time to make some changes to better society. This committee shall also be focused on helping countries create their Natural Disaster Emergency Response Plans (or NDERPs). Doing this prevents the increase in number of refugees, and lessens the loss of lives after a natural disaster. Ensuring that countries whose populations have just been affected by some sort of disaster have a plan to help them survive the immediate aftermath, and not have to migrate, also guarantees that the number of refugees does not grow even more.

The Democratic Republic of São Tomé has taken it upon themselves to establish the Commission for the Management of Disasters and the Ecological Observation Centre. The country and commission work together, with support from the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) to provide local-based information to the population. The country has also had backing from the World Bank to increase adaptive capacity of vulnerable coastal communities within the Sao Tome and Principe.

São Tomé proposes the creation of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) for this topic, as well, so as to help people who have had no choice but to leave their homes because of climate related issues. The first thing the Climate Change Committee would focus on for this situation would be to advise countries to expand their definitions of ‘refugees’ so that they recognize environmental refugees as actual refugees. Currently, most countries do not consider them just as vulnerable as other types of displaced people, but yet they too have been through traumatic events that have left them homeless, in the absence of family, and in this case vulnerable to health problems. The CCC will also suggest that all countries of the United Nations implement NDERPs, or National Disaster Emergency Response Plans. The CCC proposes to work alongside countries to help them follow a pre made efficient plan, so that the least amount of lives possible are lost in these emergencies. By cooperating with the World Food Program, the International Organization for Migration, the World Health Organization, and the UN Development Program, the individuals affected can be quickly attended to. This plan covers the food, shelter, and medicine that people just affected by a natural disaster will need. The plan takes things one step further by having a recovery program involved so that redevelopment can take place and the lives of the population can be stabilized again.

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Country: Sao Tome

Committee: UNFCCC

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

Currently, the ratification of the Paris Agreement and the further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is causing controversy. Many companies and countries say they want the best for the environment, but they are not working towards said goal. Only 94 of 197 nations within the United Nations have ratified the Paris Agreement, which works directly to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. There have been efforts from some companies to reduce their carbon footprint on the environment, but they have not been successful because the vision plans are not followed through. Companies and countries seem to not be aware of the possible advantages that would come from participating in the process of slowing down and reversing global warming. A possible explanation is lack of information reaching these countries and companies, or that they are in the process of ratifying the Paris Agreement.

The Democratic Republic of São Tomé proposes the creation of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) so as to work toward enforcing the Paris Agreement and further reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The CCC would then implement a plan that uses carbon taxes as incentives to lower carbon gas emissions. By creating a body that deals specifically with this issue, companies and countries outputting extreme amounts of gas would then have to rethink how they go about business. If they continue to produce these grand, harmful amounts of greenhouse gases they would then lose a significant amount of profit. If companies choose to adapt to the situation and efficiently go about lowering their carbon emissions, they could in the long term benefit from their adaptive measures. The Republic of Sao Tome foresees the CCC educating these companies on the impact their actions are having on the environment, and the health of the population. The lack of awareness may be a factor in why these companies have not been more cooperative in changing their techniques. Part of the plan the CCC will initiate to enforce the Paris Agreement will include the previously mentioned carbon taxes. These taxes will be beneficial to efficiently solving both problems at once, which is the essential goal of the committee. Another approach at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that the CCC will be looking into will be the application of new technologies. Very often new tools are created that could possibly be solutions to the current dilemma, but just as often these tools may not be as advantageous as they initially seem. The CCC will actively be researching and analyzing the new technologies presented as possible solutions for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions so as to come to conclusions on whether they are worth massively producing for use.

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