Delegation from Represented by

**Republic of Congo**  **Michael Oancea**

**Republic of Congo Background**

*Government*

* The Republic of Congo is located in the Central Africa surrounded by Gabon, the Atlantic Ocean, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo
* The Republic of Congo is a Republic in which elections are held in order to decide the President
* The Chief of State is President Denis Sassou Nguesso, who has been President 26 of the last 36 years
* Nguesso held a referendum in 2002 to allow him to run for a third consecutive term in office
* There have been many corruption revelations during Nguesso’s rule and there have been accusations that the results of his referendum that the government released were false
* Many people protesting against the government were killed by the police
* China, Australia, Italy, the United States and Gabon are countries that the Republic of Congo deal with the most

*People*

* The population of the Republic of Congo is 4 852 412
* The average age of the citizens of the Republic of Congo is 19.7 years
* Very few people live above the age of 55
* The population growth rate is 2.06%
* The quality of life is very low in the Republic of Congo

*Development*

* The Republic of Congo is a third world country with an unstable economy and below average growth rates compared to countries with a similar status
* The Republic of Congo has the assets needed to build a solid economy
* The Republic of Congo is having trouble treating the diseases and malnutrition, which have caused more than 2 million people to die since 2003\

*Economy*

* The Republic of Congo has a very weak economy, yet it has the resources to build a very strong one
* The currency they use is the Central African Franc
* 1 US dollar = 591.45 Central African Francs
* The Republic of Congo has a GDP per capita of about 6 700 USD
* The biggest cities in the Republic of Congo are: Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie, Kayes and Owando
* Although the Republic of Congo has a poor economy, compared to other African Countries, its economy is above average
* The Republic of Congo is a member of the World Trade Organization and the World Federation of Trade Unions
* Top Exports: crude petroleum, special purpose ships, refined copper, passenger and cargo ships and refined petroleum
* Top Imports: palm oil, iron pipes, refined petroleum, special purpose ships and cars
* Top Exporters: China, Italy, the United States, Australia and Gabon
* Top Importers: France, China, Italy, Belgium-Luxembourg, Tanzania
* Top Industries: petroleum extraction, cement, lumber, brewing, sugar, palm oil, soap, flour, cigarettes
* Agriculture Products: cassava (manioc, tapioca), sugar, rice, corn, peanuts, vegetables, coffee, cocoa; forest products
* The fiscal year in the Republic of Congo is a calendar year
* Last year the Republic of Congo had 5.231 billion dollars in exports
* Last year the Republic of Congo had 3.934 billion dollars in imports

*Military*

* The military forces in the Republic of Congo are: Congolese Armed Forces Army Navy, Congolese Air Force, Gendarmerie, Special Presidential Security Guard
* A citizen of the Republic of Congo has to be 18 years old to serve in the military
* Women are allowed to serve in the military

*United Nations*

* The Republic of Congo is one of one hundred and ninety three countries in the UN

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**Position Paper for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Topic One: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

Climate change has had a drastic effect on human health in Africa and especially in the Congo. There has been a massive increase in droughts and in 2011-2012 there was a drought that was described as “The worst drought in 60 years”. This leads to a lack of water supply for people living in the Congo as the droughts dry up many of their sources of hydration. Due to the droughts, the agriculture has been affected drastically. Lots of crops are drying up and that leaves less food for the people and also for farm animals as many cattle farms have completely wiped out do to lack of water and food. The rise in temperature is also not good for the population because temperatures are starting to becoming unbearable, which will cause a lot of the population to perish in the near future. The UN has adopted the Paris Agreement, which is a deal in which countries will work together in order to keep the global temperatures from rising well below two degrees celsius. The Republic of Congo has not done a lot to try to prevent these effects from worsening as there are inter country problems taking place over the leadership of the country, which has taken precedent over stopping climate change. A possible solution to this problem is to make very strict regulations on factories, especially in Asia about emission rates. The laws in place right now are very loose and the pollution caused by these factories is greatly affecting the Republic of Congo.

**Topic Two: Climate Refugees**

Climate change has caused many citizens in the Republic of Congo to refuge to Europe. This will decrease not only the population of the Republic of Congo, but also many other African Countries. Scientists have found a connection between climate change and the droughts occurring in Africa. If nothing is done the amount of refugees will increase over time to a point where Europe will not be able to take anymore, which will leave many refugees homeless and many will also die due to lack of food and water and also due to extreme high temperatures. Right now there is a huge problem because climate change refugees have no international protection or agency protecting their human rights. The UN has a treaty where refugees who are being persecuted because of their race and religion, or nationality have protection from them. The Republic of Congo has not taken major actions to protect refugees or to find a way to make their homeland livable to their citizens. They also have not approached the UN about this problem and are inquiring about possible solutions.

**Topic Three: Steps to enforce Paris agreement and further reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

In December of 2015, the first legally binding global climate deal took place. 195 countries agreed to what is known as the Paris agreement. The main goal is to keep the increase of global average temperature well below two degrees. This agreement affects the Republic of Congo because it agrees to provide international support to developing countries that signed the agreement. Even though the Republic of Congo did not help that much in creating this agreement, they are one of the 195 countries that signed the agreement, so they will receive international support. This will not only help the Republic of Congo minimize the effects of climate change, it will also provide a boost in morale to citizens that something is being done to help them. Although the Republic of Congo is not one of the main causes of massive greenhouse gas emissions, their emission amount will be more controlled, which will help the cause of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. If greenhouse gas emissions decrease and global temperature does not increase too much, it would have a big impact on the Republic of Congo because it would decrease the amount of deaths in the country and make food and water more accessible to everyone. This would also decrease the amount of climate refugees. The UN took a huge step by forming the Paris Agreement. This is the beginning of carving a better future not only for the Republic of Congo, but also for other countries. The Republic of Congo has not come forth and made any major suggestions about this problem.