Position Paper – Drew Himmelman GA

United Nations Framework on Climate Change

Republic of Panama

The issues of the republic of Panama:

1. The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health.

2. Climate Refugees.

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

I. The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health.

Climate change occurs when the amount of heat changes by either being added or released in the Earth's system. Warming climates are the result of either an increase in heat entering the Earth or a decrease in heat released from the atmosphere.[[1]](#footnote-1) Climate change can affect more than just a change in the weather, it also influences the seasonal changes over a longer period. Global warming refers to rising global temperatures, and is a very valuable factor in climate change.[[2]](#footnote-2) It is possible for living beings to survive on planet earth because all of the sun’s radiation that enters Earth’s atmosphere must eventually be sent back to space. This is achieved through Earth’s energy balance. Sunlight carries energy, which warms up the Earth and has the most crucial impact behind all earth's weather and climate.[[3]](#footnote-3) [Panama](http://internationalliving.com/countries/panama/) has a tropical maritime climate with a hot, humid, cloudy prolonged rainy season and a short dry season. The hurricane belt is located nowhere close to Panama; therefore, Panama frequently does not experience any natural disasters.[[4]](#footnote-4) Climate change is expected to make Panama very vulnerable to hazards because of their increase in the intensity of their precipitation. Their intensified precipitation can lead to floods and droughts which can threaten the shipping traffic of Panama’s worldly known canal. Unfortunately, this year Panama has experienced a drought due to an event where sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean were warmer than average. Because of limited water supply, ship traffic on the Canal in August was restricted per size of the ships. This affected nearly 20 percent of the 14,000 vessels that use the Canal annually and sent problems through the global supply chain. As well Panama is known for their mahogany forests and are rich with fruits such as; bananas, watermelon, and pineapples, during this drought a lot of these resources would have died from the little water supply during the drought which could lead into economic wealth issues and could start a famine throughout Panama if the drought were to continue.

**Therefore, the Republic of Panama:**

1. **Understands the need for external help from other countries to help with the destruction resulting from climate change .**
2. **Understandes the dangers and threats posed by climate change and the effects it has on human health.**

II. Climate Refugees.

When the climate in a certain area changes in a way that is harmful to the people living in it, the people that live their leave their homes to go to a safer climate. It’s sad that these people must leave the place they love because it’s not a safe environment anymore. Many places in Panama are endangered and in risk of being flooded. Rising sea levels, for example will force the migration of an estimated 28,000 indigenous residents of the Caribbean San Blas archipelago to the mainland. This is only one example of the problems caused by climate change. Currently, Panama’s government and the indigenous Guna Yala community are working to build a new community for one island, “Carti Sugdub” of approximately 900 residents, but eventually every islander must relocate, because of the destruction caused by climate change. On top of that, Panama is not the wealthiest country. This brings up so many other problems as well. Many parts of Panama, especially along the coastline, need new housing and new pipelines. This is a project that would cost more money than Panama can spare, therefore leaving the citizens no choice but to leave.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Therefore, the Republic of Panama:**

1. **Reaffirms the need for a better and more stable environment to keep its people from migrating**
2. **Understands the importance of aid from external forces.**

III. Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions.

The Paris agreement is global plan to ensure that the world avoids dangerous climate change by limiting global warming. This plan is well thought out however the only flaw is that it is hard to limit global warming in developing countries. The agreement also states the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the side effects of climate change. The EU and other developed countries will continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts in developingcountries. Developed countries are encouraged to help the developing countries that are in need. After the goal is reached a new and higher goal will be set. To get countries to sign, awareness needs to be raised for the situation of the earth and the effect that climate change has on it. The agreement will begin after 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification. Therefore, the Paris agreement would descend the amount of damage done to earth but would overall endanger the planet because due to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Therefore, the Republic of Panama:**

1. **Agrees that the Paris Agreement is an excellent idea to help save our already endangered earth**
2. **Offers to lend as much help as possible.**

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6. "Paris Agreement." *- European Commission*. N.p., n.d. Web. 23 Oct. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)