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The Republic of Nicaragua

Committee: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Topics: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health, Climate Refugees, Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions

The laborious issue of Climate change and its effects has been debated amongst the global community and has been gradually demanding the world’s attention and action. While almost the entirety of the 195 countries involved in the Paris Agreement have joined on to limit climate change to a “3-degree limit” (Pashley), Nicaragua disagrees with that course of action. The Republic of Nicaragua contributes only 0.03 percent of global emissions (Pashley) yet is the 3rd most vulnerable to the effects of climate change (Dispatch). Nicaragua has experienced 44 “extreme weather events” linked with the effects of global warming in the last 20 years (Dispatch) that include droughts, hurricanes, flooding, disease outbreaks, earthquakes, and more. The Republic of Nicaragua and its allies involved in the organization known as Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) seek to take extreme action in a short amount of time in order to offset climate change and reach goals that countries that are more susceptible to climate change can afford.

The first recommendation by the Republic of Nicaragua is to set up an appropriate Natural Disaster Emergency Response Plan (NDERP) in the case another emergency event is to happen that countries are prepared and NGOs could possibly assist said countries. In 2013 the Republic of Nicaragua has more efficiently responded to various cases of natural disasters by having an army unit devoted to civil defense. This unit has been a part of the national system SINAPRED, able to train, educate, drill, and inform the local populace on the natural disaster events that can happen in their specific area. In areas such as the pacific coastal region of Nicaragua, where it is mostly flat besides a few volcanoes, citizens are prepared for volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunamis. This method can easily be applied further into climate change related events and can be an adaptable method to all countries based on their specific needs.

This assembly could very easily recruit relevant organizations such as WHO, WMO, CCAC by bringing previous cases and information to their attention. The effects of climate change do not apply to just one organization or committee due to the international scale of the issue and all of its repercussions. Many cases that are involved with UNFCCC are also cases that have to do with the WHO and WMO. There exists a correlation between data of climate change over the years with previous outbreaks of diseases and extreme weather. For example, in 2014 Nicaragua had experienced droughts far earlier in the dry season just after experiencing a series of landslides and floods not two months earlier. It is imperative to have other organization’s understanding and support in that this issue is a global one, incorporating all committees and countries alike. This committee can show other organizations that instead of dealing with the symptoms of an issue, that you can eliminate all those issues by targeting the source.

For the countries that most experience the effects of climate change, it is often the lack of ability to adapt to the issues whether it be lack of technology, infrastructure, or simply the economic means. This issue can be mitigated by allowing NGOs such as CARE, Greenpeace, 350.org, Sierra Club, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. NGO’s such as these offer a support system that allows countries to maintain their sovereignty while still being able to be supported by other countries. These organizations can inform, bring aid and relief in times of need, and gather funding and resources to give countries the means to combat climate change.

The Republic of Nicaragua is one of the few countries who have refused to sign on to COP22, however there is very pertinent reason for it. COP22 is flawed in the sense that its setting a goal that is far too low for countries who need to have strong action taken very soon to reduce temperature gains far lower than an average of 2.7 degrees. An average of 2.7 degrees Celsius can mean increases in temperature as high as 4 degrees Celsius. Temperature changes that high can destroy the fragile ecosystems and resources within the countries most affected by climate change. Paul Oquist, the Private Secretary for National Policies for Nicaragua, said it best: “ We have to see the mechanism because the way things stand now the agreement will take us to a two or three degree world and in most of the developing countries that becomes four degrees and quite obviously that’s absolutely unacceptable. That is a threat to our agriculture, that is a threat to our cattle grazing, that’s a threat to our fishing, a threat to our forestry, so actually we have to see the results.” The Republic of Nicaragua has a far lower temperature increase goal at an average of 1 degree Celsius increases and to aim to reach that goal by 2075. This is the kind of action necessary to ensure the safekeeping of the nation’s most susceptible to climate change. Nations could attain these goals by following the example set by Ontario, which is taking one of the more aggressive actions towards climate change by set emissions caps and rewards. The system rewards businesses that operate under the emission cap and requires businesses operating above it to pay fees or put credit towards the businesses operating below the cap. Ontario also instructs that the funding from fees on cap exceeders goes into Research and development on cleaner energies as well as climate change relief efforts. This funding could go to alternative fuels, green energies, and emission reducing measures and alternatives. A system such as this one applied at an international level, accompanied by the groundwork of NGO’s has a strong chance of meeting the demands set at the end of the century-- having net-zero emissions. Having an international code that every country is held accountable for can support developing nations and moderately developed nations.

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