United Nations Framework on Climate Change

Climate refugee, Paris Agreement, Human Health

Kazakhstan

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My name is Hailey Lavoie and I am representing Kazakhstan. This country is located in the Northern Central Asian and Eastern Europe country that extends from the Caspian Sea in the west to the Altai Mountains at its eastern border with China and Russia. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country. Kazakhstan is home to 17.04 million people. They have the largest economy in Central Asia generating 60% of the region's GDP. It has enormous oil reserves as well as mineral and metals. Major trade partners include China, France, Germany, Italy and Greece. Kazakhstan is also a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

Climate Refugee:

Kazakhstan has been subjected to many natural disasters and a high increase in the average temperature that are climate change driven. The country has suffered floods, extreme temperatures, storms, wildfires and landslides. This has resulted in habitants having to re-locate and find another home, or in worse case, death has been a result of the disasters. These floods have destroyed villages, transportation infrastructure, and disrupted electricity and water supplies. Kazakhstan’s temperature has risen by 2 -3 degrees Celsius, which is more than double the global average. This increase in temperature has contributed to the disasters that are negatively impacting Kazakhstan. Possible resolutions can include the improvement of emergency preparedness with regards to the extreme weather scenarios. This will mean being organized for all disasters that could occur.

Paris Climate Change Agreement:

Kazakhstan has recently signed the Paris Climate Change Agreement. This is significant because the Paris Agreement is an important symbol of the world’s determination to end environmental degradation. The agreement addresses greenhouse gas emissions mitigations, adaptation and finance. Kazakhstan is a country that makes a substantial contribution to addressing both national and regional level problems. Signing this agreement holds great significance to the implementation of this agreement. Kazakhstan is prepared to host EXPO 2017, which focuses on sustainable energy for the future. Kazakhstan is taking a leadership role in highlighting the need to end climate change. This is in hopes to ensure an end to climate change and restore Kazakhstan to a stable country. It will be interesting to check in after the EXPO to see how successful Kazakhstan was in spreading the urgent method of climate change issues. It’s also very important to track the progress of the commitments made by all the countries to see if they are doing what they said they will do to mitigate climate change.

Human Health:

Kazakhstan’s climate change promotes infectious disease and increases mortality and morbidity from extreme weather. The lack of water affects food security and nutrition, particularly for subsistence farmers. Not having water available and proper sanitation increases the risk of waterborne diseases. Reduced wheat production and other crops can affect nutrition which overall has an affect on the well being of people’s health. Observations have been made where mosquitos and mites are carrying infectious diseases that are causing health issues. All of these epidemics have put Kazakhstan at a risk for serious health problems affecting many people. Results of these severe epidemics can include death and chronic health issues. Possible resolutions can include regularly assessing health impact, vulnerability and health system adaptation. As well as enforcing and controlling treatment of infectious and cardiovascular diseases. Finally, improving the sanitary and hygienic infrastructure while focusing on water intake facility and water collectors will all aid in the success to rebuild Kazakhstan.