**Position Paper – Meike Scheffler GA**

**United Nations Framework on Climate Change**

**Kingdom of Lesotho**

The issues for the Kingdom of Lesotho are:

1. The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health.
2. Climate Refugees.
3. Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions.
4. The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health.

Climate change occurs when long-term weather patterns are altered for example, through human activity. Global warming is a measure of climate change, and is a rise in the average global temperature. We are able to live on planet earth because of the warmth that the sun gives off. While most of this radiation bounces back into space some of it gets trapped by a layer of insulation that surrounds our earth. However, we have released so many greenhouse gases that our earth now traps more heat than we need. We need atmospheric balance in order to keep our climate steady, if we disrupt it we will see drastic effects on our globe. Lesotho experiences frequent droughts that result in poor harvests and large livestock losses. Heavy snowfalls, strong winds and floods also affect the country, entailing adverse social impacts. Lesotho's high vulnerability to climate risks, pose a direct threat to sectors such as agriculture, forestry and infrastructure. Consequences of climate change, such as extreme heat waves, rising sea-levels, changes in precipitation resulting in flooding and droughts, intense hurricanes, and degraded air quality, directly affect the physical, and psychological health of human beings.  For example, changes in precipitation create changes in the availability of water and or how much you have of it, as well as resulting in extreme weather events such as intense hurricanes and flooding. Other factors such as extreme drought could significantly bring down agriculture and forestry. The other side of climate change is the affect it has on humans. When a change in weather occurs, the human body needs to adjust. Often though, these changes come about without warning, meaning that there is no time for the human body to adjust. This results in disease and in the worst-case scenario death. The geographical location of Lesotho is on the Southern point of African. The Sub-continental location of Lesotho exposes it to significant influences of both the warm Indian Current from the Indian Ocean and the cold Benguela Current from the Atlantic Ocean. Life in Lesotho is therefore difficult and unpredictable. The extreme weather conditions there often result in disease and death for most.

**Therefore, the kingdom of Lesotho:**

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

When the climate and weather conditions in a certain place become to bad to live in people migrate or better flee from their country to escape disease and death. These people often have to leave everything behind and start all over. For example, a tsunami usually destroys all homes and living areas and takes the lives of many. This results in impossible living conditions. A tsunami is usually followed by a drought or a long period of time where the sun constantly shines. The dead bodies lying around will start to rot away and so will the animals that died during. This makes it impossible for people there to start over and so they are forced to leave. Often even smaller things like not enough water or no clean water can cause people to leave their country. Many parts of Lesotho for example, don’t have clean or enough water, therefore the Basotho (People from Lesotho) Often migrate to different places where there are better living conditions.

**Therefore, the kingdom of Lesotho:**

1. **Understands the need for a better and more stable environment to keep its people from migrating**
2. **Excepts help from external forces.**
3. Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions.

The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. This is a great plan however it is difficult to carry through because the goal of 1.5°C is harder to reach for developing countries. The agreement also recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse 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. Countries are also encouraged to offer support to any countries in need. After the goal is reached a new and higher goal will be set. The agreement opened for signature for one year on 22 April 2016. In order to get countries to sign, we need to raise awareness for the situation of our earth and the effect that climate change has on it. The individual countries should also take responsibility for their actions. The agreement will enter into force after 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification. The Paris agreement will greatly reduce the chance of more damage being done to our planet, which would put us in more danger than we already are do too climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Therefore, the kingdom of Lesotho:**

1. **Agrees, that the Paris Agreement is a good idea and that it would save our planet from more harm.**
2. **Offers too help as much as possible.**

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