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**Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

Climate change has become a topic of major concern in the 21st century. It affects every country and has negative consequences on human health. While greenhouse gases (GHG) are responsible for climate change, they are also responsible for air pollution, causing serious health problems . They are connected to the early death of 16 thousand people per year in Hungary[[1]](#footnote-1). The changing, warming climate also has negative consequences on the geographical expansion of different creatures that spread a variety of contagious diseases (ex: malaria). In the health sector, Hungary underook actions such as the installation of “alert and warning systems for heat, ultraviolet radiation, smog and pollen”. Furthermore, “a real-time surveillance system for emerging diseases, including a monitoring system for vectors and vector-borne diseases in humans and animals, is planned.”[[2]](#footnote-2) (See topic 3 for more undertaken actions and solutions)

**Topic 2: Climate Refugees**

The Earth’s climate has been changing at a speed that has exceeded scientific forecasts. Thus, this sudden change brings natural disasters as well as consequences such as famine and drought, forcing certain communities to leave their homes. Since 2009, an estimated one person every second has been displaced by a disaster, with an average of 22.5 million people displaced by climate- or weather-related events since 2008[[3]](#footnote-3). Hungary is aware of these events and is strongly committed to find a compromise between the different interests of countries, and interests of climate, environment, energy and industry policies in order to minimize the effects of climate change for all nations, especially those prone to natural disasters and famine. (See topic 3 for undertaken actions and solutions)

**Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions**

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are directly correlated with global warming and Hungary thinks it is crucial to adopt measures in order to reduce these emissions. As a Party of the Convention, Hungary has been preparing annual inventories of greenhouse gas emissions using the IPCC methodology since 1994. Starting 2005, Hungary has experienced an almost constant emission reduction in the energy sector. Current GHG emissions are by 28% lower than in 2005.[[4]](#footnote-4) Furthermore, domestic civic organisations seek to combat climate change and to realise a greener climate policy. “WWF Hungary” operates a variety of programmes that promote climate consciousness in the general public, and the organisation is also engaged in the climate policy related discourse.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Hungary was the first country of the European Union to ratify the Paris agreement, and also one of the few EU countries that have ratified the Doha Amendment, establishing the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol until 2020. In the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes, Hungary undertook to keep its CO2 emissions in 2000 at or below the 1990 level. In the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, Hungary committed to reduce the average greenhouse gas emission by 6% of the base year level on a five year period (2008 to 2012)[[6]](#footnote-6) . In 2011, “Hungary was performing even better than pledged, for domestic emissions were 34% lower than the base level established for Hungary in the Kyoto Protocol.”[[7]](#footnote-7) According to the 5th National Report submitted in compliance with the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, by 2020 Hungary has to lower the emissions by 35% as compared to the 1990 level.

In order to achieve these goals to combat climate change, Hungary has implemented solutions such as the reduction of the use of fossil energy resources, the launch of energy conservation movements, the development of urban and suburban public transportation and large-scale recycling of products. Further solutions include the re-design of the fiscal policy with a view towards climate protection and the design of a support scheme for the production of electric power through renewable energy in a way that allows the replacement of the greatest quantity of fossil fuels possible.

1. http://www.euro.who.int/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0007/82294/hungary\_protect\_health\_factsheets.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/82294/hungary_protect_health_factsheets.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/8812.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.fesbp.hu/common/pdf/Climate_Change_Policy.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Hungarian Meteorological Service Unit of National Emissions Inventories*, National Inventory Report for 1985-2014,* Hungary, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/8812.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)