**Committee:** United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP22)

**Country:** Monaco

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

Although it is one of the smallest countries in the world, Monaco completely recognises the detrimental impact that climate change is having on the world. Monaco has dedicated more than 150 years to protecting the environment, and is one of the most environmentally sensitive countries in Europe.[[1]](#footnote-1) Climate change is having many impacts on human health, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases, malnutrition, food insecurity, heat-waves and air pollution. In order to combat this, Monaco emphasises the importance of Strong, effective action to limit climate change in order to avoid unacceptable risks to global health.

Therefore actions that reduce climate change and improve health need to be scaled up urgently. This would include more financing for health adaptation, creating climate–resilient communities, and protecting families. The government of Monaco feels that education and capacity are key to changing lifestyle and behaviour, and that partnerships can accelerate implementation. [[2]](#footnote-2) During a high level meeting of small countries, the government of Monaco agreed that health affects of climate change should be tackled through close collaboration between health ministries and other sectors. Joint action is important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and scaling up cooperation on climate related emergencies. The WHO regional office for Europe launched a new report titled *Intersectional Action for Health – experiences from small countries*, which reveals how different countries are making organizational changes and involving various sectors to reduce disease and improve health.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In addition to this, Monaco will continue to comply with the continent of Europe’s role in the prevention of climate change and protection of human health, which includes WHO/ Europe in supporting countries in improving their ability to manage risks in health emergencies. This includes all hazards and natural disasters. Additionally, WHO/ Europe can coordinate the international health response to provide relief and recovery to the affected people. WHO/Europe will work with member states to respond to emergencies caused by climate change hazards.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Monaco envisions a sustainable world, and is very actively engaged in the pursuit to improve the health of those affected by climate change.

**Topic #2: Climate Refugees**

As more and more people are displaced each year due the changes in climate, the government of Monaco understand the importance of protecting people who are made vulnerable by climate change. Monaco has followed a variety of steps to decrease the threat to these people and reduce the impacts of climate change. Serge Telle, the minister of the state of Monaco, said that the world would see a steep rise in the number of climate related immigrations in the coming decade. This issue is of very high importance to Monaco, and is one of the reasons why the state is involved in the 2030 agenda, which includes Monaco’s commitment to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by then, and the Paris Agreement.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Monaco also supports inclusions of reference to human rights in the next Paris Agreement. The country also referred to human rights in its latest communication with The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and has sponsored a variety of human rights resolutions, with relevance to climate change. Some of these resolutions include Resolution 7/23 (2008), Resolution 10/4 (2009) and Resolution 18/22 (2011). Monaco greatly expresses the hope that COP22 will conclude a climate agreement that includes urgent mechanisms in order to support the most vulnerable people on the front lines of the changes to our climate system. [[6]](#footnote-6)

Monaco also greatly focuses on the threats that are causing out climate to change, which in turn displaces these people. Prince Albert of Monaco is very supportive of preventative measure to prevent the ocean level from rising. This is because the country feels that a relocation of people should be viewed as a last resort, and show allow the people a migration of dignity, which is timely, orderly, and fully resourced.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Topic #3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Monaco has drawn up specific plans in order to reduce their green house gas emissions, which include their primary sources of emissions, which is road transport, waste-to-energy, and heating and cooling in buildings. Therefore the action plan that will be implemented by Monaco acknowledges its primary emissions and priorities its strategies accordingly. This notion is carried even further by adopting a target that surpasses the requirements stated in the IPCC, and by showing continued support for the development of the latest technologies.

Despite its small size, Monaco has the ability to become a forerunner in its innovative strategies to combat climate change.[[8]](#footnote-8) Prince Albert II of Monaco has committed to halving Monaco’s carbon footprint by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, and has also renewed its commitment to make the Principality carbon neutral by 2050. Monaco also supported the International Oceanographic Commissions “2015 Ocean and Climate Platform”. It has been the personal commitment of Prince Albert II to take action for healthy and productive oceans and seas. These future plans for Monaco are ambitious, and will require significant investments on the part of the government, and will also mean changes for the individuals in the private sector, who will have to get used to new regulations. [[9]](#footnote-9)

Executive Secretary Christina Figeures is encouraging countries to come forward with their intended nationally determined contributions, as many countries commitment and support is necessary. Monaco submitted its new climate action plan to the UN on 29th July 2015, ahead of the deadline.[[10]](#footnote-10)

**Bibliography**

“Climate Refugees’ Connotation Rejected in Kiribati Dialogue.” October 14, 2015.

Accessed November 10, 2016. <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/climate-refugees-connotation-rejected-kiribati-dialogue>.

“Health Is Central to Climate Change Action.” December 11, 2015. Accessed

November 10, 2016. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/monaco/news/news/2015/12/health-is-central-to-climate-change-action>.

Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group. “Country Profile: Monaco.” 2015.

Accessed November 10, 2016. <http://climaterights.org/database/monaco/>.

“INDC - Submissions.” Accessed November 10, 2016.

[http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc/Submission%20Pages/submissi ons.aspx](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc/Submission%20Pages/submissions.aspx).

“Ministers Endorse Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health at High-Level

Meeting of Small Countries.” October 12, 2016. Accessed November 10,

2016. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/news/news/2016/10/ministers-endorse-joint-statement-on-climate-change-and-health-at-high-level-meeting-of-small-countries>.

“Monaco.” December 30, 2015. Accessed November 10, 2016.

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/70/monaco>.

“Monaco Submits Its Climate Action Plan Ahead of 2015 Paris Agreement.” July 29,

2016. Accessed November 10, 2016. <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/monaco-submits-its-climate-action-plan-ahead-of-2015-paris-agreement/>.

“MONACO & THE ENVIRONMENT.” Accessed November 10, 2016.

<http://www.monaco-consulate.com/pa2f/monaco.html>.

United Nations. “Monaco.” September 22, 2016. Accessed November 10, 2016.

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/71/monaco>.

“WHO Accelerates Preparedness and Response for Natural Disasters.” September 2,

2016. Accessed November 10, 2016. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/news/news/2016/09/who-accelerates-preparedness-and-response-for-natural-disasters>.

1. “Monaco and the Environment” Monaco, accessed November 10th, 2016, http://www.monaco-consulate.com/pa2f/monaco.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Health Is Central to Climate Change Action,” World Health Organisation, December 11, 2015, accessed November 10, 2016, http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/monaco/news/news/2015/12/health-is-central-to-climate-change-action. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Ministers Endorse Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health at High-Level Meeting of Small Countries,” World Health Organisation Europe, October 12, 2016, accessed November 10, 2016, http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/news/news/2016/10/ministers-endorse-joint-statement-on-climate-change-and-health-at-high-level-meeting-of-small-countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “WHO Accelerates Preparedness and Response for Natural Disasters,” World Health Organisation Europe, September 2, 2016, accessed November 10, 2016, http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/news/news/2016/09/who-accelerates-preparedness-and-response-for-natural-disasters. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Monaco,” General Debate, September 22, 2016, accessed November 10, 2016, https://gadebate.un.org/en/71/monaco. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Country Profile: Monaco,” Human Rights and Climate Change, 2015, accessed November 10, 2016, http://climaterights.org/database/monaco/. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “Climate Refugees’ Connotation Rejected in Kiribati Dialogue,” ReliefWeb, October 14, 2015, accessed November 10, 2016, http://reliefweb.int/report/world/climate-refugees-connotation-rejected-kiribati-dialogue. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “INDC - Submissions,” INDC, accessed November 10, 2016, http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc/Submission%20Pages/submissions.aspx. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Monaco,” General Assembly of the United Nations, December 30, 2015, accessed November 10, 2016, https://gadebate.un.org/en/70/monaco. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. “Monaco Submits Its Climate Action Plan Ahead of 2015 Paris Agreement,” UN Climate Change Newsroom, July 29, 2016, accessed November 10, 2016, http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/monaco-submits-its-climate-action-plan-ahead-of-2015-paris-agreement/. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)