Committee - Framework on Climate Change

Country - Kiribati

One of the most recent issues that has plagued global society is climate change, a series of mass emission of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, which increases temperature and changes the climate. Although the greenhouse effect is natural, generating an integral portion of heat for the world, the recent overabundance of greenhouse gases has uncontrollably increased the temperature. A global rise in temperature, in a domino effect, raises sea levels by melting glaciers found within the Arctic and Antarctic, which has a profound effect on the status of the modern world. The effects have been staggering; from 1880 to 2016, the global temperature has risen by 0.9o Celsius, and is expected to rise even faster than before. Currently, the average sea level is rising by 3 centimeters per decade; it is key to remember that 44% of all people live within at most 150 kilometers from the sea. The United Nations has been slowly progressing towards addressing climate change, with the Kyoto Protocol being a significant directive. Climate change is now one of the most fundamental issues that the UN is addressing.

A nation of islands, Kiribati is one of the nation-states most affected by climate change. With sea levels rising increasingly faster, the nation has had sincere difficulty with enduring this concerning, unrelenting problem. The nation has already been contending with overpopulation, systemic throughout the Pacific islands; as sea levels rise, overpopulation will surge. It is reported that Kiribati will be the first state to be completely submerged by water due to climate change, and that two uninhabited islands have already been submerged. In 2014, Anote Tong, prior I-Kiribati president, reported that “For our people to survive, then they will have to migrate. Either we can wait for the time when we have to move people en masse or we can prepare them — beginning from now.”

The government of Kiribati has relentlessly advocated for the progressing reforms that pursued greenhouse gas reduction. Kiribati has always been an avid supporter and contributor to the Kyoto Protocol, which protects both the environment of the Earth and that of Kiribati. The state of Kiribati believes that climate change is one of the most influential and critical challenges that the modern world needs to react to more severely, and that immediate action must follow for global security and prosperity. Some of these methods would include the regulation of carbon emissions and the supported access and endorsement of environmentally-friendly energy sources, including wind and solar power over malignant nonrenewable fossil fuels. Kiribati also would advocate for the condemnation of nation-states who did not ratify the protocol, including the United States of America and Canada, which had the economic potential as developed nations to uphold the duty of combating climate change, but laud nation-states which, despite economic troubles, persisted with a global environmental goal, including Kazakhstan.

The state of Kiribati has suffered constantly from the omnipresent maladies that have been generated by climate change. This global danger will not subside on its own, so it is the responsibility of the world to enforce strict measures to terminate otherwise unregulated climate change. As one of the most affected nations, Kiribati believes that it is integral to halt climate change via immediate action with reforms on regulating carbon emissions and guiding both developed and developing nations to undergo more beneficial energy creation methods, like hydroelectric energy. For Kiribati to still exist, nation-states across the world need to unilaterally focus to combat the ensuing change in climate by greenhouse gases.