***Delegation from*  *Represented by***

**Turkmenistan Collège Charlemagne**

***Position paper for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change***

**I. The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

The world in which we live in today finds itself in a very bad state where the air is strongly polluted and greenhouse gas emissions are off the charts. This, undoubtedly, has an effect on human health. Thermal stress and infectious diseases are some of the more noticeable consequences generated by this transpiring climate variability. The World Health Organization (WHO) has already taken action by publishing a plan which aims to tackle the problems associated to climate change and its impact on health. There have been many other proposals in the past by various organizations, all of whom have set their main target to deal with this situation before it is too late.

Although, Turkmenistan is not renowned for its contribution in the fight against climate change, it is directly affected by this rising issue. In fact, it would seem that the average temperature in Turkmenistan has increased by 1.4°C since the 1950s. It is expected that health will be the sector most impacted by climate change due to an increasing number and magnitude of extreme weather events, air pollution, water shortages, and increasing temperatures. This deterioration of human health is projected to increase the threat of contracting respiratory diseases due to the degradation of air quality as well as the chances of water-borne diseases caused by the increasing number of floods and droughts.

Certain measures have already been taken in order to deal with this situation. For example, the World Bank Group has been actively engaged in the preparedness and control of the avian influenza. Also, the World Health Organization is currently in the process of eliminating malaria from Turkmenistan. We also have as an example the United States Agency for International Development, which is working on the training of nurses and other projects with similar goals. It is thus essential for us to continue these various projects and programs in order to control the situation before it is too late.

**II. Climate Refugees**

A climate refugee is a person who was forced to leave their home because it was no longer safe due to severe changes in their local environment. The term “Climate refugee” is an expression that is much less talked about in world news even though it is a serious situation that needs to be addressed quickly. In fact, there are already many people across the world that could are on the move due to rising sea levels and massive variations in temperatures. These people, also called “Environmental Migrants”, have lost their homes and have nowhere to go. This problem is very subtle and gradual which is why it is important to discuss this situation before it becomes too overwhelming.

Despite Turkmenistan having close to no climate refugees, it still feels like it is a serious problem mainly because its country is very prone to climate refugees in the near future. Being one of the most active seismic regions in the Alpine-Himalayan belt of Eurasia, Earthquakes along with landslides, avalanches and mudslides are very big risk factors that should be taken seriously and that should be seen as a serious threat for the millions of Turkmen living in the country. If not addressed quickly, the citizens of Turkmenistan may have to find a new home in the near future.

Turkmenistan should still continue supporting and participating in the many programs and projects that have already been established in order to control the climate change situation. It should still have a contingency plan just in case they could not prevent the creation of climate refugees in Turkmenistan. Incidentally, Turkmenistan have already started thinking of some emergency plans and training seminars have already been put in place in order to be most prepared in case of an emergency.

**III.** **Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions**

Last year, in 2015, a conference was held in Paris where all the countries part of the United Nations met in order to discuss how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to reduce the effect of climate change on the world. Nearly 180 countries signed the Paris Agreement. The only remaining step is for these nations to implement this on their country back home. Having a specific set of objectives, they have to do their best to fulfill them. Incidentally, this was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol: all of them past efforts.

Turkmenistan signed the Paris Agreement and has been offering nonstop support in order to reduce climate change. It has been continually promoting green economy. They have also been doing their best to ensure mitigation and adaptation to the climate change. They have already submitted their plan on how they will enforce the Paris Agreement. It will continue to provide its total support towards the fight against climate change in the future.

A carbon tax should be imposed in order to discourage mass carbon emissions that are harmful to the environment. Also, Turkmenistan should participate in carbon emission trading where it would limit their quantity of carbon emission while also giving them to possibility of earning money which could be invested in further measures that would help in the fight against climate change.