SSUNS 2016 Position Paper for UNFCCC

**Delegation**: Laos

**Name**: Gurjog Gambhir

**School**: Mentor College

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

Despite the actions taken to slow climate change, it has been recognized that global temperatures and sea levels will continue to rise. Anthropogenic actions have resulted in deadly consequences for countries around the world, hence affecting climate variability. For example, precipitation and floods have created an increase of water-borne diseases and economic depressions in Laos.[[1]](#endnote-1) Mitigating and adapting to these events can decrease the effects of air pollution and greenhouse gases. Laos’s temperatures are quickly increasing and their dry seasons are getting longer.[[2]](#endnote-2)

In the past, Laos has ratified the UNFCCC in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2003 showing its interest to make change.[[3]](#endnote-3) The delegation of Laos would like to “secure a future where the Lao PDR is capable of mitigating and adapting to changing climate conditions in a way that … advances the quality of life for all Lao people.”[[4]](#endnote-4) Pollution from mining and timber industries have greatly affected the health of the Lao people. Laos also wants to be able to adapt to changes like infectious diseases, by spreading awareness and taking precaution through immunizations.[[5]](#endnote-5)

Laos projects that countries can collectively ask large organizations such as the World Health Organization to provide financial support and to help with public awareness.[[6]](#endnote-6) All countries should prepare rough numbers of approximately how many people have died in their country due to climate reasons, in order to get organizations to help. For countries with limited adaptive capacity, international aid can first be used to maximize how much they can adapt, and later to provide relief to areas that have been greatly affected by climate change, to ensure survival. Laos, for example, has experiences chaos like washed away streets that add to the financial aspects of climate change. [[7]](#endnote-7)

**Topic Two: Climate Refugees**

Because climate change is becoming more common, more and more people are entering different countries to find environmental protection. These people took action to ensure their survival. A problem facing these people is that they do not have laws to protect their human rights, hence they are not completely satisfied in their new homes. Over the next few decades, there are estimations to having between 25 million and 1 billion climate refugees. As climate changes halts the growth of Laos’s economy, more Lao people are leaving to different countries where they can find hope. These numbers are only expected to increase.

Laos has now included climate change into its Global Climate Change Alliance Programme, so it can promote sustainable development and help those in poverty because of climate change.[[8]](#endnote-8) Laos’s government has stated that it wants to further work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to help people that have suffered from climate change and have relocated because of its deadly impacts. They want to find solutions to growing and managing land so that their health is not affected.[[9]](#endnote-9)

Laos proposes that most countries cooperate in making climate change less harmful. The first step would be to have countries on board to provide financial support to those individuals/countries who need it. The possible way to do this is to educate countries on the benefits of reducing global temperatures. Some countries have chosen not to reduce emissions, but contributions from other countries is crucial. The ultimate goal would be to use the support to tackle climate change and reduce the number of citizens leaving the country. Laos would currently like to focus on reducing climate refugees as many of them don’t find laws in different countries to help protect themselves, hence if they have financial support they may choose to stay.[[10]](#endnote-10)

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

Although it is difficult for countries to agree on a set of targets, the goal is essentially to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Overall, the agreement will come into effect in 2020 if at least 55 countries representing at least 55% of global emissions have completed the process. Laos is completely supportive of the agreement to come to success.

Laos has ratified the Paris agreement as of September 2016.[[11]](#endnote-11) As stated, Laos fully supports the development of strong alliances around the globe with the hope to decrease the negative effects of climate change. Laos would like to promote sustainable development and receive investments to help achieve lower carbon emissions.[[12]](#endnote-12) The government of Laos understands that any climate change in Southeast Asia will affect its economic growth, so it would like to create adaptive strategies for its natural industries.[[13]](#endnote-13)

COP22 can promote the advantages of the agreement and provide statistics on the effects of climate change today, as well as future projected effects. Laos believes that countries that are highly affected by climate change should receive financial support, as well as countries that have limited adaptive capacity. However, the $100 billion USD fund mandate should not be increased at the moment as first it is important to see whether this is enough, then countries can make changes after. Although the current goals are difficult to achieve, the committee can promote productivity and efficiency to further cut emissions. Countries can reduce emissions more wisely and can test all the possible methods to do so. Because natural resources are necessary, Laos proposes climate-friendly forms of managing land and growing crops. In particular, ones that produce less greenhouse gases like methane. This way they can help citizens sustain themselves without continuing to harm the environment.[[14]](#endnote-14)

**Works Cited**

“10 Facts on Climate Change in Lao PDR.” [*www.giz.de*](http://www.giz.de)*.* Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. 2 November 2016. Web.

“Climate – Paris Agreement – Ratification by Laos (Sept. 7, 2016).” [*www.diplomatie.gouv*](http://www.diplomatie.gouv)*.* French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. 5 November 2016.

Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” [*www.gec.jp*](http://www.gec.jp)*.* Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web.

“National Strategy on Climate Change of Lao PDR.” [*www.la.undp.org*](http://www.la.undp.org)*.* 12 Mar 2010. 2 November 2016. Web.

“The Lao PDR Global Climate Change Alliance Programme.” [*www.gcca.eu*](http://www.gcca.eu)*.* 2 November 2016. Web.

1. **Endnotes**

   10 Facts on Climate Change in Lao PDR.” Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. 10 Facts on Climate Change in Lao PDR.” Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. “National Strategy on Climate Change of Lao PDR.” 12 Mar 2010. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web.

   [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. 10 Facts on Climate Change in Lao PDR.” Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. “The Lao PDR Global Climate Change Alliance Programme.” 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. “Climate – Paris Agreement – Ratification by Laos (Sept. 7, 2016).” French Ministry of Foreign

    Affairs and International Development. 5 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Immala Inthaboualy. “Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR.” Department of National Disaster Management and Climate Change. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. 10 Facts on Climate Change in Lao PDR.” Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. “The Lao PDR Global Climate Change Alliance Programme.” 2 November 2016. Web. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)