UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE: COP 22 1

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In the past few decades, the issue of climate change and environmental problems has become a rising concern for the populace of the entire planet. As sea levels began rising, as the ozone layer dissipated and caused a drastic rise in skin cancer, and as glaciers melted to nothing, people began to worry if something was not done quickly, there wouldn't be much left of the globe to salvage.

The issue being addressed today is the fact that some countries are particularly important influences on the recent changes, while others, such as the republic of Niger, are in consequence greatly affected by this issue.

The delegation of the republic of Niger recognizes that many countries and charities have put in the effort to try and counter the effects of this issue on smaller, weaker countries such as itself. However, although these efforts are appreciated, they are in no way equivalent to the amount of damage caused by the powerful and industrialized countries that use sometimes counterproductive and almost always non environmentally friendly measures to continuously rise economically. These dangerous practices have caused many issues, such as drought and flooding all over the world. This is a massive threat to the population of the republic of Niger due to the fact that we run mostly on our own agriculture. The republic of Niger is not a strong economic power and its nominal gross domestic product is less than eight billion dollars. This country cannot afford to import its goods and therefore needs their land to remain fertile enough to grow necessary sustenance. As the issue of climate change gained importance, the republic of Niger saw an increase in cases of flooding near the Niger River, and a decrease in water everywhere else. The republic of Niger has an area of 1 267 000 square kilometers, and the water source only consists of 300 square kilometers. Not only does this lack of water have an effect on the national economy, due to its main source being agriculture, but it also strongly affects the general population of Niger, who tends to grow its own crops, due to its lack of purchasing power. Since a rise in inflation rate, specifically the price of food, in 2008, 63% of the county lives below the poverty line. The World Bank published a report in 2013, the agricultural sector risk assessment in Niger, which determined our country was greatly threatened by the risks of drought and flooding. This country has also suffered the destruction of homes due to bush fires. In sum, as long as corporations keep affecting climate change, the republic of Niger and many other countries at risk will get closer and closer to suffering a nationwide tragedy.

We strongly believe if powerful influences impose more laws to assure environmentally friendly practices in production, not only will this save many at risk countries, but this will also save corporations the costs that are imposed on them by the obligation to continuously bail out these endangered countries. The delegation of the republic of Niger thanks you for your consideration.

Sources:

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