

SSUNS 2016

Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium

**Committee: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

**Country: Republic of South Africa**

In the past two centuries, climate change has gradually become one of the most important concept in the development of human civilization; while the initial of the issue was due to the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, starting from the 1950s, it has been showing an exponential growing rate, while it reaches the highest than ever before today, which causes the global temperature to hit the highest point in history. According to statistics, the global temperature has shown an increase of 1.7°F. Republic of South Africa, or South Africa, is one of the countries that are being affected greatly throughout the development of this issue. The dramatic change in climate has been raising the occurrences of droughts and floods in the country, which is causing massive impacts to its society, due to the need of addressing reconstruction of areas where the rate of droughts and floods are increased, and reaction. Researches on this issue also indicated that as it worsens, the climates of South Africa will be even drier.

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

Mitigation and adaption are two main methods that can be utilized by the global society in order to deal with the issue of climate change; by implementing the methods, it is needed for countries and regions to achieve a high level of cooperation.

It is obvious that, by controlling the issue of climate change at a reasonable level, the severity of climate change’s impact on human health will be reduced. There are various methods that can be used for adaption. A significant solution to this specific topic is standardization and reexamination of the domestic healthcare systems in areas that are no fully developed. The healthcare system is continuously underfunded and understaffed in South Africa; and as there will be an increase in the need of medical care, it is an urge for the country to address improvements to the healthcare system according to a specific and achievable standard. Various researching organizations, such as WHO, can support this action by providing statistics and further information about the topic, and making recommendations to the governments on subjects of climate change and related issues, especially impact on human health, in the given scenario.

While amendments to the healthcare system is a highly considerable solution to the issue of climate change’s effect on human health for a relatively short term, implementation of policies indicating to restriction of human activities that cause the further development of climate change shows consideration of a longer term. Actions such as reduction of factory emissions, adoption of new sources of energy can be implemented by the governments, especially governments of the countries that produce a higher quantity of greenhouse emissions.

Meanwhile, international aid, such as various resources for specific areas can be implemented to the countries with limited adaptive capacity to climate change, by countries with higher degrees of adaption. For instance, spare international medical professionals can be transferred to South Africa for further medical supports, in order to give immediate aids on handling climate change’s impact on human health.

**Topic 2: Climate Refugee**

As climate change develops and grows to cover a wider range of areas, the concept of “climate refugee” is gradually introduced to the public; this term usually indicates to a citizen who has to cross the border of the country in order to sustain his life, due to the impacts of climate change.

The current issue about the population of climate refugees is the lack of a legalized definition of status, as well as acknowledgment and concerns from the general public. While this is indeed a newly introduced term, it is an urge for the government to name the population by a legalized status. By legalization, it would be able to draw more concern of the public, which simplifies the approach of solution to the topic.

In the past, with South Africa but not limited within South Africa, the Green Climate Fund was founded during the UN Climate Conference, with an initial fund of 30 billion euros, as well as a goal of 100 billion euros by 2020 (NW 2013). While this is being done, it is still an issue to be solved, that the topic, as stated above, is not understood thoroughly and concerned fully by the general public, even that specific actions were previously adopted by the government officials. A solution can be addressed, to call for introduction and focused reports on this concept from a wide variety of medias.

It is also important that some agreement based on the topic, especially about the cooperation among parts of the global society through the process of resolving the issue, needs to be implemented by countries with both high adaptive capacity and limit adaptive capacity, for instance, an implementation indicating to whether the country accept climate refugees as well as the quantity that it is able to support.

**Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions**

As one of the nearly 190 countries that have ratified Paris Agreement, South Africa has been a strong participant in the action, and is able to make strong contribution to the issue. It has been educating children in effective ways on the subject of climate change (UNICEF 2011) and launching programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As recognizing the severity of climate change, the emission rate within South Africa showed a slight drop while stepping into the 2010s, and is currently at 9.4 tons per capita.

Besides having progress based on Paris Agreement, mitigation and adaption are two most important actions to be taken around the globe, while adaption was discussed above. As implementing the process of mitigation, one significant factor to look at is the change in greenhouse gas emissions. In the following time while Paris Agreement takes its progress, it is important for each country that has ratified the agreement to show a reduction in the greenhouse gas emission rate, in order to make differences to the current status of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

While implementing the Paris Agreement, it is considerable for each country to set an achievable goal and cooperate with others, as well as always reflecting on the progress achieved, in order to reach a high overall progress on mitigating the issue of climate change.

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