



Background Paper

Committee: General Assembly

Topic A: The Impact of Climate Change on Global Security

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Climate change is a worldwide issue which is affecting all countries in a variety of different ways. Over the years this has been increasing on a global scale which has led countries to try to urgently intervene due to the necessity due to the numerous people it keeps affecting. The General Assembly wants to work on solutions for future prevention of possible casualties. The main issues or ramifications that relate to this topic are the scarcity of natural resources such as pure water, clean air, artificial and natural energy, forests, food scarcity (due to the lack of arable land), and in extreme cases, migration as the last alternative for the citizens of the most affected areas. Moreover, it is concerned that these ramifications may cause global security. In particular, climate change can lead to a decline in agricultural production. Lack of food production leads to food scarcity. Food scarcity can lead to conflict over land. It is predicted our future wars will be over food.

As the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly more and more apparent tackling it has become increasingly more urgent therefore, many countries are working on reducing the danger of climate change, such as decreasing carbon dioxide emissions, decreasing energy usage and working on new methods of obtaining energy in natural ways. The General Assembly committee recognises that there are countries working on solving this issue on a local and national scale, these countries are: Belgium, which has set itself the quota of decreasing its carbon emissions 20% by 2020; Luxembourg with a reported decrease of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels between 2015 and 2016; Sweden, who is working on its goal to establish a 100% shift to renewable energy by 2040; and finally, France who has taken the lead in the Paris Climate Accord; the Paris Agreement consists of 195 state parties. The top three countries with the greatest percentage of greenhouse gas emission are India (4.10%), the United States (17.89%) and China (20.09%). These countries together compose more than 40% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions so they in particular should be committed to doing something

about this issue. The General Assembly firmly believes that the UN should work alongside all countries forming new ideas for controlling climate change and its effects.

Worldwide countries are acknowledging the risk climate change poses for global security. In 2016 a coalition of US military and national security experts warned that climate change poses a “significant rest to US national Security and International Security” and advised that the US federal government should be giving this issue more consideration. The experts forwarded that rising temperatures and sea levels will flood inundated military bases driving international conflict and mass migration leading to “significant and direct risks to US military readiness, operations and strategy”. We can thereby assume that many countries will be affected in such a way.

Food security is another aspect that poses threats to global security the effects of which we can already see taking their toll in parts of the world. Syria suffered a drought from 2006-2010 which had devastating consequences for agriculture. This lead to the migration of rural citizens into the urban areas and increased the frustration with the government. Nations will want to adopt policies that favour themselves but in the long run put other countries in more serious situations. Levy, a Columbia University Professor said; “Countries are buying up long-term access to farmland in sub-Saharan Africa. It’s good for their food security, but it’s creating problems” for African consumers and small landholders.

In conclusion what this committee is looking forward to doing is decreasing greenhouse gases as well as creating new methods of obtaining and using natural energy, ensuring basic needs to all people and working with the most affected countries to get to a solution so that we can decrease if not eliminate the number of casualties. If we can reduce the effects of climate change we can create a more secure world.

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