



## **Background Paper**

Committee: UNEP

Topic B: Addressing the Challenges, Risks and Impacts of Extreme Weather Events

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Climate change is the most important environmental problem facing the world today. This is a change in the climate that impacts directly or indirectly on all living beings. The cause of climate change is change to the global atmosphere through the actions of human beings. Humans, by burning fossil fuels, cutting down rainforests and farming livestock, are increasingly influencing the climate and the earth's temperature .

No country is immune to the effects of climate change as it affects the economy, health and safety of everyone. That is why the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) hopes with this debate to find solutions proposed by each member country of this committee in order to reduce or fight this global problem. Climate change is occurring very quickly and if it does not start to be resolved soon it may be too late. These extreme changes are causing more and more intense heat waves, very powerful storms, changes to the length of the seasons, the disappearance of animal species, rising sea level as well as other problems.

These extreme weather changes have caused a great drought in the southern part of the African continent resulting in a shortage of water and food which is affecting millions, as wildfires west of Canada and the United States destroying 2,400 homes. Other events include very hot summers and very cold winters. In Spain each year, winter arrives earlier and earlier each year, the snow make the roads collapse and leaves villages isolated. In typically cold regions there have been changes in temperature, Germany in summer of 2018 reached 39 degrees, in Sweden there were also forest fires. In the Ukraine, a forum has been held to support the development of new capacities to increase the work to slow climate change. In 2010 this country suffered a great heat wave that caused a drought which reduced wheat crops by 33%. This country was one of the world's main wheat producers. In the other part of the world in Central America the temperature has increased between 0.7°C and 1°C since 1970, before this (1950), the rains decreased one millimeter. Costa Rica since 2014 is being very affected by this problem. It is reflected by the shortage of water and the increase of diseases. Costa Rica has launched a policy on adaptation to climate change with the objective of fulfilling some commitments and of integrating itself into the policies and measures of the Paris Agreement. What the country is looking for is to avoid human losses and contribute to the quality of life of the most vulnerable people. Since 2013, China has suffered intense haze in its winters, This has been caused by climate change. It is due to a rapid change in polar regions and snowfall increases which prevents cold air from entering China which would disperse the air pollution. India is cataloged as the most vulnerable country to this phenomenon of climate change. Last August,

India was lashed by extreme rains, named as "the rains of the century" displacing more than 1.3 million people in the state of Kerala. These rains caused floods, claiming 69,000 lives.

The UN calls for leadership and action from every scientist, business and government in the world. The richest nations are the most responsible for this problem, because these nations emit the most carbon to the atmosphere but they have resources to resist the effects of climate change, so they are asked to find a solution to this as the poor nations although they are the most affected they do not have the same capability. If we do not start to change our course by 2020, we risk climate change becoming irreversible. Climate change needs a global solution, the United Nations have played a significant role in the evolution of scientific data and political solution. It also helps developing countries respond to climate change with the global environmental fund that finances energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport projects.

Climate change is a great threat to the world. It is time to find an effective solution to fight against this problem that is affecting all the countries of the world. The purpose of this debate is to save our planet for future generations and for current generations of all kinds of living things. We hope that all delegates are aware of the great problem that this is. You have to make a change before it's too late, before we have lost so many lives because of this. We invite all delegations participating in this debate to present their best solutions to solve this urgent problem.

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