



SRMUN Charlotte

March 26-28, 2021

*Unity: Coming Together
to Address a Changing World*

Draft Resolution 2-3

Committee: General Assembly Plenary

Subject: Addressing the Threat of Climate Change Using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Plenary,

Guided by the 2015 adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by this body,

Further guided by the 2030 Agenda plan of action encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 target items, that aim to: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all...” (SDG 7), “build resilient infrastructure,” (SDG 9), “make cities and human settlements inclusive,...” (SDG 11), ensure “sustainable consumption and production patterns...” (SDG 12), “to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,” (SDG 13), “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas...,” (SDG 14), “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems,...” (SDG 15), and “strengthen the means of implementation of global partnerships for sustainable development” (SDG 17),

Emphasizing the role of national sovereignty in initiatives combating climate change,

Understanding that any solution to our climate crisis must be both multilateral and consensual,

Recognizing that climate change is an imminent threat to global prosperity, with untold meteorological and socioeconomic consequences over the next century,

Knowing that climate change, due to decreased planetary albedo, is a positive feedback loop that must be broken as soon as possible,

Taking into account that the effects of climate change are unevenly distributed around the world, and that Member States will need to be alerted to the merits and challenges of climate change mitigation,

Confident in the power of the international community, as manifested through this body and the programs it funds, to bring peace and global change, as it has through the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and many other agreements,



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1. *Seeking* regional partnerships between pre-existing groups of Member States are a part of, including cooperation between Global North and Global South Member States and regional and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as collaboration among the academic, scientific and technological community in order to:
 - a. Share scientific findings and potential climate solutions;
 - b. Advance technologies for sustainable consumption and production of material and agricultural goods; and,
 - c. Share resources across regional or international partnerships to address need and excess directly;

2. *Bolstering* the pre-existing research efforts about SDGs relating to climate change (SDGs 7, 9, 11-15) as well as SDG 17 regarding information sharing, such as:
 - a. *Utilizing* research to review the Paris Climate Agreement along with France ahead of the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on:
 - i. Greenhouse gas emissions such as methane,
 - ii. Rising sea levels,
 - iii. Natural resource depletion,
 - iv. Melting of the polar ice caps which contributes to both sea level rise and methane release;
 - b. *Stressing* the runaway greenhouse effect, relating to both carbon emissions and high-impact methane emissions, including issues such as:
 - i. Recognizing that methane is a greenhouse gas that traps heat 28 times more than carbon dioxide over a timescale of 100 years; and,
 - ii. Condemning that aside from carbon dioxide, methane is directly responsible for approximately 23% of all climate change in the 20th century;
 - c. *Looking into* alternative energy sources that are specialized to best fit the varied environments around the world, examples including:
 - i. Tidal Power off the coast of South Africa,
 - ii. Geothermal energy in Iceland and Pacific Islands,
 - iii. Solar Energy in the Sahara,
 - iv. Various alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, turbine energy, and hydroelectricity;

3. *Introduces* the Local Energy Attainment Program (LEAP) which will consist of:



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- a. Calls upon a group of alternative energy specialists within the UN or working in conjunction with the UN, to go to areas that show interest in the field of alternative energy and working toward the creation of alternative energy facilities that are specialized to the region;
 - b. Working towards the creation of alternative energy facilities which will create good-paying jobs and boost the socioeconomic status of the region or nation;
 - c. Recommending that all local people of working age to be invited to enter these programs to learn how to maintain alternative energy sources and machinery;
 - d. Designating that the program is going to be on an 'Opt-In vs Opt-Out' basis, so that Member States can have discretion over which programs are introduced;
 - e. Suggesting the integration of alternative energy sources that can be applied to residences in order to make smaller communities eco-friendlier and more efficient, such as:
 - i. Installing solar panels on houses to reduce the price of electricity,
 - ii. Community wind turbines to reduce carbon emissions,
 - iii. All facilities and additions are to be best fit for the local environment;
 - f. Introducing all of these measures through groups and personnel that are familiar with the Member State and local culture as to avoid issues of sovereignty and exploitation;
4. *Encourages* Member States working toward Sustainable Development projects with relation to climate-related issues to utilize existing funding through green energy and climate change focused organizations, including:
- a. Primary Funding:
 - i. The Green Climate Fund (GCF),
 - ii. GA annual budget,
 - iii. UN Annual Budget,
 - iv. World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and,
 - b. Auxiliary Funding:
 - i. Global Environment Facility (GEF),
 - ii. Climate Investment Funds (CIFs),
 - iii. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),
 - iv. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC);
5. *Promotes* region-driven environmental development in achieving sustainability and searching for solutions to climate change, including;



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- a. Prioritizing the health of life below water (SDG 14) and clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) by:
 - i. Establishing Marine Protected Areas, consistent with international law,
 - ii. Combatting ocean acidification through the promotion of clean energy that reduces fossil fuel usage,
 - iii. Disseminating information about sustainable fishing practices by:
 1. Sustainable fishing practices including but not limited to:
 - a. Hook-and-Lining,
 - b. Harpooning,
 - c. Traps,
 - d. Trolling,
 - e. Purse Seining,
 - f. Longlining;
 - iv. Eliminating fishing subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing,
 - v. Protecting aquifers through erosion reducing practices,
 - vi. Enhancing effective water governance including:
 1. Catchment area based integrated water resources management and appropriate transboundary cooperation,
 2. Expanded water-related vocational training;
- b. Prioritizing the health of life on land (SDG 15) by:
 - i. Promoting biodiversity:
 1. Planting local flowers, fruits, and vegetables,
 2. Increasing knowledge of the impacts of biodiversity loss,
 3. Conserving wildlife species and their habitat by donating the property to a land trust;
 - ii. Reducing the proliferation of non-native species through the following methods:
 1. Encourage local communities to introduce a bounty system for invasive species to catch and return them to their natural habitats if possible,
 2. Requests Member States to ban the introduction of invasive species,
 - iii. Halting desertification by:
 1. Integrating land and water methods to prevent erosion and saline intrusion,



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2. Protecting vegetative cover as a major measure for preventing wind and water erosion,
 3. Prioritizing no-tillage farming and other sustainable farming practices that improve soil quality,
 4. Utilizing the Great Green Wall initiative, in which eleven member states in Sahel-Saharan Africa — Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal — planted a line of trees as a sustainable way of regenerating the parkland, as managed in part by the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
6. *Recognizing* that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) bear the overwhelming burden for sea level rise and climate change which can be prevented through:
- a. Increasing the resilience of developing countries to the rise of the sea level and coast degradation in particular through provision of substantive financial support;
 - b. Slowing land sinkage by:
 - i. Limiting groundwater pumping by utilizing multilateral partnerships to provide other water resources,
 - ii. Initiating pilot projects to reverse land sinkage such as Project SWIFT, which will inject a million gallons of purified wastewater in the ground per day;
 - c. Promoting the development of physical infrastructure funded by UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) that prevents sea level rise and mitigates its effects such as:
 - i. Building sea walls to decrease flooding from tides and storms, built to a height of five to six feet above sea level, as well as repairing and replacing old sea walls as sea levels rise,
 - ii. Encouraging local communities to designate funding to infrastructure repairs including raising roads above sea level to ensure that roads do not channel water to homes,
 - iii. Using stormwater pumps to remove excess water by vacuuming it up and releasing it back into the sea,
 - iv. Strengthening natural infrastructure, including:
 1. Using beaches and dunes as natural walls to prevent storm surges,
 2. Protecting coastal communities such as barrier islands, oyster and coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, and salt marshes that can work in unison with built infrastructure;



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- d. Improving the financial infrastructure to tackle sea level rise and flooding, such as:
 - i. Lowering costs of flood insurance premiums,
 - ii. Increasing funds for local infrastructure;

7. *Safeguarding* the effectiveness of the program, there is to be an annual conference discussing the effectiveness of the resolution held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, and after the first initial conference, Member States can opt in to host the conference and be added to a list of potential conference hosts.