

UNEA

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SMIS MUN ' 24



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSEMBLY
(UNEA)

ENGAGE . EMPOWER . EVOLVE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Greetings Delegates!

The topic under discussion for UNEA are:

- Leveraging Climate Action for Sustainable Development

The Assembly was created at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). As the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEA holds universal membership with 193 members. UNEA is the highest-level decision-making body on the environment, which meets every other year. The Assembly works to assist in the development of environmental policy and international law through its resolutions. During the Assembly's sessions, items that coincide with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a priority.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Afnaan Omer Khan, Chairperson

Rama Krishna Pinjala, Vice-Chairperson



Table Of Contents

- Committee Overview
- Introduction
- Governance, Structure, and Membership
- Mandate, Functions, and Powers
- Recent Sessions and Current Priorities
- Conclusion
- Annotated Bibliography
- Bibliography

Leveraging Climate Action for Sustainable Development

- Introduction
- International and Regional Framework
- Role of the International System
- Integrating Climate Action into National and Regional Planning
- Gender and Climate Action
- Conclusion
- Further Research
- Annotated Bibliography
- Bibliography

Committee Overview



Introduction

Twenty years after the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) called for the strengthening and upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) so that it could better execute its mandate. In 2013, the 58-member Governing Council of UN Environment adopted resolution 27/2, which expanded the Governing Council to universal membership and requested that the General Assembly change its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), done so by General Assembly resolution 67/251 of the same year.² UNEA is the governing body of UN Environment and is the international community's highest-level decision-making body on environmental matters. UNEA's universal membership strengthens its own role and the role of UN Environment in international affairs as well as to increase the responsiveness of Member States in developing environmental policy. UN Environment exists because of a concerted effort made during the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden. Subsequently, the General Assembly established UN Environment as the official body concerned with environmental issues within the United Nations (UN).

Since 1972, UN Environment has played a significant role in coordinating environmental policy across the UN system. UNEA governs and sets policy for UN Environment, whose mission is to "provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment" in order to develop environmental-friendly practices and policies in the UN system. UN Environment is a UN program that encourages international, regional, and local coordination for environmental issues, while also ensuring various other UN entities considers environmental impacts when executing their missions.⁹ UN Environment reports to both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UN Environment served as the secretariat and was a main contributor for the planning and execution of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, the outcomes of which included the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda

These landmark documents revolutionized the international community's approach to environmental issues, provided further guidance, and renewed support for UN Environment's role in international cooperation on environmental protection. UNCED marked a turning point for international collaboration to preserve biodiversity and the climate with the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) both opening for signature at the summit. The Convention to Combat Desertification (1994), another major agreement, was adopted two years later in 1994. While the three Rio Conventions are each administered by their own secretariat, UN Environment assisted in negotiating the conventions and was tasked with promoting their implementation through Agenda 21.



Governance, Structure, and Membership

In 2013, UNEA became the designated policy-making body of UN Environment, superseding the original 58-member Governing Council. UNEA has universal membership, meaning that all 193 UN Member States are represented in the Assembly, along with the United Nations non-voting permanent observers. UNEA meets biennially to set priorities for global environmental policy, discuss developments for environmental legislation, and assist in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN Environment Secretariat is responsible for supporting UNEA and consists of a rotating President, three Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur. The President for the Fifth Session of UNEA is H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn of Norway. The Bureau is elected during the final meeting of a regular session to oversee the general conduct of business of the UNEA. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is the subsidiary inter-sessional organ to the UNEA and meets at least four times a year. The CPR performs functions, also strengthened by Governing Council Decision 27/2, which included:

- (a) contributing to the preparation of the UNEA agenda,
- (b) holding an advisory role in policy matters within the UNEA,
- (c) monitoring the implementation of its decisions,
- (d) holding thematic and/or programmatic debates,
- (e) promoting the inclusion of non-resident members of the Committee, and
- (f) performing any other functions delegated by UNEA. CPR is composed of all accredited Permanent Representatives to UN Environment and is led by a five-member bureau that is elected for two years.

UN Environment relies on three main financial sources to facilitate its agenda: earmarked funds, the

Environment Fund, and the UN Regular Budget. Earmarked funds, also known as earmarked contributions, are funds appropriated for specific projects, themes, or countries. These funds aim to expand and/or replicate the results of UN Environment's work in more countries and with more partners. The Environment Fund aids in maintaining the capacity, balance, and efficiency needed for UN Environment to function. When contributing to the Environment Fund, Member States are encouraged to make financial contributions based upon the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC), which considers their respective socio-economic background to determine the predictability of



a continued financial contribution. The UN Regular Budget supports the functions of the Secretariat and its respective governing bodies, as well as the coordination of the UN Environment with the UN system and cooperation with global scientific communities.

From 2020, about 80% of UN Environment's income was comprised of earmarked contributions, while the Environment Fund made up about 15% and the UN Regular Budget made up about 5%. Earmarked contributions and the Environment Fund are comprised of voluntarily contributions; hence, 95% of UN Environment's income is accrued on a voluntary basis from Member States.

Through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2997 of 1972 on "Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation," UN Environment was created with a mandate to "promote international and regional environmental cooperation, develop environmental policy, highlight global and regional problems, facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge, assist developing Member States in environmental matters, review reports of the Executive Director, and approve the annual program on the allocation of the Environment Fund." The first expansion of UN Environment's mandate came after the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) via Agenda 21, which outlined a list of priority areas for UN Environment's future work and called for the program to gain "access to greater expertise and... adequate financial resources," as well as closer collaboration with the rest of the UN system to fulfil these new tasks. In 1997, during its 19th regular session, the Governing Council of UN Environment held a discussion on the future role of the UN Environment, which resulted in the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (1997). As the 19th Special Session of the General Assembly was scheduled to address the implementation of Agenda 21 later that year, the Nairobi Declaration represented a call to the UN system and its Member States to acknowledge UN Environment's role. The General Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Declaration (1997), which reaffirmed and established UN Environment's mandate "as the leading global environmental authority."

UN Environment's authority was further affirmed by former Secretary General Kofi Annan, who advocated for the reform and strengthening of its role as "the focal point for harmonization and coordination of environment-related activities." In October 1998, the General Assembly reported a set of recommendations that further modified UN Environment's mandate, as per



recommendations made by the UN Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements. As a result of one of the recommendations, the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) was created with the Executive Director of UN

Environment serving as its chairperson. A key purpose of the EMG is to coordinate information sharing and facilitate discussion on essential priorities in order to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective allocation of resources. As the governing body of UN Environment, UNEA develops international environmental law and policy that serves as a catalyst for intergovernmental action through the practice of multilateral agreement. Under UNEA's guidance, UN Environment assesses the environment on a global, regional, and national scale and uses that information to hold relevant stakeholders accountable in developing proper action. As the UN recognizes climate change as the predominant issue in its global-civic efforts, UN Environment continues to collaborate with various stakeholders to highlight the complexity of environmental issues in terms of conflict, disaster, security, and education. UNEA often hosts intersessional events and forums with these stakeholders to build and foster support for UN Environment initiatives. UNEA also has the ability to create ad hoc committees and subsidiary bodies to implement specific environmental objectives when necessary.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the responsibility of UN Environment has shifted towards addressing environmental protection as part of an Integrated vision of sustainable development, rather than addressing environmental issues in a silo. UN Environment assesses that more than half of the Sustainable Development Goals have an environmental focus or address the sustainability of natural resources.⁴⁸ These include poverty, health, food and agriculture, water and sanitation, human settlements, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and oceans and terrestrial ecosystems. UN Environment further finds that 86 of the 169 targets across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are concerned with environmental sustainability.

The fourth regular session of UNEA took place in March 2019, and its theme was "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production." A key outcome was the Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly (2019) that designated 19 key actions, which exemplified a concerted effort to address environmental



challenges by Member States. A few of these actions entail improving global resource management strategies, the promoting and sharing of innovative knowledge sharing, and the engagement of environmental research and relevant stakeholders. By continuing to foster sustainable development

as an integrated effort, UNEA agreed to continue its mandate in overcoming common environmental challenges by: distinguishing innovative solutions, promoting the use of environmental data and its sharing, along with the engagement of pertinent stakeholders, such as civil society members, those from academia, and the private sector.

The paradigm change toward an integrated approach is shown in the series of “Medium Term Strategies,” which envision UN Environment as providing “an environmental lens through which to view, understand and advise on sustainable development.” UN Environment’s Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021 outlines seven thematic priorities: climate change; resilience to disasters and conflicts; healthy and productive ecosystems; environmental governance; chemicals, waste, and air quality; resource efficiency; and environment under review.

In 2021, UNEA held its Fifth Session resulting in the passage of a new Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025, a plan designed to promote a high functioning and effective UN Environment program in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategy calls for a decade of action that maintains a “2050 outlook,” extending beyond the goals of the next three years to encompass crucial and broad changes to global environmental policy. At the heart of the document are three identified environmental crises: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The strategy incorporates four broad areas for enhancement: provide science and know-how to governments; transform the sectors that have an impact on our environment; leverage digital and emerging technologies; and tackle environmental unsustainability.”

The 2022-2025 strategy is also an outline of work for UNEP to strengthen the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. It further analyzes the impacts of current UN management and governance reform and sets strategic priorities for UN Environment’s operations in the allotted timeframe. The Medium-Term Strategy also leveraged the UN development system reform to engage the wider UN system in more coordinated and mutually supportive environmental action.



The setbacks, which occurred due to of the COVID-19 pandemic, were at the forefront of the conversation during UNEA-5.64 UN Environment has re-focused some of its work in order to adequately respond to the pandemic and “build back better.” UN Environment recently led a discussion at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development regarding opportunities to jumpstart and rebuild economies through green recovery plans that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN Environment’s COVID-19 work also includes sustainable and climate-resilient economic recovery, especially for economies dependent on eco-tourism and biodiversity; sustainable consumption and production during coronavirus quarantining procedures; and future prevention of zoonotic diseases. These COVID-19 recovery plans would emphasize building resilience, ensuring prosperity, and engaging with economic stakeholders, especially local actors and the private sector. UN Environment has also been responding to regional action plans developed in response to COVID-19; specifically, how these regional action plans can influence global response to the pandemic and its aftermath.

Conclusion

The reform of UN Environment at the start of the 1990s redefined its thematic role within the UN system and highlighted the importance of addressing environmental issues on a global scale. UNEA’s inception represents a key step in UN Environment’s mission to ensure the work of all UN entities, Member States, and respective stakeholders’ aims to be environmentally sustainable and align with international laws and policies concerning the environment. The establishment of an international authority for environmental issues with a universal membership reflects the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach for environmental protection. The Ministerial Declaration from the Fourth Session of UNEA will elicit further global effort to meet a multidimensional environment, but will also aim to address capacity building and pivot on socio-economic enhancement for sustainable development. Moreover, a retroactive assessment of nature-based solutions will reaffirm the necessity of a healthy ecosystem. As the world continues to face alarming implications of climate change and the global recovery from COVID-19, UNEA continues to be a key leader in achieving global sustainable development.



Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Environment Assembly. (2019). Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session: Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1). Retrieved 14 April 2021 from:

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28463/K1901029.pdf>

This declaration is the primary outcome document of the most recent session of UNEA, held in March 2019. It highlights the priority areas that emerged from the session and the efforts necessary to influence these areas. The declaration discusses how Member States, CSOs, the private sector, local communities, and academia can promote more sustainable uses of resources and more responsible production and disposal of these resources. Delegates can find the current priorities and talking points of the UNEA within this document.

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). About the United Nations Environment Assembly. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from:

<https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/about-united-nations-environment-assembly>.

This website provides a basic overview of the Assembly and its role within the UN Environment's governance structure, including its history and mandate. The resource represents an entry point for delegates to begin their research on the committee, as it provides an overview of the body's functions, as well as links to the documentation of past sessions and current thematic priorities of the Assembly. It is also here that preparatory material for the upcoming session of the Assembly is collected. This website should help delegates to easily distinguish between UN Environment and UNEA and understand how they are connected to each other.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2021). UNEA-5 and launch of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy. Retrieved 3 March 2021 from:

<https://www.unep.org/events/press-conference/unea-5-and-launch-uneps-medium-termstrategy>.

This source provides a link to a live video press conference hosted by the Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen and the Minister of Climate and the Environment from Norway and President of UNEA-5, Sveinung Rotevatn. The press conference provides a comprehensive recap of the topics discussed during the virtual session of UNEA-5. Both speakers further elaborate on the Medium-Term Strategy for the period of 2022-2025. The topics of climate change biodiversity loss, and pollution are also spoken about in more depth. The speakers answer several questions regarding future goals of UNEP and UNEA posed by the Head of UN News and Media, Ms. Keishamaza Rukikaire.



Bibliography

Convention on Biological Diversity. (n.d.). The Rio Conventions. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://www.cbd.int/rio/>

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. (1997). Proceedings of the Governing Council at its Nineteenth Session (UNEP/GC.19/34). Retrieved 22 April 2021 from: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/17274/97_GC19_proceedings.pdf

Johnson, S. (2012). UNEP The First 40 Years: A Narrative. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/8751/-UNEP_The_first_40_years_A_narrative_by_St Stanley_Johnson-2012UNEP_The_First_40_Years_A_Narative.pdf.pdf

New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2019). United Nations Handbook 2019-20. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/UN-Handbook-2019-20.pdf>

United Nations, Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). Agenda 21. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

United Nations, Conference on the Human Environment. (1972). Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1). Retrieved 29 April 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/a/conf.48/14/Rev.1>

United Nations Environment Assembly. (n.d.). Environment Fund. Retrieved 10 April 2021 from: <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment-programme/funding-and-partnerships/funding-facts/environment-fund>

United Nations Environment Assembly (n.d.). Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Retrieved 29 April 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea4>

United Nations Environment Assembly. (n.d.). Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/unea5>



United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d). Earmarked Contributions. Retrieved 29 April 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/funding-and-partnerships/funding-facts/earmarked-contributions>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). How is UNEP Funded. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/funding/funding-facts>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d). Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/EA.3/3). Retrieved 29 April 2021 from: <https://undocs.org/en/UNEP/EA.3/3>

United Nations Environment Programme. (2016). Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021. Retrieved 29 April 2021 from: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7621/-UNEP_medium-term_strategy_2018-2021-2016MTS_2018-2021.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

United Nations Environment Programme. (2016). Programme Performance Report 2016. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/16792/PPR_2016.pdf

United Nations Environment Programme. (2019). Directory: Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/directory-committee-permanent-representatives-united-nations-environment-programme>

United Nations Environment Programme. (2020). COVID-19 updates from UNEP. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/covid-19-updates-unep>

United Nations Environment Programme. (2021). UNEA-5 and launch of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy. Retrieved 3 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/events/press-conference/unea-5-and-launch-uneps-medium-term-strategy>



United Nations Environment Programme. (2021). For people and planet: the United Nations Environment Programme strategy for 2022-2025 to tackle climate change, loss of nature and pollution (UNEP/EA.5/3/Rev.1). Retrieved 27 March 2021 from:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35162/Doc3%20Reve1%20EnglishK2100501.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-seventh session. (1972). Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation (A/RES/2997(XXVII)). Adopted on the report of the Second Committee. Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: [https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2997\(XXVII\)](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2997(XXVII))

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-first session. (1997). Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform (A/51/950). Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/A/51/950>

United Nations, General Assembly, Nineteenth special session. (1997). Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/RES/S-19/2). Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/S- 19/29). Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/S-19/2>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-third session. (1998). Environment and human settlements: Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/463). Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/A/53/463>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2012). The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288). Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/66/288>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth Session. (2015). Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1). Retrieved 12 May 2021 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations, World Summit on Sustainable Development. (2002). Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20). Retrieved 14 April 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.199/20> World Animal Net. (n.d.).

United Nations Environment Assembly: A Guidance Document for Animal Protection Organizations. Retrieved 12 April 2021 from: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25345/UN%20Environment%20Assembly%20Advocacy%20Report.pdf>



Leveraging Climate Action for Sustainable Development

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) defines Climate Action as “urgent action to combat the effects of climate change,” which is a result of the concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere leading to steadily rising global temperatures.⁷⁷ Human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, coal, crude oil, and natural gas are one of the main causes of the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and contribute to about two-thirds of greenhouse emissions.⁷⁸ The effects of these emissions include a 1.1oC increase in global temperatures, which can lead to catastrophic events such as droughts, tropical cyclones, winter storms, and wildfires.⁷⁹ Climate action is an international priority since climate change affects every Member State, disrupts economic growth, global health, and jeopardizes the implementation of the other SDGs.⁸⁰ These disruptions are due to natural disasters and their long-term effects, including forced migration, gender inequality, and marginalization of at-risk populations.⁸¹

Climate change has overwhelming negative impact on developing countries; specifically, due to a lack of social and economic capital, making it difficult to build resilient systems and infrastructure.⁸² Adopted in 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) created the framework for how the international system would address climate change moving forward.⁸³ The UNFCCC was an initial international recognition to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and keep them at safe levels.⁸⁴ In 2015, Member States adopted a landmark resolution, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) as a blueprint for building a sustainable planet and future.⁸⁵ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an outcome of the 2030 Agenda, are a call to action for all Member States towards eliminating poverty, improving healthcare, education, economic growth, reducing inequality, and combating climate change.⁸⁶ Specifically Goal 13 of the SDGs, Climate Action, is prioritized in all aspects of sustainable development.⁸⁷ The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is dependent upon more ambitious climate action such as the Paris Agreement (2015), which prioritizes multi-lateral partnerships.⁸⁸ Target 13.2 seeks to integrate climate change into national planning and policies that require partnerships with members of civil society.⁸⁹ In line with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, Member States are working to update existing nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are efforts specific to each Member State that collectively seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁹⁰



76 UN DPI, Secretary-General's Remarks at Climate Leaders' Summit in Washington DC, 2014.

77 UNEP, Facts About the Climate Emergency.

78 Ibid.

79 Ibid.

80 Ibid.

81 Ibid.

82 UN DESA, Climate Change.

83 UNCED, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992.

84 Ibid.

85 UN DESA, The 17 Goals.

86 Ibid.

87 Ibid.

88 UN DESA, Climate Change. 89 Ibid.

90 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), 2021.

International and Regional Framework

In 1992, climate action was made a priority at the Rio Earth Summit, a united global activism summit focused on climate action, during which the UNFCCC was adopted.⁹¹ The Convention proposed actions aimed at reducing and stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid future climate disasters and keeping global warming to below 1.5°C.⁹² In 2015, Member States adopted the Paris Agreement, which re-energizes global attention to climate change and aims to limit global warming to below 2°C.⁹³ The Paris Agreement is a legally binding treaty and incorporates all Member States' commitments to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.⁹⁴ Its implementation is based on a five-year cycle of analyzing and reassessing Member State NDCs, which has now led to renewed efforts by Member States to aggressively address climate change.⁹⁵ The Paris Agreement serves as a framework for financial and technical support for Member States to share information about their NDCs towards long-term solutions to lower greenhouse gas emissions.⁹⁶ The agreement also provides a platform for accountability and knowledge sharing among Member States, by reporting their progress to mitigate and adapt to climate change.⁹⁷ Since its inception, the Agreement has yielded results by opening new carbon-free markets for energy, including the adoption of carbon neutrality targets by Member States.⁹⁸



The 2030 Agenda is implemented through more specific actions, such as those outlined in the Paris Agreement.⁹⁹ In 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report which stated

that more action is needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C in order to build a more sustainable and equitable world.¹⁰⁰ Without immediate climate action, the IPCC forecasts that rapidly changing weather phenomena and disasters will continue as oceans warm.¹⁰¹ Additionally, it will further exacerbate global poverty and other challenges such as food insecurity and forced migration since many vulnerable populations are dependent on agriculture and other activities that are susceptible to temperature increases.¹⁰² The report also stresses that many strategies for sustainable development, such as gender integration have the potential to reduce the vulnerabilities of ecosystems and improve the adaptation to climate change.¹⁰³ Since women make up a considerable part of the agriculture workforce, climate policy requires input from women for optimal implementation of the Paris Agreement. ¹⁰⁴

91 UN DESA, Climate Change; UNCED, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992.

92 UN DESA, Climate Change.

93 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, The Paris Agreement, 2021; COP 21, Paris Agreement, 2015.

94 Ibid.

95 Ibid.

96 Ibid.

97 Ibid

98 Ibid.

99 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, The Paris Agreement, 2021.

100 IPCC, Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, and Reducing Inequalities, 2018.

101 Ibid.

102 Allen, Framing and Context in: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C Above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty, 2018.

103 IPCC, Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, and Reducing Inequalities, 2018.



Role of the International System

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) set the theme for its fifth meeting as “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”¹⁰⁵ This theme brings into focus the need to leverage climate action for sustainable development.¹⁰⁶ It also calls for increased and strengthened action to protect the environment through social, economic, and environmental measures such as UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022-2025.¹⁰⁷ The MTS seeks to prevent biodiversity loss, pollution, and mitigate the effects of climate change.¹⁰⁸ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNEA has adjusted its schedule to include a virtual session in February 2021, and a subsequent session will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2022.¹⁰⁹ At the virtual session, Member States held a dialogue among leaders of Member States which highlighted that climate action will lead to low emissions and a sustainable world.¹¹⁰ It also reiterated the importance of multilateralism in addressing climate change and the role the assembly and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) play in environmental governance.¹¹¹

UNEP assists with mitigation by facilitating Member States’ initiative to utilize renewable energy in cities, transportation systems, and educating them on management practices that lead to reduced emissions such as high-tech subway systems, bicycle paths, and walkways that have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.¹¹² These best practices are supported by programs such as the UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), which aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.¹¹³ This program currently has 118 Member States with forest and land management included in their national planning leading to 162 million hectares of restored land globally.¹¹⁴ UNEP also works with commercial banks to develop financing programs that provide households access to energy-efficient technologies while giving developing Member States access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).¹¹⁵ GCF is the world’s largest climate fund with a mandate to support developing Member States in implementing their national programs designed to reduce emissions and build climate-resilient communities.¹¹⁶ In energy, UNEP works with developing Member States to develop infrastructure for renewable energy through economic and poverty alleviation programs while leveraging the private sector to transition to cleaner sources of energy, such as solar, and wind power generation plants to drive overall reliance on clean and renewable energy.¹¹⁷ UNEP has created the Climate Initiatives Platform, which monitors climate action initiatives undertaken by civil society, the private sector, and regional bodies and now includes all 230 International Cooperative Initiatives.¹¹⁸ This platform provides open-source data to Member States and non-state actors for tracking and implementation of climate policies.¹¹⁹



In February 2021, the UN Climate Change Secretariat announced a series of meetings to promote regional climate action.¹²⁰ These meetings will facilitate regional work in climate action and advance regional implementation of the Paris Agreement.¹²¹ This is being carried out by providing a platform for representatives of national governments and other relevant institutions to share knowledge and undertake more effective methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.¹²² The UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, and the World Bank Group partner with the UN Climate Change Secretariat to organize these meetings.¹²³ Despite global responsiveness and activism towards climate action and sustainable development, climate commitments are not on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.¹²⁴ In 2021, the UN Climate Change Secretariat published its first Nationally Determined Contributions Synthesis Report that draws attention to the shortfall in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and calls for stronger and more ambitious efforts by Member States in climate action.¹²⁵

105 UNEA, Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2021.

106 IISD, UNEA-5 Online Session Sets Stage for Next Four Years, 2021.

107 Ibid.

108 IISD, UNEA-5 Online Session Sets Stage for Next Four Years, 2021.

109 Ibid.

110 Ibid.

111 UNEA, Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2021.

112 UNEP, Mitigation.

113 UNEP, REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; UN-REDD Programme, Our Impact, 2019.

114 Ibid.

115 UNEP, Climate Mitigation Finance: Driving Clean Energy Investments; Green Climate Fund, About GCF, 2021.

116 Green Climate Fund, About Green Climate Fund.

117 UNEP, Energy.

118 UNEP, Climate Initiatives Platform.

119 Ibid.

120 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Regional Climate Weeks to Drive Forward Climate Action in 2021 and 2022, 2021.

121 Ibid.

122 Ibid.

123 Ibid.



124 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Regional Climate Weeks to Drive Forward Climate Action in 2021 and 2022, 2021.

125 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Greater Climate Ambition Urged as Initial NDC Synthesis Report is Published, 2021.

Paris Agreement.¹²¹ This is being carried out by providing a platform for Integrating Climate Action into National and Regional Planning Target 13.2 of SDG 13 seeks to integrate climate action into national planning and policymaking.¹²⁶ In 1992, Member States initiated plans to integrate socio-economic and environmental objectives into their national planning during the Rio Earth Summit.¹²⁷ Member States now incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their respective national policies and National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).¹²⁸ NSDS are coordinated actions and plans to achieve economic and environmental objectives with a balanced and integrative approach.¹²⁹ NSDS are established on five principles: Member State ownership and commitment, environmental policy integration across different sectors of national planning, inclusivity and effective partnerships, capacity building, targeted action, and implementation.¹³⁰ Since the needs of each Member States is inherently different, each Member State adopts its own model.¹³¹ Climate action in NSDS results in more effective implementation and benefits because it is not undertaken independently.¹³² NSDS provides a platform for national governments to measure the benefits of climate action, thereby providing more information on how to adapt and improve policy and planning.¹³³ NSDS also provides national governments with a system to make up for the economic losses that arise from replacing current economic models with more sustainable ones.¹³⁴ Since climate action transcends national borders, regional and international partnerships are also utilized to improve adaptation and implementation strategies.¹³⁵ UNFCCC also partners with technology companies such as Google and Microsoft, international organizations such as the World Bank Group, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Rainforest Action Network, the World Economic Forum, and academia to increase awareness about climate action.¹³⁶ In 2013, the UNFCCC Secretariat created six Regional Collaboration Centers (RCCs) across the globe to foster partnerships among Member States in climate action through networking, capacity building, and technical assistance.¹³⁷ After the adoption of the Paris Agreement, RCCs were expanded to include providing support to developing countries to implement their NDCs.¹³⁸ Some of the objectives of RCCs include providing a platform for information and data sharing among regional Member States and facilitating their work with respective affiliated UN agencies.¹³⁹ RCCs also work to provide



intergovernmental strategies for climate action in their respective regions and facilitate action plans in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.¹⁴⁰

The result of these efforts includes stronger collaboration between national and international actors towards green development, strengthened local capacity on climate action, new partnerships, and direct support and guidance to Member States on policymaking and national planning.¹⁴¹ In 2020, RCCs created a work plan to implement the goals of the Paris Agreement, including through support for local and regional climate action.¹⁴² RCCs continue to promote capacity building, facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and mobilize and coordinate climate action in each region.¹⁴³

¹²⁶ UNEP, Goal 13: Climate Action; United Nations, The Sustainable Development Agenda.

¹²⁷ UN DESA, National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ UN DESA, Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, National Sustainable Development Strategies – the Global Picture.

¹³⁰ UN DESA, National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² UN DESA, Addressing Climate Change in National Sustainable Development Strategies – Common Practices, 2007.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, UNFCCC Partners, 2021.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Regional Collaboration Centers, 2021.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Regional Collaboration Centers: 2019 Highlights, 2019.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Enabling Long-term Impact: The Role of Regional Collaboration Centers in Catalyzing Climate Action, 2019, pp 9, 41-42.

¹⁴³ Ibid.



Gender and Climate Action

Women and children are more vulnerable to the impact of climate change due to societal inequalities and lack of safety nets, they are also the least equipped to manage the effects of natural disasters.¹⁴⁴ These factors increase women's exposure to gender-based violence, forced migration, human trafficking, and inaccessible education and healthcare.¹⁴⁵ Since natural disasters have become more devastating, the UNFCCC Secretariat has worked to empower women and girls by including them in policymaking and leadership at all levels of government.¹⁴⁶ Gender considerations are now included in political forums about policy climate action, not only to improve the understanding of women's vulnerabilities but also to create opportunities for inclusion of women in leadership roles such as in national parliaments and other levels of government.¹⁴⁷ Women's participation in policymaking has led to increased responsiveness to the needs of local and minority groups, including inter-ethnic cooperation and capacity building.¹⁴⁸ At local levels, women have contributed to the improved implementation of policies through inter-ethnic partnerships and projects undertaken by their respective governments, UN bodies, and other members of civil society.¹⁴⁹ One way this is being achieved is the integration of gender-inclusive expertise in capacity-building and technical assistance at national levels, in partnership with the UN system to address climate-related issues such as drought and food insecurity.¹⁵⁰ Another way in which gender is being integrated into climate action is by making intersectional gender analysis a key part of any programs or policies developed for climate action at all levels of government and civil society.¹⁵¹

UNEA works with UNEP, UN Women, UNDP, and other members of civil society such as the Africa Network for Animal Welfare, the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Organizations' Engagement Mechanism, and the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee, to facilitate efforts by national governments to enact climate action policies.¹⁵² These bodies also support women's organizations and civil society organizations such as Women's Earth and Climate Action Network, and the Women's Earth Alliance, to integrate climate-related security into their national climate change Gender Action Plans (GAPs).¹⁵³ At UNEA-4, Member States adopted a resolution to "Promote Gender Equality, and the Human Rights and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Environmental Governance" (UNEP/EA.4/L.21).¹⁵⁴ This resolution also invites Member States to recognize the human right to a healthy environment and to incorporate social and gender safeguards in climate action.¹⁵⁵ UNEP incorporates gender mainstreaming into its programs and organization.¹⁵⁶ At the organizational level, UNEP focuses gender mainstreaming on its internal policies and processes, which include capacity development, communication,



oversight, financial and human resources, and knowledge and information management.¹⁵⁷ At the program level, UNEP works to provide for the different needs of women and men by promoting a gender perspective in climate action at national, regional, and international levels.¹⁵⁸ UNEP also works closely with UN Women to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, by improving public understanding of the relationship between women and natural resources and how women's empowerment is vital for climate action.¹⁵⁹

Conclusion

Climate action has risen to the top of the priority list for the UN, Member States, and other members of civil society working in partnership to ensure a sustainable future.¹⁶⁰ These partnerships are built on different platforms and international documents such as the UNFCCC.¹⁶¹ Reports by institutions such as the IPCC aid in advancing climate action through more specific goals and actions that are needed to limit global warming to below 1.5oC.¹⁶² Climate action is now prioritized by Member States in national planning and is being incorporated into their national planning policies and programs.¹⁶³ Despite unified global efforts in climate action, more ambitious measures need to be adopted to achieve sustainable development, which is now more dependent on climate action.¹⁶⁴ Initiatives such as gender mainstreaming and engagements with members of civil society are being utilized in implementing the goals of climate action outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ¹⁶⁵

144 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Introduction to Gender and Climate Change, 2021.

145 UNEP et al, Gender, Climate, and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change, 2020, p. 17.

146 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Introduction to Gender and Climate Change, 2021.

147 UNEP et al, Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change, 2020, p. 41.

148 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Introduction to Gender and Climate Change, 2021.

149 Ibid.

150 UNEP et al, Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change, 2020, p. 41.

151 UNEP et al, Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change, 2020,p. 41.



152 Ibid; UNEP, Partnerships.

153 UNEP et al, Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change, 2020, p. 41.

154 Logan, UN Environment Assembly Passes Landmark Resolution Promoting Gender Equality in Environmental Governance, 2019; UNEA, Promoting Gender Equality and the Human Rights and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Environmental Governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.21), 2019.

155 UNEA, Promoting Gender Equality and the Human Rights and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Environmental Governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.21), 2019.

156 UNEP, Gender Mainstreaming.

157 Ibid.

158 Ibid.

159 UNEP, Partnerships.

160 UN DESA, The 17 Goals.

161 Ibid; UNCED, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992.

162 IPCC, Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5oC: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, and Reducing Inequalities, 2018.

163 UNEP, REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; UN-REDD Programme, Our Impact, 2019.

164 United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Regional Climate Weeks to Drive Forward Climate Action in 2021 and 2022, 2021.

165 UNEP et al, Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change, 2020, p. 41.



Further Research

Delegates should consider the following in their research: What is UNEA currently doing to leverage climate action for sustainable development? In the coming year, UNEA has some ambitious goals on climate action – what are the ways in which these goals will impact sustainable development? How can civil society be better engaged by UNEA, the UN and national governments in climate action? How can Member States be better encouraged to meet their NDCs? How can the existing platforms for knowledge sharing be better used to optimize stakeholders work in climate action?

Annotated Bibliography

Allen, M. R., et al. (2018). Framing and Context in: Global warming of 1.5oC. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5oC Above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Retrieved 25 February from: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/chapter-1/> This source is a summary of the impacts of a global warming of 1.5oC above pre-industrial levels. This information is useful because climate action seeks to keep rising global temperatures to a level where remediation is attainable. It illustrates the relationship between global average temperatures and the environment as it stands. It also compares these averages to pre-industrial levels. This information will help delegates understand why this target is necessary to achieve sustainable development globally.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Twenty-first session. (2015). Paris Agreement. Retrieved on Climate Change. Retrieved 25 February from: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. The agreement has a long-term goal of limiting global warming to below 1.5oC. It recommends economic and social changes Member States need to undertake to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050. Delegates will find this useful when researching how national governments plan to implement the goals set in this agreement. The agreement also includes NDCs, which Member States utilize to share their action plans towards reducing greenhouse emissions.



United Nations. (n.d.). The Sustainable Development Agenda. Retrieved 24 February 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

The Sustainable Development Agenda is simplified here. It gives the reader information about all the SDGs in a manner that is easy to access. The Frequently Asked Questions section answers most questions that a delegate would ask as they begin their research. It

also includes information about why these goals are important, how to achieve them, and how they differ from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These questions and their answers serve as a good starting point for delegates who wish to discourse the relationship between climate action and sustainable development.

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021). Regional Collaboration Centers. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres> This source gives delegates an overview of what regional efforts have been made up to 2020 in climate action for sustainable development. It highlights the impacts of regional cooperation and how it has enhanced the implementation of climate-related policies. When delegates embark on forming partnerships, this will serve as a guide to what has been done and what remains to be enacted in policy. It also reflects different means of implementation across six different regions of the world. Since all this work stems from the objectives of the United Nations, the Regional Collaboration Centers also show how they interface with the United Nations System, promote accountability, and measure and report on their progress.

United Nations Environment Assembly. (2021). Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Retrieved 3 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5> Delegates will find this source useful because it contains information regarding the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. From the timeline of meetings to current discussions, delegates will find links for related material. Since this topic is currently being considered by the assembly, this will be a good starting point for retrieving information about current challenges, statistics, and trends. Delegates will also be able to find the relationships between climate action and sustainable development.



Bibliography

Allen, M. R., et al. (2018). Framing and Context in: Global Warming of 1.5oC. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5oC Above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Retrieved 25 February 2021 from: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/chapter-1/>

Green Climate Fund. (n.d.). About Green Climate Fund. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about>

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2021). UNEA-5 Online Session Sets Stage for Next Four Years. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unea-5-online-session-sets-stage-for-next-four-years/>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2018). Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5oC: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, and Reducing Inequalities. Retrieved 3 March 2021 from: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/chapter-5/>

Logan, K. (2019, April 19). UN Environment Assembly Passes Landmark Resolution Promoting Gender Equality in Environmental Governance. International Union for Conservation of Nature. Retrieved 26 February 2021 from: <https://www.iucn.org/news/world-commission-environmental-law/201904/un-environment-assembly-passes-landmark-resolution-promoting-gender-equality-environmental-governance>

United Nations. (n.d.). The Sustainable Development Agenda. Retrieved 24 February 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2019). Enabling Long-Term Impact: The Role of Regional Collaboration Centers in Catalyzing Climate Action. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RCC_Report_2019_External_ver.03%28July28-2020%29.pdf



United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2019). Regional Collaboration Centers: 2019 Highlights. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Highlights2019.pdf>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021). Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Retrieved 20 April from: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021). Regional Collaboration Centers. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021). The Paris Agreement. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021). UNFCCC Partners. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/unfccc-partners>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021, February 1). Regional Climate Weeks to Drive Forward Climate Action in 2021 and 2022. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/news/regional-climate-weeks-to-drive-forward-climate-action-in-2021-and-2022>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021, February 26). Greater Climate Ambition Urged as Initial NDC Synthesis Report is Published. Retrieved 26 February 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/news/greater-climate-ambition-urged-as-initial-ndc-synthesis-report-is-published>

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. (2021). Introduction to Gender and Climate Change.

Retrieved 15 May 2021 from: <https://unfccc.int/gender>

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Retrieved 28 February 2021 from:

https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). Climate Change. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/climate-change>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS). Retrieved 2 March from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/nationalsustainabledevelopmentstrategies>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). The 17 Goals. Retrieved 1 March 2021 from: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2007). Addressing Climate Change in National Sustainable Development Strategies - Common Practices. Retrieved 1 March 2021 from: https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/egm_ClimateChange/bp_ccInNSDS.pdf

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development. (n.d.). National Sustainable Development Strategies – The Global Picture. Retrieved 1 March 2021 from: https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/bgnote_nsdsmap.pdf

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, April 11). Secretary-General's Remarks at Climate Leaders' Summit in Washington DC, 11 April. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2014-04-11/secretary-generals-remarks-climate-leaders-summit>

United Nations Environment Assembly. (2019). Promoting Gender Equality and the Human Rights and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Environmental Governance (UNEP/EA.4/L.21). Retrieved 1 March 2021 from: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28481/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

United Nations Environment Assembly. (2021). Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Retrieved 3 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5>



United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Climate Initiatives Platform. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Welcome>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Climate Mitigation Finance: Driving Clean Energy Investments. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-change/what-we-do/mitigation/climate-mitigation-finance>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Energy. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-change/what-we-do/mitigation/energy>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Facts About the Climate Emergency. Retrieved 3 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-change/facts-about-climate-emergency>.

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Gender Mainstreaming. Retrieved 28 February 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/gender/what-we-do/gender-mainstreaming>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Goal 13: Climate Action. Retrieved 1 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/sustainable-development-goals/why-do-sustainable-development-goals-matter/goal-13>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Mitigation. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-change/what-we-do/mitigation?_ga=2.180443943.1035789101.1615045816-909378064.1613832775

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Partnerships. Retrieved 20 April 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement/partnerships>

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-change/what-we-do/redd>



United Nations Environment Programme. (2020). Gender, Climate, and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change. Retrieved 2 March 2021 from: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32638/GCS.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2015). Transforming our world:the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1). Retrieved 1 March 2021 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme. (2019). Our Impact. Retrieved 16 March 2021 from: <https://www.un-redd.org/ourimpact>

United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals Platform. (n.d.). Climate Action. Retrieved 20 April 2021 from: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-action/>



By adhering to these guidelines, delegates contribute to a conference that embodies SMISMUN's values of respect, inclusivity, academic rigor, and global understanding.

Only through collective commitment can we achieve the enriching experience that SMISMUN aims to provide.

Please refer to the Code of Conduct on the SMISMUN website (<https://smismun.in>) for the conference for further information on the consequences of breaching the above mentioned rules for decorum.

