

GEMUN 2018

GeUniMUN

Topic 1: Enhancing international Cooperation on Climate Change Mitigation under the Paris Agreement

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I. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

- **Carbon dioxide (CO₂):** is an important greenhouse gas, released through human activities such as burning fossil fuels, as well as natural processes such as respiration and volcanic eruptions. For 400,000 years, carbon levels in the atmosphere had never exceeded 300 parts per million (ppm), but in 2016 CO₂ levels surpassed 400 ppm for the first time in recorded history.
- **Climate change:** a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activities altering the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
- **Climate finance:** local, national or transnational financing, which may be drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing; this asset is critical to address climate change because large-scale investments are required to significantly reduce emissions, notably in sectors that emit large quantities of greenhouse gases.
- **Emissions:** the release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.
- **Greenhouse gases:** those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation (heat-trapping gases).
- **NDCs:** the “nationally determined contributions” are individual countries’ contributions and an important part of the Agreement. They are determined by each country and detail specific emission reductions and other possible action plans to further mitigate climate change.

- **Sustainable development:** the “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).
- **UNFCCC:** is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; its ultimate objective is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system

II. RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC

As climate change represents an urgent threat to our entire species, the Parties to the Paris Agreement decided to take action as never done before. The effects of this phenomenon are still to be fully understood, but we already know that it will alter our environment in many ways: loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise and more intense heat waves are part of the extreme weather conditions already impacting on us. People’s lives will be endangered as the air becomes increasingly polluted; droughts will put at risk our water supplies; small farmers and consequently food security will be endangered, not to mention that the people already suffering from hunger will become even more vulnerable; finally, communities in certain regions will be forced to relocate as temperatures and sea levels rise.

III. KEY ACTORS & MEASURES

China, the U.S., the EU, India, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Saudi Arabia are at the top of the list of countries by CO₂ emissions: this list shows how its top 10 countries account for more than 65% of the world total emissions, strongly affecting the conditions of smaller polluters as well. On the other hand, even smaller countries by size (e.g. Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE) or population (e.g. Australia) though having less impact on the total amount, show incredibly high rates of emissions per capita. The aims of limiting the global temperature increase to 1,5°C, strengthening the ability of developing countries to cope with the impacts of a changing climate, and reaching as soon as possible the peak of greenhouse gas emissions, all represent key measures in the strategy against climate change. Such a plan could clash with those of the growing and largest economies on the planet, which despite having signed it will certainly try to work less hard on the issue or even back out the agreement to protect their economic systems. Since the key is a more effective cooperation among countries, MEDCs and LEDCs need to come together and find a balance that can satisfy both and prevent the situation from deteriorating any further.

IV. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Paris Agreement (2015): http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

UNFCC (1992): <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>

V. ADDITIONAL SOURCES

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/global-warming-paris-agreement-temperature-limit-climate-change-2040-un-report-a8155586.html>



https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/11/21/trumps-noncooperation-threatens-climate-finance-under-the-paris-agreement/?utm_term=.094fb4e8deb6

<https://epthinktank.eu/2017/12/27/implementing-the-paris-agreement-eu-and-global-climate-action-topical-digest/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/paris-climate-agreement>

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Topic 2: Balancing Security and Human Rights in Multilateral Cooperation against terrorism

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I. KEY TERMS

- Human rights: universal values and legal guarantees that protect individuals and groups against actions and omissions primarily by State agents that interfere with fundamental freedoms, entitlements and human dignity. Human rights are universal: this means they belong inherently to all human beings and are interdependent and indivisible.
- Terrorism: commonly understood to refer to acts of violence that target civilians in the pursuit of political or ideological aims.
- UNGCTS: is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; adopted by the UNGA in 2006 it is reviewed every two years. Through its adoption all Member States have agreed for the first time to a common strategic and operational approach to fight terrorism, not only sending a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestation but also resolving to take practical steps individually and collectively to prevent and combat it.

II. RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC

After 9/11 attacks the world entered a new era of unpredictability and insecurity, where danger feels omnipresent and risks defining our lives. Attacks on trains, markets, boulevards, concert halls and mosques have become common on our daily news, since an increasingly globalized world has allowed coverage of attacks to spread worldwide, reporting from Baghdad to Boston, Paris to Kabul, Mogadishu to Istanbul. The internet and social networks have at the same doubtlessly helped in this process by providing a platform and means of communication for extremism and propaganda: men and women around the world in conditions of isolation and vulnerability have been easily recruited by fanatics, as the phenomenon of the *foreign fighters* showed. Perpetrated with bombs or guns, knives or trucks, terrorist attacks share all the same aim: destroying social peace and making people live in a constant and corrosive state of fear that leads them to suspicion and anger towards what's different. Governments often responded with measures restricting human rights and defending

such actions by the claim that this is the price to pay to protect national security and ensure safety. Many NGOs say that seldom violating rights with the aim of preventing further rights violation has been a successful tool: this instead risks reinforcing the terrorists' sense of purpose and at the same endangers the liberties of their own citizens.

III. KEY MEASURES

In its Global CT Strategy, the UN laid down four courses of action to reach its goals: addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; promoting measures to prevent and combat terrorism; implementing provisions to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the UN system in that regard; ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. As the counter-terrorism measures evolve so does the terrorist threat: for those reasons Member States need to formulate new plans of action able to prevent it. Stopping financing of terrorist groups, preventing widespread propaganda and every form of radicalization of young people, as well as trying to tackle the roots of this phenomenon, are possible ways to eradicate it. At the same time is vital for our societies not putting HR in the background, since values such as freedom of the press, data protection and solidarity cannot be stomped in the name of the fight against terrorism.

IV. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

UDHR (1948):

<http://www.jus.uio.no/lm/un.universal.declaration.of.human.rights.1948/portrait.a4.pdf>

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet32EN.pdf>

V. ADDITIONAL SOURCES

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/RuleOfLaw/Pages/Terrorism.aspx>

<https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/human-rights/>

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/node/20>