
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Fossil Ridge High School

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us. If there are any questions concerning the hypothetical nature of the crisis or delegate's positions, we are happy to clarify. We understand that crisis can be difficult and we are here to help ensure this is as fun as possible! Good luck.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Fossil Ridge High School's 2017 Crisis Conference. Fossil's annual conference is a bit different from typical MUN conferences in the circuit. Namely in that all the committees will be responding to their issues in a real-time simulation of a crisis. Because of this, delegates will need to be prepared for possibly unpredictable changes in the simulation, and will need to adjust their own positions accordingly.

For delegates who haven't been in crisis committees before, this kind of conference typically moves much more quickly than a traditional MUN format. The actions delegates take will have immediate and real-world consequences in the simulated universe, and they'll have to deal with these consequences accordingly. The need for delegates to find common ground will be more challenging and more necessary than ever. Rapid changes could force a delegate to completely change their position, and fast, well thought-out responses to crises will be necessary to keep the situation manageable. Directives tend to play a major role in this conference as such, but will not be as important in this committee. A directive is similar to a resolution, but submitted by a single nation, and that nation alone is responsible for its execution.

One of the most unique and interesting things about this conference is the live media coverage which will be utilized as a resource to delegates. We will have a full news crew reporting on the developments of each chamber, reporting crises, and interviewing delegates.

Fossil's Crisis Committees seek to be the most realistic simulation of international diplomacy possible, and it will require delegates to be able to think on their feet, make compromises, and quickly adjust to unforeseen circumstances. It will take a massive amount of coordination by delegates to resolve the issue comprehensively.

The goal of this council will be to draft a new climate accord. Though we are already making significant strides in combating global climate change, it is arguable that we should start to implement a plan with more rapid change. It is indisputable that international communication will be key in order to make successful strides in mitigation. So, in this council we will task delegates with writing a new climate accord to hopefully make larger impacts in implementing policy.

Best of luck! Sincerely,

Fossil Ridge Model United Nations

Committee



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began March 21, 1994, and today has nearly universal membership with 197 participating nations (196 states and 1 regional economic integration organization). The main aim of this body is to prevent any “dangerous” human interference with the climate system. The countries that are ratified are known as “Parties to the Convention”. Parties to the UNFCCC consist of: Annex I, Annex II, Least Developed Countries, and Non-Annex I.

Annex I: These parties are classified as “industrialized” or “developed” countries, as well as “economies in transition” (EITs). There are 43 nations listed in Annex I, and 14 are EITs.

Annex II: These parties are the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Members are required to provide financial and technical support to EITs and Developing Countries to assist them in climate change mitigation. There are 24 nations included here.

Least Developed Countries: These parties have special status under the treaty and are viewed as having limited capabilities in adapting to and combatting the effects of climate change. There are 47 nations considered to be LDCs.

Non-Annex I: Parties not classified as LDCs or Annex I tend to be developing nations. These nations may volunteer to become Annex I if they are sufficiently developed.

The Convention was originally adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee during its fifth session in New York that organized from April 30 to May 9 in 1992. The Convention itself is subject to ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by all states (and regional economic integration organizations, though there is only one). States that haven’t signed on to the Convention can accede from it at any time.

In the interest of keeping the history of the UNFCCC brief, a more cohesive history of the actions the convention has taken can be found in the first half of the timeline. The second half will encompass a brief summary of the thirty-three years between the present, 2017, and the meeting that is about take place.

Due to occurrences over the past thirty-three years, the world is now in a climate crisis. During the annual meeting of the UNFCCC the purpose will be to begin to draft a new climate accord. The UNFCCC council will be drafting and ratifying a new climate accord to immediately address the catastrophic climate related events the world is facing. The measures will have to account for rapid rising sea levels, displaced people in coastal cities, and emissions of all kinds. Measures would need to include the drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, expectations for the implantation of infrastructure that lends itself to the transition to renewable energy, and beginning processes to transfer carbon from the atmosphere.

Delegates will be tasked with drafting a more enduring climate accord than those before, in wake of many recent natural disasters. Climate accords are generally just agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change dealing with some aspect of climate change mitigation. Climate accords ensure the climate’s protection by providing a clear list of requirements and goals that will have a long term positive effect on the environment. Examples of such climate accords are: the [Kyoto Protocol](#), the [Cancun Agreements](#), and the [Paris Agreement](#). In these climate accords conditions for mitigating global warming are discussed and ways that countries shall report the contributions are also included. These documents can serve as examples for the expectation of the committee. Delegates should be addressing issues including, but not limited to: ecological impacts of climate change, extensive droughts, accelerated sea level rising, and extreme weather conditions.

Annex I Countries: *Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, & United States of America*

Non-Annex I Countries: Afghanistan*, Albania, Angola*, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bangladesh*, Belize, Benin*, Bhutan*, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia*, Chad, Central African Republic*, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti*, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia*, Gambia*, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti*, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Liberia*, Madagascar*, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar*, Nigeria, Niger*, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda*, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia*, South Africa, South Korea, Syria, Tanzania*, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen*, Zambia, & Zimbabwe

* = LDC

italicized = member of Annex II

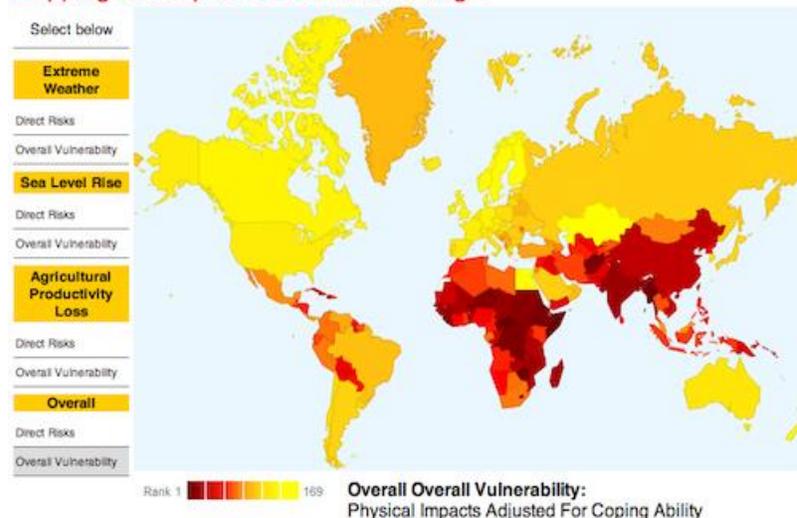
Topic Overview

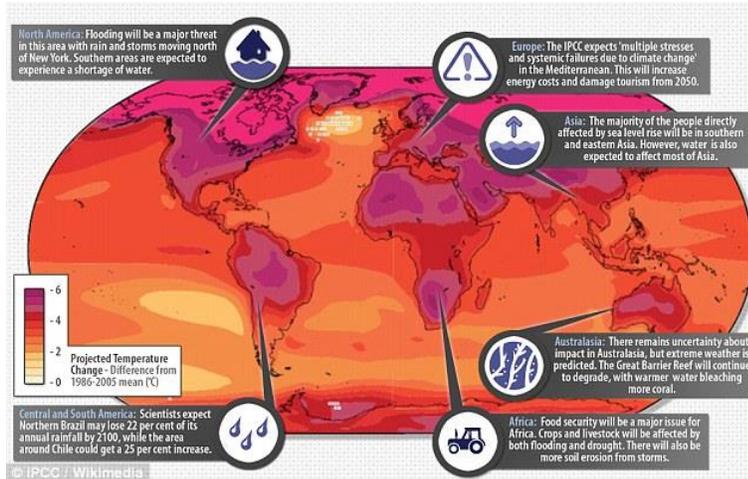
The year is 2050. The effects of climate change, which in the past were looked upon as a distant concern of the next generation have begun to have impacts close to home. Renewed calls for action to be taken against these noticeable environmental factors have re-emerged, a shift in popular attitude towards climate change not seen since before the year 2020. Starting in 2017, with calls for new nationalism and a protectionist foreign policy, the United States, led by then-President Donald Trump, pulled out of the Paris Climate Accords, raising both eyebrows and tensions from the rest of the world. Shortly after, the United States began a process of dissolving environmental protection legislation, giving major corporations the freedoms to extract natural resources without environmental oversight, policy decisions not seen since before the Nixon administration and The Environmental Decade. This deregulation of environmental protection led to rush for natural resource extraction within the United States, with large swaths of land previously protected opened up for extraction.

This boom led to increased hiring numbers, job creation, and corporate growth. Extraction in the United States of oil, coal, natural gas, various precious minerals, and the harvest of timber reached an all-time national high in 2019. A flood of inexpensive domestic fossil fuel energy led to a surge in transportation infrastructure and with an excess of inexpensive fossil fuels, the United States began to compete internationally as an exporter of oil and refined natural resource wealth. These factors combined to cause a sharp increase in the GDP of the United States and while the nation had removed itself from the international community politically, it had bolstered its international economic influence. Domestically, scientific opposition to these environmentally destructive practices were repressed with calls of ‘fake news’ and the administration’s encouragement of climate change skepticism. While there was initial pushback from the scientific community and certain groups of the population, government defunding of the EPA and funds for environmental research encouraged scientist to switch to research in other fields or face their funding on the cutting block. With economic growth, job creation and inexpensive energy prices, popular opinion eventually fell behind corporations and the Trump administration with the most vocal opposition groups labeled as ‘Eco-Terrorists’.

Other major international actors, initially highly critical of the United States’ decision to abandon the Paris Climate Accords, were forced to take note of the US economic reports and the disadvantage faced when competing economically with a nation that had no environmental restrictions. First Russia in 2019, then India in 2020, and China in 2022. All adopted similar economic

Mapping the Impacts of Climate Change





strategies as they discovered they were unable to compete with other nations who chose to focus on their economy at the detriment of the environment. In 2025, OPEC nations, alarmed by the prospect of losing their oligopoly of the oil industry, made the collective decision to abandon their commitments to environmental sustainability under the pressure of cheap oil exports from countries such as the United States and Russia, who, as sea ice began to retreat, were able to open up new areas of the arctic for drilling and resource extraction.

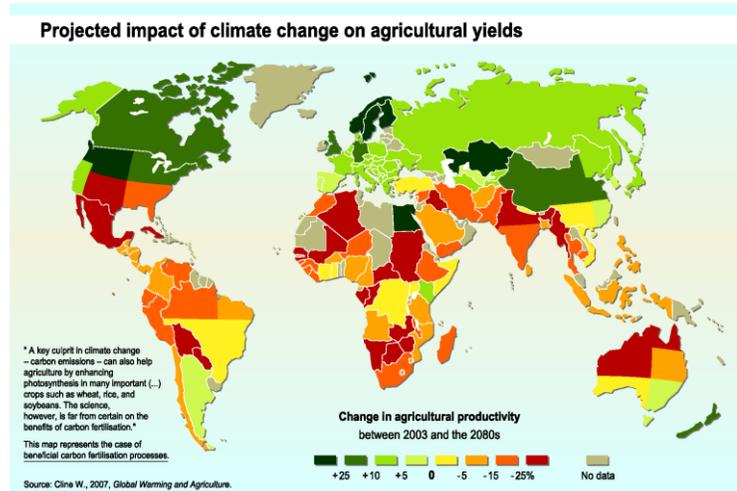
Environmental effects of these policies initially went unnoticed, with strange weather being written off to seasonal anomalies and warmer winters being looked upon favorably in most of the world. Some climate scientists, working from nations that still stood by environmental policies, banded together to form the International Committee for Environmental Conservation Advocacy and Policy (ICECAP), which each year announced grimmer and grimmer environmental reports. These reports were mostly ignored by the major powers as they touted jobs and GDP numbers to the population. Some notice was taken during the middle of 2033, as stronger hurricanes began to regularly appear during a longer hurricane season, causing greater destruction as they traced a more and more erratic path across the oceans, causing destruction wherever they made landfall. In response, the governments of wealthier nations, with the tax revenue generated by economic growth began the implementation of a hurricane infrastructure project along the coast, building dikes, levees and water breaks for their coastal cities. For the nations who could not afford these upgrades, the prospects were grimmer as they suffered heavy losses of infrastructure and lives as storms ravaged communities. By the middle of the 2030s, weather patterns became more sporadic with changes in established climate patterns, such as El Niño, leading to droughts, flooding, and month-long heat waves.

In the year 2038, members of the International Committee for Environmental Conservation Advocacy and Policy (ICECAP) reported that sea levels across the world would begin to exponentially climb, affecting major coastal cities as the unchecked melting of the world's ice caps continued. These reports also shed light on the on the hurricane chains and made predictions into expected changes in global temperatures over the following years.

They predicted that by 2048, the average world temperature would increase by 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit. But, in 2048, average world temperatures were recorded at 3.5 degrees higher than in the year 2017. Along with this temperature increase came two new weather anomalies; a heavy increase of dry thunderstorms, paralleled in other areas by a heavy increase in the average amount of rainfall. This, along with the already prevalent hurricane threat, finally brought together some of the most fervent climate change deniers to consider the validity of scientific claims. Unfortunately, much of the damage was already done, with hurricanes causing infrastructural devastation wherever they would make made landfall, the dry thunderstorms often led to widespread forest and brush fires, and the monsoon-like rainstorms brought mass flooding. For developed countries, who could turn to technology to prevent some of the worst of these disasters, the loss of life and infrastructure damage was minimized. However, for developing countries natural disaster humanitarian crisis on a yearly basis was becoming the norm.

These challenges brought on by climate change led to greater instability within governments, especially in impoverished nations, where government rule often broke down during times of natural disaster. In many impoverished nations populations began living closer and closer together to seek shelter

from the effects of climate change, putting them at greater risk if a massive natural phenomenon struck an urban center. In the year of 2049, reports published began showing a pessimistic outlook of available food and water in the next couple of decades because of the numerous crops being burned in natural fires and failing through droughts. In addition to failures in farming and crops, biodiversity of the planet began to be affected as large numbers of niche species began going extinct as their climate became unsuitable for habitation or food source dissipated. Even more alarming is the impending humanitarian crisis as regional instability, changing climate and food and water shortages begin to affect the most vulnerable parts of the world.



In response these rising concerns, the United Nations has deemed it the prerogative of the UNFCCC to address the current environmental crises and to take action to mitigate anthropogenic climate change. This ought to be achieved through the drafting of a more enduring climate accord. Delegates are pressured to face the reality of these current issues or be left with the future consequences of irreversible environmental damage.

Timeline

1800 - 1870: CO₂ level in the atmosphere is measured at 290 ppm; Mean global temperature is 13.7°C:

First industrial revolution

1870 - 1910: Second industrial revolution

1920 - 1925: Major oil fields are discovered in the Persian Gulf and cheap energy is accessed

1930s: Climate change trend is reported

1957: Launch of soviet sputnik increases funding to climate research

1958: The greenhouse effect is proven on Venus

1960: The level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is at 315 ppm; The average global temperature is at 13.9 °C

1967: The International Global Atmospheric Research Program is established

1968: Studies show the collapse of the arctic ice sheets will cause major sea level rise

1970: United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USNOAA) is created as one of the largest climate research funders

1971: Study of Man's Impact of Climate (SMIC) Conference of Leading Scientists takes place and climate change funding is increased

1972: Ice core samples show drastic changes in climate from the past 100 years in former stable climate areas; Food crises begin in Africa, the Republic of India and Ukraine

1976: Aerosols, and methane are proven as greenhouse gasses along with CO₂; Deforestation and ecosystem changes are recognized as major climate change contributors

1979: Second energy crisis breaks out causing renewable energy sources to be used more frequently; World Climate Change Programme (WCRP) is organized

1982: Research states 1981 as the warmest year on record

1985: Villach Conference declares climate change as an inevitable emergency and calls on governments to place restrictions on emissions

1988: Toronto Conference imposes limits on greenhouse gas production; Biological studies provide evidence suggesting that living organisms can produce greenhouse gasses including methane; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is organized

1990: IPCC reports that climate change has and will continue to affect earth and calls for a global treaty

1992: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is organized

1995: IPCC reports the effects of climate change will be likely felt in the 20th century

1997: UNFCCC introduces the Kyoto Protocol setting goals to reduce greenhouse gasses

2001: Bonn meeting in collaboration with many other countries developed mechanisms for reaching Kyoto Protocol and goals; Marrakesh meeting in collaboration with many other countries opens discussion on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol

2005: Kyoto Protocol goes into effect

2006: UNFCCC clean development mechanism opens

2007: IPCC states that restricting emissions will cost significantly less than the damages of climate change; UNFCCC adopted the Bali Road Map charting the negotiations for new climate accords

2008: UNFCCC Joint implementation mechanism goes into effect allowing Kyoto members to earn benefits for emissions reduction; UNFCCC conference of Poznan lays framework for assisting developing countries in emissions reduction

2009: Climate research suggests that climate change will start to affect earth sooner than anticipated; UNFCCC produces the Copenhagen Accord allowing for greater funding towards emissions reduction and climate research

2010: UNFCCC produces the Cancun Agreement allowing aid for developing countries dealing with climate change

2011: UNFCCC members agree to make a new climate accord for dealing with climate change past 2020

2012: Climate research suggests ties between climate and natural disasters; UNFCCC produces Doha Agreement strengthening the Kyoto Protocol

2013: UNFCCC produces the Warsaw Outcomes setting regulations to limit emissions from deforestation

2015: Climate research finds the melting of the ice caps is irreversible and will raise water levels over the next five centuries; UNFCCC introduces the Paris Agreement allowing nations to pledge goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promise a sustainable future; The average global temperature is at 14.1°C and the CO₂ levels are at 400 ppm

2016: UNFCCC launches Marrakesh partnership for Global Climate Action to strengthen the Paris Agreement

2017: The United States of America pulls out of the Paris agreement (June 1); UNFCCC Meeting in Bonn, Germany is held

2018: The United States begins the deregulation program and ending of environmental protection to enable corporations to have unrestricted access to resource extraction

2019: Russia Pulls out of the climate accords and subsequently ends domestic environmental protection

2020: India follows suit also withdrawing support for climate agreements, no longer restricting pollution

2022: After a period of trying to implement green energy, but unable to compete with fossil fuels and losing money in international trade China pulls out of climate accords. Has switched some of its coal burning plants over to green power and is still concerned about air quality and pollution

2025: OPEC countries withdraw from climate accords

2026: Signals start of mass drilling period where international oil expansion increases into the arctic and price of fossil fuels becomes highly competitive

2030: In response to deregulation, ICECAP is founded

Mid 2030s: Series of highly irregular weather patterns and storms (repeated years of hurricane season that knock out power, destroying coastal cities many before not considered in paths of hurricanes, including Washington D.C.

2038: ICECAP report on climate change, storms and ocean warming rise spelling grim future

2040: Developed nations, in response to storms earlier in the decade, began construction of dikes, levees and protections for infrastructure in response to climate anomalies

2042: Alarming report by ICECAP of declining biodiversity on the planet. Fishing stocks plummet.

2045: Alarming report on pollution. Serious health concerns in manufacturing nations

2046: Instability in some regions of the world as overcrowding and economic disparity between rich nations and the rest take their toll

2048: Record high in global temperature. 3.5°F above 2017 temperatures.

2049: Drought and crop failure globally

2050: UNFCCC meet date

Bloc Positions

United States: Initially the United States withdrew from international climate accords with political motivation, but as it began to prosper economically as a result of deregulation, stayed the course for several decades. After decades of neglecting the environment, new generations have begun to adopt a position of moral responsibility, and the United States as whole has begun to drastically rethink its position on environmental policy. Moving forward in the UNFCCC meeting, the United States intends to push towards solutions with lasting effects and noticeable change, in an attempt to mitigate past damages.

China: With the intentions of competing with the US on a level economic playing field, China also proceeded to withdraw from international climate accords. China's government is now working to create long-term infrastructure programs to ensure that its citizens do not feel the long-term effects of climate change. This would include the addition and/or creation of: levies, dikes, flood dams, seawalls, factory filtration, as well as air systems within buildings. China feels the best way to combat climate change is to invest in state-funded projects to protect its people from the negative effects of climate change.

Russia: After the US withdraw from international climate agreements, Russia followed suit acknowledging the increased economic potential associated with this decision. With new opportunities for Arctic drilling open to them, Russia has embraced the benefits experienced through climate change, including the access to more seaports and habitable land. Russia is here to observe the struggles faced and solutions presented on global warming and how it will affect the Russian policy on climate change. This will include ensuring that Russian interests are not compromised by actions taken by the committee.

India: Originally, economic competition with carbon taxes left India faced with many fiscal challenges. This includes the inability to switch from fossil fuel usage to more renewable sources for financial reasons. Moving forward, recognizing the harmful impacts of climate change, India believes the support of developed nations aiding the developing world in creating sustainable shifts to renewable energies is crucial for the benefit of local environments, as their national infrastructure is highly reliant upon the usage of fossil fuels. India has observed the negative impacts of climate change on its people, and no longer is in search of cheaper fuel alternatives, they would prefer to turn to the aid of the UNFCCC in supporting a sustainable shift in infrastructure.

OPEC: Leaving international climate accords behind for economic interests in the fossil fuel industry, OPEC states (Angola, Ecuador, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela) are, now left to determine their respective environmental policies. OPEC has begun to dissolve as the differing regional impacts of climate change shift policy focus to more domestic concerns. Throughout committee, delegates must weigh the pros and cons of any accord in regard to their geographic climate change concerns and economic interests in fossil fuels.

Issues for all regions

Below are regional specific concerns for delegates. Delegates should research and understand the issues of concern for their geographic region in addition knowing high risk global issues and the concerns of economic and political adversaries and allies.

Issues of Global Concern

Issues of concern to all delegates include those that threaten the stability of the international community, these include, but are not limited to: global shortages of food due to droughts, floods and changes in climate, (this issue is especially relevant for nations which rely heavily on imported food as they will feel the shortages first), political and economic instability spreading across borders and compromising the global economy, (this includes issues such as mass genocides and crimes against humanity), massive global pandemics and progressive climate change leaving portions of the earth uninhabitable leading to overpopulation and overcrowding. Additionally, all delegates should be concerned with decreasing global biodiversity on the planet, as species face habitat loss and extinction and the global consequences of melting ice caps, rising water levels, and global temperature changes.

North American Region

Issues of concern in the North American region include: wildfires and firestorms across much of the central Midwest, as dry conditions in grasslands and forests lead to uncontrollable wildfires that have the potential to devastate timber supplies, crops and urban centers. Along with wildfires, there is expected heat waves across much of the southern portion of North America with high temperatures leading to heat related fatalities, increased energy expenditure and loss of productivity. Finally, flooding in coastal regions from tropical storms and increase in extreme weather events such as tornadoes and flash floods could affect much of the continent.

Central and South American Region

Issues of concern in the Central and South American Region include: high likelihood of crop failure as environmental changes alter growing conditions to make much of the region unable to grow staple crops relied upon by the population for substance. Due to sanitation conditions, population density, access to healthcare and temperature this region is at high risk for diseases, pandemics and health concerns. Finally, Environmental changes in the region could have major effects on quality of life as rising temperatures alter rainfall patterns and river paths. Coastal regions are also highly susceptible to tropical storms and hurricanes. Because this region has many high-risk factors. This puts it at additional risk for economic and political instability in cases of disaster.

African Region

Issues of concern in the African Region include: limited access to water (this will become a major concern with rising temperatures and droughts as wells and rivers begin to dry up), coupled with drought and dust storms. Crop failure from changes in climate and lack of access will be particularly devastating to this region as much of the population relies on locally sourced agriculture for food, meaning that large food shortages will have high impact on the region in which they are located. Finally, due to climate, sanitation and access to healthcare this region is also at high risk for diseases and pandemics with possibilities for outbreaks spreading to other regions of the world. Because this region has many high-risk factors, this puts it at additional risk for economic and political instability in cases of disaster.

European Region and Eastern Russia

Issues of concern in the European and Eastern Region are moderate compared to other areas of the world. Concerns include: overpopulation as changes in climate and instability displace migrants who resettle in Europe, political and economic instability from trade disruptions and disputes over population and refugees, risk of water and food shortages and extreme heat in some regions. Changes to tropical storm patterns could also affect European coastal regions. As a center for global commerce and transportation this region would suffer greatly from disruption to economic stability or a mass pandemic.

Asia Region

Issues for this region will depend on the specific geographical area in question due to the diversity in climate. However, due to this region being the most populous in world it will be at the greatest risk of pandemics overpopulation and pollution having health effects on the population. Additionally, if political instability or famine becomes wide reaching in this region the effects will only compound due to high population density. In regards to environmental issues, some areas will experience flooding, while others extreme heat and limited water supply as the result of climate change. Changes to climate patterns will affect monsoon trends across the region, affecting crops and infrastructure, coastlines will be at increased risk to tropical storms.

Australia and Oceania

Major concern to this region are droughts and floods, with brush fires caused by droughts and destruction and flash flooding caused by mass rains to be an additional concern. Major concerns for this region are changes the climate, which can lead to the extinction of local flora and fauna. This would have a negative effect on a region for which ecotourism plays an important role in their economy.

Small Islands

Concerns for small island nations would be primarily focused upon the effects of rising sea levels putting communities underwater and leading to overcrowding in the few remaining habitable areas. Changes to climate could affect local ocean ecosystems leading to decline in fish stocks and compromising the food supply and economy of many island nations. Additionally, any increase in the amount or intensity of tropical storms would have a high impact on this region. Because this region has many high-risk factors that affect individual livelihood and survivability, this puts it at additional risk for economic and political instability in cases of disaster.

Crisis Committee Information

Discussion Questions

1. What are some key elements necessary to include in a new climate accord to address growing issues?
2. What ways are there to implement sustainable infrastructures in developing nations?
3. What international factors might impede the creation and implementation of a new climate accord?
4. How can nations individually contribute to anthropogenic climate change mitigation?
5. What possible ramifications will there be if a new climate accord is not implemented?

What to Expect

Delegates should know this is an intermediate level committee, and as such should expect at least 2-3 crises per committee session. Crises will be formulated based on the actions of the council, so delegates should be prepared to be engaged in the on-goings of the committee and the resolutions of crises.

Media Coverage/Press Conference and Interviews

This committee is technically an intermediate committee. Meaning, the live media aspect of our conference will be incorporated differently than in past committees FRHS has hosted. There will be structured interactions with the Media and the Press Corps in the UNFCCC committee. This committee will only have one chapter. There is no need to specify media preference for this committee, as there will only be one. All delegates in this committee will have access to the media as a resource, and are encouraged to utilize the media as a resource through: press conferences, press releases, and interviews. This is not required though. There will be time for structured interaction with the media throughout committee.

Resolutions and Directives

In this crisis conference, the passing of both directives and resolutions will be encouraged. Uniquely, in this conference, there will be a live media aspect, intended to interact with the delegates. While we encourage the use of this resource to its fullest potential, directives won't be the main focus of this committee. Regardless, delegates will be encouraged to (in collaboration with our Crisis team), to announce their actions to the media.

A directive, most simply put, is a command or instruction to carry out an action. Some delegates find it easiest to think of directives as the operative clauses of a resolution. A directive simply needs to be a few brief lines specifically detailing what you wish to occur. The power that a directive has in its ability to carry out actions is limited to the sum of the powers of the total signatories on the directive; directives do not have sponsors. Signing on to a directive gives is the legitimacy required to pass. With each subsequent signatory the directive gains the power of that signatory. For example, a directive signed by the leaders of the United States and the France would possess the combined power of those two nations.

Directives are best used to carry out an action in response to crises that occur; to mobilize or move troops, close borders, or utilize any of the powers vested in you as the leader of a nation.

The main goal of this committee will be to draft a climate accord. So, when attempting to respond to crises, delegates will be encouraged to use directives as a quick approach in resolving a situation.

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