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Topic Area B

Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Mankind

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INTRODUCTION

At the end of the last century, mankind looked back at its achievements of the last one hundred years and felt justifiably proud. It had unlocked the secrets of the atom and had split the nucleus to unleash its energy, it had discovered that the universe is expanding, that life's architecture is based on a beautifully simple double helix of DNA and it had travelled to the moon not to conquer but to learn. We are entitled to a moment of reflection on God's gift of the human intellect. However, then came the realization that the same mankind that had understood the forces of nature had left out one of them: mankind itself had become a force of nature, so powerful as to be potentially capable of changing our world for centuries to come.

The history of humanity has been punctuated by various sorts of revolutions. The first revolution occurred thousands of years ago, at the end of the last ice age, when mankind used "knowledge" to sow seeds and found a more stable and predictable source of food. The second revolution began almost three hundred years ago with the industrial revolution when "knowledge" was used to obtain energy, no longer from animals or the wind but from coal and steam. That engineering feat unleashed the build-up of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. More than one hundred years ago, the Swedish chemist S. Arrhenius warned that a doubling of carbon dioxide gas may have dire consequences for humankind and now that phenomenon has been recognized in its full dimension. Nature required one million years to produce the amount of fossil fuel that humanity burns in only one year.

Perhaps we need a "third revolution" in which we use our knowledge once again. Knowledge is a public good, one we can share with others without losing it. Knowledge will help us move from a model that is resource intensive to one that is knowledge intensive. Knowledge is an unlimited natural resource. Instead of burning coal and wood, we must begin to burn knowledge so that finally the people of the world will count for more than they produce, that the human person will truly be the center of our concerns for sustainable development.

We should not become a civilization that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. And right now the subject goes like this, every country says yes, we must save the world, we must do our best to protect the environment, but no country is willing to do this to the detriment of its economic and industrial status. Therefore we have formations of blocks of countries all supporting the protection of global climate but serving different interests, we have a subject with a very long history since it is a subject that has preoccupied the interest of the Second Committee for many years, that has many viable solutions but ,almost, none has ever been really implemented. It is of common knowledge that differences in financial matters lead to differences in problem-solution resolutions but this has been of no help since now obviously knowing that this subject has been on the agenda from the first General Assembly initiative relevant to climate change that was the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983.

This was just a small prologue to help you understand that this issue is no less important than any other subject on the international global agenda, no less important than human trafficking or any nuclear weapon proliferation problem since in order to concern ourselves with such matters we have to have a planet to live on. Full stop.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first General Assembly initiative relevant to climate change was the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development in **1983**. Chaired by Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, this independent body became known as the Brundtland Commission.

Its **1987** report "Our Common Future" analyzed the state of the global environment and identified priority areas for an institutional and legal response. It called for international negotiations for a climate treaty, research into the origins and effects of climate change, scientific monitoring of the climate, international policies for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and measures for coping with the effects of climate change.

In **1988**, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind".

It urged the world community to treat climate change as a priority issue, reaffirmed a **1987** resolution approving an initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to cooperate on this issue, and endorsed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The resolution also encouraged the convening of national and international climate conferences and asked UNEP and WMO to put the IPCC to work immediately on a comprehensive review of the state of the global climate.

In **1989** the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992. Climate change was to be a top priority at this high-level forum.

By **1989**, a number of international and regional conferences had been held to discuss climate change. The UN General Assembly welcomed these efforts and endorsed the decision by UNEP and WMO to start work on a climate treaty. It proposed that this work start as quickly as possible and take into account the conclusions of the Second World Climate Conference, to be held in **1990**.

The Assembly's **1989** resolutions on climate change emphasized the concerns of developing countries and of low-lying coastal and island states. They called for technology transfers and funding mechanisms to ensure the full participation of developing countries in the climate negotiations. The resolutions also urged the world community to help the developing states, especially those most affected by rising sea levels and other climate change impacts, to adapt to the situation.

The Second World Climate Conference was an important step towards a global climate treaty. Sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP), and other international organizations, the conference was held in Geneva from 29 October to 7 November **1990**. The Conference's main objectives were to review the UNEP/WMO World Climate Programme (WCP) and to recommend policy actions.

The Assembly's **1990** "climate resolution" established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC). The INC's task was to formulate an international climate Convention. The General Assembly asked the INC to finalize and adopt the Climate Convention in time for it to be opened for signature at UNCED in June **1992**.

It reaffirmed this request in December **1991** and asked states to continue contributing to the funds established for financing the participation of developing countries in the work of the IPCC and the INC.

The INC succeeded in adopting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in May **1992** in compliance with the Assembly's request. This achievement was welcomed by the Assembly in a 1992 Resolution, which also sets out some guidelines for future action.

With various international climate conferences stressing its importance, expectations for this conference were high. The Conference was held at a crucial time in the climate treaty negotiation process. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had completed its First Assessment Report in time for the conference, which in turn was to provide critical input for the first session of the International Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC). The resulting Ministerial Statement, however, disappointed many of the participating scientists as well as other observers because it did not offer a high level of commitment. Nevertheless, the statement did represent, by virtue of its high political level and wide-spread participation, a critical step on the road to a treaty on climate change.

The scientists and technology experts at the Conference issued a strong statement highlighting the risk of climate change. The first part of the Conference consisted of a series of non-governmental scientific sessions attended by 747 scientists and technology experts from

around the world. In addition to 18 Expert Panels and Task Groups, the participants established a Consultation Group on Special Needs of Developing Countries.

The resulting Statement of the Scientific and Technical Sessions made specific recommendations on the significance of greenhouse gases for climate change; the use of climate information in assisting sustainable social and economic development; priorities for enhanced research and observational systems; public information; the impact of climate change on water resources, forests, agriculture and food, oceans, fisheries, and coastal zones; necessary changes in energy production and consumption patterns; the impact of climate change on land use, urban planning, and human health; and the implications of climate change for sustainable development.

The scientific statement also noted that the First World Climate Conference had urged states to foresee and prevent changes to the climate that might have adverse effects**.** In the 11 years since then, it continued, a clear scientific consensus had emerged on the estimated range of global warming that is to be expected during the 21st century. Accordingly, the Second World Climate Conference science meeting agreed that it was time for the world community to take strong measures to reduce sources and to increase "sinks" of greenhouse gases, despite the remaining scientific uncertainties: "If the increase of greenhouse gas concentrations is not limited, the predicted climate change would place stresses on natural and social systems unprecedented in the last 10,000 years." The Conference issued a Ministerial Declaration only after hard bargaining over a number of difficult issues. The second part of the Conference consisted of discussions among heads of government and ministers from 137 states and the European Community.

These discussions were preceded by preparatory negotiations between government officials, which were convened to prepare a text for submission to the ministers. A key issue was whether or not to set emissions targets and to refer specifically to carbon dioxide. The final declaration, adopted after hard bargaining, did not specify any internationally agreed targets. This omission provoked some criticism from delegates and observers who considered the EC target of achieving 1990 emissions levels for carbon dioxide by the year 2000 to be the minimum basis of an acceptable policy for developed countries.

Despite their difficulties, the participants did agree on a number of points. The key agreements, included in the Declaration, were that participants recognize a number of principles that had emerged in international climate discussions, including the concept of climate change as a common concern of humankind, the principle of equity and the common but differentiated responsibility of countries at different levels of development, the concept of sustainable development, and the precautionary principle stress the need for further scientific research on the causes and effects of climate change and recommend that this be done mainly through support of the World Climate Programme (WCP).

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC) was established to draft a legally binding climate treaty. By **1990**, numerous international conferences had issued urgent calls for a binding global treaty addressing the problem of climate change. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization WMO) responded by establishing an intergovernmental working group to prepare for treaty negotiations.

1. Meeting in September 1990 to discuss the format for the negotiations, the group proposed that all negotiations under UN auspices take place within a single forum.

2. The UN General Assembly confirmed this proposal in 1990 and set up the INC to draft a framework convention, as well as any related legal instruments it considered necessary. The INC was given the formidable task of having an "effective" Convention ready in time for the Rio "Earth Summit" in June **1992**. The UN General Assembly established a Trust Fund to cover the costs of the INC's work as well as a Special Voluntary Fund to enable developing countries to participate. The INC became the central forum for the international effort to develop a climate treaty, with some 150 states and numerous intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the negotiations. The Climate Convention was negotiated during five sessions between February 1991 and May 1992. This rapid progress was possible in part because the ground had been prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC), whose First Assessment Report served as a basis for the INC's work, as well as by international meetings such as the Second World Climate Conference. The treaty was drafted by two working groups established by the INC at its first session. The groups met in parallel and submitted draft treaty elements to the plenary. Working Group I elaborated elements relating to commitments, while Working Group II focused on legal and institutional mechanisms.

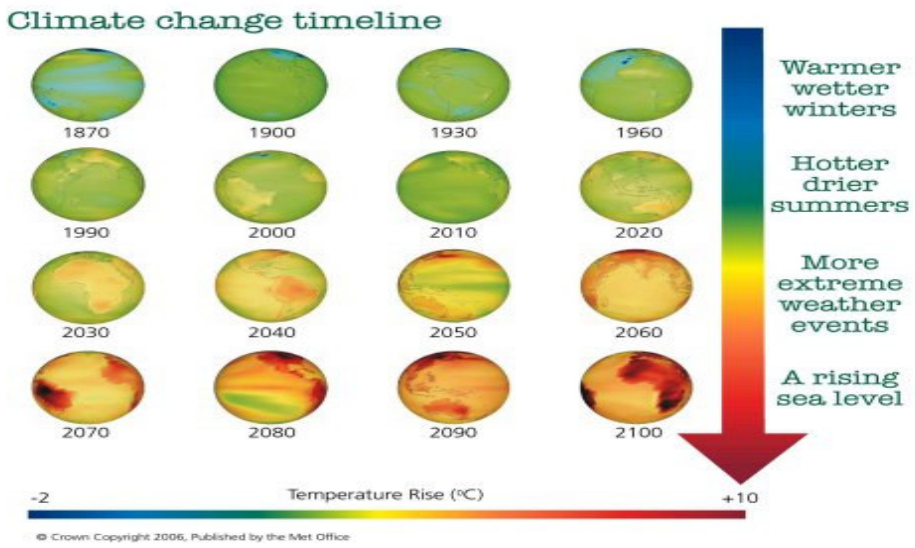
The negotiators had to decide whether the Convention should contain specific implementation mechanisms and commitments for limiting emissions or only basic obligations and general principles. Some states argued that specific emissions-control measures could be included later in protocols, as was done with the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol. Others, fearing that such protocols would be long in materializing, urged that concrete measures be incorporated into the Convention itself. The question of different standards for different categories of countries was also discussed. Many developing countries were prepared to agree to specific commitments as long as they applied primarily to industrialized countries. There was general agreement on the need for financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

Many developing countries pushed for an obligation to provide financial assistance from "new and additional sources" to prevent money simply being diverted from existing funding sources. They also argued that technology should be provided on preferential, non-commercial terms. Some industrialized countries, however, did not want to be pinned down to such commitments. The negotiators had to choose between establishing a new financial mechanism for the Convention or using the existing Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The first option, prompted by concerns over the GEF and the way it is administered, was supported by virtually all developing countries. Some industrialised countries, however, argued that the creation of a new institution would generate additional and unnecessary bureaucracy. In the end, it was agreed that the GEF would operate the Convention's financial mechanism on an interim basis and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties. By agreeing to compromise solutions for these contentious issues, the INC negotiators were able to adopt the Climate Change Convention on 9 May **1992.** The fifth and last session of INC was held in two parts

separated by a few weeks to enable states to complete the work. In most areas of disagreement, solutions were found somewhere between the initial opposing viewpoints. After being adopted by the INC, the Convention was signed at UNCED by 154 states and the EC, demonstrating a wide acceptance of the INC's work. Additional states have signed since then, and a growing number have ratified. The treaty will enter into force three months after the 50th ratification, and within one year of the entry into force the first session of the Conference of the Parties will be held. During the current interim phase the INC is preparing for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. It will be assisted by an interim secretariat in Geneva.

The INC held its sixth session in Geneva on 7-10 December 1992, its seventh in New York on 15-20 March 1993, and has scheduled its eighth session in Geneva on 16-27 August 1993. Until the Convention enters into force, probably in early 1994, the INC will continue preparing for the communication and review of information as called for by the treaty, monitoring the interim arrangements involving the IPCC and the GEF, and overseeing technical and financial support to developing countries. The INC will be dissolved when the Conference of the Parties first meets and begins the lengthy process of implementing the Convention.



That might be too much of the history part of the guide, and I sympathize with you reading it but it is of outmost importance to read it, there is no meaning of discussing it as the Second Committee without knowing it's background because we will and to the same things someone else has already concluded to and this is of no use we try take the

subject a step forward not to mumble the same lines again and again, so please take some time and read it, it's interesting nonetheless!!!

THE ISSUE

So now we have had a general view of the matter and we have taken a glimpse to the historical facts that led the subject to its current situation.

The world is getting rapidly warmer, and there is an overwhelming consensus among the leading climate scientists that this is being caused mainly by carbon dioxide and other 'greenhouse gases' emitted by human activities, chiefly the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation. These gases remain in the atmosphere for many decades and trap heat from the sun in the same way as the glass of a greenhouse.

Global warming is already causing changes in the world's climate and these will become increasingly severe unless urgent action is taken to reduce emissions. This year's Fourth Assessment Report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which represents the most authoritative and up-to-date global scientific consensus on climate change, concludes that the warming of the global climate system is "unequivocal" and accelerating. It points to a greater than 90% probability that increases in man-made emissions of greenhouse gases have caused most of the temperature increase seen since the middle of the 20th century. The global average temperature has risen by 0.76°C since 1850, with Europe warming faster than the average, by almost 1°C. The past 12 years (1995-2006) have included 11 of the 12 warmest years on record. The rate of sea level rise has almost doubled from 18 cm per century between 1961 and 2003 to 31 cm per century in 1993-2003.

The IPCC projects that temperatures and sea levels will continue rising without action to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Its best estimate is an additional temperature rise over the course of the 21st century of between 1.8° and 4.0°C, but in a worst case scenario the increase could reach 6.4°C. In historical terms, these are enormously rapid changes. Our civilization has never been faced with a change

in climate of anything like this magnitude. Even the lowest likely increase projected by the IPCC would push the world's temperature more than 2ºC above the pre-industrial level by the end of the century. This would take temperatures into the danger zone where irreversible and potentially catastrophic changes to the global environment become far more likely.

A further rise in average sea level of between 18 and 59 mm is anticipated this century. However, this range may be underestimated as the projections do not include the full effects of changes in ice flows.

Let's now take a look at the subject from more generally and mainly on the impacts it currently has on the planet and how they are predicted to evolve if we don't take any measures:

Extreme weather events - storms, floods, droughts and heat waves - will become more frequent, more widespread and/or more intense, causing human deaths and injuries and economic damage. It is likely that tropical cyclones will become more intense and that the areas affected by drought will increase. It is projected that by 2080 many millions more people will be flooded every year due to sea-level rise.

Changes in rainfall patterns will put pressure on water resources in many regions, affecting both drinking water supplies and agriculture. As is already being observed, precipitation is very likely to increase in high latitudes and the tropics and likely to decrease in most sub-tropical regions. With a global temperature increase of 2.5°C above pre-industrial levels, over 3 billion more people worldwide are likely to suffer from water scarcity. Agricultural production in many African countries is projected to be severely compromised: as early as 2020 yields from rain-fed agriculture could be cut by up to 50% in some countries, exacerbating malnutrition.

Warm seasons will become dryer in the interior of most mid-latitude continents, increasing the frequency of droughts and land degradation. This will be particularly serious for areas where land degradation, desertification and droughts

are already severe. Developing countries will suffer particularly, and tropical diseases will extend their geographical ranges.

Sea level is rising. During the 20th century, sea level rose 10-20 cm (4-8 inches) due to melting glacier ice and expansion of warmer seawater. In the next 100 years, sea level may rise as much as 85 cm (33 inches). This is a threat to people living near the coast, wetlands, and coral reefs.

Arctic sea ice is melting. The summer thickness of Arctic icebergs is about half of what it was 50 years ago. This melting ice may someday cause changes in the world's ocean currents.

Sea-surface temperatures are warming. Some animals, such as corals, cannot live in warmer seas. Over the past few decades, about a quarter of the world's coral reefs have died.

Ecosystems are changing. As temperatures warm, species may migrate to cooler places or die. Species that are in particularly danger include endangered species, coral reefs, and polar animals such as penguins, polar bears and seals.

The resilience of many ecosystems is likely to be exceeded this century by an unprecedented combination of climate change, the disturbances it will cause and other drivers of global change such as pollution and over-exploitation of resources. Geographical shifts in the occurrence of different species and/or the extinction of species will occur. Some 20-30% of plant and animal species assessed so far are likely to be at greater risk of extinction if the global average temperature increase exceeds 2-3°C above the pre-industrial level. Cold weather mammals like polar bears could be especially threatened.

The regions likely to be most strongly affected by climate change are:

- The Arctic: high rates of warming are projected which will impact on natural systems and human communities. Average temperatures in the Arctic have increased at almost twice the global average rate in the past 100 years.
- Africa, because of projected climate change impacts such as drought, water stress, reductions in crop yields and sea-level rise and Africa's low capacity for adapting to climate change.
- Asian and African mega deltas, due to their large populations and high exposure to sea-level rise, storm surges and river flooding.
- Small islands, where people and infrastructure are at high exposure to projected climate change impacts such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion and reduction of fresh water resources.

Before commenting on anything else we must consider ourselves lucky since at 3-14 of December. The Conference, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, took place at the Bali International Convention Centre and brought together more than 10,000 participants, including representatives of over 180 countries together with observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the media. The two week period included the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, its subsidiary bodies as well as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. A ministerial segment in the second week concluded the Conference.

The conference culminated in the adoption of the Bali roadmap, which charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009 that will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change. Ground-breaking decisions were taken which form core elements of the roadmap. They include the launch of the Adaptation Fund as well as decisions on technology transfer and on reducing emissions from deforestation. These decisions

represent various tracks that are essential to achieving a secure climate future. However, despite these dramatic events the entire Bali Mandate is weaker because of their tactics and the strong science that should be driving the process has been relegated to a footnote in one of the key documents.

There was some agreement reached on transferring clean technology to the developing world and providing money for those countries already suffering from the effects of climate change. But reducing emissions from deforestation, a key driver of climate change, still has a long way to go, and a loophole remains that may allow some industrialised countries to swap binding targets for voluntary goals. The next round of negotiations is now well and truly underway but nobody can afford to take their eye off the ball over the next two years. Some governments have given less than their best and it is up to them to keep the pressure up for a strong second phase of Kyoto and real action on climate change. That's what the earliest situation on the matter right now is.

But the recent conference in Bali is not the only ongoing situation right now, the South Asia region is a low-intensity producer of green house gasses. Its carbon intensity did not increase as economic growth accelerated in the last decade. The reasons for this, Damania explained, are that the region produces goods and services with very low amounts of emissions and low consumption of energy. India, despite being the world's second most populous country and fourth largest economy, its carbon emissions is only one-fifth that of the United States or China. Furthermore, India is also one of the lowest-intensity producers of carbon among other large countries. However, Damania warned that "***because poverty is so endemic and widespread, the climate impact on South Asia will be severe even if the region continues to be a low-intensity producer***." So I assume that India should be a good example for the rest of the countries.

Wanting to comment on the E.U's point of view right now we should be sure that Europe will not be spared. The IPCC expects nearly all European regions to be negatively affected by some future impacts of climate change and these will pose challenges to many economic sectors. Climate change is expected to magnify regional differences in Europe's natural resources and assets.

According to the new IPCC projections, the temperature in Europe may climb by a further 4-7°C this century in the absence of further global action to limit emissions of greenhouse gases.

Negative impacts across Europe will include increased risk of inland flash floods, and more frequent coastal flooding and increased erosion due to storminess and sea-level rise. The great majority of organisms and ecosystems will have difficulties adapting to climate change. Mountain areas will see retreat of glaciers, reduced snow cover and winter tourism, and extensive species loss - in some cases of up to 60% by 2080 under high emission scenarios.

In **southern Europe**, climate change is projected to worsen high temperatures and drought in a region already vulnerable to climate variability. Water availability, hydropower potential, summer tourism and crop productivity in general are expected to be reduced. Climate change is also projected to increase health risks due to heat waves and the frequency of wildfires.

In **central and eastern Europe**, summer precipitation is projected to decrease, causing greater pressure on water resources. Health risks due to heat waves are projected to increase. Forest productivity is expected to decline and the frequency of peatland fires to increase.

In **northern Europe**, climate change is initially projected to bring mixed effects, including some benefits such as reduced demand for heating, increased crop yields and increased forest growth. However, as climate change continues its negative impacts - including more frequent winter floods, endangered ecosystems and increasing ground instability - are likely to outweigh its benefits.

Moving on now to the views of G-77 and China we can state that they firmly believe that it is only through an effective and accountable process of implementation of the specific goals and time-bound targets that they can, together, translate sustainable development objectives from abstract concepts to reality. They call for developed countries to assist developing countries through support, the provision of resources, and capacity building in order to be better prepared for forthcoming natural disasters. They furthermore stress the need to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially the adaptation needs of developing countries.

In order for risk mitigation and effective adaptation, the countries of the South require enhanced capacity to implement commitments including the Kyoto Protocol and to benefit more

from the Clean Development Mechanism. They also require the knowledge and know how necessary for the effective use of environmentally sound technologies.

The Group of 77 and China acknowledges the progress in this area and calls for a scaling up of resource mobilization in the following:

" Increasing financial support to meet the full incremental cost of implementing all the technology needs in developing countries;
" Disseminating information regarding existing EST;
" Establishing concrete programs such as joint research, access to and development of technology;
" Providing incentives to the private sectors in countries of the North to facilitate technology transfer;
" Promotion of indigenous technologies; and
" Promotion of North-South cooperation including the transfer of technologies
" Promotion of South-South cooperation.

Concluding and commenting on the United State's views we must say that the global community is facing a serious challenge. U.S. Global Climate Change Policy Climate change is a serious challenge, the scale and scope of which will require a global response. The United States is committed to doing its part, working at home and abroad on a range of initiatives to strengthen energy security and effectively address climate change. The U.S is fully engaged in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and they are committed to developing an environmentally effective and economically sustainable post-2012 framework to address climate change.

The United States has convened 17 of the world's major economies and the United Nations for an inaugural Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change in September 2007. The meeting resulted in a useful exchange of views on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide for energy security, and support economic prosperity. By working together constructively, the United States believes the Major Economies will make a

detailed contribution toward reaching agreement on a post-2012 framework under the UNFCCC by 2009.

Plans are underway for the second Major Economies Meeting. U.S climate policies are part of a broader sustainable development agenda since countries in the developing world are justifiably focused on economic growth and providing for the health, education and other needs of their citizens. The United States believes that climate policies should recognize and complement these priorities and has launched and participates in dozens of partnerships designed to alleviate poverty and spur economic growth in the developing world by modernizing energy services. The world community must produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions and must do so in a way that promotes economic growth and helps nations deliver greater prosperity for their people. It's unquestionable that the U.S possesses unmatched investments in science and technologies it is leading the development of advanced technology options that have the potential to reduce, avoid, or sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

The President has requested and Congress has provided substantial funding - $37 billion since 2001 – for climate-related science, technology, observations, international assistance and incentive programs. What's more the United States is actively pursuing a range of solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy security and cut harmful air pollution through collaborative public-private partnerships with practical, targeted results.

In addition to our 15 bilateral and regional climate change partnerships launched since 2002, the United States works in partnership in key sectors such as: Low Carbon Power Generation, including clean coal and advanced nuclear technologies; Transportation, with such innovations as bio-fuels, batteries and hydrogen for vehicles; Energy Efficiency for both industrial and residential deployment; and Land Use which encompasses illegal logging and promotes sustainable forest management. Concluding, the United States is taking action at home and abroad to develop and implement practical solutions for the challenges of climate change and energy security. They support developing a "Bali Roadmap" and, with the Major Economies Process, they are helping to build international consensus under the UNFCCC for a new post-2012 framework on climate change by 2009.

SOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

I will now try to give you some suggestions for the measures and steps that have to be taken in order to improve the current status.

A few individual states have already taken measures to anticipate for abrupt climate change scenarios. Some steps to be taken include developing better predictive models based on historical evidence, analyzing the potential impact of abrupt climate change on food, water, and energy resources, and creating vulnerability metrics to anticipate which countries will be most affected. In addition, some recommendations proposed in a report by Schwartz and Randall, identify "no-regrets strategies" such as enhancing capabilities of water management, rehearsing adaptive measures by emergency response authorities, and exploring local implications for climate change. The issue of climate change is no longer a scientific debate; real adaptive measures should be explored and adopted by states in the international community that wish to reduce the potentially cataclysmic impact of abrupt climate change scenarios.

> The World Bank's strategy for the ECA (Europe & Central Asia) region includes four broad and interrelated pillars: supporting environmentally responsible growth and poverty reduction, addressing vulnerability to natural disasters; enhancing sound environmental governance; and protecting global public goods.
>
> Now I will give you some of the suggestions the world bank has made in order to help towards the solution of the problem;
>
> **Environmentally responsible growth and poverty reduction:** The Bank's support in this area covers several themes. The overall objective is to help countries achieve short term growth and prosperity agendas while at the same time addressing longer term issue of sustainable natural resource and

environmental management. These include support to sustainable watershed, land, forest, river basin and coastal zone management; support to industrial pollution control; and hazardous waste management.

An area of particular importance to ECA includes addressing environmental (and social) issues in heavy industrial sectors undergoing restructuring, such as coal mining. (The additional environmental themes of enhanced energy efficiency, and improved delivery of municipal services including water, wastewater, and solid waste are described in the region's energy and urban/water supply websites).

Reducing Vulnerability to Natural Disasters: The objective is to help countries plan and prepare for, more quickly recover from and mitigate the economic and human cost of natural disasters. Themes include support to emergency disaster recovery operations, earthquake and flood risk mitigation and communications support systems, drought mitigation, improved weather forecasting, dam safety, land slide and broad natural hazard mitigation.

Enhancing sound environmental governance: The objective is to help countries build transparent, effective institutions which support compliance with realistic environmental regulations and enhance competitiveness, through policy, institutional and investment support, often in the context of lending operations. Under this pillar two the region aims to ensure that operations the Bank supports are in compliance with the Bank's environmental safeguard policies.

Protecting Global Public Goods: the objective is to help countries meet their commitments to protect global public goods, including protection from

pollution of international waters, protecting biodiversity and ecosystems management, phasing out the use of ozone depleting substances and mitigating climate change. The region has programs for enhanced management of all of the regional seas. It has taken the approach of supporting country specific investments within the framework of an agreed regional approach to management of the sea and its river basins.

BLOCK POSITIONS

Well now there is actually one position in the beautiful minds of all the countries' governments; save ourselves, no matter if that means we have to help the environment develop itself normally, so that through sustainable development we can help our economies grow larger, or keep harming the environment until we are developed and then we can do something to preserve it. I just tried to divide the policies of the countries into position blocks so that you will be able to justify where you country is ranked. I will not tell you where each country ranks since this will and must be the result of your research.

There are essentially four positions in the fight against climate change.

Position I

Several industrialised nations who have the resources and the governmental stability have made conscious efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the UNFCCC, although it may be argued that little progress has been made.

Position II

Industrialising nations argue that since presently industrialised countries were able to develop without restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions, developing countries of the present should have the freedom to develop in the same manner.

Position III

Apart from the above positions, there are also developing countries that seriously fight against free development, as these countries would be affected most by climate change, and in most cases have already been affected in some degree.

Position IV

Lastly, there are industrialised countries that refuse to ratify the UNFCCC, and as a result cast a serious doubt on the ability of the world to reduce its emissions.
As well, the UNFCCC classifies countries as Annex I, Annex II, and Developing Countries.
Developing Countries currently have no restrictions on their emissions. (I don't know whether this is right or wrong, find out yourselves)

"The Clinton Administration signed the Kyoto Protocol but did not submit it to the Senate for ratification because of the absence of binding commitments for developing countries. The Bush

Administration clearly expressed that this Protocol will harm the U.S. economy and rejected it outright, along with Australia. Most of the signatories from Europe, Africa, the Middle-East and Canada have ratified the Protocol, which means they agree to the cuts that have to be made however, there are no binding commitments to make cuts on the part of developing countries. Meanwhile, the booming economies of China and India are reconsidering the large cuts that have to be made, and as they are not Annex One industrialized nations under the Protocol, they are therefore under no obligation to make any drastic changes."

(Consider this a statement to help you understand the true meaning of the block positions; it considers the signing of the Kyoto Protocol which is more than connected with our subject)

THINGS TO CONSIDER AND QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What actions has your nation taken in the past in order to help the climate change phenomenon?
2. Does your country take strong environmental stances through implementation of laws and regulations?
3. How does your country believe this problem can be combated with uncooperative countries that threaten the situation for the entire global community?
4. Should developing nations be able to industrialise free of emission restrictions even though this freedom harms the environment?
5. Should a country's target reduction of emissions be proportionate to its production of emissions?
6. At which point is a country considered industrialised?
7. How much aid should be given to industrialising countries in order to finance a move away from fossil fuel burning?
8. Is any reduction even necessary?
9. Will my country be most benefited by non-proportioned industrialization or by a sustainable environmental economy strategy?

10. Is a developed country benefited by helping a developing country reduce its emissions?

I hope these can help you...

CONCLUSION

I hope this can help you a bit; it's not the only thing that you have to study in order to be at least well prepared for the committee. I hope that the ideas included in it will give you the initiative to study and search furthermore for the subject. It is not a difficult subject on first sight but there are small details that make the difference. Therefore you have to study in order to be able to understand these small differences in the policies of the countries. I hope that I made you understand that this is a very important subject and that you should try and find viable ways and proposals to solve the problem or make a step towards the solution. The links below will help you on your further research, I hope.

LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_13/application/pdf/cp_bali_action.pdf
   Bali Action Plan
2. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2007/08/02/000158349_20070802104550/Rendered/PDF/wps4300.pdf
3. http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/fs/2004/38641.htm
4. http://www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/eu-climate-change-policies/article-117453
5. http://www.greenpeace.org
6. http://www.un.org/climatechange/
7. http://www.globalissues.org/EnvIssues/GlobalWarming.asp
8. http://www.allafrica.com
9. The Kyoto Protocol

10. http://www.humanrightslibrary.org
11. http://www.eu-un.europa.eu
12. GA/EF/3204
13. A/51/605/ADD.5
14. A-RES-61-201
15. A-RES-51-184
16. A-RES-50-115
17. SHS-87/CONF./207/6
18. A/58/484/ADD.6
19. A/59/483/ADD.4

The first eleven are links for you to search and the rest are resolutions or declarations that will prove very useful, so it would be wise if you read them. They are completely relevant with the agenda!!!

Just remember this;

"We did not inherit the world of our parents; we borrowed it from our children."

(Native American quote)