



United Nations Environment Programme

SUSTAINABLE LAW & ENERGY IMPLEMENTATION

Chair: Lucas Mannil

Co-chair: Alberto Jimenez

LMUN 2022

Letter from chairs

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the 2022 Lincoln MUN UNEP committee, we're delighted to have you here. As your chair and co-chair (Lucas Mannil, Alberto Jimenez), we want to express our excitement for this conference and we look forward to meeting you both at a personal level and as delegates of your various countries. Together, we will make this conference as interesting as it can be and discuss the topic, to come to a solution that is beneficial for all.

Hi, my name is Lucas and I hope you all enjoy this year's MUNs conference. Throughout this debate I will be your chair. My MUN experience started in sixth grade, when I was a page for a high school committee. There for the first time I saw delegates debating, and I instantly fell in love with MUN and debating. Not long after that I signed up for my first debate in another school, and slowly I started gaining experience and meeting new people. Last year I was a chair in a high school Spanish committee, and this year will be my second year as a chair. Personally I've always seen MUN as an incredible experience, however with the arrival of the Covid 19 pandemic several conferences got canceled, which at the time was very unexpected. Despite this I still went to a few online conferences, some of which were based in other countries. I hope you all enjoy this debate, and that you have a great experience in this conference.

I am Alberto Jiménez, and I will be your co-chair for this MUN. The first time I witnessed a conference, I was a page. I wasn't really sure what to expect, and thinking I might want to be in a conference someday, I decided to take the opportunity to understand how it worked. I was impressed by what I saw, but also kind of nervous because I didn't think I would be able to do it. My first time as a delegate, I chose a small conference and joined a middle school committee, scared that I wouldn't be able to do it. Although I wanted to start small, I got to one of the important countries in the debate. I loved every second of it and it motivated me to go to more conferences. Now I want to take the next step and be co-chair. I hope to make you debate an unforgettable one.

We sincerely hope to go above your expectations on this conference and give you the chance to enjoy it as well. For those who are not yet comfortable, we want to make it as easy as possible for you to take advantage of this awesome opportunity. As for those with more experience, we hope to provide a challenging environment where we'll get you thinking rapidly. Take a look at our study guide which is there to help you and to guide in your research. If there is anything you may need do not hesitate to contact us and we look forward to getting to know all of you.

Sincerely,

Lucas Mannil

Alberto Jimenez

Topic Summary:

Every government addresses climate change in their own way, but the effects that it has on our planet affects all countries. Global cooperation in the past has led to some major breakthroughs regarding climate change, such as The Paris Agreement, which massively decreased gas emissions, however this isn't enough, which is why a solution is needed. For this reason the UNEP committee has made it its goal to try and decrease gas emissions by implementing new and safer laws towards the Earth. Earth's climate has always been ever-changing, however after the industrial revolution, global temperatures have been on a non-stop increase, which is slowly killing off life. A lot of countries have laws in regards to this topic. For example in Costa Rica, for every tree that you cut down, by law you are required to plant two which in turn only increases the number of trees

and decreases some pollution. This is a great start but the Earth needs more, which is why laws need to be implemented to stop climate change, in order to save the Earth. A few problems that are connected with this issue are the extinctions of several animals, as their homes are being chopped down, or their bodies simply can't adapt fast enough to the changing temperatures, or just having their homes melt away like the glacier caps with polar bears. This is just one of the problems this issue brings, it also has increased Earth's temperature, which although it has been by small margins, these increases affect us all, as if the average temperature rises by just six degrees Celsius everyone would die, due to volcanic eruptions, massive erosion and desert heat waves. Some subtopics we believe to be crucial in this debate are: law implementations, sanctions, solutions short and long term, effects in a short and long term scenario, and environmental programs.

Key terms:

Renewable energy: “Energy from a source that is not depleted when used”

Greenhouse gasses: “A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation”

Carbon footprint: “The amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person, group, etc.”

By-Product: A useful and marketable product or service that is not the primary product or service being produced. Also known as co-product

Depletion: Result of completely extraction a non-renewable resource or extracting a renewable resource faster than it can be renewed

Emissions: Substances or chemicals released into the environment

Committee Background:

Founded in June 1972, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is the committee in charge of coordinating all environmental activities. It was established as a result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Its role varies from assisting the development and implementation of green policies in developing countries to developing international conventions. From its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP identifies and analyzes global environmental problems and promotes environmental science and information. They are also in charge of publishing a report on the global state of the environment known as the Global Environment Outlook. It encourages

partnership among nations to improve quality of life without causing negative effects on our planet. It is formed by 193 member states and representatives from other sectors who collaborate to set realistic goals and accomplish them. Their work is divided into six main areas: climate change, post-conflict and disaster management, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances, and resource efficiency/sustainable consumption and production. The Committee of Permanent Representatives reviews UNEP's decisions. It is led by a five-member bureau elected for two-year terms. In recent years, UNEP has become increasingly important as we face the rising problems of climate change. The balance between a stable economy and commerce and a healthy environment becomes even more challenging.

Topic background:

Renewable energy has been a thing since the dawn of time, however it wasn't always used, as before it was very difficult to harvest energy from sustainable sources. Thankfully this is no longer the case and nowadays we have several sources of renewable energy that can be found all across the world, some of which are: Biomass, Hydropower, Geothermal, Wind, and Solar. Thanks to countries' efforts, renewable energy production increased about 3% from 2020 while there was a decrease in the demand for other types of energy. In renewable energy investments, China accounted for 45% globally. Uruguay now uses almost 100% renewable energies. In Kenya, almost half of its electricity comes from geothermal power plants. Costa Rica produces almost 95% of its electricity from

renewable sources. These and many more examples prove that change is happening. The first usage of renewable energy were water wheels, something that although very basic can create energy by harnessing the energy generated in rivers or water streams. Then, in the 1970s environmental activists started advocating for its uses, in hopes to see a reduction of oil mining, and to hopefully help the earth. Although nuclear energy has the highest capacity factor to produce energy, some countries are still against it. They consider some dangers related to nuclear accidents and the possibility of nuclear waste being released. However the second highest capacity factor is by geothermal energy, one that doesn't harm the environment, and is renewable. This in turn led to people advocating for renewable energy leading to hundreds of protests all over the world. However due to efficiency issues for some countries, many have decided to ignore this, which is why

the UNEP committee finds it urgent that you can find a solution to this problem, and help renewable energy have higher usage rates.

Current Situation

The climate crisis that has continuously unfolded for years is having devastating consequences on our planet and in our way of life. In recent years, we've witnessed a rise in the amount and the severity of extreme weather. More storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves use up billions of dollars. The amount of resources spent during these severe weather events has risen dramatically since the 20th century. All of this is caused by changes in weather patterns that have resulted from our actions as humans. Pollution of air, soil, and water leads to health problems in vulnerable populations. This means more health-related emergencies from cardiac diseases, pulmonary diseases, and allergies. But,

we've not only harmed humans, there have also been huge problems for animal species. Being unable to adapt to the changes we have caused, many species have gone extinct. The extinction rates have increased by more than a hundred times. They are forced to migrate because habitats are changing because of rising sea levels, more acidic oceans, and changes in temperature.

Case Studies

One of the most important resolutions of the past decade is the Paris Climate Agreement. It is a legally binding document that was adopted by 196 parties on December 12, 2015. It is a response to the threat of rising global temperatures and the challenges it brings. The goal is to limit the increase of global temperature to 2°C, preferably less. It is a unique milestone because it is the first time something like this has been achieved. The agreement calls for social and economic

transformation in order to reach certain goals. They are divided into 5-year cycles where nations will present their short and long term actions taken. Each cycle is increasingly ambitious which requires cooperation between members. Nations have pledged support on finance, technology, and capacity-building. Currently, one of the biggest achievements of the agreement is that many countries and companies established feasible carbon neutrality targets. Nevertheless, there is still a lot to be done on top of its objectives.

Block positions:

- China: As of now, China has implemented several renewable energy sources, with their 300 billion dollar plan helping to switch more of their energy to a renewable source. However, being the world's largest CO2 emitter with a share of more than 29% of the whole world's

emission, they still have a long way to go.

- United States: The US has 12% of their energy sources as renewable. They currently have three fastest growing electricity sources. They are second only to China in installed renewed energy.
- India: Most of India's renewable energy comes from large hydro. They currently seek improvement in their renewable energy as they're the third most polluted country in the world. For this reason they strive to get 50 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.
- Russia: Russia gets 20 percent of their countries' energy from hydro power, but like many countries more than half of their energy comes from fossil fuels. Their stance is somewhat different to other countries as from their 2020-20230 period their

objective towards renewable energy is to have at least 4.5 percent of renewable energy. This means that they're still aiming for renewable energy and to not be overtaken by fossil fuels and such, however it will not be enough to suffice for the entire country.

Topics to discuss

Although the debate is open to different topics to discuss, we recommend that these topics are discussed:

- Global laws
- Natural Gas
- Power Generation
- Methods of renewable energy
- Nuclear energy
- System integration
- Short term solutions
- Long term solutions

Questions a resolution must answer:

We believe that the important things that a resolution should include are:

- An address to the implementation of the sustainable energy
- How these systems plan to be implemented
- The countries position on nuclear energy as a source
- Laws and fines that are going to be implemented
- Solutions to both short and long term

Possible solutions:

- Fining countries for using nonrenewable energy usage
- Helping countries economically who need help on the transition towards new energy sources
- Education towards younger population to help future generations succeed

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