



MUNES'26

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STUDY GUIDE

UNEP

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1. Welcoming Letters

1.1 Welcome Letter from the Secretariat

Letter from Secretariat

Dear Delegates, As Eskişehir's first and only official MUN, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to MUNES'26, a historic Model UN Conference. This conference is a special opportunity to promote cooperation, critical thinking, and diplomacy among young people in our city and beyond. In order to ensure that every aspect of this conference reflects excellence, dedication, and a commitment to providing a truly transformative experience, the Academy has brought together the most gifted students from all management teams of local MUNs. The Eskişehir Municipality and Governorship, along with the prestigious companies that have supported this event, are proud to support MUNES'26. Their contributions and trust demonstrate the importance of MUNES as a catalyst for civic engagement, youth leadership, and the advancement of global awareness in Eskişehir. We really care about setting the rules for talking working together and cooperating with other countries as the only Model United Nations that represents our city. We are the Model United Nations for our city and we want to make sure we do a good job of discussing things and working with other people from different countries. We think it is very important to have discussions, diplomacy, and international collaboration as the Model

United Nations, for our city. This conference is an opportunity for you to think like world leaders. You get to discuss problems that affect the whole world and come up with new ideas to solve them. As a delegate, you are representing the country you were assigned to. You also need to show that you can work well with others respect each other and understand points of view which is what the United Nations is all about. I want each of you to take part fully in your committees. Listen to what other people have to say even if you do not agree with them.. When things get tough be brave and curious and try to find a way to make it work. The United Nations is, about people working together so let us make that happen at this conference. I want to wish every delegate the best of luck during their sessions on behalf of the organizing team. I hope your discussions are enlightening, your partnerships fruitful, and your MUNES'26 experiences motivating. Let this conference be a journey of self-improvement, deep connections, and a long-term dedication to changing the world and your communities for the better.

Best regards,

Çağlar Baran Topaç

MUNES Secretary General

1.2 Welcome Letter from the Chairboard

Dear Delegates, Firstly, I want to warmly welcome each of you to MUNES'26 and to this session of the

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is a true privilege to have all of you here, and I am confident that this conference will be a remarkable experience, full of learning, collaboration, and memorable moments. My name is Zeynep Su, and I am honored to serve as your Main Chair. Having this experience is truly a wonderful opportunity for me and I feel certain that this conference will prove to be a unique experience. As we get started, many of you may find yourselves feeling somewhat tense or anxious, which is completely understandable; after all, we've all felt that way prior to starting something new. Please take comfort in the fact that those feelings are completely normal, we all have had that anticipation about the first day of a new things. Remember that MUN is more than just a formal conference; it is a forum in which people meet, share ideas/ develop relationships /have their voices heard.

The focus of our committee will be upon the urgent need for countries to work together to address climate change through international cooperation. By participating in discussions and negotiations with other delegates, I am confident you will all learn a lot about how different nations could cooperate with one another, how to find commonality between nations that have different agendas, and how to create practical and just policy. I would recommend coming to the conference prepared with both the conference study guide and by reviewing multiple other information sources; the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report and other available related United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) documents are good examples.

I also want all delegates to understand that upon returning your assistance regarding the upcoming conference, I will return in a timely fashion. If you have specific inquiries about processes whether related to the research process or generally the best approach to take during debate, please email me directly. The success of the committee will be contingent upon each member participating and showing an interest in those committee members that ask questions.

Sincerely,

Zeynep Su Dedeoğlu - Main Chair

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Esteemed participants,

First of all, I would like to begin by welcoming every individual delegate; I'm Eymen, and it is a great pleasure to serve as your Vice Chair in MUNES'26!! Having been a part of MUNs since my prep year, it has always been a dream of mine to be a part of the chairboard.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment, promoting sustainable development within the UN system. In this conference,

we will be analyzing the issue of ‘‘Fighting Climate Change Through International Cooperation’’.

The topic is not just an academic requirement, and it is, in fact, a very serious issue in the modern world, requiring a fine balance between development and conservation. I hope to see delegates who are not just knowledgeable about the national interests but also open to the spirit of international cooperation in order to come up with sustainable solutions.

I strongly advise you to read the study guide thoroughly, as it contains nearly all of the essential information that you may need. *(To succeed in this committee, it is recommended that you don't solely depend on this guide. It is highly recommended that you peruse the UNEP Emissions Gap Report and the original UNFCCC Legal Texts as presented in the reference section. This will definitely lend you a hand in the drafting of resolutions.)*

I am here to help you with the research and throughout the conference, both professionally and personally. By principle, I am strictly convinced that all delegates will act responsibly and accommodating towards other attending participants.

I expect every member state to be creative, cautious and realistic with the solutions, keeping in mind the gravity, consequences and seriousness of the issue.

Best wishes,

Eymen Tozlu - Deputy Chair

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2. Introduction

The threat of global climate change is one of the most serious issues facing humanity and the planet today and it has multiple dimensions to it (e.g. impacts on environmental systems, economic stability, political relations, human security). The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from human activity has resulted in rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, increasing sea levels and more frequent and severe incidents/threats associated with extreme weather. Climate change affects vulnerable communities disproportionately; therefore, it serves to exacerbate already existing social and economic inequalities in developing countries. The issue of climate change is unique among many global challenges because of its inherently transboundary nature. Climate change impacts do not respect national boundaries, as emissions from one country can affect the entire globe. Because of this, any one country acting alone cannot adequately address the issues associated with climate change. Given this context, the role of multilateral institutions is important for encouraging dialogue, fostering collaborative approaches, and creating a framework for state behaviour towards addressing climate change. While there have been decades of negotiations and treaties regarding climate change, countries around the world continue to struggle with aligning their national interests with the goals of the international community for addressing climate change. The focus of this guide is to provide participants with an understanding of the institutional, legal, and political aspects of climate change, as well as encourage participants

to think critically about the complexities of international cooperation regarding climate change.

2.1.Introduction to the Committee



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) functions as the leading global authority on environmental matters within the United Nations system. Established in 1972 after the first international meeting on the environment at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden was held on June 16 to June 22. Established as a

result of the increasing concern over the condition of the planet and the belief that the impact of environment degradation affects everyone. UNEP's purpose is to act as a global agency with an overarching mandate of providing leadership; fostering partnerships; and promoting good, decision-making about issues of environmental significance through its coordination activities.

The UNEP is primarily responsible for the coordination of global environmental activities. Specifically, UNEP's role is to assist UN Member States in developing and implementing sustainable environmental policies; to facilitate the development and enforcement of international environmental law; and to coordinate UNEP's work with the UN System of organizations, governments, and other stakeholders globally. UNEP, while lacking legally binding power, has been able to develop influence on a global scale via its agenda-setting, and as a bridge between scientists doing research and politicians developing policies. As a result of the UNEP 's work over several decades it has played an integral part in shaping the international debate about the environment, especially relating to climate change. UNEP's initiatives include providing expert advice on issue like climate change, providing databases, and conducting workshops that provide information to policymakers about climate change. In addition to collaborating closely with other international organizations, such as international financial institutions, UNEP strongly advocates for inclusion of environmental considerations in the development of global development strategies by member states.

2.2.Introduction to the Agenda Item



The agenda item: "Fighting Climate Change through International Cooperation" addresses the fundamental reality that climate change cannot be effectively mitigated without collective global action. Because environmental systems are so interrelated, individual state actions or inactions affect multiple countries.

Therefore, it's imperative to work together internationally. Even with many years of international frameworks and agreements made to encourage international cooperation, many challenges exist that have limited their effectiveness. These challenges stem from differences in levels of development, past responsibility for emissions, and access to the financial and technological resources to develop. Furthermore, disagreements about fairness, accountability, and the allocation of the burden of climate change continue to divide developing and developed states.

Many international commitments are voluntary, which raises questions about implementation and enforcement. These actions are typically driven by nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which provide incentives for states to act, but rely on the political will of states that can change due to domestic issues and international geopolitical considerations.

Delegates to this agenda item are encouraged to examine the challenges that have inhibited collaboration and determine how best to improve it. Areas that should be examined to improve international collaboration include the following: increasing institutional coordination; an increased ability for all states to access climate finance; providing mechanisms that promote technology transfer; ensuring that every effort made globally is equitable and sustainable. Ultimately, the goal is to identify pathways through which the international community can move beyond fragmented efforts toward a more unified and impactful response to climate change.

3. Historical and Institutional Background Prior to the Committee

The current global climate governance system was formed from an ongoing and multifaceted historical process that stemmed from scientific progress and political agreements in conjunction with various institutional developments. Over the last few decades, society has gone from seeing environmental problems as being of a local or regional nature to viewing them as global issues, requiring coordinated and sustained responses by nations around the world. This shift is due to the growing understanding of how ecosystems and climate systems interact and how environmental harm transcends national borders. The issue of climate change has exposed the restrictions of acting alone as well as the need for international cooperation by nations, institutions, and sectors in order to achieve successful mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Additionally, while the development of global climate governance has been contentious, it is subject to competing economic interests, varying levels of economic development, and ongoing discussions regarding equity and responsibility. Therefore, the institutional structure implemented today displays advancements in international collaboration as well as some continuing structural challenges to effectively addressing climate change. The following subsections present the evolution of global climate governance, the rise of multilateral environmental cooperation, and the development of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to address climate change.

3.1. Evolution of Global Climate Governance

The global climate governance evolution began back in the mid-1900s environmental movement, which dealt with air and water pollution, loss of trees and plants, and wildlife management. At first, these issues were dealt with mostly within countries, rather than through international cooperation. But by the 1970s and 1980s, there started to be more scientific evidence to demonstrate how the impacts of climate change were going to be worldwide and would not happen in our lifetime. More and more evidence connected how human actions (like having many carbon-based emissions) were leading to an increase in the earth's temperature further expanded how people viewed the impact of climate change by recognizing that climate change would not only create environmental problems, but societal, economic and political problems were also going to be created through climate change.

In 1992, during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created to establish a comprehensive international climate change framework. In doing so, several provisions were established, including the “common but differential responsibility” (CBDR) framework, that identified the need for collective action to hold all countries accountable for addressing the effects of climate change. The Kyoto Protocol formalized the CBDR approach by establishing developing country-specific rules creating legally-binding emission reduction targets for developed countries. The limitations of the Kyoto Protocol, particularly its limited participation and enforcement issues, exemplify the challenge of achieving agreement on the part of a world community characterized by considerable diversity.

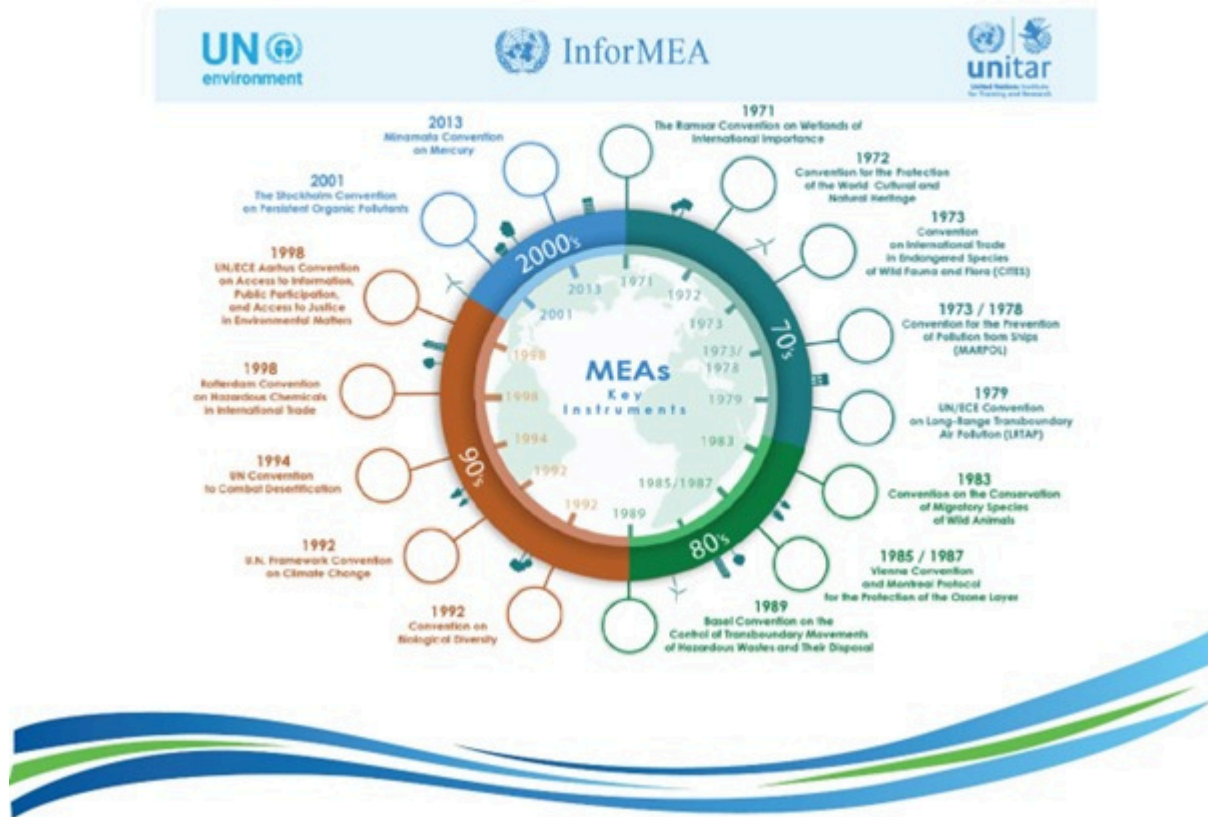
The Paris Accord represents a significant departure from that framework in terms of providing increased flexibility and participation by states. It also permits states to formulate their own nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the global effort to mitigate climate change. Although this bottom-up approach is expected to entice a larger number of States to participate, there are still concerns about whether (1) the NDCs will be sufficiently ambitious and/or (2) the NDCs will be enforceable.

The development of global climate governance reflects an ongoing tension between an ambitious climate governance framework and one that is administratively feasible; therefore, States may be faced with conflicting priorities between their environmental goals and their domestic commitments.

3.2. Emergence of Multilateral Environmental Cooperation

The beginning of multilateral cooperation to solve environmental problems is a major turning point in how the international community views the environment. As climate change and biodiversity loss show clear trans-boundary effects, it is clear that unilateral national regulations will not sufficiently address these issues. Because of this fact, states have started to create multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and cooperative frameworks to allow for collective action to take place through negotiation, coordination, and sharing of information. States now have the ability to pursue common environmental goals with respect to differences in each country's circumstance.

Multilateral Environmental Agreement proliferation since the 1970s



Political and economic discrepancies among nations often restrict the success of such cooperation. Variances in level of development, availability of resources, and responsibility for mitigating environmental harm continue to define how and sometimes prevent international cooperation among nations, particularly developing nations and developed nations. Despite the aforementioned challenges, multilateral cooperation is an essential part of global environmental governance.

3.3 Institutional Development of the United Nations Environment Programme in Climate Action

UNEP has changed from being a coordinating body to becoming an important player in global environmental governance since it began following the UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972). Initially, UNEP's focus was on creating awareness about the environment and promoting cooperation to accomplish this. However, UNEP's role has expanded to deal with some very complex global issues, like climate change.

One of the main ways that UNEP contributes to global climate governance is by acting as an interface between scientific research and policy-making. This is demonstrated through UNEP's involvement in the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC). Through UNEP's involvement with the IPCC, the scientific basis for international climate discussions has been enhanced, and there is now an increased reliance on evidence-based decision-making.

UNEP also provides capacity-building and technical assistance to Member States (especially developing countries), and promotes the adoption of sustainable practices. Although UNEP does not have the power to enforce compliance with international agreements, it plays a vital role in global climate governance by being a norming authority, a facilitator of coordination, and a convener of countries to work together on issues of mutual concern.

4. Legal and Normative Framework Governing Climate Action

The international system for addressing global warming consists of a multitude of interrelated components like legal documents, institutional frameworks, and social standards that provide the necessary support to states for carrying out climate commitments. Unlike a domestic legal system, international environmental law operates with a blend of binding (hard law) and non-binding (soft law) documents. Both types of instruments are essential in developing and achieving a comprehensive global climate governance framework. Along with creating a mechanism for states to collaborate towards meeting their respective obligations regarding climate change, there are also common principles and rules for conducting climate cooperation efforts. This framework for global climate governance is based upon a balance of the need for state sovereignty and the need for collective responsibility among all states who are implementing climate change policies.

States play an integral role in implementing climate policies; however, international agreements create a common basis of principles and obligations that facilitate cooperative action. However, the political will, capacity and unique interests of individual states often determines the effectiveness of this governance system. The next sections of the paper provide a description of the UN Environment Program, as well as an overview of the major international legal mechanisms by which the world community has taken action on climate change.

4.1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) System

The mandate of UNEP is rooted in its function as the primary environmental authority within the United Nations system. It is responsible for coordinating environmental activities, supporting the development of international environmental law, and promoting sustainable practices among Member States.

Although UNEP does not possess binding legislative or enforcement powers, it plays a crucial role in norm-setting and agenda formation. Through its reports, guidelines, and initiatives, UNEP contributes to the development of soft law instruments that influence both national policies and international negotiations.

Furthermore, UNEP acts as a facilitator of cooperation by bringing together states, scientific communities, and other stakeholders. Its ability to bridge these actors enables more coherent and informed decision-making processes. In this sense, UNEP's institutional role is not based on enforcement, but rather on its capacity to guide, coordinate, and shape the direction of global environmental governance. **4.2. The Paris Agreement and National Commitments (NDCs)**



Adopted in 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) forms the basic legal foundation for international cooperation on climate change. The UNFCCC is the basis for how countries negotiate, implement, and evaluate their commitments to address climate change.

A key tenet of the UNFCCC is the idea of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR). While all countries have an obligation

to act to address climate change, their individual responsibilities vary according to historical levels of greenhouse gas emissions and countries' respective capabilities to respond. The concept of CBDR has also proved to be critical in the development of negotiation processes and continues to be both a source of cooperation and conflict between countries.

The Convention created institutional structures to facilitate cooperation, the most important of which is the Conference of the Parties (COP). The COP is the decision-making body for the Convention. Countries gather once per year to assess progress towards their commitments, negotiate further commitments, and adapt the Convention to address evolving challenges.

The UNFCCC system has evolved over time through the creation of additional agreements and protocols and creates a larger, more complex set of rules governing international action to address climate change. However, the UNFCCC will continue to be effective only if countries are willing to agree to, or implement agreed-upon, actions.

4.3. The Paris Agreement and National Commitments (NDCs)

The Paris Agreement is a key development in the area of global climate governance, adopted in 2015 as part of the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change). The Paris Agreement differs from previous approaches, which focused on setting top-down targets, by allowing states to define their own climate goals in accordance with national circumstances. This has increased participation and flexibility among different countries, making it politically more acceptable to a broader diversity of states. However, there are concerns about the level of ambition and accountability under this approach, as there are no significant enforcement mechanisms available to ensure that states uphold their obligations under the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement has also established several key objectives, including limiting the global temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while striving to limit to 1.5°C, as well as reinforcing the principles of transparency, regular reporting and periodic reviews in order to strengthen the level of commitment over time.

Nevertheless, the Paris Agreement remains the foundation of international climate cooperation and reflects the strengths and weaknesses of consensus-based global governance principles.

5. International Mechanisms Supporting Climate Cooperation

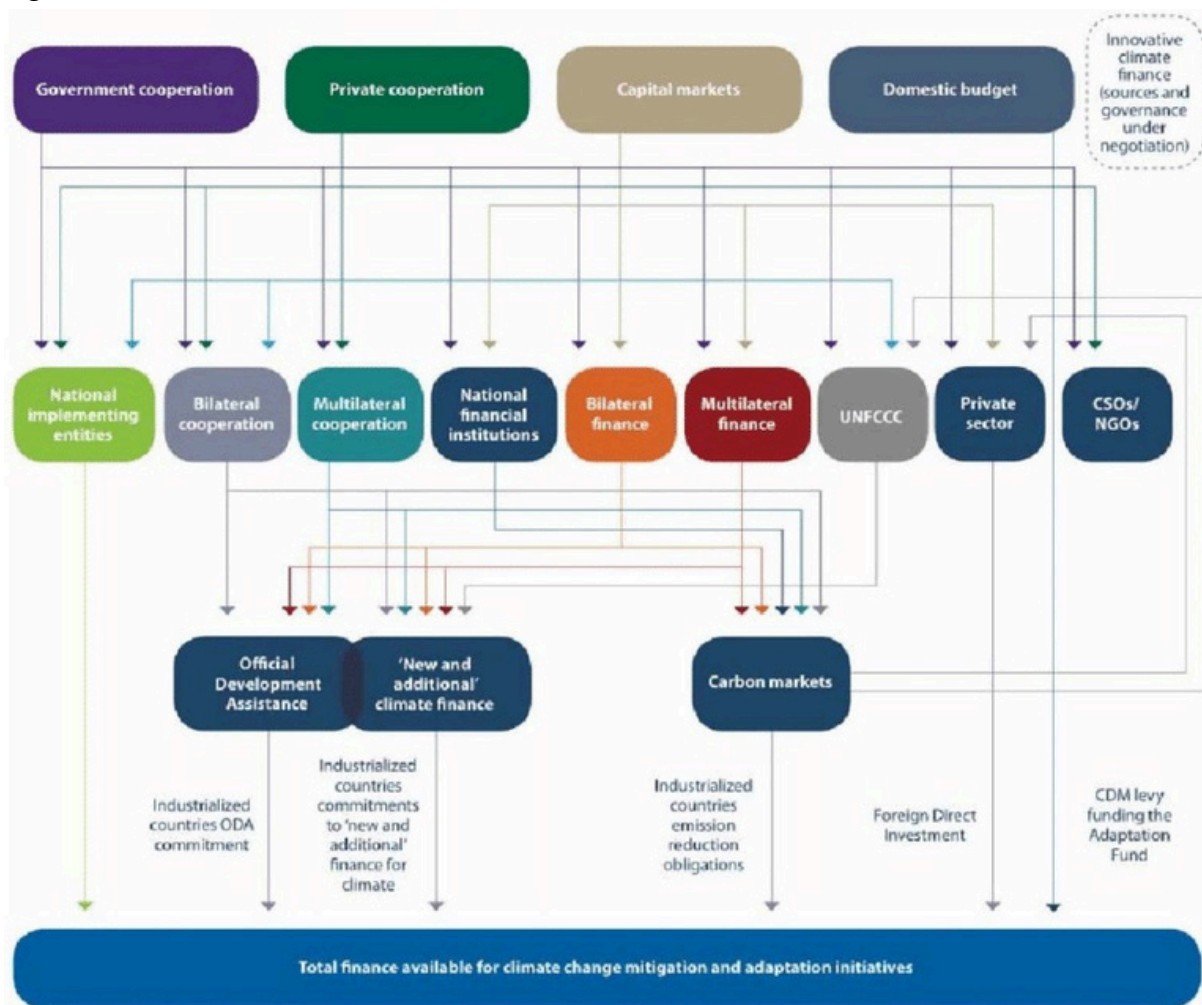
Nations can work together better on addressing climate change using international mechanisms that connect nations that do not have enough means, knowledge and technology. One example of this is the Green Climate Fund which helps to finance actions aimed at mitigating, minimising or adapting to climate change in poorer countries by facilitating the flow of financial resources from richer nations to poorer nations. Another example of an international mechanism is the IPCC which is the group of scientists that collectively gather and review research studies on global warming to provide evidence-based conclusions that can be used to the benefit of policy-making on a global level. Additional international mechanisms such as technology transfer and capacity building enable developing nation states to implement clean technology and build the expertise needed to support their use. All of these tools provide a means for countries to collaborate, achieve equity in an effort to provide solutions and produce incentives for meeting their Paris Agreement commitments. As challenges such as funding gaps, barriers to the use of intellectual property and lack of access to technology persist, the need for these international mechanisms continues to play a crucial role in achieving a coordinated and effective global response to climate change.

5.1. Climate Finance Architecture (e.g., Green Climate Fund)

International cooperation on climate finance is a key element in international environmental agreements to solve problems related to differences between developed and developing countries. Climate finance represents financial support on behalf of donor governments to meet donor commitments to support mitigation, as well as adaptation activities, thereby allowing countries to move to low-carbon or sustainable development pathways. For example, the establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was created to facilitate the transfer (from donor countries to developing countries) of climate finances on the basis of the principle of common-and-differentiated responsibilities in order facilitate the transition to low-carbon pathways by developing countries.

As shown in Table 2, this architecture involves overlapping pathways between private and public sectors.

Figure 2: The Architecture of International Climate Finance Flows.



Donor and developing countries intended to support the implementation of these financial instruments related to renewable energy projects and the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure and climate-related use of land-based resources. Even after billions of dollars have been pledged as a means of implementing climate finance, there remain several significant issues or challenges such as ongoing and significant funding gaps, inappropriate geographic distribution of funding, and a lack of clear guidelines for border access by developing countries to take advantage of climate finance. Furthermore, ongoing debates continue regarding the predictability and adequacy of financial commitments to the goals of a given country (i.e., the amount of funding required by a country to meet certain standards).

Ultimately, the need to strengthen the overall architecture of climate finance remains critical to achieve countries' shared goals and objectives, while improving countries' ability to implement global climate change initiatives in an attempt to achieve the desired outcomes of climate change.

5.2. Role of Scientific Bodies (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

International climate policy-making relies heavily on scientific institutions. Scientific institutions can provide evidence-based assessments regarding climate based on scientific research around the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the principal scientific authority that assesses climate (established by the United Nations in 1988). The IPCC collects studies and reports from thousands of scientists and writes assessment reports that evaluate the causes, impacts, and possible solutions to climate change and provide policy makers with a wealth of scientific information to make an informed decision regarding the use of policy.

The IPCC has used its scientific assessments and reports to inform the development of international treaties, specifically those that fall under the UNFCCC umbrella. By publishing assessments that are based on scientific information, such as the IPCC's, scientific institutions provide a way to condense scientific assessments to achieve a general consensus from which to derive guidance in terms of policies. Uncertainty is reduced as a result of scientific assessments creating a consensus; the lack of consensus is a reason for differing levels of priority and interpretation by each state for the research conducted by scientists. While there is a significant challenge associated with the transformation of scientific information into political action, scientific institutions have established their importance in providing legitimacy to the climate change issue and supporting increased global climate change cooperation.

5.3. Technology Transfer and Capacity Building Mechanisms

International climate cooperation relies on capacity building and technology transfer to allow developing countries to engage with global climate efforts. The mechanisms for transferring technology between countries are designed to promote the sharing of environmentally friendly technology and the exchange of technical expertise and institutional knowledge. Through the transfer of technology, developing countries can implement renewable energy systems, develop efficient energy use practices, and cut greenhouse gas emissions without going through the same environmentally destructive development paths as industrialized countries. While technology transfer will help build the capacity of countries to implement climate policies by enhancing their respective technical and institutional capabilities, it is also intended to provide the capacity to implement these policies.

Although capacity building and technology transfer are critical components of international climate cooperation, there are many challenges to implementing these mechanisms, including limitations in access to technology, funding restrictions, and intellectual property issues. Addressing these challenges is important for ensuring that climate change is addressed equitably and effectively, as well as supporting long-term international cooperation in addressing climate change.

6. Conflicting Interests and Policy Tensions

Section 6 outlines the deeply ingrained, systemic hurdles that inevitably arise when rapid economic progress and long-term climate responsibility come into conflict. This section will

allow attending nations to overcome the divide between the Global North and the Global South by balancing environmental objectives with the historical and financial realities of Climate Debt and the concept of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). The section will address issues of national sovereignty and how this prevents international cooperation on global issues, especially with resource control and the voluntary nature of current international treaties. The section will also address issues of technology transfer and intellectual property rights, showing how the divide between technology and developing nations prevents progress in a green revolution. By understanding all of these competing interests, nations will have the necessary knowledge to overcome historical grievances and create a new, equitable, and technologically sound international environmental framework.

6.1. Development vs. Climate Responsibility



The balance between economic development and environmental responsibility is arguably one of the most significant obstacles to global cooperation on climate change. The main goal of many Developing Nations is to lift themselves out of poverty, achieve development, and construct basic infrastructure. The cheapest and most accessible way to achieve this has been

through the extensive use of fossil fuels, coal, and oil.

When Developed Nations press for immediate and universal emissions caps, many of these Developing Nations see these environmental regulations as nothing more than a "ladder kicking" strategy. This is because many of these nations believe that environmental regulations hold them back from using the same technology that Developed Nations used to get to their current levels of prosperity. This has resulted in critical deadlocks as listed:

- 1- The Development Stance: The stability of national economies and the raising of millions of people from poverty must be considered more important than worldwide environmental concerns.
- 2- The Climate Responsibility Stance: The scientific evidence is clear that the Earth's "carbon budget" has nearly been exhausted. Without immediate action from cooperation of all nations , regardless of their developmental status, these environmental catastrophes will be felt first and worst by these Developing Nations' fledgling economies.
- 3- The Climate Responsibility Stance: Scientific research has demonstrated that the "carbon budget" on Earth is nearly depleted. If all nations, regardless of their level of development, do not take drastic action to reduce greenhouse emissions, global disasters will destroy the economies of the very countries that are trying to develop.

6.2. The Global North-South Divide

The "Global North-South Divide" is not merely a geographical divide; it is the fundamental divide that runs across international environmental diplomacy. (Roberts,2007) This divide is between the industrialized, high-income nations of the North and the developing, low-and-middle-income nations of the South. In the context of the UNEP, this divide is captured in three main pillars: Historical Responsibility, Financial Capacity, and the Concept of Climate Debt.

6.2.1. The Argument of Historical Responsibility

The argument of historical responsibility is often raised by the Global South, accusing the North of being responsible for the current climate crisis because of their unrestricted and uncontrolled activities over the last two centuries. The United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union have been responsible for emitting most of the CO₂ emissions since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century. The delegates of the Global South often complain that it is unfair for their country, which has started industrialization in the 1990s, to be expected to achieve similar levels of reduction as those countries that have enjoyed economic prosperity since the 1800s. The North has used all the "carrying capacity" of the atmosphere and has left none for the South.

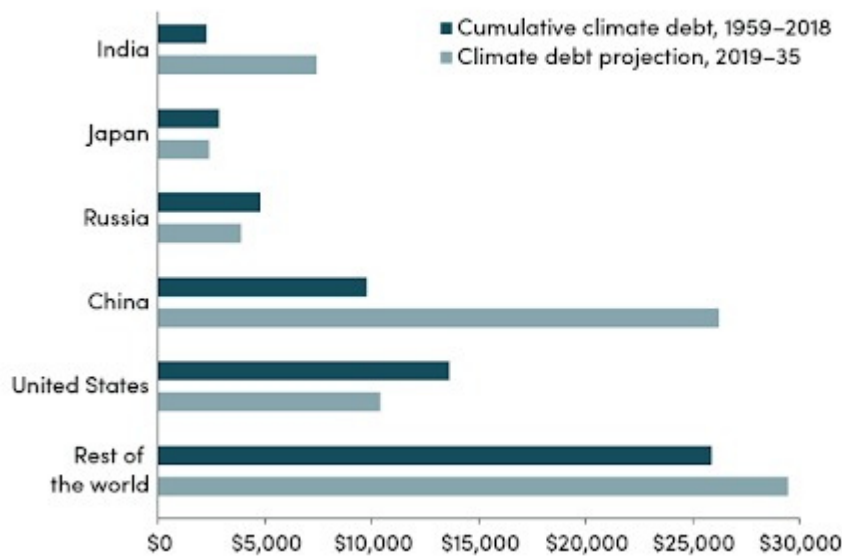
6.2.2. The Concept of "Climate Debt"

A derivative of the principle of historical responsibility is the much-debated concept of Climate Debt. The developing countries, especially the G77-China group, believe that the Global North has a financial as well as moral debt to pay to the rest of the world. (Cynthia, 2016) This debt has two components:

Adaptation Debt: The reparations needed for the damage that has been done by climate change in the South, e.g., the rise in sea levels affecting Small Island Developing States - SIDS.

Mitigation Debt: The subsidies that the North should give the South to shift their energy base to green energy, as compensation for the pollution they have caused in the past.

The disparity between historical responsibility and future obligations is clearly illustrated in *Table 1*, which highlights how climate debt from 1959–2018 remains heavily concentrated in industrialized nations, while projections for 2019–2035 show a rapid shift toward emerging economies



6.2.3. Diverging Perspectives: The "Urgency of the Present" vs. The "Legacy of the Past" *

While recognizing the historical background, the countries of the Global North claim that the climate crisis is a pressing physical reality, which does not make any distinction between "old" and "new" carbon molecules. Thus, they claim that the exclusive focus on the emissions of the 19th century is a "dangerous distraction" from the "21st-century math" that is necessary for staying "below needed." The representatives of the countries of the Global North are increasingly referring to the "moving geography of emissions." They stress that the rapidly developing countries, such as the "BRICS countries" (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), contribute a "massive share" of the "total annual global output." The essence of the claim of the countries of the Global North is reflected in the following three arguments:

- 1-) Atmospheric Reality: There is a "carbon budget" in the atmosphere, and it must be managed collectively and immediately by the current top global carbon emitters, regardless of past use.
- 2-) Universal Accountability: As the world enters into an international treaty, it must not be selective in the application of the treaty to the world's current industrial powers, as they contend that "Net Zero" must be universal and simultaneous, not delayed by decades in some parts of the world.
- 3-) Forward-Looking Diplomacy: The Northern states contend that the world's "fixation on the past" prevents the global community from engaging in the urgent, technology-driven cooperation that the future demands, suggesting that the world must move beyond "who's to blame?" and get on with "how do we solve this?"

6.2.4. Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property

Another area of friction in this divide relates to the accessibility of green technology. The Global South may not be able to produce qualified technology in the form of solar panels,

wind turbines, or carbon capture technologies, but these technologies are the Intellectual Property (IP) of the Global North.

The South demands "Technology Transfer"—i.e., the sharing of technology, including patents, at no or low cost.

The North may not agree to this, as they wish to protect the innovations and investments of the private sector. (Najam,2005)

6.3. Sovereignty vs. Collective Global Action

The concept of National Sovereignty – the right of a country to self-govern without foreign pressure – is the underlying concept of the United Nations Charter (Betts,2009) Yet the phenomenon of climate change is a special kind of "transboundary" issue that defies national boundaries. The question then becomes: How can global regulations be enforced without violating the right of a country to manage its own resources?

6.3.1. The Conflict of Resource Management

Some nations, especially those with enormous natural resources such as the Amazon Rainforest or the Congo Basin, consider the natural environment as part of their sovereign economic domain. When international organizations like UNEP call for the suspension of deforestation or mining operations, these nations tend to object on the grounds that such "international edicts" are interfering with their internal affairs and economic rights.

6.3.2. The "Voluntary" Nature of International Law

Because of the concept of sovereignty, the majority of climate change treaties, such as the Paris Agreement, (United Nations. (2015). Paris Agreement.)

rely on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These are not binding and are set by each country itself. While this respects the concept of sovereignty, this also leads to the "Free Rider" problem, where some nations benefit from the global cooling efforts of other nations without having made significant sacrifices themselves. The task of this committee is to find a way to balance this with the concept of sovereignty.

6.4. Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR Principle)

The CBDR principle is arguably the most significant principle in the law of international environmental diplomacy. It was created at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and recognizes that the task of saving the Earth is a "common" responsibility to all humankind but also recognizes the reality that not all nations have made the same contribution to the degradation of the Earth.



6.4.1. Respective Capabilities

The phrase "and Respective Capabilities" is usually used in conjunction with CBDR. This indicates that the responsibility of each country will be based on its wealth and technological capabilities. Annex I Countries: (These are the Developed Nations; USA, Germany, Norway etc..) These countries are expected to take the lead in controlling the absolute emissions of greenhouse gases and provide financial aid. Non-Annex I Countries: (These are the Developing Nations; Egypt, Turkey, Nigeria etc.) These countries are encouraged to reduce emissions, and more flexibility is given to them, with aid being given to them.

6.4.2. The Modern Debate: "Evolutionary" CBDR**

One of the key issues being debated in the current UNEP conference is whether the lists of "Annex I," "Annex II," etc., created in 1992 should be revised. The Global North argues that several of the countries classified as "Developing Nations" in 1992, such as China, India, and South Korea, are now economic powerhouses and should take on more responsibility than they did thirty years ago. The Global South argues that until the amendments for the pollution it created are made, the original CBDR formula should strictly be followed by the Global North. (London, 2002)

*Research Recommendation:

Delegates are highly encouraged to read the UNEP Emissions Gap Report and UNFCCC Legal Texts provided in the references in order to build their arguments on historical responsibility and technical mitigation strategies.

** Research Recommendation:

Delegates, The chairboard highly encourages all attending states, especially from the G77 and the emerging economies, are strongly encouraged to study the analysis of the 'principle of CBDR presented by Jiang Yei in 2016 in the context of the 2030 Agenda'

Section 6 Abstract

Section 6 gets into the fundamental problem with environmental diplomacy: the tug of war between Historical Responsibility and what's really happening with the atmosphere right now. The Global South wants Climate Debt reparations and tech transfers under the principles of CBDR, and the Global North wants everyone to be accountable and to recognize the "21st-century math" of rapidly increasing emissions from emerging economies. Then there's the conflict between National Sovereignty and the need to really do something about the problem, and you have a recipe for a mess. In the end, the committee must decide if international law can evolve beyond the 1992 framework to create a system that respects developmental rights without burning through the last carbon budget on the planet.

7. Challenges in Achieving Effective International Cooperation

Section 7 identifies the systemic challenges standing in the way of effective and layered solutions. It challenges the attending states to think and act globally, making the issue of climate change more than just a green issue by making the connection between governance and the hard realities of the economy and technology. Section 7 goes deeper into the challenges the lack of a centralized enforcement mechanism and the so-called “Transparency Gap” pose to the role of the UNEP in the world of global trade and legal systems. It also makes the critical connection between the pressing need for a “Financing Gap” and the lack of trust stemming from the failure of countries to deliver on their pledges, like the \$100 billion pledge. By making the challenges and obstacles as clear as possible, this part of the document provides the delegates a basis upon which they might move beyond the empty rhetoric and challenges of the past and build a more inclusive and effective global environmental regime.

7.1. Compliance and Enforcement Limitations

The biggest problem facing international environmental law is that there is no centralized enforcement system. Unlike national laws, where the government can punish its citizen for breaking the law, there is no "climate police" that can force the United Nations' members to comply with their agreements (Victor,2008) Mentioning that, there are complications that member states should take into account:

The "Pledge and Review" System: The Paris Agreement requires that each country make Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Once again, this is simply a promise. If a country fails to comply with its Nationally Determined Contributions, the only real penalty is "naming and shaming" within the international community.

Sovereignty vs. Mandates: The problem of creating any type of centralized enforcement system is that it is met with the argument that it infringes upon national sovereignty. The "weakest link" is the problem that the global community is only as strong as its weakest link. The weakest link is the major polluters that have the least ability to comply.

The Transparency Gap: The problem is that many of the developing nations cannot afford the high technology necessary to monitor their own emissions. Therefore, it is difficult for the UNEP to determine if progress is even being made.

7.2. Financing Gaps and Resource Inequality

It is a very expensive affair to combat climate change. It takes trillions of dollars to shift the entire country's energy source to the sun. The term 'Financing Gap' refers to the huge difference between the amount of money we need and the amount of money we have.

The Promise of 100 Billion Dollars: During the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) in 2009, the developed countries agreed to provide 100 billion dollars annually to the poorer countries by 2020 to help them reduce emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.

This promise was never fulfilled, and it led to a rift between the Global North and the Global South. (For the next part, see 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 for more detailed information)

Debt Distressed Nations: The Global South is already under a huge debt burden. These countries argue that they cannot afford to add to the burden of debt to finance green initiatives. They need grants instead of loans, which need to be paid back.

Private and Public Funding: The developed countries often look to the private sector to fill the financing gaps. But the private sector is unwilling to invest in risky markets.

7.3. Political Fragmentation and Geopolitical Rivalries***

Real politics, not a lab, drives the process of global climate cooperation. Where there are clashes between states, the interests of the environment may be sacrificed.

Bipolarity & Trade Wars: In the struggle between the US and China, the supply chains of green products like solar panels or batteries may be disrupted. What begins as political tension in one domain may easily spill over into non-cooperation at the climate conference.

Energy Security vs. Green Transition: Regional rivalries, like those in Eastern Europe or the Middle East, may lead states to take drastic, short-term actions to secure energy quickly, like reopening coal plants. Where there are concerns about security, the long-term goal of Net Zero may be set aside.

The Rise of Nationalism: The interests of "my country first" may mean reduced support for the global fight against climate change and a threat to exit the accords.

7.4. Coordination Between International Actors

The problem of fighting global warming is not just the responsibility of the UNEP but may be handled by a number of actors, and this may cause confusion and wastage of resources.

Science vs. Politics: While the scientific community, led by the IPCC, is saying that we need to act now, the politicians are concerned about the next election and are taking small steps.

Non-State Actors: The role of multinational corporations and local governments is important in the fight against global warming, but how to get these actors to comply with UN regulations and be transparent is a big problem in coordination.

*** Research Recommendation

Delegates, in the discussion of geopolitical rivalry in Section 7.3, please review Section 6.1

Development vs. Climate Responsibility. The connection is vital in order to propose a realistic solution.

Section 7 Abstract

Section 7 points out the big roadblocks that prevent international agreements on climate issues from really working. The main complaint is that of the Enforcement Gap: no one is really in charge, and agreements have to rely on shaming instead of enforcement. The problem is made worse by the Trust Deficit: agreements like the \$100 billion per year promise are not being met, and the Transparency Gap makes it difficult to measure emissions in the developing world. To top it all off, the fight against climate change is also being hindered by Geopolitical Rivalries and “energy security” issues. The latter can cause national interests to be put before global stability. So, the committee has to try to bring order to the disorderly array of international players and get them to work together.

8. Policy Pathways and Areas for Harmonization****

This section helps shifting the focus from identifying systemic barriers to coming up with creative, multi-layered solutions to them. It assists attending states to coordinate worldwide action by aligning governance with economic and technology realities instead of looking at climate change as just an environmental issue This includes looking at how UNEP’s mandates align with worldwide trade and legal systems, as well as how to address the large “Financing Gap” through creative solutions such as Debt for Nature swaps and new carbon pricing systems. It also identifies the main ways to facilitate green technology transfer and capacity building, with the goal of closing the North-South gap by making IP more accessible and sustainable. In the end, these ways will give delegates a good foundation to move beyond just making promises and into making a more inclusive, enforceable, and technically informed worldwide environmental regime.

8.1. Strengthening Multilateral Climate Governance

The solution to the compliance problems identified in Section 7.1 calls for a more integrated and higher level of climate governance in the world.

Institutional Synergy: Enhance cooperation among UNEP, WTO, and IMF to ensure that trade and finance rules support, rather than undermine, environmental objectives.

Legal Harmonization: Harmonize environmental laws in different countries to prevent “carbon leakage,” where industries shift to countries with lax laws to lower costs.

Unified Reporting: Develop one simple, digital platform for all countries to report their emissions, reducing reporting burden for developing countries.

8.2. Improving Climate Finance and Fairness

As mentioned in the Climate Debt section (See 6.2.2 and 6.2.4 for more detailed information), only by solving the finance gap can we restore trust between the Global North and South. The proposed solutions for the issue are listed below:

Reform of the '100 Billion' Framework: Instead of unfulfilled promises, set a new goal, based on real needs in developing countries.

Debt-for-Nature Swaps: An agreement in which part of the foreign debt in a developing country is forgiven in return for investing in home-based conservation of nature and using renewable energy sources.

Carbon Pricing & Levies: Establish international carbon taxes on industries emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases (e.g., ships and airplanes), and forward this money directly to the Green Climate Fund.

8.3. Green Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

The technology divide between rich and poor countries makes decarbonization a challenge. We need a balance between new ideas and ease of use. The projected schemes are:

IP Rights and Open Innovation: Develop patent pools for critical climate tech, e.g., efficient solar and desalination, so developing countries can build these tools locally at lower cost.

South-South Cooperation: Engage growing economies, e.g., Brazil or India, to share their cost-effective green technology with other developing countries, as these ideas may be more relevant to developing countries than Western ideas.

Infrastructure Training: Instead of just providing infrastructure, provide long-term training so locals can maintain green infrastructure.

8.4. Strengthening UNEP's Role



UNEP should shift from merely “monitoring” to becoming more involved and ‘hands-on’ in facilitating international laws. Possible services available are:

Science to Policy Link: increase briefings for national parliaments facilitated by UNEP to

ensure that new science is translated into domestic laws immediately.

Regional Hubs: increase support from UNEP's regional offices to provide 'hands-on' support to members who are having problems meeting laws.

Inclusive Diplomacy: increase 'Non-State Actor' representation, such as indigenous leaders, youth activists, and CEO's from businesses, in UNEP's decision-making circles to ensure that we have a 'whole society' approach to solving problems.

**** Research Recommendation:

For a comprehensive technical analysis of the policy pathways discussed in this section (ranging from carbon pricing to technology adoption) delegates are strongly encouraged to refer to the *IPCC Synthesis Report (2023)*.

Section 8 Abstract

Section 8 is a significant change in that it takes the committee from discussing systemic barriers to developing a real, multi-layered plan. The key concept is Harmonization-aligning all of the national laws, financial systems, and technical standards into a single global framework. By designing a cohesive government framework that ties in UNEP and economic organizations, Section 8 addresses the "Enforcement Gap." It is also here that we discuss redistributive financial mechanisms such as Debt-for-Nature Swaps and Technology Transfer in a revamped intellectual property scheme. The result is a series of paths that provide a delegate with a means to move beyond mere promises to a solid environmental, legal framework, and technically sound framework.

9. Questions to Ponder

The following questions are beneficial for identifying the key points of stalemate in global environmental diplomacy. We urge all member states to respond to these questions concretely and policy-orientedly, as they will form the basis of our substantive discussion.

1. Should a nation that built its economy on fossil fuel resources be held liable for Climate Debt prior to the scientific community concluding about the veracity of Climate Change?
2. How can we create an international standard for environmental best practices (e.g., stopping deforestation in the Amazon) while respecting individual countries' right to control their natural resources?
3. How far can UNEP go to develop and implement an enforcement mechanism for the Paris Agreement; how willing will major polluters be to adopt such a mechanism?
4. How can the Global South develop new financial instruments to meet adaptation requirements without creating a debt trap for their countries if the developed world continues to violate their commitment of delivering \$100 billion annually to the global climate fund?

5. Should countries suspend intellectual property rights associated with clean energy technologies (e.g., carbon capture or solar) during an ongoing climate emergency?
6. How can the world promote universal environmental standards such as ending deforestation in the Amazon without infringing on national sovereignty over their own natural resources?
7. To what extent can UNEP push for a system of enforcement of the Paris agreement? And to what extent can the big emitters buy into this system of enforcement?
8. How can the Global South propose different financial instruments to address adaptation needs without putting countries into debt traps if the developed world continues to fail to deliver on its promise of providing \$100 billion per year to the global climate fund?
9. Can member states suspend intellectual property rights to green technologies such as carbon capture and solar panels in the midst of a global climate emergency?

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