



COMMITTEE GUIDE

United Nations Environmental Programme

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DEPUTY: Ties Wijntjes



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Introduction

Honorable Delegates,

My name is Cosima Hirth and I am 16 years old. I am currently attending 10th grade at the International School of Stuttgart. I come from Stuttgart, Germany and have attended the International School of Stuttgart since kindergarten.



My MUN experience started in 7th grade in the role of an admin, quickly moving up to me being a delegate at the next MUNISS conference in 2015. This was also the first year I attended a conference besides MUNISS, LMUNA in Arnhem. In the consecutive year I continued to further gain experiences as a delegate at MUNISS and LMUNA. This year, I made it into the Executive Team in the position of Deputy of Secretariat, attended LMUNA again as a delegate and will attend another MUN conference in Shanghai in January. Additionally I am getting the opportunity to chair the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) at MUNISS 2017.

I hope to make MUNISS 2017 one of the best conferences you all have attended so far, as it is MUNISS' 10th anniversary! I am looking forward to spending a weekend full of successful debate with you!

See you soon!

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ties Wijntjes and I will be your deputy chair during the 2017 instalment of MUNISS in the United Nations Environmental Programme.



Coming year will be my third time at MUNISS but the first time as a chair and I'm very happy to be doing so in the UNEP committee. Overall, MUNISS will be my 10th MUN conference of which the third time chairing.

I'm in my 6th year of high school at the Farel College in Amersfoort, the Netherlands which means I'll be starting my final exams about a month after MUNISS. In the free time this leaves me I enjoy watching road race cycling or getting on my own race or mountain bike. Besides this, I attend weekly acrobatics and juggling training and I love photography.

I am very excited to be meeting you all at MUNISS 2017. Until then, good luck with your position papers. Hopefully this research report will be of good use.

Topic: Globalizing natural resources to foster sustainable world development

Regards to the issue

This topic is about the matter of globalizing natural resources to foster sustainable world development, meaning that natural resources must be shared more equally between countries so that all nations can continue to develop from their current state. Furthermore, by doing this, challenges such as hunger, extreme poverty and the increasing gap between rich and poor nations should be improved.

Explanation and description of key terms

Natural Resources: Materials or substances occurring in nature which can be exploited for economic gain¹

Renewable Resources: Resources that can be used again

Non-Renewable: Resources that can not be used again

Globalization: The process by which businesses or other organizations Develop international influence or start operating on an international scale²

Sustainable Development: Economic development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources³

Developing Countries: A poor agricultural country that is seeking to become more advanced economically and socially⁴.

Issue Explanation

Even though there have been ongoing efforts for development since the foundation of the United Nations, the world's population has failed to end all poverty in the world. Additionally all efforts to prevent environmental degradation have also not been

¹ https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/natural_resources

² <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/globalization>

³ https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/sustainable_development

⁴ https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/developing_country

successful. Almost half of the world's population, more than 3 billion people daily struggle due to there not being sufficient access to food, clean water, or basic, essential medicine.

Instead of the world globalizing and coming together, the gap between the rich and the poor has increased and sparked conflict between countries over the decreasing planet's natural resources. This has also raised the ethical question of whether it is correct to claim resources in parts of the world just because a country is located in that area. Some countries are geologically unlucky because they have no natural resources in the country and are not lacking development as they do not have the means to develop by themselves and the assistance from other countries is not sufficient enough in order to keep up with developments.

We are one country and if we continue to destroy this planet by increasing and growing in population at the current rate we will run out of natural resources such as seafood for example by 2050⁵.

Over the past 30 years humans have doubled their consumption and continue to increase this rate by 1.5% per year. Organisations such as the WWF wish for the UN to find agreements on specific actions based on their findings in order to decrease, if not stop this growing impact. A spokesman for WWF UK, previously stated that "If all the people consumed natural resources at the same rate as the average US and UK citizen we would require at least two extra planets like Earth"⁶.

The world is currently facing issues such as:

- Marine Crisis: The cod stocks in the North Atlantic have fallen from about 264, 000 tons in 1970 to under 60,000 in 1995.
- Pollution: Especially the United States of America puts an extreme amount of pressure on the earth's environment due to the carbon dioxide emissions and over-consumption.
- Deforestation: From the year 1970 to 2002 forests of the world have decreases in size by 12%.
- Extinction of animals: Many animals are being killed for food, medicine or personal interest such as lions, elephants and tigers. The numbers of african elephants have fallen from 1.2 million in 1980 to have a billion by 2002.
- Sinking of countries: Countries such as the Maldives and the Seychelles are expected to be underwater soon as the level of water is rising. This is due to climate change and global warming which is partly caused by other countries and the way they deal with/ take care of the ecosystem and environment around them.

It is necessary that a new structured plan with a plausible outcome is created. This means that countries need to be open to alternative approaches to the topic, thinking not only about competition and self-interest of the country but about distributing and managing the planet's resources following the basic principles of sharing and

⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1533125/All-seafood-will-run-out-in-2050-say-scientists.html>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2002/jul/07/research.waste>

cooperation. It takes approximately 12.2 hectares of land to support each American citizen and about 6.29 for each British citizen, while the number for Burundi is just half a hectare. Wealthy countries such as USA, England, France, China are economically strong and are buying the last remains of resources from developing countries as their own system would collapse if they were to run out of these resources. However, it would be more sensible for these countries to hold back, share the leftover resources between all nations who need them and focus on finding other sources that could be used instead of these natural resources rather than further destroying the world and preventing developing countries from developing.

Only a united world can solve the distorted priorities by collaborating with one another effectively and equally divide natural resources. According to STWR an idea of how to do this would be to “implement an international program of emergency assistance to eliminate hunger and unnecessary deprivation, followed by a longer-term transformation of the global economy in order to secure an adequate standard of living for all within ecological limits”⁷.

Furthermore, this international framework can only be established through the United Nations and its agencies as it is the only multilateral governmental agency which has the needed experience and resources to be able to organise the restructuring of the world’s economy. Additionally, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been adopted by all member states of the United Nations, which emphasises the right every human has to sufficient food, shelter, education and health care. Hence, if the UN would get more authority and if its member were to work together hand in hand it would be able to foster the development between nations and harmonise the world’s economic relationships.

Historical background of the issue

The civilization of the world formed due to the colonization of continents such as Africa. France, Britain, Germany, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands. African colonies were split and their government fell apart. Additionally they stopped developing. They claimed some natural resources too and imported them to Europe. Then they left the colonies to themselves after World War One, not supporting the colonies, now independent countries. Ever since then, these countries have had a difficulty developing.

The difference between countries, developing and developed, can often also be separated by continents became apparent while some countries were going through a stages in history such as the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution, were some countries quickly became rich and developed technologies and inventions at a fast rate, whereas other countries missed out on the developments and got poorer. The Industrial Revolution occurred around 1820, where the

⁷ <http://www.sharing.org/information-centre/reports/sharing-world%E2%80%99s-resources-%E2%80%93-introduction>

geographical divisions of the world soon also began to turn into economic sections. While Europe and North America flourished, continents such as Asia, Africa and South America were left behind. Also today, continents such as Africa are stereotypically seen as poor und developing whereas continents like Europe are seen as rich and developed. Still today developing countries such as South Africa, Saudi Arabia or China are trying catch up with the developed countries which is continuing to increase whereas the developing countries are being left behind further and further because they do not have the needed means and resources to catch up. Their economy and technical developments are not improving at a fast rate. Overall, the significance of developing countries in the world economy during circa 2010 is about the same as it was in 1870. Unfortunately, it is predicted that the significance of these developing countries in the world economy will also remain similar as it was in 1820 in circa 2030.

Involved parties

Organisations

- World Trade Organisation (criticised for being undemocratic and furthering the interests of large corporations and rich countries)
- World Bank (criticised for being undemocratic and furthering the interests of large corporations and rich countries)
- International Monetary Fund (criticised for being undemocratic and furthering the interests of large corporations and rich countries)
- Open Government partnership
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Countries

- United States of America⁸ (world's largest coal reserves (491 billion short tons accounting for 27% of the world's total)
- Russia⁶ (distance hinders exploitation)
- Saudi Arabia (oil based economy)
- Australia⁶ (world's largest coal exports (29%))
- Japan⁶ (world's largest importing country of coal and oil)
- China (developing country which is wealthy and also buying natural resources away from developing countries)
- United Kingdom (wealthy and and buying natural resources away from developing countries)
- France (wealthy and and buying natural resources

⁸ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2111.html>

- Brazil (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Brazil can try to develop its economy)
- Nigeria (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Nigeria can try to develop its economy. Also an early african civilization (see historical section))
- Angola (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Angola can try to develop its economy)
- Burma (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Burma can try to develop its economy)
- Papua New Guinea (Bougainville)(developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Papua New Guinea can try to develop its economy)
- Chad (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Chad can try to develop its economy)
- Pakistan (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways Pakistan can try to develop its economy)
- North Sudan (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways North Sudan can try to develop its Economy. Also an early african civilization (see historical section))
- South Sudan (developing country with natural resources that are being sold/ bought by wealthy nations as this is one of the only ways South Sudan can try to develop its Economy. Also an early african civilization (see historical section))
- Seychelles (sinking due to the effect the wealthy countries practice on the world, i.e. for trade, and global warming)
- Maldives (sinking due to the effect the wealthy countries practice on the world, i.e. for trade, and global

warming)

Media Contribution

The Media has been criticizing organisations such as the World Trade Organisation, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for being undemocratic and further supporting the interests of large corporations and developed nations.

Previous attempts to resolve conflict

In order to solve the conflict, mainly organisations have been founded such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in order to establish a more controlled and fair overview of trade of natural resources between countries. However, the WTO has not been very supportive towards developing countries joining as these often need to meet requirements they can not meet due to their lack of funds. Therefore, as the United Nations wants to have all countries work together, meaning all countries to participate in an organisation such as the WTO, the requirements must be plausible to meet for all countries. Should a country not be able to meet this requirement it is necessary that other states or an organisation must help these developing countries.

Year	Attempt
30th October 1947	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established (signed by 23 nations. Its purpose was the “substantial reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and the elimination of preferences.”
1st January 1995 Organisation ⁹	Marrakesh Agreement founded the World Trade (WTO) (replaced GATT).
17th June 2003 (Goal:	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) ¹⁰ founded Promoting public awareness about how countries manage

⁹ <https://www.wto.org/>

¹⁰ <https://eiti.org/>

their oil, gas and mineral resources).

November 2010

Doha Development Round (Doha Development Agenda) is started. The goal was to reduce the trade barriers in the world and hereby increase global trade. Even though it only started in 2010, it was launched at the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference in November 2001, providing the base for negotiations.

2011

The Organisation "Open Government Partnership" launched, Co-chaired by the United States of America and Brazil

2015

Millennium Development Goals halved the amount of people suffering from hunger and extreme poverty

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