

Forum: Security council

Issue: The question of means to mitigate against the security risks resulting from climate change

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Introduction

The overall Earth's temperature has increased by around 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit since the 19th century, which also has a large increase in human-made emissions such as carbon dioxide levels. These are due to the amount of fossil fuels we are burning, such as coal, and the greenhouse gases we are producing.

Climate change has had a big impact on security because of the environmental problems it has caused different countries, such as extreme weather changes which can drastically affect military operations in those conditions, the economy, and agricultural centres. The resources of a country including energy, food and water will be affected as well due to climate change, as it causes a stress on the amount of farming and clean water available. This will drastically impact people's' lives and will cause internal population conflict, migrations and political issues. All of these changes will increase the amount of conflict between people, which can then increase poverty and worldwide social tension. The decrease in resources for food and water will cause hunger to increase, resulting in the increase of food prices around the world, and less availability for many people. The final and obvious point is the amount of extreme weather, which will cause an increase in the amount of refugees fleeing their homes due to temperature change, storms and droughts. This also has had a massive impact on the ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

China

- China has set targets to reduce its CO2 emissions by 40-45% by 2021, and 60-65% by 2030.
- China has committed to increase the share of non fossil fuels in primary energy consumptions to 20% by 2030
- China has an energy-consuming enterprise program that will target to save 250 million metric tons of coal, equivalent to 143 coal fired plants for a year.

Mexico

- Mexico has passed a climate law called the General Law on Climate Change to transition the country into a low carbon economy, with a 50% reduction in emissions by 2050
- They have also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 22% and black carbon by 51%, all by 2030

- A target of having 40% of its energy to come from low-emission energy sources by 2035 has been put into place, and 50% by 2050

India

- India has set targets to increase its renewable energy and solar capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2022, and increasing its wind power to 60 gigawatts by 2022
- India has also committed to increasing its non fossil fuel energy sources by 40% by 2030
- Has committed to reduce CO2 emissions by 33-35% by 2030

European Union

- The EU has adopted policies to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030 and by 80-95% by 2050

USA

- Obama had The Clean Power Plan, which was a policy introduced to try and combat climate change by limiting the amount of emissions
- However, President Trump had announced that the US will withdraw from the Paris Agreement
- The US takes part in emissions trading which is used to trade carbon and reduce emissions

UK

- The UK has committed to switching to low carbon fuels to reduce the amount of CO2 emissions, by moving away from coal and gas energy to renewable energy
- 75% of electricity needs to be from renewable sources by 2030
- The UK has also committed to reducing its emissions by around 80% by 2050

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

7. d. Paris Agreement, Paris, 12 December 2015.
[C.N.63.2016.TREATIES-XXVII.7.d](#) of 16 February 2016
 (Opening for signature) and [C.N.92.2016.TREATIES-XXVII.7.d](#) of 17 March 2016

7. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. New York, 9 May 1992. United Nations, *Treaty Series*, [vol. 1771](#), p. 107; and depositary notifications
[C.N.148.1993.TREATIES-4](#) of 12 July 1993 (procès-verbal of rectification of the original texts of the Convention);
[C.N.436.1993.TREATIES-12](#) of 15 December 1993 (corrigendum to [C.N.148.1993.TREATIES-4](#) of 12 July 1993); [C.N.247.1993.TREATIES-6](#)

of 24 November 1993 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic French text); [C.N.462.1993](#).TREATIES-13 of 30 December 1993 (corrigendum to [C.N.247.1993](#).TREATIES-6 of 24 November 1993); [C.N.544.1997](#).TREATIES-6 of 13 February 1997 (amendment to the list in annex I to the Convention); and [C.N.1478.2001](#).TREATIES-2 of 28 December 2001 (amendment to the list in annex II to the Convention); [C.N.237.2010](#).TREATIES-2 of 26 April 2010 (adoption of amendment to the list in the Annex I to the Convention); [C.N.355.2012](#).TREATIES-XXVII.7 of 9 July 2012 (adoption of amendment to Annex I to the Convention) and [C.N.81.2013](#).TREATIES-XXVII.7 of 14 January 2013 (entry into force of amendment to Annex I to the Convention).

Timeline of Events

1987: MONTREAL — Governments adopt a treaty pledging to restrict emissions of chemicals damaging the ozone layer. While it doesn't deal with climate change specifically, the Montreal Protocol becomes a model for how to rein in man-made emissions through international agreements.

1988: NEW YORK — The U.N. General Assembly endorses the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is set up the same year by two U.N. agencies, the World Meteorological Organization and the U.N. Environmental Program, to assess the existing knowledge about climate change.

1990: LONDON — The IPCC releases its first scientific assessment of climate change. It says greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere are increasing due to human activity, resulting in warming of the Earth's surface.

1992: RIO DE JANEIRO — World leaders gathering for the first Earth Summit sign the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the first international treaty aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions. However, it sets no binding emissions targets.

1997: KYOTO, Japan — The Kyoto Protocol is adopted, setting binding emissions targets for wealthy countries. The United States doesn't join the treaty because it doesn't include big developing countries such as China and India. The U.S. also says the treaty would harm its economy.

2004: MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin signs a bill confirming Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The move means countries representing more than 55 percent of global emissions support the treaty, a condition for it to take effect.

2007: OSLO, Norway — Former U.S. vice president and climate campaigner Al Gore and the IPCC share the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to raise awareness about global warming.

2009: COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The first attempt to craft a global emissions treaty to replace Kyoto, which is set to expire in 2012, falls apart amid disputes between rich and poor countries over who should do what. Acrimonious negotiations end with a voluntary deal inviting countries to present nonbinding emissions targets for 2020.

2011: DURBAN, South Africa — U.N. climate talks produce a major breakthrough as countries agree to adopt a universal agreement on climate change in 2015 that would take effect five years later and apply to all of them.

2013: STOCKHOLM — The IPCC says it's "extremely likely" that human influence is the dominant reason for warming temperatures recorded since the mid-20th century.

2015: PARIS — More than 190 governments meet in the French capital to finish what's envisioned as a landmark deal to rein in greenhouse gas emissions after 2020.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Paris Agreement is an agreement which its aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise below 2 degrees celsius, and to increase the ability of countries to deal with climate change impacts by providing help and support to the countries who need it. It was initiated by the USA and CHina, which control about 40% of global emissions, issuing a statement that 174 states and the EU will sign the Paris Agreement.

The Kyoto protocol is an international treaty used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions based on global warming, which extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), made up of 192 parties. The nations have now pledged to cut yearly carbon emissions, and has decreased by 5.2% in 2012. The greenhouse gases which are trying to be reduced are, Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)

Possible Solutions

Some of the solutions to help decrease the amount of climate change is to expand the use of renewable energy, making us less dependent on coal and other fossil fuels, and making our energy cleaner and longer lasting. Limits being placed on the amount of carbon that polluters can emit can help to calculate how much CO₂ is being given off, and will let people know they can only use a certain amount. Increasing the amount of vehicle fuel efficiency will help to reduce the amount of petrol and CO₂ emissions which will be produced. Reducing the amount of deforestation which is associated with global warming emissions will help to decrease the amount of air pollution.

1. Calls upon all More Economically Developed Countries, MEDCs, to combat climate change including “quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives”;
2. Calls for advancement in the eco-friendly car industry in order to cut down on everyday greenhouse gas emissions;
3. Considers solar panels in space to funnel and store electromagnetic waves for use in earth’s energy systems;
4. Supports the reduction of deforestation and the production of reforestation throughout the world by means such as increasing penalties and consequences for illegal deforestation, increasing the productivity of livestock and agriculture to reduce the open land necessary for such endeavors, and the planting of new trees and forests to absorb carbon from the atmosphere;

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