The Causes of Political Reality –

Understanding the present to shape the future

23th – 27th November 2018

United Nations Environmental Programme

Study Guide

Matthew Taylor & Borja Pampillón Rial

WORDS OF WELCOME

Hello Delegates,

My name is Matthew Taylor, I will be serving as your UNEP Committee Chair this November at the BIMUN/SINUB conference. Currently, I am a fourth-year student at California State University Long Beach (CSULB) finishing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Geography. My previous experience with Model United Nations includes serving as the Chair of the Security Council at LBIMUN and I have participated as a delegate in several different conferences including Santa Barbara Intercollegiate MUN, Portland NWMUN, LA MUN, and NTUMUN in Singapore. I am also currently the Treasurer of the Model United Nations at Cal State Long Beach.

Over the summer I worked for the Outreach Team, a campaign fundraising organization, to raise funds for Amnesty International all over Los Angeles. This experience taught me the importance of advocacy and grassroots campaigning.

We have put together a study guide for you to help prepare you for the topics. Included are general suggestions for additional research and questions to help you grasp the topics further and help you understand your country's position. I encourage you to actively think about real world, practical and well-intentional solutions and to not limit yourself on only this background guide for information.

If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact us. I hope to see an exciting and productive conference, and I look forward to seeing you all at BIMUN 2018!

Sincerely,

Matthew Taylor

Hello Delegates,

My name is Borja Pampillón Rial, and I will be serving as one of your chairs for the UNEP Committee. I have a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Marketing from the Camilo José Cela University in Madrid. I participated in several MUNs as a delegate and as a chair, I was the Secretary General of Madrid International MUN 2018, as well as the Fundraiser in MUNES and Deputy Fundraiser for Madrid WorldMUN 2019. Finally, I will be Deputy Secretary General in MUNUSAL 2019. What I enjoy the most about MUNing outside Spain is meeting new people and new ways of organizing and conducting MUNs and different simulations.

I am currently working in Action Against Hunger, an international Non-Governmental Organization that focuses its work on tackling hunger and water needs in developing countries all around the world, as its financial manager at the Madrid Headquarters.

Outside MUNs I like videogames (enough to do a thesis about the impact they have on the marketing strategy of the electronic companies), long walks in Madrid and going out with friends.

As Matt said, feel free to contact either of us if you have questions about the Rules of Procedure or the topics, we are at your disposal at any time!

Best Regards,

Borja Pampillón Rial
UNEP Chair

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The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

History

The founding of the United Nations Environmental Programme occurred in 1992 as a result of the decision adopted by the Conference on Human Development in the 15th of December 1972 in Stockholm[1], through General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII)[2].

In 1992 the UNEP saw its role enhanced at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (Also known as "The Earth Summit") in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Countries joined an international treaty, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as a framework for international cooperation to combat climate change by limiting average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and coping with impacts that were, by then, inevitable.

By 1995, countries launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol legally binds developed country Parties to emission reduction targets. The Protocol's first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012. The second commitment period began on 1 January 2013 and will end in 2020.[3]

Role and Mandate

The UNEP has the institutional range of a program and is designed to assist developed and developing countries to implement policies and good practices that respect the environment and sustainable development. It is

[1] https://research.un.org/en/docs/environment/unep

[2] http://unepfi.org/about/background/

[3] https://unfccc.int/process/the-convention/history-of-the-convention#eq-1

responsible for coordinating environmental issues within the United Nations with the relevant agencies and subsidiary bodies.

Its main responsibility, beyond the coordination of the rest of the agencies, is to evaluate environmental conditions and trends at a global, regional and national level in order to elaborate institutional instruments that regulate the rational management of resources and the environment.[4]

The work carried out by UNEP can be divided into the following categories:

- Evaluating environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments for the rational management of resources.
- Strengthening of institutions for the intelligent management of the environment.
- promoting environmental science and studies, implementing sustainable development projects and formulating policies, such as guidelines and treaties that regulate the trade of resources.[5]

Future vision

In the publication of the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in February 2007, it was recommended that the UNEP be reformed into a hypothetical United Nations Environment Organization. The proposal was sponsored by the French and German governments, as well as numerous European states, but was rejected paradoxically by the United States of America, China, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia. However, to this day, no such change has taken place.

[4] https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/un-and-the-rule-of-law/united-nations-environment-programme/

[5] http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10609/K1350046.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Topic A: Plastic Waste: Production and Disposal

Introduction

Every grocery store and almost any shop in the world share one common material that is being used for many purposes, from wrapping food to carrying what people buy or contain liquids. That is plastic.

What was considered to be one of the best human inventions has nowadays ended up backfiring on humanity due to mismanagement, as it is now one of the largest environmental threats that we currently face. As the large mismanagement leads to plastic debris entering the ecosystem, it is clogging rivers and creating huge plastic patches in the oceans, thereby leading to destruction of natural habitats, introduction of harmful chemicals, and the creation of large dead patches in the world's oceans.

Erik Solheim, Head of UN Environment, said "It is past time that we tackle the plastic problem that blights our oceans. Plastic pollution is surfing onto Indonesian beaches, settling onto the ocean floor at the North Pole, and rising through the food chain onto our dinner tables. We've stood by too long as the problem has gotten worse. It must stop."[6]

We are going to study how the plastic has been and is being used over different periods of time and what the nations can do to solve the issue. While doing so, a very important aspect to bear in mind is that, in this case, theoretically there should be no different overall approach between developed and developing countries, as both groups share just one environment.

[6] UN press release (http://web.unep.org/unepmap/un-declares-war-ocean-plastic)

Historical Background

The first thing we need to understand when talking about plastic is that it's quite a new material for the mankind. Its very beginning is considered to be the discovery of the vulcanization process of rubber in 1842 by Charles Goodyear.[7] Later on, the invention of the synthetic polymer took place in 1869 by John Wesley Hyatt when trying to find a proper substitute to ivory.[8]

After many developments in a very short period of time due to research and development during World War II, a great expansion of the plastics industry in the United States proved to be as important to victory as military success. The need to preserve scarce natural resources made the production of synthetic alternatives a priority. Plastics provided those substitutes. For example, nylon as a synthetic silk was used during the war for parachutes and ropes, whereas Plexiglas provided an alternative to glass for aircrafts.

In the post-World War II world, where lab-synthesized plastics have virtually defined a way of life, we've come to think of plastics as unnatural, yet nature has been knitting polymers since the beginning of life. Whether a polymer is natural or synthetic, chances are its backbone is composed of carbon, a strong, stable, glad-handing atom that is ideally suited to forming molecular bonds.[9]

Basically, by now we have started using some kind of plastic everywhere; to fulfill any task given, from conserving food, to cooking, fabricating devices, or as a container for anything you want to keep inside. All of this is not a problem by itself, however it can lead to multiple complications.

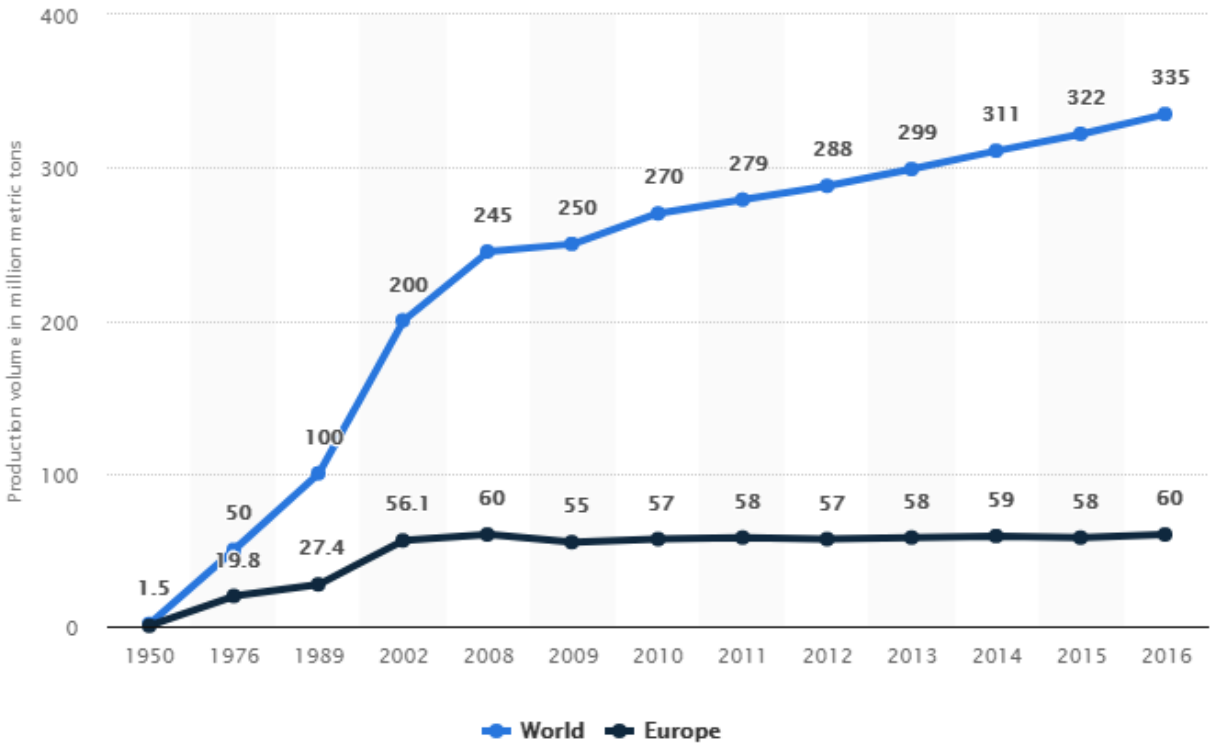
[7] https://www.goodyear.eu/corporate_emea/our-company/
[8] https://www.sciencehistory.org/the-history-and-future-of-plastics
[9] https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-brief-history-of-plastic-world-conquest/

State of the issue

As it was states before, plastic started as a substitute for some natural resources and it was proven to be very useful. This development, however, begs the question: When did plastic become an issue?

To understand this phenomenon, there are several factors that need to be taken into consideration, not only individually, but also in conjunction.

- Mass production: As projected in the following graphic, the annual growth of plastic production is quite considerable. This tendency leads to the overall effect that, on one hand, managing such big masses of a product becomes more complicated and less effective, whereas on the other hand, any negative effects become more evident.



- Recycling: more than 90% of the plastic is not recycled, leading to two direct results: it creates a demand for production as well as material that needs to be disposed and therefore takes up space and resources.[10]
- Leak of plastic to the ocean: As a result of the combination of these factors, there are more than 8 million tons of plastic is being dumped every year to the oceans.[11]

It takes more than 400 years to degrade plastic in nature and, meanwhile, the amount of plastic that ends up in the seas and the harm it is causing to birds, marine animals, and fish is immeasurable. The prediction that by mid-century the oceans will contain more plastic waste than fish has become one of the most-quoted statistics and a rallying cry to do something about the situation.[12]

[10]-12 https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/
[11] http://web.unep.org/unepmap/un-declares-war-ocean-plastic

Past actions

IMO

The International Maritime Organization is the United Nations' specialized agency with the responsibility to provide safety and security of shipping and to prevent marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. The IMO provided some resolutions with non-plastic-specific actions to protect the oceans.

London Convention

The "Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972", the "London Convention" for short, is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter. Currently, 87 States are Parties to this Convention.[13]

London Protocol

In 1996, the "London Protocol" was agreed to further modernize the Convention and, eventually, replace it. Under the Protocol all dumping is prohibited, except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called "reverse list". The Protocol entered into force on the 24th of March 2006 and there are currently 50 signatory Parties.[14]

MARPOL Convention

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention) is concerned with preserving the marine environment

[13] https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%201046/volume-1046-i-15749-english.pdf

[14] http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/LCLP/Documents/PROTOCOLAmended2006.pdf

through the prevention of pollution by oil and other harmful substances and the minimization of accidental discharge of such substances. Its technical content is laid out in six Annexes, the first five of which were adopted by the 1973 Convention, as modified by a 1978 Protocol. These Annexes cover pollution of the sea by oil, by noxious liquid substances in bulk, by harmful substances in packaged form, by sewage from ships and by garbage from ships. Annex VI was adopted by a further Protocol in 1997 and covers air pollution from ships.[15]

As we can understand by reading any of these conventions, plastic was not stated as a major individual problem. Even after studying the 7th Millennium Development Goal – Ensure Environmental Sustainability – there is no direct or indirect sub goal or key indicator talking about plastic or any other kind of hazardous materials in the ocean.

This leads us to the next section, recent developments, as the UN, NGOs and nations realized that plastic could be a major problem and started taking action.

[15] http://www.imo.org/en/about/conventions/listofconventions/pages/international-convention-for-the-prevention-of-pollution-from-ships-(marpol).aspx

Recent Developments

The main guide regarding the steps to be taken on the most important aspects of the issue are the Sustainable Development Goals.[16] We can find references to (even though no direct mentions of) plastic in a couple different SDGs:

SDG number 12, Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Sub-goal 12.5 sets out the objective to "substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse". A similar outlook is presented in the sub goal 12.A "Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production"[17]. Both these goals require that we start rethinking established processes of production.

SDG number 14, Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

This sub-goal focuses on the objective to "prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution".[18] While it doesn't refer to plastic directly, it is evident that its scope covers the issue since plastic constitutes one of the major marine debris endangering the oceans.

Campaigns

At the same time, both the UN and some other organizations and countries focus many of their efforts on awareness campaigns to try and make the population start having better plastic usage habits. One of them was *Race for*

[16] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
[17] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg12
[18] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14

Water, an entirely propelled by solar energy, hydrogen and wind boat, that set off last year on a five-year journey around the globe to raise awareness of the urgency of curbing plastic pollution in the oceans.[19]

In February 2017 the UN launched Clean Seas; it could be understood as a think tank with nations, companies and population involved to fight against marine plastic pollution. In a 5 years period these actors will bring different solutions that could be taking into action the objective of reducing the everyday use of plastics (cosmetics, plastic bags, plastics straws…)[20].

Reports

On the 5th of June 2018 the UN released a new report from UN Environment, finding a surging momentum in global efforts to address plastic pollution. This first-of-its-kind accounting found that governments were increasing the pace of implementation and the scope of action to curb the use of single-use plastics. In the first comprehensive review of 'state of plastics', UN Environment has assembled experiences and assessments of the various measures and regulations to beat plastic pollution.[21]

National actions

At a national level we can find many different countries starting to rule against the abuse of plastics in the everyday routine. Examples of this tendency are the EU with its ban of plastic bags or some USA states banning the single use plastic straws. However, no action it being taken against the abuse of plastic by companies.

[19] https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/5-year-voyage-tackle-plastic-pollution
[20] http://www.cleanseas.org/about
[21] https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic_sustainability.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Stakeholder Analysis:

United Nations

The UN is a major influencer on the topic, as it can bring those issues to the table and make countries further discuss about them. Its significance becomes particularly apparent when it comes to trying to find consensus on some different actions that could be implemented worldwide and should be accepted by both developed and developing countries.

Countries

As they are starting to do, countries possess the biggest weapon to tackle any problem, the law. Legislating about the usage of plastic (as many did with the single use plastic bags and straws) could be the easiest way to get some quick results and solutions that could be used to further decrease the plastic usage.

While the majority of countries implements legislation (with more or less success) to combat environment pollution due to plastic disposal, there are entire regions of our planet that have failed to motivate their citizens and/or industry to become part of the solution.[22] Southeast Asia, for example, brings out over half of the world's plastic pollution, and in the majority of the countries in the area recycling legislation is weak or non-existent.[23] Steve Davies, a renowned environment activist, has mentioned that "most plastic pollution in the ocean is coming from countries like China, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia. There are no landfills, solid waste policies or infrastructure. Things are usually just dumped, and they blow out across the landscape."[24]

[22]

[23] http://www.planetexperts.com/our-plastic-world-policy-and-legislation/

[24] Ibid.

At the same time, while developed countries seem to be the most progressive regarding anti-plastic regulation, they are also the ones that generate the most plastic per person. On the other hand, they have very effect waste management systems; mismanaged waste (and ocean inputs) are therefore low. This management, however, requires energy and does not account for 100% safety.[25]

This circle of contradictions begs the question: **Should the international community focus on the (small) amounts of (often mismanaged and therefore polluting) plastic coming from developing countries, or rather on the (big) amounts of plastic that are produced (but also usually well managed) in developed states?**

Environmental NGOs[26]

The function of Non-Governmental Organizations is two-fold: On one hand, they try to inform and mobilize civil society, by providing insider information and running campaigns, with the aim of influencing the industry. On the other hand, they lobby politicians and law-making institutions, in order to pass environmentally conscious legislation.

Industry[27]

The industry has an inherent interest in maintaining the use of plastic, since it is an easy and cheap material. While research and development in other materials would have a positive impact long-term, many industry branches do not see a direct effect for their sales and are therefore less willing to invest in said procedures.

[25] https://ourworldindata.org/plastic-pollution#share-of-global-total-mismanaged-plastic-waste-by-country
[26] https://www.raptim.org/17-ngos-fighting-plastic-pollution/
[27] https://www.plasticsoupfoundation.org/en/2018/05/powerful-european-plastics-industry-lobby-resists-european-union-measures/

Civil society

As member of the society we need to re- think about the overuse that we give to plastics. Even more important is the power we have towards the industry, namely our “pull”. This is a marketing term to define that if the client buys some kind of product (for example, product with no plastic containers) the industry needs to adapt to provide the client with the product it wants and – in this case – offer more plastic-free products.

Future prospects

Reducing use

Reducing the everyday use of plastics and reusing plastic is said to be one of the best improvements society should implement to start solving the plastic problem.[28]

Recycling

Currently only 9% of plastic waste is being recycled; this is one major indicator of how much progress can be made. Progress remains slow despite advances in molecular level recycling, which enables different plastics to be recycled together. Recycling is costly, reliant on human behavioral changes and produces lower quality materials, in terms of both thermal and mechanical properties. Additionally, recycling does not curb our plastic addiction; if we want to maintain our current lifestyles modification to plastic manufacture needs to go hand in hand with effective recycling.[29]

Bioplastics

There are many examples of biodegradable polymers that have become available and provide good replacements. Some are produced from plants, animals or micro-organisms, others are purely synthetic (man-made). The most commonly known synthetic biodegradable polymers are polylactide (PLA), polyglycolide (PGA), polycaprolactone (PCL), polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA), poly(butylene succinate) (PBS) and poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate) (PBAT) bio-derived plastics. These include starch-based plastics such as polylactide (PLA), which is produced from corn starch,

[28] https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/mckinsey/business%20functions/sustainability%20and%20resource%20productivity/our%20insights/rethinking%20future%20of%20plastics/the%20new%20plastics%20economy.ashx

[29] http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782

cassava roots or sugarcane and processed in the same way as petroleum-based plastics. Such plastics can be foamed or used to make drink bottles. [30] However, very few states have the expertise and infrastructure that would allow them to use these substitutes, and their costly production often outweighs the environmental impact.

[30] https://sustainableplastics.org/about-bioplastics/

Questions a Resolution should answer

a. How can both member states and companies be encouraged to and achieve reduction of plastic waste and the utilization of multi-use or biodegradable plastics?
b. What measures can be taken for member states with high plastic mismanagement that both help and keep them accountable for reducing their plastic mismanaged wasted output?
c. What can developed nations and those with proper plastic waste management do to assist developing nations and countries with high plastic waste mismanagement?
d. What policies and programs can be created, continued, or expanded upon to combat the plastic that has been improbably disposed and found its way into the various bodies of water around the world?

Topic B: Reducing reliance on oil drilling and other extractive sources

Introduction:

Only a couple of weeks ago the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which states that in order to limit the global warming to less than 1.5°C the reliance on extractive resources has to be reduced dramatically[31]. This extractive sector includes oil, gas, and mining industries that rely on extracting fossil fuels or rare earth metals. These resources although vital to a country's economy create serious environmental and health hazards. The excessive use of extractive resources strains natural resources and could lead to a collapse of the entire ecosystem. Furthermore the consumption of these resources releases pollutants including carbon dioxide and methane that make the area near extraction sites hazardous. Additionally those contribute to the greenhouse effect and thereby amplify the Climate Change. Due to all this reasons it is important to decrease our dependence on extractive resources in order to keep the Earth habitable. Although this aim is widely recognized and mentioned in various international treaties and agreements, the concrete implementation differs from country to country. Whereas the United States under President Trump increased their commitment for extractive energy sources labelled as "Clean coal" by President Trump, many other nations go in the opposite direction such as Norway which obtains 98% of its energy supply from renewable energy sources. This makes clear that although the objective is clear the ways to it differ widely. Now it is your task, honorable delegates, to find appropriate strategies to achieve the objective in a fair and efficient manner.

[31] https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/erderwaermung-die-ungehoerten-warnungen-des-weltklimarates.740.de.html?dram:article_id=432052 (accessed 07.11.2018)

Historical Background:

Human dependence on extractive, non-renewable energy sources started in England during the Industrial Revolution in the mid-1700s with the use of coal as the main energy source. During this time period more people moved to cities to look for better job opportunities and increased the demand for energy. With further technological progress and the respective inventions, the mass use of electricity needed efficient energy sources. In the 19th and early 20th century this energy source was coal and later on oil and natural gas. These fossil fuels are created after millions of years of decomposition from plants and animals and are usually are located under the earth which makes an extraction expensive. Furthermore the enormous amount of time which is needed to create fossil fuels limits their deposits and makes them not renewing them in the lifespan of mankind. Although very valuable for the economy it was discovered that these fossil fuels are very harmful for the environment. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas releases pollutants into the atmosphere that include CO2 and Methane which increase the planet's temperature and can cause catastrophic damage on Earth's ecosystems. Throughout the 20th and the 21st century Earth's population grew due to the industrial revolution and the accompanied increase in life expectancy exponentially and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere followed too. The combination of these two factors is making the planet unsustainable for further economic growth. With the increased population and the rise of economies especially in South-East-Asia the energy demand of mankind further grew during the 20th century. In order to meet this increased demand the emerging economies mostly relied on cheap energy sources such as coal or oil. Overall the extraction of fossil fuels increased over time although alternatives were developed.

One case study on the problems of dependence of extractive resources is Nauru. The island of Nauru is a small south pacific island with an area of

21km² that was once one of the wealthiest countries in the world due to phosphate mining. A bubble in phosphate mining allowed for an unprecedented economic growth for Nauru. But once the phosphate ran out the island became bankrupt and is by now almost uninhabitable. Nauru is now only 15% inhabitable and that part of the island continues to shrink because of rising sea levels. Therefore, the case of Nauru shows how the use extractive resources has almost destroyed a country.

Past actions:

By now it should be clear that the use of extractive energy sources is a crucial and truly global topic. But we have paid little attention to the efforts in international politics that have been made to reduce the reliance on extractive energy sources. We therefore need to understand how the debate on environmental issues developed over the past decades.

Important debates regarding climate change within the UN framework took place at the three World Climate Conferences (WCC).

The first WCC took place in Geneva in 1979. This was the first time the UN brought a group of experts together to tackle the climate change. For the first time this historical draft identified carbon dioxide as a cause of global warming. Carbon dioxide was mainly emitted from the fossil fuel combustion since the industrialization started three centuries ago. This very first conference lead to the creation of the World Climate Program and the World Climate Research Program.[32]

The second WCC in Geneva in 1990 disappointed many of the participating scientists as well as some observers because it did not offer a high level of commitment. However the conference prepared the road for the creation of the Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the establishment of the Global Climate Observing System.[33]

International attempts to institutionalize all efforts against the climate change on international level resulted in the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 where the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created. This framework ratified by 197 nations has the objective to ""stabilize greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system"[34] The convention serves as international forum for cooperation to

[32] http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0003/000376/037648eb.pdf
[33] https://www.dgvn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/DOKUMENTE/WCC-3/Declaration_WCC2.pdf
[34] *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, retrieved on www.unfccc.org*

combat climate change and mitigate its consequences by limiting average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and coping with impacts that were, by then, inevitable. [35]

Given the linkage between the fossil fuels and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere it is clear that under the roof of the UNFCCC the issue has been tackled in the past. Subsequently to the creation of the UNFCCC several follow up conferences known as the “Conference of the Parties” (COP) took place of which some created way more concrete regulations to combat climate change. With respect to the extraction of fossil resources especially one agreement is noteworthy. In 1998 the Kyoto Protocol was agreed on at the 6th COP of the UNFCCC. The Kyoto Protocol is the first legally binding international agreement in which industrialized nations committed themselves to reduce their emissions. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."[36] More precisely the Kyoto Protocol established mechanisms under which states could trade emission allowances in order to achieve their emission reduction targets or sell allowances which they did not need. Given its relevance for the emission of greenhouse gases fossil fuels were affected by these reforms as the Kyoto mechanisms favored renewables energies and the increased use of renewable energy sources was awarded with additional emission allowances. The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, ratified in 2012 served as one of several additions to the Kyoto Protocol by adding in this Amendment a revised list of Greenhouse Gases.[37]

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[35] https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf
[36] https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf
[37] https://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/kp_doha_amendment_english.pdf

Besides the Kyoto Protocol and the additional agreements on its proper implementation under the roof of the UN even more comprehensive initiatives for a more sustainable development. One prominent example are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): The7th goal, target 7.A, aims to "Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources". More specifically one of the sub goals expresses the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.[38]

In addition to the aforementioned more prominent efforts to combat climate change in 2009 the third WCC took place in Geneva: The two most important declarations of the conference were the establishment of a Global Framework for Climate Services to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services and try to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and broader UN climate goals.[39]

[38] http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

[39] http://www.wmo.int/gfcs//sites/default/files/WCC-3_Statement_07-09-09%20mods.pdf

Recent Developments:

Whereas other institutions, organizations or initiatives have adopted concrete programs and regulations to reduce the reliance on extractive energy sources, the UNEP supports this target more indirectly through the Support of better planning, the strengthening of laws and governance, the promotion of innovation and better businesses practices and the informing of policy and science.[40] Thereby the UNEP tries to offer a forum for scientific advice, implementation assistance and exchange of best practices. More precisely the UNEP carries out environmental assessments about the consequences of the reliance on extractive resources and supports the International Resource Panel which "conducts research to advice policymakers, industry and communities on how to improve mineral resource management. Their reports have received wide media coverage and reinforced the need to reduce, reuse and recycle."[41] Additionally the UNEP through the Partnership for Action on Green economy supports nations and regions in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies.[42]

Besides that focus on the details of international environmental policy, the UNEP still can play a role as trendsetter and pacemaker especially in contexts where other UN environmental bodies have not been active yet. One of the ways that the UNEP wishes to overcome the challenge of dependence on extractive resources is promoting the integration of environmental sustainability in the governance of the extractive sector. "The International Resource Panel conducts research to advise policy makers, industry and communities on how to improve mineral resource management. Their reports

[40] https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/extractives
[41] https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/extractives/what-we-do/strengthening-laws-and-governance
[42] https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/extractives/what-we-do/promoting-innovation-and-better-business-practices

have received wide media coverage and reinforced the need to reduce, reuse and recycle."

All in all the UNEP tries to tackle the problem of reliance on extractive energy sources not aggressively by trying to ban certain oil or other natural resources extractions, but the main bodies try to do is limit their effects and promoting clean energies in multiple ways.

Apart from the "background role" of the UNEP some prominent efforts to address the issue of reliance on have been made on the international stage. Probably the best known effort is the Paris Agreement or Paris Accord which was frenetically cheered as major breakthrough and replacement for the Kyoto Protocol. It was agreed upon by nearly all UN-Member States and entered in force in late 2016. Although the Agreement experienced a backlash when US President Donald Trump decided to withdraw from the Agreement in June 2017 it is still the instrument for global cooperation in terms environmental policy. The Agreement now requires that each signatory state submits its own greenhouse gas reduction plans called Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs). These contributions including statements to usage of fossil energy sources are then reviewed by the UNFCCC and assessed how they contribute to the ultimate goal of the Paris Accord to limit the increase of the temperature to 1.5°C compared to the preindustrial age. Given that the Paris Accord only set out Guidelines and refrained from working out concrete mechanisms that bind the signatory parties to their own NDCs, the UNEP might issues proposals on how the reliance on fossil energy sources could be reduced within the framework of the Paris Accord.

Another major approach to sustain the planet habitable are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopted by all 193 Members of the United Nations, the SDG provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for

people and planet. More precisely the following goals of the SDGs directly or indirectly refer to fossil fuels.

- Goal 7: Every single sub goal tackles the same issue in different ways, some of them very direct like the 7.2 which aims to "increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix".
- Goal 9: the sub goal 9.4 states the following objective in order to "upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities", which means that we need to move from the oil fossil energies to renewable energies.
- Goal 12 is probably the most direct approach. In the sub goal 12.C it says: "Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption"; this lane has some interesting remarks, as not only says literally that we need to reduce fossil fuels, but calling them inefficient and blaming them for the lack of conscience of the society about how we consume natural resources.[43]

The industrialized nations are by far the biggest emitters of Greenhouse Gases and in their the forum – the G7 at their summit at Schloss Elmau in 2015 – committed themselves to take strong steps to ensure that global warming remains under the 2-degree-Celsius benchmark established during previous rounds of international climate talks, including developing a new climate agreement during the Paris Climate Summit. These steps include cutting down greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 70% by 2050[44]. Furthermore the G7 in Ise-Shima stated about the Paris Agreement in 2016

[43] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
[44] https://www.g7germany.de/Content/EN/_Anlagen/G7/2015-06-08-g7-abschluss-eng_en__blob=publicationFile&v=3.pdf

that they would ratify the Paris Climate Change Agreement. In their joint statement, the leaders of the UK, US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the European Union also committed to take the lead by implementation of their national climate action plans. In addition, they said they were determined to accelerate the decarbonization of the global economy. And for the first time, the G7 set a deadline for ending most fossil fuel subsidies, pledging to end government support for coal, oil and gas by the end of 2025.[45]

[45] https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000160266.pdf#page=26&zoom=auto,-158,326

Future prospects:

As our world becomes more and more connected new ideas and innovations will emerge that could reduce reliance on extractive resources. Here are some of the different perspectives on this issue.

1. Advocates for declining argue that market based incentives are needed to reduce the reliance on extractive energy sources. Emission Trading Systems (ETS) have been developed and can be further pursued. Other incentive structures like taxes on carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases could be discussed.
2. Unfortunately there are organizations that have no incentive to decrease their reliance on extractive resources due to monetary influence on policy makers. Especially in the United States influential industrialists such as the Koch brothers or Exxon Mobil try to influence political decision making through extensive direct and indirect lobbying. Such actors also use sophisticated networks in order to influence the public opinion in their direction. With the rise of right-winged populism in America and Europe such attempts may gain more and more attention.
3. New resources can be found and they can be renewable. It is important to build on renewable energy sources and you should think about strategies how to foster them: In this regard two questions are of enormous importance for the UNEP. Whereas knowledge sharing is certainly important and you can think of potential ways how the UNEP could foster knowledge sharing within existing mechanisms, it might be worth to also consider how such projects could be financed. Whereas institutions like the Green Climate Fund already exist on the international stage, currently private sector investments in renewable

energy projects are booming. However the investment streams need to be regulated and the tremendous demand is not met by an equal supply. International coordination and promotion of green investments as well as guidelines for investment rules needed to be created. Can the UNEP formulate a suggestions and guidelines how the investment in renewable energies should be structured individually.

Conclusion:

From this background guide we hope you all understand the importance of reducing reliance on oil drilling and other extractives. Every day we utilize products and services that rely on extractive resources which are destroying our environment. These extractive resources create irreversible environmental degradation. Many of the consequences of this degradation include collapsed ecosystems making earth uninhabitable. Humans also suffer heavy consequences from relying on extractive resources. Many of the pollutants from the extractive resources seep into the air which cause health problems for many people. Water is polluted and thereby undrinkable and toxic and leaves many people without access to clean drinking water. Lastly, once humans depend on extractive resources they are tied to the resource for jobs. These resources can supply work for decades and even centuries but once they run out the jobs disappear and all that is left is an uninhabitable wasteland.

As humanity progressed it polluted the planet that gave it all its resources. Economic development does not have to be against environmental protection. As we know there are new, innovative methods that are being implemented to create a more sustainable and more productive world. By using renewable resources we can create a productive economy and maintain a sustainable ecosystem for our future. Resources such as wind and solar power once used more widely can reduce the global carbon footprint created by humans. Other resources such as nuclear power may be an alternative energy resource, however this does not necessarily mean that it is renewable. By promoting renewable resources our population will be able to continue to grow and make our planet a healthier place to live.

At this conference I hope that you all will find solutions to a more sustainable future. Through cooperation we can all make a difference and a better world.

Questions:

1. How should states incentivize organizations and firms to create alternative and renewable energy sources? What role can Emission Trading System play in this context?
2. What should states do to prevent environmental degradation yet continue economic growth if they are dependent on extractive resources?
3. How can nation states lower their dependence on natural gas and hydraulic fracking and use more sustainable methods like solar or wind power? How can private funding be channeled and increased?
4. How can the UNEP, using its existing measures, support the UN Member States to reduce the reliance on extractive energy sources?
5. What suggestions for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement or the SDG can be made by the UNEP?

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Sample Outcome Document

A/67/13/Res.1
First Committee
LXVII Session MUNFW
Sponsors: Central African Republic, Greece, Benin, Finland, Tunisia, Norway, Belize, Guatemala
Signatories: Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Armenia, Venezuela, Peru, Syria, Iran, Chile
Outcome documents or draft resolutions have two parts that are preambulatory and operative clauses. These are the outcomes of debate in MUN conferences. Generally sponsors of outcome documents have contributed the most operative clauses to the outcome document and have diplomatically created a comprehensive document with other delegates.

The elimination of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

The General Assembly,

Preambulatory clauses state previous resolutions or issues that pertain to the topic at hand. All preambulatory clauses start with words such as reaffirming or acknowledging to emphasize operative clauses

Reaffirming S/Res/1373(2001), which allows Member States to develop mechanisms to strengthen its borders through record keeping of travelers and development systems to track illicit trade,

Mindful of the consequences of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons with its use in armed conflicts that have resulted in the loss of lives, displacement and endangerment of men, women and children,

Concerned that small arms and light weapons can easily be transferred from one person to another, and from developed to developing countries where armed conflict, drug-related violence, and terrorist groups persist,

Further Noting that large amounts of illegal light weapons trade supply organized crime units in developing countries further the cycle of corruption and violence that plague United Nations Member States,

Guided by the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons of 20 July 2001 which focuses on dismantling illegal weapons, enhancing import and export regulations, providing awareness on the effects of these illegal weapons, improving the safety of storage facilities and helping the affected countries in tracking down illegal transfers of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing A/RES/61/89 which requested the Secretary General, with the help of Member States, to consider the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import and export and transfer of conventional arms,

Conscious of the need for better security at border crossings to better control illicit weapons trading,

Believing that the possession of small arms and light weapons should be evaluated from a humanitarian perspective that considers both the short- and long-term global effects on the population, health, environment and development,

Guided By A/Res/71/44 which calls for the transparency and armament through the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms by achieving universal participation in the registry from Member States,

Encouraging the development of a consolidated financial tracking system through the S/RES/ /1373 Counter Terrorism Committee Decree,

Bearing in mind that illegal trade routes used to smuggle small arms and light weapons can be used to smuggle other illegal commodities like conflict diamonds, drugs, endangered species and laundered money, in turn giving rise to violent, international crime syndicates that form criminal, and or terrorist networks,

Reminding the Member States of the importance of the concept of state sovereignty and that the infringement of the state sovereignty by out of state actors contributes to regional instability,

Recalling the United Nations resolution, A/CONF.192/15 adopted on December 5th 2005 that establishes international instruments to enable states to identify and trace exported military equipment, in a timely and reliable manner,

Start of operative clauses:
Operative clauses start with phrases such as recommends and strongly encourages which are asking the General Assembly to do once the resolution is passed

1. *Recommends* the enforcement of disarmament initiatives such as The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons,, which focuses on preventing and eradicating illicit trade on small arms in Central Africa to non-state actors, while also fostering cooperation and confidence among participating Member States;

2. *Encourages* the implementation of arms control enforcement mechanisms such as the United Nations arms embargoes that would authorize actions that monitor and control the illicit arms trade, in particular:
    a. International arms embargoes that would allow Member States to prosecute traffickers and criminalize illicit arms sales, registering of advanced

weaponry, categorizing imports and manufacturing of locally produced weapons,

3. *Strongly recommends* the international community to focus on the responsibility of major exporting countries to properly protect and trace their products to avoid misuse of weapons by violent non-state actors as seen in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East;
4. *Strongly encourages* the transparent communications of major military equipment transactions on the context of international exchanges in order to increase the ability of the United Nations and other national actors to trace exported weapons from the production line to the final consumer;
5. *Calls for* training workshops aimed at increasing cooperation and collaboration between governments and national media outlets with the goal of:
    a. Enhancing the abilities of the media in at-risk states to cover and document the facts related to the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons unique to those states;
    b. Identifying the importance of, and challenges in, addressing small arms and light weapons proliferation, and then disseminating that information to both governments and their civilian populations;
    c. Improving strategies for data collection, monitoring techniques , and identification methods regarding illicit arms flows that are being supported by terrorism and transnational organized crime;
6. *Strongly Suggests* to Member States the reinforcement of border security, in relations to arms shipments through:
    a. Identifying the importance of, and challenges in, addressing small arms and light weapons proliferation, and then disseminating that information to both governments and their civilian populations;
    b. Improving strategies for data collection, monitoring techniques , and identification methods regarding illicit arms flows that are being supported by terrorism and transnational organized crime;
    c. Improving border checkpoints ability to scan for small arms through specialized training and education,
    d. Forming bilateral agreements between bordering states to provide warning if illegal weapons are believed to be in the process of being trafficked across the border;
7. *Emphasizes* public awareness campaigns that promote gun safety and proper responsibility while handling small arms and light weapons to prevent accidental deaths by gun violence, where methods of education the public include:
    a. Public service announcements through radio, television, and the internet;
    b. Classes offered by non-governmental organizations, including educational media and seminars explain the consequences of gun violence on families and communities, and to teach people how to treat gunshot wounds and the steps to take in an emergency;
    c. Mental health facilities that provide important mental health education that include therapy and counseling services;

8. *Requests* Member States aid in capacity building of fragile states to ensure safe and coherent management of keeping, tracking and transporting small arms and light weapons as well as the solicitation of unmarked and illicit stockpiles of weapons specifically to:
    a. Invite developed states to host the training programs that focuses on teaching initiatives in arms control to developing states;
    b. Provide technological mechanisms in order to establish enhanced national security and media cooperation;
    c. Facilitate programs that fall under the United Nations Programme of Action through monetary funds managed through Economic and Social Council, United Nations Development Program and other United Nations mandated entities;
    d. Monitor arms embargoes by assigning well trained staff and advanced monitoring units to prevent illicit trade of weapons in conflict areas;
9. *Invites* Member States to increase funding toward education programs that will turn young people away from gun related violence, some suggestions for these programs can include:
    a. Educational enrichment programs that support the future educational and career endeavours of young people;
    b. Recreational activities to turn people away from gun violence;
    c. School programs that include how gun violence affects society;
10. *Urges* Member States to comply with the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to share information and analysis of lessons learned in order to increase the effectiveness of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, while improving transparency;
11. *Strongly encourages* the implementation of instruments for the demilitarization of surplus ammunition within conflict areas, to establish regional stability through:
    a. Using the United Nations Development Program as the model for the demilitarization of surplus ammunition and stockpiled weapons in an effort to assist regions who are prone to instability, demilitarization of surplus ammunition will be conducted, ensuring environmental and community safety by eliminating the environmental hazards associated with stockpiles of surplus 38 ammunitions, reducing the risk of armed conflict.
12. *Endorses* the establishment of state run task forces that works with internal governmental mechanisms in curtailing the financing and supplying of small arms and light weapons by:
    a. Establishing the tracking of financial transactions through ministries finance and voluntary information sharing through the International Monetary Fund
    b. Tracking weapons shipments through Member States' Ministry of Foreign Affairs through import and export tax or subsidies;
    c. Destruction of illicitly traded weapons for reuse and appropriation for civil use through the ministry of defense;

13. *Expresses* its hope that the international community can band together in a grand coalition to systematically root out and eliminate illegal commodities trade routes and syndicates, thus eliminating the threat before it entrenches itself further.