

Committee: Environmental Sub-commission 1

Issue: Climate Change and Small Island Developing States

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INTRODUCTION

In the 21st Century the impacts of climate change in the western world are very much widespread. However, the effects it has on **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** are rarely acknowledged. What makes this issue particularly problematic is that although these states have little to do with the environmental crisis the modern world is currently facing, they are suffering the most.

These islands are found in zones where the climate itself is quite harsh and requires good infrastructure in order for local populations to be safe. Unfortunately, most SIDS are financially strained and cannot build the appropriate infrastructure or implement other costly prevention and mitigation strategies. Coupled with the effects of climate change SIDS are becoming increasingly unable to cope with phenomena such as coastal erosion, typhoons, droughts and dramatic rainfall which are becoming more frequent and more difficult to predict.

These disasters not only cause damage to human settlements and infrastructure but also suffer a substantial blow to the economy, biodiversity, agriculture, and monuments of cultural significance. These issues could have dramatic ramifications for the viability of these island states since their primary source of income is tourism. Were they to lose their appeal due to lack of beaches, luxurious hotels, and natural beauty (e.g. the coral reef and local ecosystems), they would find themselves having tremendous costs and close to no income.

This is why measures must be taken immediately in order to mitigate the damage and prevent any further harm, both to the economy and the local populations. Ensuring a viable future must be the top priority. Support from external sources is a key aspect in achieving this goal, especially in the financial sector. Converting the use of fossil fuels as an energy source to renewable energy should also be of high primacy, stopping pollution and breaking their dependence on unsustainable sources. Furthermore, a clear and effective plan of action should be created after gathering and documenting the appropriate data for each island- something which most island states have neglected. In addition, infrastructure

must be updated and made more disaster-resistant, as a means of insuring human casualties are at a minimum and tourist attraction remain intact. Lastly, diversifying water sources could stop water-borne diseases from being transmitted at the current rates and ensuring that agricultural production will not halt. Solving this issue is not a trivial matter but it is one that deserves the utmost attention.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Climate Change

“A long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns”¹ caused primarily by human activity such as the utilization of fossil fuels as an energy source. The most prominent effects of climate change are rising temperatures, coastal erosion, and droughts. Climate change often causes natural disasters to occur in periods different than those in which they occur naturally and often more dramatically than is natural.

Small Island Developing States

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a group of small islands situated in tropical zones in the biggest oceans; these islands share some characteristics. These mainly include a small and growing local population, predominantly low-lying area of land, an economic dependence on tourism, and exposure to natural disasters.

Topography

The natural and physical features of a certain geographic area. For example, volcanoes, mountains, and rivers are all topographic characteristics that are often depicted on maps.

Coastal Erosion

Coastal erosion is the engulfment of coastal land, which is due to a variety of causes. Generally, coastal erosion is a natural process which does not pose serious risk, due to the fact that this phenomenon takes decades, if not centuries, to have an evident impact. But, in SIDS, coastal erosion can become very dangerous mainly due to the fact that rising sea levels, which occur due to the melting of polar ice from the increasing rise in temperatures,

¹ National Geographic Society. “Climate Change.” *National Geographic Society*, 27 Mar. 2019, www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/climate-change/.

rapidly accelerate this process and threaten to completely absorb low-lying land in a short time span.

Typhoon

“A typhoon is a very violent tropical storm”² which often occurs in the western Pacific and Indian sea. Typhoons are catastrophic for any land mass which they cross due to the fact that they destroy most types of infrastructure and quite frequently cause a large number of human casualties.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In order to comprehend the impending dangers that climate change poses to these small island developing states as well as finding possible solutions to the problem, it is essential that three aspects of them are well understood: their topography and climate, their socio-cultural status, and their energy sources and infrastructure.

Topography and Climate

In regard to their topography and climate, these islands often have limited space, consisting primarily of low-lying land area with very little high ground. SIDS have very complex and rich ecosystems which support a variety of species both marine and arboreal, especially fish, sea birds, and coral reefs. These islands are, to a large extent, exposed to the natural elements such as wind, air and the ocean. They are most often situated in tropical zones and are thus, affected by a variety of weather conditions depending on the season, such as heavy rain falls (100-600 mm monthly), typhoons, and fluctuations in temperatures (18-30°C). These phenomena generally happen in cyclic rotations, meaning that each weather condition occurs in a different season with varying intensity.

² “Typhoon Definition and Meaning: Collins English Dictionary.” *Typhoon Definition and Meaning* | Collins English Dictionary, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/typhoon.



Figure 1: An exemplary island with low-lying land area.

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Socio-Cultural Statues

Small Island Developing States do not possess a lot of capital or financial capacity. Their economy is particularly dependent on the tourism sector, producing 90% of their GDP from it, and to a smaller extent on agriculture and fishing. Their workforce is based primarily on local residents, people who are citizens of that specific island state. As a result, whatever assets are produced from tourism go back into these local economies, creating a dependence relationship. Additionally, SIDS are rich in cultural significance and heritage, maintaining a variety of monuments and artifacts which hold both historical precedence and interpersonal importance to the local populations.

Energy Sources and Infrastructure

Relating to energy sources, small island developing states primarily rely on fossil fuels while being reluctant to use renewable sources of energy due to their costly nature, even though it is very plausible to do so due to their large exposure to the natural elements such as the sun and winds. These island nations cannot invest in manufacturing the much-needed structures required for the production of these renewable energy sources due to a lack of financial capacity and the lack of any surplus funds. Human settlements are also an important aspect of these islands; the local populations tend to have very cheap and minimalistic houses which are easily destroyed, while tourist locations are fairly well built due to the funds of foreign investors. Public spaces are also quite well maintained such as

³ "Climate Change, Small Island Developing States ." *Unfccc.org*, UNFCCC, Jan. 2005, unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/cc_sids.pdf .

roads, beaches, and town centers. Freshwater infrastructure, adversely, is quite poor relying on single sources for the entire island, making it rather difficult to maintain the good health of citizens and cleanliness of this water. Thereby, agriculture depends quite largely on the freshwater from this single source, despite this, though, local agricultural infrastructure is very well-built and provides nutrition to the whole population, this being the primary reason for the lack of food imports and the large amounts of food exports.

Vulnerabilities

As is evident, these islands are vulnerable to climate change due to a variety of factors both external and internal. Examining these fundamental problems is a good strategy in order to ameliorate the situation.

Concerning the category of external weaknesses, a few stand out. Firstly, there is that of the tropical climate which is inherently harsh and difficult to cope with, even without climate change. As a result, coupled with climate change local populations find themselves unable to be protected against catastrophic weather events such as typhoons (whose intensity are many times larger than the original magnitude) which are a threat not only to human lives, but also infrastructure and tourist attractions, the backbone of their economies. In addition, rising temperatures and droughts are a threat to local agriculture and water resources since- in many cases- there is only a single source. Lastly, rising sea levels are a great threat to SIDS- which have predominantly low-lying land area- beaches and coastal regions are in danger of being engulfed and permanently damaging the economy as well as possibly submerging artifacts of cultural significance. Additionally, this coastal erosion destroys ecosystems, especially coral reefs, which in turn can have an impact on local fish species that coexist with these corals and ultimately with the fishing and nutritional sector as a whole.



Figure 2: Picture of a severe cyclone which occurred in 1990 over the east pacific sea.

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⁴ "Climate Change, Small Island Developing States ." *Unfccc.org*, UNFCCC, Jan. 2005, unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/cc_sids.pdf .

Relating to internal threats, it is easily identifiable that the structure of these islands is not completely secure. Lacking in financial resources and funds, these islands struggle both to repair damages from weather events, which are heightened by climate change, as well as build better, more concrete, infrastructure that would be better equipped to handle such catastrophes. Furthermore, because of the fact that there are very limited water sources and these islands are situated in tropical zones, water-borne diseases are more easily transmissible. As a result, increases in temperature make transmission easier, posing a problem to local populations. Lastly, the use of fossil fuels is quite problematic. Even though the pollution emitted is much smaller in scale and magnitude compared to that of most western developed countries, they are still damaging to the environment as a whole and contribute to the heightening of climate change.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands, situated in the South Pacific Sea, are a sovereign state in which climate change has a profound impact. There are primarily four sectors which are most vulnerable to climate change: agriculture, health, biodiversity, and water resources. The reason for this is, is the fact that these sectors and ecosystems depend heavily on the natural resources of the islands. As a result, the imposing threat of the climatic crisis make it particularly difficult to maintain a stable economy. The most problematic aspect of this situation is the fact that there is very little research being conducted and forecasting regarding these islands. Thereby, climatic events such as El Nino and cyclones occur in instances rather unpredictable. Thus, the locals can cope very little when these catastrophes do happen and are, inevitably, largely affected. Another problem is the question of rising sea levels; with the unrelenting rise of global temperatures, sea-level-rise is becoming more of a problem for these islands who mainly have low-lying land area and are threatened by coastal erosion in the long term. To adapt and mitigate the damage the Solomon Islands have voiced their opinion on sustainable development and are one of the most supportive member states of the UN to campaign for the achievement of the SDG goals.

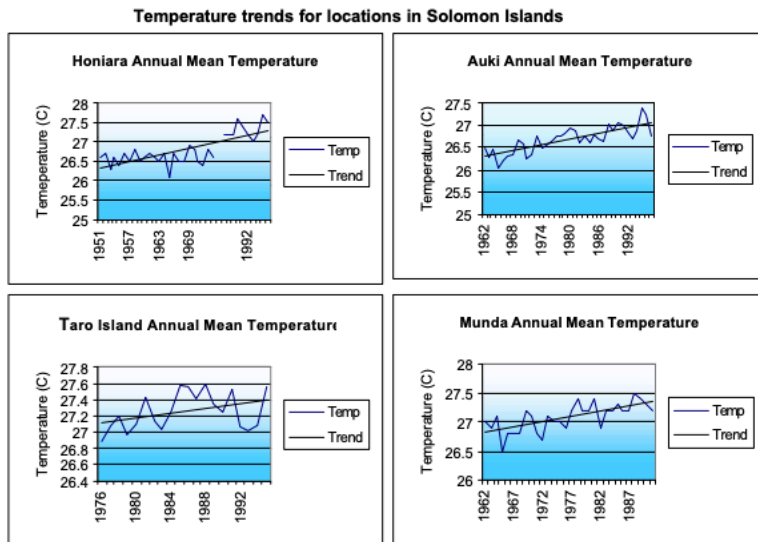


Figure 3: Mean Temperatures in 4 regions of the Solomon Islands. Increases in annual temperatures are clearly evident

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Fiji

Fiji, like many other SIDS, faces the largest impacts of climate change. Almost all of Fiji’s sectors are impacted by the catastrophic events of climate change, such as rising-sea-levels, typhoons, and cyclones, especially in rural areas where access to food and water is very limited and infrastructure is poor. In fact, the UN has placed Fiji as the fifth most economically vulnerable small island state. However, Fiji has been very successful in its attempt to face the issue. Firstly, it meets all the requirements of the UNFCCC for a sustainable future. Additionally, a Disaster Risk Reduction program has been implemented since 2013 in the hope of successfully relocating citizens who are threatened by rising sea levels. Thirdly, the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project has been successfully used to find solutions and adaptation strategies that are applicable to all SIDS, as well as improving access to nutrition and water in an event of a crisis. Lastly, with the funding and resources of NGOs, Fiji has been able to aid in a sustainable future on a local level by allowing for innovative and creative strategies to be heard and implemented.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a small island state that is part of the AOSIS. It, like many other islands, is challenged by climatic events such as rising sea levels, typhoons, cyclones, and droughts. As a result, its economy is consistently deteriorating, so much so in fact that the UN ranked it the 9th most economically vulnerable small island state. In

⁵ “Solomon Islands ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” *United Nations*, United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/solomonislands.

addition, Papua New Guineans are quite misinformed with regard to the environment, which is further fueled by weak governance. Despite this, various goals have been set and measures have started to be implemented. Firstly, the shielding of natural resources and human settlements are currently of utmost priority, to insure food production, health, and biodiversity. Secondly, an environmental policy that gives special importance to a sustainable future has put forefront. Lastly, PNG is quite an active participant of many global forums, even if it has yet to reach the goals that have been set.

Marshall Islands

The Marshall Islands are one of the most negatively affected island states from climate change. Not only do they risk being economically deprived, but they are in danger to such an extent that they could soon cease to be habitable. In the past century the damage has been so extreme that thousands of citizens have been deprived of a livelihood and the economic losses have been so great that local companies have shut down. Nonetheless, the Marshall Islands have been very innovative in their adaptation and mitigation measures. A prime example of this is the building of either artificial islands, such as those in the East China Sea, or the creation of higher ground on pre-existing land. Obviously, this comes at a large cost, so negotiations have taken place with bigger, more financially stable countries such as the US, Taiwan, and Japan. Of course, these measures are still up for debate because relocation would mean a potential destruction of cultural heritage. They have also been influential in the signing of several accords and treaties regarding the environment and are a positive force internationally in terms of sustainability and development.

Maldives

The Maldives are another small island state that could be inhabitable in a few years. The predicted sea level rise of 10-100 centimeters threatens to completely submerge all 1190 islands. The Maldives also rely heavily on tourism, which comprises about 70% of their GDP. To combat the dire situation the Maldives have raised quite a lot of attention, so much so that they founded the Climate Vulnerable Forum in order to spread awareness to the rest of the world. Additionally, the Maldives have employed better waste management systems to stop the destruction of coral reefs and marine biodiversity, which play a key role in both ensuring that unique species will remain intact but also have a better natural defense from storms and sea-level-rise. Thirdly, they have started building artificial islands with higher ground in order to evade the problem of coastal erosion. Lastly, they have been largely

funded by the World Bank in order to be more financially stable and achieve their sustainable goals. Moreover, although the Maldives are deeply threatened by climate change, they are having a very active role as well as implementing very effective strategies.



Figure 4: Artificial Island in Maldives

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United States of America

The US has made a great financial contribution to stopping climate change. Although in the years prior, the US has had a convoluted relationship with UN-organized climate change actions, such as its abstention from the Paris agreement, it has since been the primary funder of mitigation and prevention actions with regard to climate change. A few examples of its great contributions are the large sums allocated to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and Adaptation Facility (AF). With these contributions many UNFCCC affiliated actions have been able to come to pass and numerous SIDS have been thus financially supported in their effort to halt the effects of climate change. It is clear that without the support of the US the achievement of the sustainable development agenda will be almost impossible to accomplish and thus the salvation of SIDS.

⁶ Dauenhauer, Nenad Jarić. "On Front Line of Climate Change as Maldives Fights Rising Seas." *New Scientist*, 20 Mar. 2017, www.newscientist.com/article/2125198-on-front-line-of-climate-change-as-maldives-fights-rising-seas/.

Table 1. Status of Pledges for GCF's Initial Resource Mobilization
(In millions of U.S. \$ equivalent)

Donor Country	Pledged	Disbursed	Pledged Per Capita
Australia	187.6	122.17	7.92
Austria	34.8	18.74	4.09
Belgium	66.9	66.90	6.22
Bulgaria	0.1	0.10	0.02
Canada (Grant)	155.1	155.10	7.80
Canada (Loan)	101.6	-	-
Canada (Cushion)	20.3	-	-
Chile	0.3	0.30	0.02
Colombia	0.3	0.30	0.12
Cyprus	0.50	-	0.40
Czech Republic	5.30	5.30	0.50
Denmark	71.80	44.88	12.82
Estonia	1.30	1.30	1.00
Finland	46.40	46.40	19.82
France (Grant)	577.90	330.95	16.03
France (Loan)	381.30	-	-
France (Cushion)	76.30	-	-
Germany	1,003.30	501.65	12.13
Hungary	4.30	4.30	0.40
Iceland	0.50	0.50	0.50
Indonesia	0.30	0.20	>0.01
Ireland	2.70	2.70	0.59
Italy	267.50	133.75	5.47
Japan	1,500.00	750.00	11.81
Latvia	0.50	0.50	0.23
Liechtenstein	0.10	0.10	1.50
Lithuania	0.10	0.10	0.04
Luxembourg	33.40	26.72	93.60
Malta	0.20	0.20	0.20
Mexico	10.00	10.00	0.08
Monaco	1.30	1.30	8.80
Netherlands	133.80	45.49	7.96

Figure 5: A table indicating a list of countries and the pledged amount of USD they were able to offer the GCF

Donor Country	Pledged	Disbursed	Pledged Per Capita
New Zealand	2.60	2.60	0.56
Norway	257.90	128.95	50.56
Panama	1.00	1.00	0.26
Poland	0.10	0.10	>0.01
Portugal	2.70	2.70	0.30
Republic of Korea	100.00	36.70	2.02
Romania	0.10	0.10	>0.01
Spain	160.50	2.68	3.40
Sweden	581.20	581.20	60.54
Switzerland	100.00	100.00	12.20
United Kingdom	1,211.00	675.64	19.07
United States of America	3,000.00	1,000.00	9.30

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Greece

Greece, although not a small island developing state, has played an important role in the funding of actions to protect SIDS from climate change. Greece, as a country, understands the serious ramifications of rising sea levels and coastal erosion since it itself

⁷ Lattanzio, Richard K. *Paris Agreement: U.S. Climate Finance Commitments*. 19 June 2017, fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44870.pdf.

depends heavily on island tourism. Greece's permanent UN ambassador has been very vocal in his support of funding for these very vulnerable states. Furthermore, it has allocated several million euros for this cause- since 2008- and has also funded a variety of related funds and facilities such as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF), which were both established under the UNFCCC as a means of mitigating the issue. Greece has since become a model country in the fight against the adverse effects of climate change on small island developing states and has been praised for its active participation in conferences on the matter.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF has been instrumental in all financial aspects of SIDS. Firstly, the IMF has been able to alleviate much debt from these Island States in order to achieve a sustainable future. Additionally, it has been able to provide funds in order for several island states to develop new, durable housing and infrastructure. It has, additionally, given council to many of these governments in how to plausibly and analytically have a viable but sustainable future. Lastly, the IMF has directly conversed with a variety of SIDS through conferences and other international mediums, through which they have been able to make suggestions and pose important inquiries. It is obvious that without the IMF SIDS would not be able to assess and handle many issues that have to be faced as a means of ensuring a economically and socially viable future.

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO has been an integral part of the development of SIDS. Due to rising temperature as well as the extreme climatic events, there is much fertility for pandemics and infections to ensue. As a result, with the partnership of WHO and a UN system, SIDS have been able to better combat infection and death rates at a much more manageable rate. As a result, many diseases such as non-communicable diseases are now treatable and curable, making local population much healthier and enabling them to be in a position to have a livelihood. The WHO has also participated in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States where it offered numerous lectures and dialogues on successful and possible healthcare strategies for these island states. Without the aid of WHO these island states would not be able to even grasp the idea of a sustainable future.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1972	Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment deliberates upon many environmental goals including small island state funding.
1992	Rio Declaration on Environment and Development makes the distinction of equal but different environmental responsibility and recognizes the problems posed by climate change to SIDS.
1994	The UNFCCC receives 165 signatures and is widely accepted and adopted.
2002	The Special case of SIDS are given more emphasis and mitigation strategies are contemplated. The Millennium Developing Goals are set for 19 priority areas in SIDS.
2009	The idea of GCF is first proposed at the Conference of the Parties.
2010	The General Assembly takes a 5-term review of the Mauritius strategy.
2012	The GCF has its first meeting with the board consisting of members of developed and developing countries.
2015	The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are set.
2016	The Paris agreement is signed accumulating large funds to stop the adverse effects of climate change.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Resolutions

Resolutions have been the main medium through which actions and suggestions have surfaced for SIDS. The most effective of these have been:

The **Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** which took place in 1972 had a multitude of environmental goals; most importantly though, it gave developing island states substantial financial help through the allocation of funds from more industrialized and developed countries. Additionally, it emphasized that new sustainable technology should be made available to SIDS which often lack the technological innovation and funds to get access to them themselves.

The **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development** in 1992 made it clear that although SIDS should have equal responsibility in mending the problem of climate change,

they should have different responsibilities compared to the rest of the world, since they have less to do with the current climatic crisis. An aspect that had seldom been recognized until that moment in history.

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, which first came into force in 1994, aims at a sustainable and viable future for the entire planet, giving special emphasis on the fact that less responsible countries should be aided by larger countries through financial support in the hope of achieving this. What differentiates the UNFCCC from all other previous attempts is its widespread implementation by most nations. Thus, a greater amount of effort has been given in order to help SIDS.

Treaties

Treaties for these states are very important, due to their limited individual capabilities they find security and salvation in joining bigger groups of islands. A prime example of this is the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which aims at both advancing action as well as campaigning for all countries to be more environmentally considerate. AOSIS gives an opportunity to smaller and less prominent island states to voice their opinions and problems in the international scene. Its main objectives are cutting greenhouse gas emissions, conserving the oceans, and mitigating climate change worldwide.

Events

In 2004, the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve was created. It was a shared contribution of the Maldives and the UN. Additionally, the championing of the 14th Sustainability goal by the Maldives and many other SIDS along with the guidance and moderation of the UN have been a key force in the distribution of resources to the SIDS most in need in order to get closer to achieving the 14th SDG. Lastly, there have been various summits and conferences such as the annual conference of the parties on climate change (in 23rd of which Fiji held the presidency), and the annual Earth Summit, where the unique situation of SIDS was first acknowledged.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

There have been numerous attempts to solve this issue, especially from the island nations themselves. Despite this, these initiatives are still novel, and their impacts are not yet clear, but most of them have been seen as promising.

Firstly, in Mauritius, adaptation measures for the agricultural sector have been put in place through the six sub-programs of the Diversified Agri-food Sector Strategy. These adaptation measures mainly consist of a rapid production of novel and healthy food crops, an increase in exports (as a means of boosting income), and a strengthening of farmer organizations. Through these measures Mauritius has been able to diversify its food and income source and straying away from its former single source dependence.

Additionally, to solve the problematic case of freshwater the Seychelles have been quite effective with their approach. Firstly, a large-scale pipe replacement project has taken place in order to avoid the former issue of water leakage. Another successful implementation is that of water desalination, which- although costly- has been quite effective in multiplying the islands' water sources and breaking of dependence on the only two sources that used to be key for the livelihood of islands' local populations.

To improve public health, Saint Kitts and Nevis has installed better waste management systems which prevent the pollution of drinking water, a key cause of infection and death on these islands. As a result, although the healthcare system is quite outdated, Saint Kitts and Nevis has been able to face pandemics and infections rather successfully.

Lastly, Dominica has effectuated a series of policies to halt the deterioration of biodiversity. These policies prominently include workshops in order to raise awareness, a consistent framework that is followed across the board in all ministries, and a financial mechanism that incentivizes the maintenance of biodiversity. With these policies Dominica has been able to combat the rapid destruction of ecosystems and protect biodiversity.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The dangers posed by climate change to Small Island Developing States are both pressing and grave. Although actions have been taken to ameliorate the current situation, these implementations have proven to be either effective to a very limited extent or extremely expensive. It is for this reason that more plausible and effective prevention measures and solutions must be put in place.

Firstly, the issue of dependence on single freshwater sources must be drastically contained. A singular solution has yielded the most effectiveness. This solution is seawater desalination- the filtration of seawater into drinkable water- which has been a widely used and evidently successful process through which the dependence on these single water-sources has been broken. It has also been quite effective in periods of droughts, since it does not rely on the seasonal weather but rather on an ever-present element- seawater.

In addition, protecting biodiversity and halting the constant deterioration of ecosystems should be given utmost attention. Possible measures that can be taken are primarily two. Firstly, in order to reduce the destruction of seabeds and as a result coral reefs, policy can be passed that prohibits fishing and coastal activity in close proximity to the island shores. Secondly, to ensure that local animal species are protected from both the decline of their ecosystems and harmful human activity, specifically protected zones should exist so that they a fruitful live for them is ensured.

Another issue is that of the protection of human settlements and infrastructure in the case of extreme weather conditions. To remedy this problem, governments, in conjunction with local NGOs, can strive to build facilities and homes with more concrete and durable materials, specialized for the local tropical weather conditions. Even though this might prove quite costly in the short term, ensuring that tourist attractions remain intact can have positive, long-term effects on the economic sector.

In regard to avoiding the engulfment of coastal regions and low-lying land area, the relocation of many local populations to higher- and thus safer- land is much preferable. Thereby, not only are people safe but so are their settlements and monuments of cultural significance. Additionally, if these islands are threatened to be completely submerged, the creation of artificial islands could be an effective measure. Although it requires a large amount of funds, it is the only solution that guarantees a viable future.

The switch to renewable energy, although not an immediate concern for the islands themselves, is a much-needed action due to the global impacts of the use of fossil fuels, regardless of how much SIDS contribute to these ramifications. Not only is the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions an SDG but it also has an impact in slowing the escalating problem of climate change. SIDS do have the physical capacity to switch to renewable energy sources such as aeolic, solar, or hydro power due to the islands' extreme exposure to the elements of air, sun and water.

Lastly, in order for these measures and solutions to be implemented, funding from all around the globe must be prevalent. SIDS are well known for their lack of funds and institutional capacity; thus, their problematic case must be brought to the forefront of global discord and be allocated the appropriate funds. Only then can they be truly protected from the devastating effects of climate change which they have little to do with.

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