

Committee: Environmental Commission Sub-Commission 1

Issue: Climate diplomacy as a means of managing the trade-offs of transformation.

Student Officer: Maro Tsoka

Position: Deputy President

INTRODUCTION

It is commonly known that one of the most crucial issues that our world has been facing for a very long time, concerns the effect of climate change. For the past few years, there has been a more grounded term for international policy, named “climate diplomacy”. As a result, climate diplomacy has become the main focus of foreign policy. This means that nowadays climate change has become a priority for countries and that now is the time when they cooperate diplomatically, and work together through negotiations, for a better and more environmental-friendly future world. In this era, countries find ecological ways to confront the already existing problems and also negotiate on new measures that can prevent more environmental transformations from occurring. Since 1994 the United Nations has created the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to first solve the significant issue.

Referring to environmental transformation is defined as the disasters that are caused due to climate change, such as melting ice and rising seas, extreme weather, shifting rainfall. When a state suffers from these transformations, it is hard both for the economy and society to adapt and develop. Furthermore, human health can be affected by environmental transformation, for instance, heart-related deaths, water-borne illnesses, and disease vectors are consequences of these changes. Moreover, as wildlife is concerned, more and more species are threatened, some of which are constantly becoming endangered, a phenomenon caused by their inability to adapt to environmental transformations.

Consequently, it is quite important to understand the significance of this issue and suggest accurate solutions that prompt climate diplomacy as a means of managing the trade-off transformations, to establish a more environmental-friendly world that all the species can co-exist peacefully.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Climate Change

“Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly.”¹

Climate Diplomacy

A new form of diplomacy where countries can promote dialogue and have a forum whereby the environmental transformation can be discussed –which is the role of diplomacy- then there is a scope to address these problems in a far better way than if that does not exist.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

“The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.”²

National Determined Contributions (NDCs)

“Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) identify the post-2020 voluntary national climate targets, including mitigation and adaptation, which countries are committed to and which will become a binding Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) when a country ratifies the Paris Agreement.”³

Foreign Policy

“Foreign policy or foreign relations refers to how a government deals with other countries. We also call it foreign affairs policy. Foreign policy includes such matters as trade and

¹ “Climate Change.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/.

² “United Nations Sustainable Development – 17 Goals to Transform Our World.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/.

³ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) identify the post-2020 voluntary national climate targets, including mitigation and adaptation, which countries committed to and which will become a binding Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) when a country ratifies the Paris Agreement.

defense. The government chooses its foreign affairs policy to safeguard the interests of the nation and its citizens.⁴

Climate Science

“The scientific study of long-term prevalent weather conditions and the factors that influence them”⁵.

Environmental Transformations

The negative consequences and disasters that occur due to climate change on the environment. Significant examples are, melting ice and rising seas, extreme weather, shifting rainfall but also effects on human health and biodiversity disorders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Association with the Sustainable Goals

In 2015 the U.N. Member-States signed the Agenda 2030, which includes 17 goals to develop sustainability. As far as this topic is concerned, the 13th SDG refers to taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This goal is also closely related to the 12th goal, which deals with consumption and production. In that way, there would not be useless production to affect pollution, the greenhouse effect, and climate change. Additionally, relative are the 14th and 15th goals, in which, one refers to underwater life and



Trademark of the 13th SDG

the other life on land, as they prompt biodiversity and earth protection. Climate diplomacy’s most important goal though, (apart from the 13th one) is the 17th one, discussing strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

⁴ “What Is Foreign Policy? Definition and Examples.” *Market Business News*, 20 Mar. 2019, marketbusinessnews.com/financial-glossary/foreign-policy/.

⁵ Collins. “Climate Science Definition and Meaning: Collins English Dictionary.” *Climate Science Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/climate-science.

⁶ Anyflip.com. “SDG 13 Climate Action.” *AnyFlip*, anyflip.com/ebsa/flzx/basic

Paris Agreement

The most successful agreement is the Paris agreement that was adopted in 2015 by 197 countries. Deepening on this agreement, the following paragraph concerns the main points of it.

First and foremost, it was the first treaty that agreed in, almost every country in the world and this prompted a massive movement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle the issue of climate change. Furthermore, Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) are being funded, aiming to guarantee international



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Overview of the ratification of the Paris agreement globally

solidarity. Funding is vital, thus 10 billion USD⁸ are being collected every year since 2020, by private and public resources, to finance projects that help countries to adapt after climate change disasters. On top of that, the Paris Agreement recognizes the fact that each country has both similarities and differences, therefore different responsibilities should be meted. Moreover, it is a dynamic and sustainable agreement. To be more specific, in this agreement every country must keep track of the gas emission reduction and report its contribution every five years. Each new contribution should have further progression than the previous one.

The Paris agreement's economical benefits

Apart from the environmental effects of the Paris agreement, there are huge benefits to the economy. For instance, disasters caused by the climate cost almost 2, 3 trillion, over the past two decades. It is a fact that 90% of more than 7,000⁹ disasters between 1998 and 2017 were climate-related. This means that both the economy and the environment are saved, as member-states do not have to pay for any further reconstructions, since no disasters occur. Most importantly, the ILO has announced through several reports, that this agreement may

⁷ Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. "COP21: The Key Points of the Paris Agreement." *France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*, www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/2015-paris-climate-conference-cop21/cop21-the-paris-agreement-in-four-key-points/.

⁸ Anonymous. "Paris Agreement." *Climate Action - European Commission*, 15 Nov. 2019, ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en.

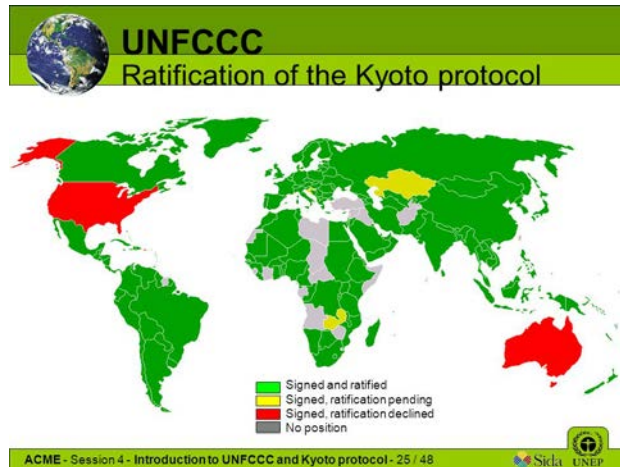
⁹ "6 Reasons Why the Paris Agreement Is Good for Economies." *Unfoundation.org*, 4 Nov. 2019, unfoundation.org/blog/post/6-reasons-why-paris-agreement-is-good-for-economies/.

create 24 million jobs by 2030. All these constitute a huge impact on both the economy and the environment and should be taken into serious consideration.

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was innovated in December 1997 and started to operationalize since February 2005, by 192 countries. The basic purpose of this protocol is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time to decrease migration significantly.

Therefore, countries have to adopt strict measurements and report their progress constantly. According to the Kyoto Protocol, the main responsible countries for greenhouse gas emissions are the developed ones, thus it binds More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and particularly, the European Union and other 36 industrialized



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Overview of the ratification of the Kyoto protocol globally

countries. In December 2012, in Qatar, the Doha amendment was suggested from 2013 to 2020 to be adopted, even though it was not applied because it was not accepted by the number of countries required. There is also a funding program named "Adaptation Fund, which mostly helps the developing countries.

Cancun Agreements

The Cancun Agreements are considered as very successful agreements in the historical background of Climate Change. The agreements were reached at one of the Climate Change Conferences in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010. These agreements endeavor to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help developing countries to adapt to climate change impacts and create a sustainable future. The first goal concerns the mitigation of climate temperature. To be



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Official trademark of the Cancun agreements in 2010

¹⁰ "Basic Kyoto Protocol." *Basic Academic Skills of Writing*, fygiwiwaweji.maghreb-healthexpo.com/basic-kyoto-protocol-21282ly.html.

¹¹ "2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Feb. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference.

more specific, it was agreed to keep the temperature rise below two degrees, but should that was not reachable, by 2015, there would be a reconsideration to reset the goal to 1, 5 degrees instead of 2 degrees. Referring to this goal scientists' help was necessary because they are experts on climate science and know the proper way to treat the environment so that there can be accurate results. Technological assistance is really important, as well. Being able to both adapt to transformation and report the progress of the Members, the appropriate technological devices are required. On top of that, Green Climate Fund has undertaken the responsibility of finance and that is crucial. In the Cancun Agreements, Less Economically Developed Countries are being supported financially to adapt to disasters due to climate change. Furthermore, protecting the forest is another serious point, as well because of the carbon export that happens there. Last but not least, the main purpose of the agreement is to build capacity, development, and sustainability, while protecting the environment.

Importance of international cooperation to achieve goals

As previously stated, the 17th SDG of the 2030 Agenda ascribes the significance of international cooperation to attain goals. There are certainly quite a few reasons why universal interaction is required. To begin with, each nation's foreign policy can be emphatically affected by the other's and hence indicate exceptional improvement. On top of that, dispensing opinions and fostering innovations while MEDCs and LEDCs associate for mutual desires are beneficial.



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Poster of the 17th SDG

Climate Diplomacy belongs to foreign policy

There are quite a few reasons why climate diplomacy is a part of every foreign policy. In particular, climate change is related to peace and stability. That means that due to extreme weather conditions, for example, a lot of people may migrate or even find different ways to survive, threatening global peace and stability. What is more, climate change affects geopolitical issues, as fossil fuels are not exported as much as they were in the past, due to climate change resulting in a crisis between countries. Moreover, population growth is also

¹² “Goal 17 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17.

associated, because environmental transformations due to climate change cause a lot of deaths or are serious problems on people's health, and eventually, this affects the global population. All in all, it seems that climate diplomacy is a part of foreign policy.

Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change

The Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change was agreed by every federal government apart from the Saskatchewan one. This program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, bloom the economy, and be able to adapt to the environmental transformations. These can be achieved by taking enough measurements and using innovative technology. Moreover, building resilience is a topic that is connected to the growth of the economy. Particularly, Canada has ensured that carbon is getting more and more pricy so that citizens refrain from buying it.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Argentina

Argentina has been one of the most affected countries, by the issue of climate change and the environmental transformations, indicatively the north part of the country. Furthermore, Argentina has tried multiple times to decrease the phenomenon of greenhouse gas emissions, with quite some successful results. Argentina has signed the Paris Agreement and, compared to other countries, has updated its NDC after its adoption.

Brazil

Brazil has had significant progress in forestry emissions mitigation. Since 2004, though, this has been demolished and nowadays forestry emissions have prospered. Brazil's main focus is on renewable energy sources. Due to the deforestation of Amazon in 2018, Brazil noted the highest loss of rainforest, in the world.

Canada

Canada has invented the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, which has set goals such as gas emissions reduction, financial growth, and climate change adaptation and confrontation. Specifically, Canada focuses mainly on building resilient cities that can adapt to climate change. Other priorities for Canada regarding climate change are the protection of ecosystems, livelihoods, and the security and safety of the citizens.

Denmark

The Danish government has focused more on the timely automatic adaptation of climate change. In that case, private citizens, businesses and authorities respond to the

environmental results on their own, as much as possible, within the given legislative, Financial, and technological framework.

France

According to the French Ministry, France is quite active in climate negotiations. To be more specific, the French delegation disposes an excellent team with experts on climate change and sends qualified representatives to the European delegation. The main priority for France is to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and encourage climate science. Moreover, France supports financially the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), primarily the most assailable ones, to confront the effects of climate change. The French Republic works with civil society, cities, and businesses to observe the measurements of the Paris Agreement, as well.

Japan

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes part every year in climate change negotiations and has successfully cooperated with the Ministry of the environment, the Ministry of Economic and other governmental offices. Japan has accepted the Paris agreement and its main goal is to tackle effectively the greenhouse gas emissions.

South Africa

South Africa is one of the most affected countries, by climate change. Indicatively, South Africa is an LEDC and climate change is a cause of damage to the economy, society, and development. Therefore, climate change is considered a threat to tourism, which is a major source of South Africa's economical development. The temperatures there are between 0 degrees and 35 degrees. Other issues are some diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis that need to be tackled immediately.

Sweden

Sweden has played a huge role in climate diplomacy, being the first country to host the 1972 UN global environmental conference. Sweden has been recognized for having extraordinary clean air and water with low gas emissions, by the Columbia and Yale Universities for the last decade. Furthermore, the Swedish government has set as a priority to reduce carbon emissions, as well.

Climate diplomacy

Climate diplomacy is an organization created by "Adelphi" and supported by the "German Federal Foreign Policy". It aims at promoting negotiation as a new way to solve climate

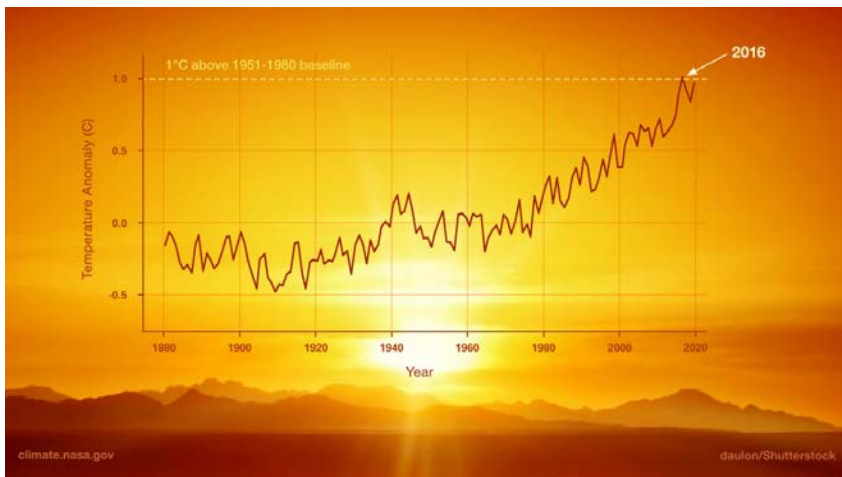
change issues through diplomacy. To be more specific, this organization targets to address the current, global risks and collaborate with every country, after the successful Paris Agreement, while developing each country’s foreign policy and both tackle this issue and adapt in transformation.

UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

The UNFCCC is an international treaty signed by 197 countries, in 1994. Its goal is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and find ways to adapt to environmental transformation. UNFCCC supports LEDCs financially, but they have to review their progress annually. On the other hand, MEDCs should take initiative on not only reducing their gas emissions but also to provide financial assistance to LEDCs, as well.

Green Climate Fund

Green Climate Fund is the largest organization that provides funding to LEDCs that need financial support to adapt to the environmental transformations that are caused due to climate change. This organization was created by the UNFCCC, in 2010 and has a significant role in the Paris agreement as it aims to keep the temperature rise to no more than 2 degrees.



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¹³ “Overview: Weather, Global Climate Change, and Air Quality.” [The temperature anomaly over the years](https://climate.nasa.gov/resources/global-temperature-anomaly-over-the-years/)
climate.nasa.gov/resources/global-temperature-anomaly-over-the-years/

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1950	Creation of WMO (World Meteorological Organization), which is an agency that monitors international meteorological guides.
1972	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was originated. This is a program that is responsible for the correct and wise use of the sustainable development of the global environment.
1988	Intergovernmental Program on Climate Change (IPCC) was invented to offer scientific information on the impacts of climate change in economy and society.
1992	UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) was established.
1994	UNFCCC Secretariat's establishment. The UNFCCC Secretariat provides assistance to the UNFCCC, mainly technical and organizing.
1995	The Kyoto Protocol was created.
1997	The Kyoto Protocol was adopted.
2007	The Bali Action Plan pointed a new more effective agreement than the previous one.
2009	The Copenhagen agreement was adopted.
2010	The Cancun agreements were adopted.
2010	Green Climate Fund was actualized. This organization is responsible for the UNFCCC financial recourses to developing countries.
2015	The Paris agreement was signed and is considered as a milestone for climate diplomacy.
2019	The warmest weather on record.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The United Nations has organized a lot of conferences to negotiate on climate change issues. These are known as the United Nations Climate Change Conferences. Moreover, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has played a significant role in climate change. Apart from that, the U.N. has established a lot of other system bodies working on climate change. For instance, IPCC (Intergovernmental Program on Climate Change) is a body invented by the WMO and UNEP in 1988 to offer scientific information on the impacts of climate change in the economy and society. Another

body is the UNFCCC Secretariat (UN Climate Change), this one assists the UNFCCC, mainly technical and organizing. Regarding funding, the Green Climate Fund is a body that is responsible for the UNFCCC financial resources to developing countries. An important program is the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program), which was created in 1972 and it is a program that is responsible for the correct and wise use of the sustainable development of the global environment. Moreover, UNISDR (UN office for disaster risk reduction) takes the appropriate measures, which prevent disasters to occur due to climate change. Last but not least, WMO (World Meteorological Organization) is an agency that monitors international meteorological guides.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Earth hour

The “Earth hour” was invented by the WWF and is an event that started in Sydney in 2007 and now, it is one of the most comprehensive movements worldwide. To be more specific, everyone globally has to switch their lights off for sixty minutes. In that way, a significant amount of energy consumption is made and as a result, the effect of global warming is being reduced. This is a beneficial previous attempt to solve the issue, although it is not working through diplomacy.



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Advertising leaflet about earth hour since 2019

Paris Agreement

In 2015, the Paris Agreement was signed by 188 countries and the E.U. and consequently is considered as a milestone and a noteworthy victory for diplomacy, covering almost 87%¹⁵ of global greenhouse gas emissions, including the United States, China, India, which are the three most affected countries by the issue.

Kyoto Protocol

The results of the Kyoto Protocol were exceptional, as 5% of the greenhouse gas emissions were reduced compared to 1990, by the European Union and other 37 industrialized

¹⁴ “CEPOL Joins Earth Hour 2019.” *CEPOL*, 8 Apr. 2019, www.cepol.europa.eu/media/news/cepol-joins-earth-hour-2019.

¹⁵ Anonymous. “Paris Agreement.” *Climate Action - European Commission*, 15 Nov. 2019, ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en.

countries. During the second committed period, which lasted eight years, 18%¹⁶ of greenhouse gas emissions were reduced compared to 1990. The Parties have to report their progress annually and since they face difficulties, they can report to a compliance system.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Regarding the issue of Climate diplomacy as a means of managing the trade-offs of transformation, there are several possible solutions. First and foremost, setting climate change measures as a priority would be effective. In that way, more solutions would come up due to the availability of time. There have been indeed a lot of failing agreements in the past but having the appropriate time to negotiate and find the “golden route” that is pleasant for the majority of the Member-States, would be a great victory. Some important measures would be to create resilient infrastructures for countries to be able to adapt to the environmental transformations. Another measurement could be to make carbon and petrol more pricy so that people avoid buying it as much as the can.

Moreover, it is a fact that adopting stricter measures is crucial but not enough for actual results. Therefore, sharper controls of those measures and annual reviews on the progress of each state can be considered as important implementations. To be more specific, the organization of UNFCCC has to force member-states to keep track of their environmental transformations and temperature rise or drop every month and have a twelve-month analytical report. Subsequently, the results would be compared to the previous years and keep or change measures if that is needed. That is why the signing member-states would not be able to violate the measures being taken, resulting in surpassing outcomes.

Additionally, raising awareness is one of the most important solutions, as well. That determines that people should get educated for issues such as climate change and the impacts of it and that the solution for those issues is negotiation and cooperation. Raising awareness can be successfully done via campaigns twice a year in each member-state, seminars can be organized by experts, and informative broadcasts on radio stations should be planned. Most importantly, though, schools should be obliged to inform students on such issues because the new generations have to be sensitized to be able to keep making the world a better one. All these raising awareness measures should also be funded by each government and the Green Climate Fund. In that process, more and more people are going

¹⁶ “Basic Kyoto Protocol.” *Basic Academic Skills of Writing*, fygiwiwawaji.maghreb-healthexpo.com/basic-kyoto-protocol-21282ly.html.

to understand the issues and not only adopt the values of peaceful and noble negotiation but also help to find effective solutions.

Furthermore, More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) must provide help to LEDCs because global sustainability and development refer to every country, without discrimination. Particularly, MEDCs should fund LEDCs that are going through vital environmental transformations and send qualified experts to assist them and solve these issues. It is also a fact that LEDCs cannot easily adapt to transformation unless they are provided with help from other countries. That means that upgrading the infrastructure, for example, is something that most of LEDCs cannot afford. Hence, the Green Climate Fund and MEDCs should take initiative on that.

Last but not least, supporting climate science is the key. Particularly, scientific projects could be funded to determine new methods to tackle the issue of climate change. Scientists from all over the world can cooperate to discover those methods. To fully cover this solution, the scientist should also find accurate ways to adapt to environmental transformation fast without damaging other sectors, such as the economy.

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