

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Topic: The question of mitigating the effects of the green transition.

Student Officer: Minseo Yoon (Head Chair)

Tanuska Bora (Deputy Chair)

Xuan Du Nguyen (Procedural Chair)

Position: Head Chair of the United Nations Environment Assembly

I. Introduction to the Topic

There are key issues at hand today which includes climate change, rising inequality, health and economic problems which is hugely driven from the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been extremely challenging for governments to contain the spread of the virus while maintaining the economic fallout, supporting workers and ensuring continuity of schooling for children. These issues can all be addressed through a transition to a green economy. The green transition has numerous positive impacts on society as a whole by creating more green jobs, developing green products and encouraging green spending. However, some side effects which include taxation on carbon-intensive activities and the diversion of capital from fossil fuels to renewables impact the Southern Mediterranean economies and the water, energy systems and natural resources are further being strained by population growth and climate change.

II. Definition of Key Terms

Green transition: The green transition refers to the social change strategy that will allow us to turn the current environmentally unsustainable global situation into a new sustainable paradigm that drives development and peace, aiming to improve the living conditions of all.

Green economy: An economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

Nationally Determined contribution (NDC): NDC is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

International Labor Organisation (ILO): ILO is an organisation that is committed to promoting social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights.

Green Jobs Assessment Model (GJAM): GJAM is a macro-economic modelling framework which produces policy scenarios to compare the effects on jobs, skills, gender, growth, income distribution, household groups and other job characteristics of interest. A particular highlight of the model is the detailed sector representation which also allows for the comparison of green versus conventional industries.

III. Key Stakeholders

European Union (EU):

The EU, one of the world's largest market economies, has an impact on a strong and negative environment across borders. Developed countries, including the European Union, have historically been responsible for a major part of the global temperature rise, causing environmental degradation and climate change both inside and outside their territory. The EU is also an important consumer of imported resources, including energy. Therefore its consumption pattern results in a much higher environmental impact for third countries through policies that pursue goals that inherently conflict with sustainability.

A clear example is an area of competition policy, such as subsidizing fossil fuel projects, and trade policy on unsustainable production practices in the agri-food industry. Traditional trade policies achieve economic goals that do not internalise environmental costs, which can negatively affect the environment and climate. Trade agreements that increase production for imports of goods such as meat, fertilizer, and palm oil are directly related to deforestation, land degradation, and increased carbon emissions in exporting countries, to name a few.

Since the EU accounts for 14% of global commodity trade, it provides the EU with strong power to exert positive influence externally through the market itself and empowers the EU through active climate diplomacy and technological cooperation for convergence with third countries.

World Health Organisation (WHO): Relevance & significance

Climate change can impact human lives and health in various ways. It has the potential to undo decades of advancement in global health by endangering the fundamental components of good health, including clean air, safe drinking water, nutritional food supply, and a safe shelter. The most disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals are disproportionately affected by these climate-related health hazards.

WHO assists nations in establishing health systems that are climate resilient and monitors national advancements in preventing harm from climate change. To ensure that health is properly represented in the Climate change agenda, WHO actively coordinates with partner agencies with the UN system. To deal with the negative health consequences of climate change, enhancing national capacities and improving the resilience and adaptive ability of health systems are both necessary.

If certain policies or individual measures are effectively implemented such as public transport, food and energy use choices, there is a high potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in turn leading to several co-health benefits.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Relevance & significance

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) plays a big role in laying out the fundamental legal framework and guiding principles for international climate change corporations, with the aim to stabilize atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations and prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

They stand by the notion that industrialized nations should make the biggest efforts to reduce emissions because they are the main source of past and current greenhouse gas emissions. Under the terms of the Convention, developed nations have pledged to support climate change initiatives in developing nations by providing financial assistance. Regardless of these claims, UNFCCC has failed to meet their own standards. Over the past 25 years, the concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) have risen to high record levels.

Under the Paris Agreement and its rulebook, all countries are required to mitigate and deal with the costs of climate change without assistance. Making UNFCCC plainly a platform for

collecting, synthesizing and disseminating information. Retracting its tools to drive collective global actions to combat climate change. Combating climate change requires contributions from all levels of government, private sectors and civil societies. It requires clear objectives and a plan for an efficient transition across the board.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Key Issue 1: De-carbonization policies and low-carbon technology advances are currently undergoing structural changes in global energy architectures. SN has donated half of the world's known oil and gas reserves, especially those exposed to these changes. New world trade patterns risk destabilizing countries that rely primarily on oil and gas exports.

Key Issue 2: The Middle East is warming 20% faster than the rest of the world, and the effects of climate change, such as water shortages and desertification, are already affecting regional stability in countries like Jordan, Syria, and Palestine.

Key Issue 3: Global powers such as China have greatly increased their geographical interest in the Mediterranean Sea, allowing the EU and the international community, especially in SN, to deal with the geopolitical and geographical dimensions of the Green Deal.

Key Issue 4: The EU has a strong influence on the external environment due to its market size, complexity, and high interdependence with other economies. In the past, policies that were inherently at odds with environmental objectives, as well as unsustainable market practices, have contributed to pollution and climate change worldwide. The Green Deal set out to reverse this pattern and turn Europe into the first climate-neutral continent.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
November 4, 2016	The Paris Agreement entered into force and provided an opportunity for countries to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

November 6-18, 2017	<p>The 2017 United Nations Climate Conference was held in Bonn, Germany. Leaders of national governments, cities, states, businesses, investors, NGOs and civil society have gathered to accelerate climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.</p>
April 2018	<p>As of April 2018, 175 parties have ratified the Paris Agreement, and 168 have delivered their first national decision contributing to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. 10 developing countries completed and submitted the first iteration of their national adaptation plans for responding to climate change and the developed country parties continue to make progress towards the goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation actions.</p>
September 23, 2019	<p>With global emissions reaching record levels and showing no signs of peaking, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged all leaders to come to New York for September 23, 2019, Climate Action Summit, with concrete and realistic plans to boost national decision-making contributions by 2020 following greenhouse gas cuts. The s increased to 45% over the next decade, purifying emissions to zero by 2050.</p>
2020	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown caused 114 million people to lose their jobs in 2020. The ILO estimates working hours lost were equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs, leading to \$3.7 trillion in lost labour income.</p>
September 2020	<p>The Commission adopted a communication on climate target planning based on public consultation and in-depth impact assessment. The plan proposed increasing the 2030 target from 40% emissions reduction to 55% net emissions reduction compared with 1990 levels. The IA showed that a 55% reduction would be the most cost-effective way to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.</p>
2020	<p>The European Climate Law, passed in 2020, made the climate neutrality commitment and the 55% target legally binding.</p>
July 2021	<p>The July 2021 'fit for 55' package presented legislative proposals for the revision of existing EU legislation and new initiatives to implement the 55 % target. These proposals are geared towards updating the key EU climate and energy policy instruments, including the EU emissions trading system(ETS), the Effortsharing Regulation, and the Land Use and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF).</p>

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Key Issue 1: Climate change and global trends of inequality are intricately interwoven. The most vulnerable population bears the brunt of the effects of climate change while contributing

the least to the problem. As the effects of climate change intensify, millions of disadvantaged people confront disproportionate problems in terms of severe events, health implications, food and water security, and cultural identity. Certain social groups, such as female-headed households, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities, landless tenants, migrant workers, displaced persons, sexual and gender minorities, older people, and other socially marginalized groups, are especially susceptible to crises. Their vulnerability stems from a mix of their geographic locations, socioeconomic, cultural, and gender status, and access to services, decision-making, and justice. A change in topography and temperature will create an increase in natural catastrophes, leading to more droughts and more intense storms, which will have a negative impact on the lives and economic well-being of these populations.

Key Issue 2: In several ways, the global repercussions of climate change will challenge the profitability of enterprises. Frequency and severity of extreme weather, both in the United States and abroad, can cause damage to industries, supply chain activities, and other infrastructure, as well as interrupt transportation. Water will become more expensive as a result of drought, which is expected to impact the costs of raw materials and industry. Climate variability may compel businesses to deal with pricing unpredictability for production resources, energy transport, and insurance. And certain items might become outdated or lose their market, such as coal-mining equipment or skiing equipment in a region without snow. New laws, such as carbon pricing and subsidies that favour a rival, may influence the profitability of a corporation, whether in the United States or overseas. A company's reputation may also suffer if it is seen to be harming the environment. And investors and stakeholders are increasingly concerned about the possibility of "stranded assets" — those that become prematurely obsolete or fall out of favor, and must be recorded as a loss, such as fossil fuels that many believe should remain buried or real estate in a newly designated flood plain.

Key Issue 3: Global, regional, and local food security will very certainly be affected by climate change. The impact of climate change on food availability, accessibility, and quality is significant. For instance, expected increases in temperature, alterations in precipitation patterns, alterations in extreme weather events, and decreases in water availability may all lead to a decrease in agricultural production. Increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events can also impede food delivery, and the accompanying rises in food

costs following such disasters are anticipated to become more common in the future.

Temperature increases can contribute to food degradation and contamination.

Additional stresses, such as population increase, may exacerbate the consequences of climate change on food security. In underdeveloped countries, adaption options like as changes in agricultural management or ranching methods and irrigation improvements are more restricted than in the United States and other developed nation. Thus, any climate-related disruption to international or domestic food distribution and transit may have substantial effects not just on food safety and quality, but also on food accessibility. The United States is concerned about the global food supply because food shortages can trigger humanitarian disasters and national security issues. They can also raise domestic food prices.

Key Issue 4: The EU Green Taxonomy is an important tool for the implementation of green transactions. The taxonomy will be a classification of sustainable economic activity. By sustainability, the EU defines activities that contribute substantially to climate mitigation and climate adaptation and respects the other four environmental objectives set by regulation: sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, transition to a circular economy, and pollution prevention principles. And the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. These activities will be given a green label by the EU to provide a signal to the market indicating what constitutes a sustainable investment. The EU taxonomy will be the first attempt to assemble a comprehensive classification of this kind: it aims to direct investment towards decarbonization and to provide a transparent and easy-to-apply tool for converting necessary public and private financing into a green deal. Investors inside and outside the EU are following the evolution of taxonomy very closely, as it is expected to provide benchmarks for sustainable investment worldwide.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

The chairs recommend delegates look deeply into major scientific historical points related to the mass contribution of greenhouse gases. Thorough research within these points will be vital in providing the necessary contextual knowledge in order to produce a resolution.

Delegates should also look at past policies and treaties made with regards to addressing and resolving environmental damage; to further this, delegates should also look at future plans on current projects aimed at mitigating climate change; a deeper look into these subjects will

allow delegates better general knowledge in forming solutions that have provided proficient results.

VIII. Bibliography

<https://www.euromesco.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Policy-Study23-Final.pdf>

<https://www.oecd.org/southeast-asia/regional-programme/networks/OECD-Facilitating-the-green-transition-for-ASEAN-SMEs.pdf>

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/documents/genericdocument/wcms_678011.pdf

<https://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/towards-a-green-recovery-post-covid-19/>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

<https://www.unepfi.org/prb-year-one-update/driving-the-green-transition/>

<https://www.undp.org/blog/case-green-economy>

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/03/27/25-years-failure-abandon-unfccc/>

<https://enb.iisd.org/negotiations/un-framework-convention-climate-change-unfccc>

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/03/27/25-years-failure-abandon-unfccc/>

Works Cited

"After 25 years of failure, we should abandon the UNFCCC." *Climate home news*,
www.climatechangenews.com/2019/03/27/25-years-failure-abandon-unfccc/.
Accessed 10 Oct. 2022.

"Climate change." *World health organization*, 9 Aug. 2019,
www.who.int/health-topics/climate-change#tab=tab_2. Accessed 9 Oct. 2022.

"Driving the green transition." *UN environmental programme*, 2021,
www.unepfi.org/prb-year-one-update/driving-the-green-transition/.

"Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts." *Sustainable development goals*, 22 July 2022,

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/. Accessed 8 Oct. 2022.

Lee, Sangji. "The case for a green economy." *UNDP*, Apr. 2021,

www.undp.org/blog/case-green-economy. Accessed 9 Oct. 2022.

"Towards a Green Recovery." *Greenpeace*,

www.greenpeace.org/india/en/towards-a-green-recovery-post-covid-19/. Accessed 7 Oct. 2022.

"UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC." *IISD*,

enb.iisd.org/negotiations/un-framework-convention-climate-change-unfccc. Accessed 11 Oct. 2022.

"What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?" *United Nations Climate Change*, 2020,

unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change. Accessed 11 Oct. 2022.

IX: Additional Resources

