

UNSC Environmental Sub-Committee

Study Guide

Solving the critical implications of excessive emissions originating from world's most polluting states or state unions

Introduction

Dear delegates,
welcome to the SCES Study Guide. This year we will discuss only one, however, very sophisticated topic, which is ***“Solving the critical implications of excessive emissions originating from world's most polluting states or state unions”***. This Study Guide will help you with the research needed for the conference and it can also be used during the conference.

Overview

The world's pollution is increasing every year and it is a direct threat to the human race as it further contributes to the global warming and climate change. The climate change is endangering many communities throughout the world which depend on the current climate state to survive.

Not only these communities, but also the stability of entire regions are influenced by the climate change as the ever increasing temperature, lessening rainfall and degrading soil force millions to migrate from their homes and search refuge in states lying in climatically more stable regions. Especially Europe, Turkey and Northern Africa are currently suffering from the effects of environmental migration, however it is only likely that the environmental migration will spread widely across the world.

The effects of this migration can be seen already as it leads to divisions in society, instability, rise in criminality, social unrest and may eventually lead to enough disputes among nations to cause a war or other disastrous conflict. Especially considering that the pollution from emissions causing the climate change is disproportionately spread throughout the world. There are many states that cause very little emissions and then there are states, which cause unreasonably excessive amount of emissions in comparison to many others and often refuse to change their approach quickly and effectively enough to ensure a significant enough impact on the progression of climate change.

Many states of the world often hide behind international treaties like the Paris Climate Agreement, which while they do provide for some improvement, are nowhere near enough to stop the global warming or reach their own goals set by the agreement itself.

It is therefore essential for the UN to set new guidelines, rules and provide a forum for new agreements to secure a safe future for the humankind and ensure that the climate change, while inevitable, does not develop into another mass extinction and environmental crisis on an unprecedented scale.

The issue

There are six biggest polluters in the world. These being on CO₂ (which makes about 80% of all greenhouse gas emissions) China (30%), United States of America (15%), EU - 28 (formerly) (9%), India (7%), Russian Federation (5%) and Japan (4%). Together emitting inadequately more emissions than the rest of the world, which contributes 30% of all CO₂ emissions. It is also important to mention that the current EU-27 has been responsible for approximately 18% of the global carbon dioxide emissions.

It must be, however, noted that the EU has decreased its emissions by 23,2% from 1990 to 2018 and thus decreasing its overall contribution to the world's emissions by 7% from 15% to 8%. The four most polluting countries in the EU are estimated to be Germany, France, Italy and Poland.

Per capita CO₂ emissions are the greatest in USA and Russia, with the other biggest emitters not lying too far behind, though. Using tons, here are the numbers of the biggest emitters per capita in the world (it is important to be aware of the fact, that each country has a different number of inhabitants): China - 7,38 tons, The United States - 15,52 tons, India - 1,91 tons, Russia - 11,44 tons and Japan with 9,70 tons of emissions per person.

Even though carbon dioxide is the most widespread greenhouse gas, it is important to be aware of the fact that there are many more emissions contributing to our planet's pollution. Such gases are for example methane, which is the second most common and important greenhouse gas. Methane is actually more potent than CO₂ (it is more dangerous than carbon dioxide, since it contributes to global warming to be a lot faster, however the amount of this gas emitted to the atmosphere is smaller than the amount of CO₂) because the radiative forcing produced per molecule is a lot greater. This particular gas is mostly produced by agriculture, however it is also produced by cattle, which brings us to the problem of excessive cow farming.

The committee must therefore decide how to combat all of these problems and how to ensure that excessive emissions become a thing of the past.

Below you can find other sources for your research:

<https://www.britannica.com/science/greenhouse-gas/Methane>

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/greenhouse-gases>

<https://www.wri.org/insights/interactive-chart-shows-changes-worlds-top-10-emitters>

<https://www.bridgerphotonics.com/blog/how-does-methane-affect-environment>

<https://www.edf.org/climate/methane-crucial-opportunity-climate-fight>