

Forum: United Nations Environmental Programme

Issue: The question of diminishing climate change and including all member nations in an agreement

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1.Introduction— Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time and adds considerable stress to our societies and to the environment. 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.

2.Key Terms— *Greenhouse gases (GHG)*: a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared

radiation. Carbon dioxide is an example of greenhouse gases. *Greenhouse effect*: the trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere, due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface.*The*

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. *the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*: As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WMO is dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources. *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*: adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2015, serves as the centrepiece for national and international policymaking over the next 15 years. It sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the WMO community can contribute to at the national and international levels.

3.History— Greenhouse gases occur naturally and are essential to the survival of humans and millions of other living things, by keeping some of the sun's warmth from reflecting back into space and making Earth livable. A century and a half of industrialization, including clear-felling forests and certain farming methods, has driven up quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As populations, economies and standards of living grow, so does the cumulative level of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions.

4.Key Issues— 1. failure of the market to value the public benefits of renewables.

2. low- and middle-income countries, don't have access to modern sources of energy and are incapable of investing into sustainable development and renewable energy, necessary for diminishing climate exchange.

3. High costs and relatively low values of EROI of the renewable energy technologies compared to conventional fossil fuels.

4. Different public opinions regarding the seriousness of climate change- not everybody believes that human activity is a significant cause of climate change.

5. Major Parties Involved— China, United States of America, Germany are all of the leading countries usage of renewable energy and thus play a big role in the diminishing of climate change. India with its fast increasing population and recent years pollution problems is also a big key factor in the plot.

6. Timeline— 1979 The first World Climate Conference takes place;

1988 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is set up;

1990 The IPCC and the second World Climate Conference call for a global treaty on climate change. The United Nations General Assembly negotiations on a framework convention begin;

1994 The UNFCCC enters into force;

2007 The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report is released. Climate science entered into popular consciousness.

2016 - The Paris Agreement which is signed by the majority of nations across the world.

7. Evaluation of Previous Attempts— IPCC bases its assessment mainly on published and peer reviewed scientific technical literature. The goal of these assessments is to inform international policy and negotiations on climate-related issues. The inclusive process by which IPCC assessments are developed and accepted by its members results in reports of exceptional scientific credibility. IPCC's assessment reports(AR-s) have proven to be extremely influential in the

formation of climate policies. Examples of the previous AR-s: The IPCC's reports were also influential at the first Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Climate Convention, held in Berlin, Germany, in 1995. The First Assessment Report of the IPCC (1990), as well as a supplemental report prepared in 1992, supported the establishment of the UNFCCC.

8. Possible solutions— The strengthening of the Paris agreement is a vital step needed to be taken, as it is essential that each individual country sets strong goals towards a more sustainable development. An additional focus on the sustainability of transport vehicles should be carried through from the nations, as tourism is a strong factor in climate change and the GHG emission. The creation of an organization concentrating further on sustainable tourism is a realistic and achievable idea.

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10. Appendices—

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