**Country:** France

**Committee:** UNESCO

**Agenda Item:** Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness

 France is an average-sized country that has decent landscapes and architecture and a rich history. It is a member of The World Trade Organization and the European Union as well as being an important supporter of UNESCO. It is located in Europe near Germany, Italy, and Spain. It has a top-tier education system and a great healthcare system which are both funded by the French government. It has a population of 67.5 million and it is a multicultural country with lots of ethnic diversity with the major ethnic groups being Germans, Bretons, and Corsicans. It has a current inflation rate of 2.1% and has an overall good life quality according to the Better Life Index. The French Government thinks that everyone should be able to live a comfortable life and is more generous on their salary system compared to some other European countries. Unfortunately, its economy mostly benefits from tourism, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and the service sector making France one of the biggest polluters in EU, but France is willing to solve any of the problems they can to improve the life quality of their people.

 In 2014, France started applying taxes on fossil fuels, tried to encourage the use of renewable energy, promoted energy efficiency, and put policies that limited the amount of greenhouse gas emissions to fight against climate change. In 2015 France adopted the UN climate plan which allowed more process to be made on the goals of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions by 45%, keeping the Global Warming less than 1.5 degrees Celsius until 2030 and reaching a net of zero Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2050. This climate plan can also be referred to as the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. This agreement was made as a result of an UN conference near Paris on 12 December 2015 and counts as a framework of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). UNICEF, UNESCO, and WMO were also all involved in this matter. UNICEF helped to educate the people and mostly the youth about climate change while WMO aimed to motivate and activate the people which rose public awareness. The global action program (GAP) and the ZOOM campaign were also UN ideas that were against global warming and eventually climate change. As climate change is mostly caused by the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the analytics of the greenhouse gas emissions per capita in France being lower than most European countries like Germany and Spain due to the policies about public awareness that were implemented means France has already started its movement to reduce climate change. The statistics also show a decrease in the greenhouse gas emissions both total and per capita since 2005 and as the years pass by, the situation seemingly improves. The most drastic change in greenhouse gas emissions was observed between 2019 and 2020 because of the pandemic, which led to France releasing 251.6 million metric tons of CO2 in total and nearly 6 metric tons of CO2 per capita in 2020 and CO2 maintains 65% of the greenhouse effect. If the greenhouse gas emissions continue to decrease like expected, France will succeed in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 45% until 2030. For France, this is also a step forward to improve the air quality and sustainability, but to stop climate change globally, countries like China, the United States of America and India will also have to co-operate and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions whether it is by raising public awareness or by any other means of educating public about the issue.

Even though climate change is a global issue, it is not a well-known issue and that is why it might lead to massive ecological damages on earth. Therefore, raising public awareness is a key factor at reducing climate change, but it should be done in an effective way. For example in the past, France tried to encourage people into using renewable energy sources and put policies that limited the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, but they didn’t make that much impact on the situation, so attempting to use newer strategies and creative ways like making art about climate change and filming advertisements about it to make people constantly reminded of this global threat would be more effective and in sync with the opinion that climate change can be solved easily if everyone is educated about it and is aware of the problems it causes. One of the biggest problems that make spreading awareness to educate the people about climate change and encourage them to co-operate to help stop global warming and eventually climate change difficult is that people prefer to use the easier and cheaper methods of energy which also contains fossil fuels which then results in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Since the eco-friendlier alternatives of energy is often expensive and hard to obtain, even if enough awareness is spread, there will be people who can’t afford to it because of their financial status. Therefore, for this problem to be solved easily and efficiently, renewable energy and natural resources should be made more available and affordable for everyone first. This can be accomplished if UNESCO which protects the world heritages also protects some of the bigger natural resources to make sure they don’t get polluted or wasted and if UNDP and UNIDO help by building or financially assisting the construction of the things that are needed to produce renewable energy.

References

<https://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2022-08/19_greenhouse_gas_emissions_and_carbon_footprint.pdf>

<https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-06/necp_factsheet_fr_final_0.pdf>

<https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/international-action-climate-change/climate-negotiations/paris-agreement_en#:~:text=The%20Paris%20Agreement%20sets%20out,support%20them%20in%20their%20efforts>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement#:~:text=Its%20overarching%20goal%20is%20to,above%20pre%2Dindustrial%20levels.%E2%80%9D>

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition#:~:text=To%20keep%20global%20warming%20to,reach%20net%20zero%20by%202050>

<https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/partners/france>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/climate-change>

<https://www.heritage.org/index/country/france#:~:text=Widespread%20issues%20with%20nuclear%20power,%2C%20public%20transport%2C%20and%20defense>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/270352/distribution-of-gross-domestic-product-gdp-across-economic-sectors-in-france/#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20services%20contributed%20the,marker%20of%20an%20advanced%20economy>

<https://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/france/>