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**Junior Nesibe Aydın Model United Nations**

# Position Paper

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Climate change is defined as long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns1 and recognized by persistent changes lasting for decades2.

Mexico, officially United Mexican States, has an estimated population of almost 130 million3 as of 2023 making the country second largest in Latin America4. Agriculture stands as the most important sector. Being the 10th biggest exporter5 and 15th biggest economy6 in the world, climate change in Mexico concerns hundreds of millions in the world. Since 1901 annual average temperature has been rising from 20.26oC to 21.86oC7. Precipitation is increasing in terms of variety and intensity which leads to more flood and drought8.

Apparent signs of climate change have been spotted by NASA satellites so far. Shrimp farms that are carried to extremes, excessive rains, severe droughts, deforestation, uncontrolled tourism investments, beach erosion, water pollution, excessive water consumption and urban growth are reported as major causes and effects of climate change in Mexico9.

For sake of Mexican farmers, export of agricultural products shall be increasing and spreading to different countries apart from USA. However, water shortage, an unsurprising outcome of climate change, is also threatening this developing sector in Mexico too10.

As a result of climate change, flood, drought, severe storms, fertile soil loss, temperature extreme, loss of species, excessive precipitation, displacement, warming/rising oceans might damage and even devastate world heritage sites in Mexico11. As we all know, there are 35 listed heritage sites every each might get severely affected because of climate change outcomes12.

The international community has been handling this prime global issue with different manners so far.

Kyoto Protocol is the international frame against global warming and climate change. It was signed in 1997 and executed in 2005. Currently, protocol is contributed by 160 countries13. Paris Agreement, a legally binding universal agreement, is a result of a process that started with a series of meetings, which was initiated in Copenhagen in 2009 and ended in 201514.

Several UN agencies, governments, global and local NGOs, private entrepreneurships have also involved in all stages and reporting.

Signing and accepting the Kyoto Protocol in 1998 and 2000 respectively looks as the first steps of Mexican government to enter in environmental protection era.

Being a founder of Climate and Clean Air Coalition15 and developing a General Law on Climate Change16 in 2012 are supreme acts in terms of nationally determined contribution (NDC) of Mexican government. To add, National Emissions Registry (RENE) was established to publish greenhouse gas emission reports17.

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**1**

Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition was set in 2015 with partnership of Mexico18. Moreover, government presented a Climate Action Plan in 201519 just before the approval of Paris Agreement in September 201620. By means of this agreement, government will act to reach zero deforestation, upgrade the capacities of underdeveloped municipalities, develop country’s infrastructure and ecosystem durability, disconnect economic growth from greenhouse gas emission and protect community from hydrometeorological incidents21.

Positively, government set the first Emission Trading System (ETS) in Latin America as of January 202022. And they plan to double renewable energy sources23 and reduce Greenhouse Gas by 40% as of 203024. Government also settled Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at all levels of education, which is a primary step to build an aware public25.

Nevertheless, government’s score on Paris agreement could be reported as unwell26 since the progress reports are not transparent and dedication on reaching the targets is lowering27. In the meantime, lowering the budget of Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources is another negative sign for government.

Mexico needs to step on the actions required for Paris Agreement. Current performance will not make the country reach its goals.

Incidentally, Mexico shall raise more questions about what is happening in surrounding region and effects on the country’s nature and economy. For instance, Deepwater Horizon (2010), one of the greatest natural catastrophes in the world’s history is not observed and reported to the full28. Lessons shall be taken for preventing from future threats and getting prepared in case something similar happens again.

Environmentalist philosophies such as minimalism, anti-consumerism, deurbanization and zero waste shall rule in order not to exploit natural sources. Specific to Mexico, this action has to come with democracy and as a result of grassroots movement. Therefore, NGOs and civil initiatives have to take reputable action to increase public awareness, knowledge and spread information throughout the country.

Counter urbanization / Deurbanization is another path to lighten the concentration on cities and towns, which will end up with helping our ecosystems and habitat live forever. Zero waste movement trend shall be a governmental doctrine and would be strictly followed by all layers of the community to decrease carbon footprint.

Eventually, Mexicans shall be a self-sufficient nation so that they won’t be wasting their own sources to produce for others, feed others and earn from others.

Global civil initiatives such as Climate Reality Project shall be supported by governmental institutions and especially the Mexican Secretariat of Public Education to generate knowledge from the ground. As stated in Project Drawdown’s research, girls have a very important role against climate change29,30. Therefore, gender equality in education is a must all over the world as well as Mexico.

Sanctions would rather be increased on any kind of environmentally hazardous action. For this, ready for action NGOs such as Earth Justice could be assigned as governmental partner.

Government itself and investors could consult specialized companies such as ClimateAI, which concentrates on all variables of interest in several sectors regarding the effects on climate change.

By feeling myself as a responsible and hopeful world citizen, I am willing to serve and promise to do my best to keep our planet clean, sustainable, breathable and livable forever.

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