Mr. Secretary Madame Chair Fellow Delegates Honourable Delegates

South Africa, the southernmost country of the Africa continent, is home to its diverse topography, wonderful natural beauty and culture that make the country a great travel destination. South Africa borders Namibia to the north, Botswana and Zimbabwe to the west, and Mozambique and Swaziland to the northeast and east. The South African coast borders the Indian oceans to the southeast and the Atlantic oceans to the southwest. Almost all of the country is temperate zone, extreme heat and cold are rare. The location next to a subtropical belt with high descending air pressure produces stable ventilating structures at the end of the surface and the climate is generally arid. The main industry in the country is mining, there are lots of gold and diamond mines. Although South Africa is richest country in the continent Africa, majority of the population lives under very poor and unhealthy conditions due to the problems in wealth distribution. Many people are living in barracks without access to clean water or energy supply. The education is very poor in the country and very high percentage of the young population do not have access to education.

Temperature in last century increased by 0.5 Celsius degrees and because of this increase in the temperature we started experiencing extreme climate events like extremely dry seasons or extremely rainy seasons. Industrialized countries are the main contributors to the change climate whereby the people of underdeveloped countries feel the negative effects of climate change more than the industrialized countries. South Africa, being an underdeveloped country, does not have great effect on the climate change. The main effects of the climate change in South Africa are the particularly on the human health and food supply. Global climate change has very heavy negative effects on water resources, minority of the South African people have access to clean water. The natural disasters like flood and drought make it very difficult to access to clean water. Extreme climate events and economic difficulties are the main reasons for the problems in sustainable food supply. The increase in the food prices due to extreme climate events are creating greater problems in the sustainability of the food supply. In our effort to fight against the climate change, we should plant new trees in place of the trees we cut down. We should try to afforest unused mine-entrances. We should try to collect rainwater for our clean water needs. We should only consume meat and dairy products as much as we need. We should use less fossil fuels. We should use public transportation and walk or ride a bike when possible. We should take energy saving in the centre of our life. In other words, we should try to live in harmony with the nature as it is the only choice we have.

Arda Aktaş