

Country: New Zealand

Committee : UN-HABITAT

Agenda Item: Building Sustainable and Smart Cities of the Future

New Zealand is an island country located in the Pacific Ocean. Its surface area is 268,000 square kilometers. New Zealand has numerous high mountains due to tectonic movements and volcanic activity in the region. Its capital is Wellington. Its largest city is Auckland. New Zealand is governed by a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. Because New Zealand is in the southern hemisphere and south of the equator, the seasons are the exact opposite of those in the northern hemisphere; the hottest months of summer are January and February, and the coldest months are June and July. The New Zealand economy is based on a system of international trade.

New Zealand has faced very serious environmental problems in the last decade. The main environmental problems it faces are increasing global warming, water pollution and air pollution. However, with the increasing population, the increase in waste and the inadequate control of this waste also emerges as a significant environmental problem. For example, when we examine the reasons for the increase in water pollution, according to the reports published, the enormous increase in the number of cows and sheep produced in New Zealand, a major player in the world dairy trade, over the last 20 years is the main cause of water pollution. According to the BBC, New Zealand, with a population of over 5 million, has approximately 10 million cattle and 26 million sheep. Almost half of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions, primarily methane, come from agriculture. Furthermore, the increased greenhouse gas emissions from fertilizers used to obtain more produce from less land significantly contribute to air pollution.

New Zealand adopted a zero carbon law to combat climate change, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 2050. Along with this, it has been stated that methane gas emissions will decrease by 10% by 2030 and will be kept at a level less than a quarter of today's levels by 2050. The New Zealand government is even planning to tax people for the methane gas released from their pets' feces and belching starting in 2025. It also provides incentives for farmers to feed their animals feed that reduces methane gas emissions.