POSITION PAPER

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BACKGROUND

We are not oblivious to the fact that the world has been facing significant climate change since the Industrial Age. The annual land and ocean temperature has risen at an average rate of 0.07 degrees Celcius per decade since 1800, however, the average rate of increase has doubled since 1980. It is suggested that by 2081, our temperatures will rise by 3 to 6 degrees Celcius. As a consequence, since 1901, global precipitation has risen at an amount of of 0.17 inches per decade. Furthermore, between 2015 and 2020, the rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million hectares per year. Today, in the United States alone, 62.7% of the energy comes from fossil fuels. Therefore, it is no surprise that worldwide in 2016, bad outdoor air caused an estimated 4.2 million premature deaths.

PAST ACTIONS

On 31 July 2003, the Republic of South Africa signed the Kyoto Protocol in hopes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ratified the Paris Agreement in time for the 22nd Conference of the Parties, acting as a chair of the G77 and China group, playing a key role in its adoption. Being a member of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, we took part in five meetings from 2013 to 2015 in order to raise awareness on these crucial issues. Our country has also settled several water management issues along with conducting Urban Low Emission Strategies and Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings Programmes.

COUNTRY POLICY

As the delegation of South Africa, we are well aware of the importance of taking joint action against climate change and its root causes. We believe that the 26th Conference of the Parties will play a major active role in preventing further dangerous human interference on the climate. We acknowledge that the security of all species depends on the actions of every member state. Thus, we stand for abolishing the abnormal changes in the world’s climate along with adapting to the inevitable degree of it, and while doing so, standing in transparency regarding our actions.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The most beneficial way to solve a universal problem is to work together. This is no exception. Although South Africa plans on developping a wide range of innovative ways to cope with climate change, this will only come through with the willingness and support of our fellow conference members. These solutions include;

- decreasing the use of coal as a generator source by making other sources more available,

-obligating the yearly planting of trees (excluding disadvantaged citizens),

-increasing the price of cigarettes, cigars, deodorant and other substances causing greenhouse gas emission,

-raising public awareness on the causes and effects of global warming and pollution through seminars and advertisements,

-and organising mass clean-up projects, particularly on the coastline.

SOURCES

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