Country: Libya 

Committee :UNEP ( United Nations Environment Programme)

Agenda Items: Promoting the development of nuclear technology as a safe and sustainable energy source, protection of the environment in armed conflicts, and the influence of COVID-19 on the environment.

Libya is one of the largest countries in North Africa and is on the Mediterranean coast. The Libyan Desert covers the majority of Libya that’s why 90% of the population live near the coastal areas. Libya became independent as a kingdom in 1951. The leader Gaddafi ruled the country nearly for 40 years, until he was killed in the Libyan Civil War. Two authorities initially claimed to govern Libya: Tobruk and Tripoli governments. After UN-led peace talks between the Tobruk and Tripoli, a unified interim UN-backed [Government of National Accord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_National_Accord) was established in 2015. Since then, a second civil war has broken out and the county is still struggling with it. Libya’s official religion is Islam and the official language is Arabic. Since 1955, Libya is a member of the United Nations.

Nuclear technology is used in some areas like the nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons. Using nuclear energy in a controlled way, has lots of advantages. For instance, it is efficient, cheap and clean around 10% of the world’s electricity today is produced by nuclear power. Nuclear energy is the second largest source of low-carbon electricity and produces minimal waste. It is found that nuclear power is the least deadly major energy resource, outranking coal, oil, and gas. Also, unlike fossil fuel-fired plants, it does not pollute the air or produce carbon dioxide while operating and it has one of the smallest carbon footprints amongst energy sources. However, using nuclear energy in an ineffective way may cause huge catastrophes such as the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine in 1986. People who work there may be exposed to high levels of radiation, causing many serious health problems that may even affect further generations and also, huge amounts of nuclear materials may release into the environment. The radioactive wastes like uranium remain radioactive for thousands of years and keep being a threat for the environment and human health. For Libya, and the other countries which are at war or affected by terrorism, the usage of nuclear energy may cause dreadful consequences. Terrorist groups may use nuclear weapons unconsciously and kill thousands of people. Besides, nuclear weapons like atomic bombs may even destroy the whole city and the ecosystem there such as the bombings of [Hiroshima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiroshima) and [Nagasaki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagasaki).

In order to prevent these problems, every country must take serious precautions. We have to protect individuals, society, and the environment by establishing and maintaining effective defense labor against radiological hazards in nuclear power plants. The structure of the nuclear power plant must be made out of materials that have the capacity of shielding the outside environment. All types of waste have their method of disposal, and they should be disposed of in a way that does minimal harm to humans, and the natural environment.

Military activities are also a big threat for the environment. They consume a lot of fossil fuels for weapon ammo and tactical trials before the war, which leads to the secretion of unwanted amounts of greenhouse gases. Also at the creation of hazardous weapons like gas bombs, the environment gets even more polluted. Lots of nuclear warheads are dropped into the ocean. Millions of acres of agricultural land devoted to the production, storage, and testing of weapons. Natural ecosystems collapsed at lands and they lost their balance. As a result, countries that were affected by these changes encountered drought, deforestation, and nutrient loss. To overcome these problems, countries should do a cleaning work as soon as the war is over and governments must prefer alternative ways that do not contain violence as the violence is the main reason of a war.

 It is obvious that Covid-19 has affected the environment in many ways. Especially the air quality. Since the use of vehicles has almost completely stopped during the pandemic, the air quality has improved significantly, which minimized the release of dangerous toxins. In lots of countries the air pollution rates reduced. Moreover, there is an outstanding decrease in industrial activity and traffic which are the two main sources of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) therefore the NO2 pollution has decreased all over the world. In addition, according to a research, greenhouse gas emissions, as well as CO2 emissions, have fallen by 40% - 50% in some countries. However, there are also some negative effects such as governments relaxing emission controls to ease their economic pressure as well as burning more and cheaper fossil fuels which could reverse the positive effects that were achieved during the Covid-19 restriction period. In addition, scientists have claimed that the benefits of air pollution reduction will be erased once the pandemic is over. There won’t be any permanent environmental effects. We should also consider that the disinfectants, masks and plastic gloves create water pollution as chemical wastes.

 To solve these problems and make the positive effects long lasting, we believe that every country should realize the importance of these issues and encourage the citizens to use eco-friendly products. Also, to prevent the chemical waste ending up in the oceans, wastes can be collected by special waste bins.