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Committee: UNEP

Delegate: ARMENIA

Topics: “Promoting the development of nuclear technology as a safe and sustainable energy source of the future”, “Protection of the environment in armed conflicts” and as a recent issue; “The influence of Covid-19 on the environment”

We all know what UNEP is and its purpose here, and the issues that UNEP deals with are very important for the world. As Armenia, we have heavily relied on energy and energy resources since 1976 and this is one of our main priorities.

Copper, zinc, gold and lead are produced in our mines. The vast majority of our energy is produced with fuel imported from Russia; the main domestic energy source is hydroelectricity. We also have small coal, gas and oil deposits. Regarding nuclear, there is 1 nuclear reactor in our country, and at the same time, there is a total share of 27.8%. Since we are a country that relies heavily on nuclear energy, it is up to us, of course, to take precautions or minimize its impact on human health. In 1993, the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA) was established to ensure security. Although its name has changed over time, the name ANRA is still used today. In addition, as Armenia, we are a member of organizations that take measures in this regard, such as IAEA and WANO.

Of course, although nuclear comes to mind first when it comes to UNEP, it's more than that. War is taking place in many places around the world, and this situation has become almost unstoppable. Throughout history, there have been many wars in Armenia, we won and lost some of them. However, the problem is not winning or losing here. The environment is adversely affected. People are dying, nature is harmed. We attach more importance to this issue than you think. We have made many agreements to stop wars in history. Although today there is no institution we are involved in on this subject, we will look at studies on this subject in the future.

You all know that today there has been an event that plunged the world into chaos, including UNEP: the coronavirus. Like every country in the world, the coronavirus affected Armenia negatively, the income from the workplaces became unsuitable, people lost their lives and many more ... In total, approximately 448 thousand tests have been carried out in Armenia to date. Almost 110 thousand of these tests were positive. Many regulations were initiated in Armenia. the mask was made obligatory, stay-at-home campaigns were initiated… Of course, the things we have done slowly started to pay-off. The number of cases being 460 a day, has started to drop below 250 in recent days, which is not a small difference. As you can see, many events and arrangements were held in Armenia on behalf of UNEP. We will continue to deal with these issues in the future.