Committee: UNEP (The United Nations Environment Program)

Country: Russian Federation

Agenda Item: Enhancing the transition to sustainable energy as a response to the energy crisis and climate change

Climate change and energy crisis are among the most talked about topics today. As a result of the developments in the world and affecting all countries without exception (Covid-19 and the war between us and Ukraine), the issue of energy has become even more debatable. The increase in energy need and use due to the increase in population makes the negative effects of this use more visible. Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that our country is warming 2 and a half times faster than the rest of the world, and that the rate of warming in the Arctic regions is faster. That's why we, as Russia, are very aware of the consequences of climate change and we are ready to take initiatives to prevent these consequences, both in our country and around the world. We are aware that the most important way to end the crises is the transition to sustainable energy. We are ready to help developing and underdeveloped countries in the transition period to sustainable energy, like we provided the resources they demanded to continue their lives, such as natural gas and oil.

Hydroelectric power plants meet 21% of Russia's electrical energy production. RusHydro company is the second largest hydroelectric power producer in the world. and Russia is the world's 5th largest hydroelectric producer. Based on these statistics, it is seen that we, as Russia, support the conversion to renewable energy and are in an effort to implement it in our own country. Our aim to build a carbon neutral economy by 2060 at the latest was stated by our President Putin at the 26th Conference (COP26) of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Oil and natural gas exports amount to about 40 percent of the federal budget in Russia ( 2021 according to the data of the Russian federal customs service) . We argue that the steps to be taken and the decisions to be taken during the transition to renewable energy should be more cautious and should be addressed from all aspects in order to minimize the negative effects of the decrease in the export of traditional energy resources, which have a large share in our economy. We are aware of how important the transition to green energy is for our world, but we think that the event should not be viewed one -dimensionally and its effects in every field should be taken into account.

As Russia, we see the use of nuclear power plants as the most important and main solution. According to the report of the United Nations European Economic Council (UNECE), nuclear power has the lowest carbon footprint of any other electricity source, including wind, solar, gas and coal. Based on these data, one of our biggest goals as Russia is to make the nuclear energy reactors even more environmentally friendly by providing the technological developments. We aim to provide financial and technical assistance to developing and underdeveloped countries regarding the installation and development of nuclear power plants. Stating that it is important for the world community to focus their efforts on supporting the most effective environmental projects above all, Putin stated that to solve the global warming problem, it is not enough to reduce the emission volume alone, but also to increase the absorption of greenhouse gases. Therefore, another solution proposal that we want to present as Russia is to improve the quality of forest management, increase afforestation and implement new agricultural technologies.