****

 **Country:**Portugal

**Committee:** UNEP

**Agenda Item:** Enhancing the transition to sustainable

energy as a response to the energy crises and climate change

Portugal, or officially the Portuguese Republic, is the

westernmost country on the European Continent, located in the southwest of Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. Portugal is surrounded by Spain from the north and east, the Atlantic Ocean from the south and west.

Climate change is a global problem that is happening faster than we fear, and climate crises are threatening our natural balance. Billions of CO2 are released into the atmosphere every year as a result of fossil fuel consumption, gas production and greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities. this brings with it increased temperatures, environmental degradation, natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, food and water insecurity, economic degradation etc.

Since the 1970s Portugal’s average annual air temperature has been increasing across all regions at a rate of 0.3°C per decade, with both minimum and maximum temperatures rising. The intensity and duration of heat waves have also increased with the number of tropical nights and summer days. This temperature increase is estimated that it will be valid for a century, and under the scenario of high greenhouse gas, the average annual temperature of the country in 2100 May be up to 4 ° C higher than in the period 1971-to 2000. This temperature increase is expected to be more pronounced, especially in the summer months and in the inner and southern regions of Portugal, because of the hot summers of the Mediterranean Climate, which Portugal has.

These temperature changes will probably affect Portugal's energy resources, especially electricity. According to the energy sector report of the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation, rising temperatures and more frequent heat waves can reduce the efficiency and availability of thermal power plant production, as well as power grid efficiency and maximum transmission. In Portugal, 95% of the country is facing severe or extreme drought due to the dry conditions that have hit the entire Iberian Peninsula this winter. Rural areas are under more danger. This means that most of the drought farmers face a very difficult process. in order to reduce the impact of drought on agriculture, we must use the most effective irrigation Technologies. And our goal is to solve all possible problems that will arise.

Also, Portugal has been particularly affected by the increase in natural disasters caused by climate changes. In fact, the researches clearly show that it is one of the countries with the highest losses due to forest fires. The 2017, which called the deadliest year in the last decade, wildfires go down in history as the most expensive natural disaster in the country,they caused more than 100 deaths along with losses of over 1 billion euros.

And in 2020: Between January and October alone, nearly 9,400 fires were recorded in Portugal, devastating over 65,800 hectares of stands, forests and agricultural land.

In addition to high temperatures, the strong winds were recorded in mid-July 2020 in areas of extreme heat. This combination is a due to diseasters such as forest fires. We have already taken a numbers of measures against of these problems, such as NECP. National Energy and Climate Plans is a climate plan that covers European countries. This plan examines countries in areas such as energy efficiency, renewability, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Each country requires to submit a progress report every two years. The Commission will monitor the progress of the EU as a whole towards achieving these goals.

Increasing the areas of use of renewable energy sources is a reliable way to combat climate change, as it will reduce the number of components that cause climate change and maintain the natural balance. Our options in renawable energy are as follows: wind power, solar,geothermal,biomass,geothermal, hydropower. We want to build a sustainable economic model for ourselves with these renewable options. So, Portugal increased its renewable energy share of total energy consumption by 11.1 pp between 2005 and 2019 and aims to raise it from 30.6 % to 47 % by 2030. According to the Commission's NECP ( National Energy of Climate Plans) assessment this target is properly ambitious and one of the highest targets for the EU. Related to this subject, Portugal has developed a 7 billion EUR National Hydrogen Strategy, aiming at increasing the share of hydrogen. It also aims facilitate and accelerate the energy transition in the diversified sectors at the same time that strengthens the national economy

Our demographics, our climate are in a vulnerable position to natural disasters and the devastating effects of climate change however our strong policies against them is can be more powerfull we are aiming to win this race. So our first priority is to reduce these effects, our goal is to become a carbon neutral country by 2050. And we believe that we can improve the economy on this path with investment in sustainable energy, and for this we have allocated 38 percent of our budget for climate change efforts.

We believe that, movable and convenient new technologies and nature-based solutions will allow us all to leap into a cleaner and more durable world.  If governments, businesses, civil society, youth and academia work together, we can create a green future where suffering is decimated and harmony between people and the planet is restored. Our policies based on the belief that every amount of money we spend to reduce the destructive effects is valuable, so we are open to investments, improvements and new projects that we will make in this area.