ECOSOC I
CHAIR: Neil Sairam
VICE CHAIR: Shreya Reddy

Agenda: The Ever Growing Problem of Pollution, and Climate Change

Introduction: About ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council, or ECOSOC, is a council mandated to serve as the primary body for policy dialogue on economic, social, cultural, educational, environmental and health-related topics, which serve to advise, coordinate and oversee the activities of Member States and other UN entities. Chapter X of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) decreed the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a founding body and one of the six primary organs of the United Nations (UN). ECOSOC indirectly oversees the allocation of 70% of UN resources through its oversight of 14 specialized agencies and 13 functional and regional commissions. The main goal of ECOSOC is to spearhead, not only implementation, but coordination of each and every nation's solution to combating any issue of socio, economic, environmental, or health which they and other nations share.

ECOSOC as a committee has undergone several changes, since it's conception. In the 1960s and 1970s, developing Member States lengthened the agenda of the UN and asked for a stronger focus on urgent issues such as the promotion of development and the elimination of poverty. General Assembly resolution 2847(XXVI) (1971) increased ECOSOC membership from 27 to 54 in order to better reflect the UN's economic and geographic diversity. The General Assembly then adopted resolution 32/197 in 1977 to address the "Restructuring of economic and social sectors of the United Nations System" and to improve ECOSOC's effectiveness by increasing coordination with its subsidiary bodies. To avoid any conflicted works, such as duplication; the General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 1995 clarified that the role of the General Assembly is to provide policy guidance while ECOSOC's focus is on coordination of work. This interpretation was later reinforced by General Assembly resolution 57/270 in 2002.

In 2013 ECOSOC was later strengthened by resolution 68/1 of 2013, which made ECOSOC a global forum for leaders to speak out on policy and implement policy, globally. The 2013 reforms also included an expansion of its functions and powers to enable ECOSOC to take the lead on identifying and discussing emerging challenges. ECOSOC in general is a forum in which leaders can debate, and form resolutions to combat any socio, economic, environmental or health issue which they please, thus making it a committee with not only power, but a committee which helps improve the world.

The Problem At Hand: The Ever Growing Problem of Pollution, and Climate Change

That brings us to the problem at hand, and the problem that we as a committee must create an ample number of resolutions for. We will address the matters of ecological and environmental concerns that plague the modern world of today. We will also address matters of pollution and modern prevention methods to ensure a sustainable future. To a more narrowed down problem at hand, ***The Ever Growing Problem of Pollution, and Climate Change***. This problem is one that has been debated and argued for decades, ever since the use of fossil fuels, and the phenomenon of global warming has ever caught up with us. Organizations such as UN Environment (United Nations Environment), and now UNEA (United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council) have helped keep track of these issues and provide reasonable, and just resolutions in order to preserve our world. Resolutions such as that of 2997 (XXVII). Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation in 1992, adopted at the Rio Conference, and 67/213. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 2012. These two resolutions show how much we as a community must care for, and protect our environment; by now we must know that the planet and it's resources are finite, and that our environment requires care, not destruction. To more recent and influential organs, the IPCC or The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, was founded by the World Meteorological Organization, and UNEP to be an objective and scientific source of information regarding climate change, global warming, and more environmental threats to our world. In 2013 the IPCC released a document which highlighted all the problems we as humans have created. The document named the Fifth Assessment Report, detailed the fact that climate change is real, and that humans are the main drivers of it.

The report provides a comprehensive assessment of sea level rise, and its causes, over the past few decades. It also estimates cumulative CO2 emissions since pre-industrial times and provides a CO2 budget for future emissions to limit warming to less than 2°C. About half of this maximum amount was already emitted by 2011. The report found that: From 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0.85°C. Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and the sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The sea ice extent in the Arctic has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07 × 106 km² of ice loss per decade. Finally, given current concentrations and ongoing emissions of

greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century global mean temperature will continue to rise above the pre-industrial level. The world's oceans will warm and ice melt will continue. Average sea level rise is predicted to be 24–30 cm by 2065 and 40–63 cm by 2100 relative to the reference period of 1986–2005. Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries even if emissions are stopped.

There is alarming evidence that important tipping points, leading to irreversible changes in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system, may already have been reached or passed. Ecosystems as diverse as the Amazon rainforest and the Arctic tundra, may be approaching thresholds of dramatic change through warming and drying. Mountain glaciers are in alarming retreat and the downstream effects of reduced water supply in the driest months will have repercussions that transcend generations. We can see that there must be something done to stop our world from progressing, deeper into the dangerous phenomenon of Global Warming. The IPCC found in October of 2018, that the 1.5 Degree Centigrade mark of temperature increase, is where Global Warming will reach its tipping scale, and that we must do everything in our power to prevent this deadly tipping point. The curb on air pollution, trash, and sea pollution must be established, and the main fact that we must protect our planet, and it's inhabitants, must be of huge priority. We must as a human race band together, to fight this problem; and as ECOSOC we must offer solutions, and implement innovative ways to stop us from harming our planet any longer.

Solutions : Steps the United Nations have taken to Battle Climate Change and Air Pollution

Due to the increasing risk of climate change and air pollution world-wide, it has become a major point of discussion between countries, especially within the United Nations. Climate change and air pollution is a global problem, and therefore should be fought collaboratively to see any significant progress. The United Nations' conferences held in regard to climate change and air pollution have led to a series of policies and amendments with the goal of mitigating and avoiding further expansion of the problem at hand.

The Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment

The Montreal Protocol, established in 1987, is an agreement between countries, to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. This layer is integral as it forms a protective layer that filters out ultraviolet rays from the sun. However, certain compounds such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons formed through increased industrial activity, have caused a significant depletion of the ozone layer, which has led to increased occurrences of skin cancer and cataracts, lower agricultural yield and disturbances within the marine ecosystems. The complete execution of the Montreal Protocol has been predicted to prevent over 260 million cases of skin cancer, around 1.6 million deaths due to skin cancer and more than 45 million cases cataracts in the US alone by the end of 2100. In addition, it has been estimated that the world will be able to see a full reformation of the ozone layer in the middle of the 21st

century. The Kigali Amendment, integrated into the Montreal Protocol in 2016, is an amendment with the goal of reducing the usage of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), an alternative to CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances. The process of lessening and managing the consumption and production of HFCs uses the effective methods stated within the Montreal Protocol and introduces international markets to eco-friendly technology.

The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement was signed in 2015 by 196 parties. It was a global agreement to take larger strides towards mitigating climate change, and helping countries adapt to climate change by providing increased support. The main goal of the Agreement is to keep the rise in temperature below 1.5 °C - 2.0 °C. The Paris Agreement also includes steps to help less economically developed countries adapt to climate change by providing: finances, new technology and a building framework with enhanced capacity. This is to allow developing countries have access to resources which allow them to also take action against climate change. Moreover, the Paris Agreement is a more transparent agreement which means that there is more clarity between countries, in terms of their reports that detail what efforts have been taken to battle climate change, as well as details on their emissions. This creates more efficiency in determining the collective progress in regards to the goals of the Agreement.

BreatheLife Campaign

The BreatheLife Campaign is a campaign that is led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). The goal of this campaign is to help prepare people and cities to protect global health from the harmful repercussions of air pollution. The specific goals stated in the BreatheLife Campaign is to encourage all governments to work towards achieving the WHO Air Quality Guidelines by 2030, to halve the number of deaths caused by air pollution by 2030 and to reduce the pace of climate change by 0.5 °C by 2050. These goals are said to be achieved through the BreatheLife Campaign as it provides a platform for countries to share knowledge on how to reach the WHO Air Quality Guidelines, it can educate people on the importance of good air quality and promote sustainability and it can increase the demand for new solutions.

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement that includes reduction of emission targets which are binding to the Parties that are part of the agreement. The commitment of countries to achieve the binding goals stated in the Kyoto Protocol, increases the pressure and urges countries to accelerate their efforts and initiatives in order to reduce emissions, mainly greenhouse gases, and to improve air quality.

Solutions : Efforts by Specific Areas and Countries to Mitigate Air Pollution and Climate Change

Asia

As Asia consists of a set of countries with incredibly diverse cultures, languages and backgrounds, it often becomes difficult for countries collaborate and share knowledge with each other due to contrasting beliefs. Therefore, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) was set up by the United Nations to provide Asian governments with the same fundamental knowledge on the issue of climate change. This makes the process of finding adaptation methods to deal with climate change much more efficient.

India

With India being the most polluted country in the world, the Indian Government has taken steps to do their part and work towards achieving the WHO Air Quality Guidelines. They have done this by launching the National Clean Air Program. This program focuses on the sources of pollution in India, and sets a target of reducing the pollution levels by 20% - 30% by 2024. Furthermore, India has developed methods of creating more energy efficiency in industries through the mechanism called Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT). This is similar to an emissions trading scheme (ETS), while only differing due to the intensity-based energy targets involved in PAT. The Indian Government also plans to launch a carbon market for waste sectors and small to medium enterprises. India has also worked on using more renewable energy sources to generate electricity through the National Solar Mission. The Mission focuses on harnessing energy from renewable energy sources such as: solar, wind, biomass and hydro. As a large part of India's population gains their income from the agricultural industry, it makes it vital to address. Excessive use of water and power through inefficient pumps used for modern irrigation have been a cause for concern in India, leading to the establishment of India's National Bank for Agriculture and Development (NABARD). This initiative has facilitated awareness in the agricultural society about the effect of climate change, and has begun programmes such as the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund which leads projects about emission reduction, renewable energy, rural energy management and energy efficiency.

Singapore

With Singapore being a very urban country, there has been a large focus on maintaining a healthy environment and doing their part in preventing climate change. The Energy Conservation Act (ECA) works on the energy efficiency in industrial firms and is assessed often to implement energy efficiency improvements. The Singaporean Government also promote citizens to use travel through eco-friendly mediums, such as cycling, walking and the usage of public transport. They have done this by putting more rebates and surcharges

when owning a car, as well as making a longer rail network so that it is accessible in all parts of the country. In addition, the Government has raised the minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) in households for improved energy efficiency. Finally, Singapore has reported to generate 95% of their electricity from natural gas.

China

In 2016, China was the world's largest coal consumer. Hence, to control the country's usage of coal, the Chinese Government launched the China National Action Plan on Climate Change. The primary method of reducing the air pollution in China was to shut down the majority of power plants that run on coal and convert them to gas-fired power plants.

Africa

Africa is one of the most vulnerable areas of the world in terms of the effects of climate change. Therefore, the main focus in Africa is to educate people and to learn about ways to adapt to the changing climate. In Morocco, the National Energy Strategy was launched to increase the energy capacity to generate electricity through renewable sources. It has also included the extension of tramways, in order to encourage citizens to travel by public transport.

Europe

The European Union has taken many steps in order to mitigate climate change and to reduce air pollution. The Clean Air Policy Package was adopted in 2013 to improve the air quality in Europe by 2030. This includes the National Emissions Ceilings Directive, which sets target reduction levels for the five main air pollutants - nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, sulphur dioxide, ammonium and fine particulate matter - for all parties.

Norway

In Norway 31% of their market share is from battery electric vehicles. The Norwegian Government has also implemented building codes limits which have reduced energy consumption in individual homes. They have also prohibited the usage of fossil fuels which are a large cause for the risk of global warming and climate change.

The United States of America

In the USA, the California Advanced Clean Cars was piloted to reduce emissions from LDVs. This is both to reduce air pollution and to reduce the risk of climate change. In 2015, the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) prohibited industries from using certain types of HCFs, while also giving alternative options.

Questions That Your Resolution Must Answer

1. How will the world ensure that Pollution, and the release of Pollutants is curbed by all nations?
2. How will the nations adhere to the resolution set in place?
3. Why will nations benefit from this resolution?
4. What measures must the civilian level take to prevent the world from reaching our tipping point?
5. When must the resolution reach its proposed goal of Pollution eradication?
6. Is pollution eradication even possible?