

# TASMUN

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### Eleventh Session

Agenda Item 1

## Harmony With Nature

### Report of the Secretary General

#### *Summary*

The present report submitted entails the dialogue submitted to the General Assembly II regarding the topic of Harmony with Nature, which seeks to discuss in further detail SDG #13, titled “Climate Action”. “Climate Action”, is the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) specifically targeted toward the effects of climate change on local environments and economies worldwide. The report focuses on first defining the current situation of the relationship between humanity and the Earth, current methods to raise awareness and combat the issue at hand, as well as additional solutions and approaches in the context of renewable resources and reducing emissions to promoting a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development in harmony with nature.

# I. Introduction

1. Harmony with Nature was introduced as a proposal in 2012 by the Bolivian Government, it created a platform in which member nations could discuss, construct, and strategize methods concerning the global issue of sustainable development. Only through a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of society, and an acceptance of the responsibility to restore the health of the Earth's ecosystems can effective and agreed upon solutions be reached and put into action.
2. In response to the threat of climate change, in 1994 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>1</sup> was written, currently with 197 countries having ratified it. Furthermore, since 1995, the UN has had yearly Climate Change Conferences where the Kyoto Protocol and possible solutions are discussed. The Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup> is an agreement with the UNFCCC, with 195 UNFCCC members have signed it, it is used to prepare countries for climate change, as well as keeping global temperatures lower through using new science to rapidly cut back on the use of greenhouse gases.
3. Rights of Nature or Earth Jurisprudence is a law that recognizes nature's right to coexist along with humanity on the planet and creates guidance for regulations in order to respect the relationship. These statues can be present in the form of constitutions, national statutes, and local laws, and are especially prevalent when countries choose to protect and stop exploitation over a certain piece of land, body of water, or specific species native to that respective country. Indigenous and tribal peoples may also be included within the jurisdiction of these laws.
4. Sustainable Development Goal #13, titled "Climate Action" focuses on minimizing the threats that climate change has on the environment, the economy, and the people themselves. As climate change affects the outcome of many of the other sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> *What Is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change? | UNFCCC.*  
<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-convention/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>.

<sup>2</sup> *The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC.*  
<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>.

development goals as well, it is essential to pay particularly close attention and promote international cooperation to ensure that there are viable solutions that are globally accessible. Goal 13 has outlined 5 specific targets, which address the response, solutions, awareness, and management capacities of the issue.

5. **13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters.** This addresses the issues of deaths and injuries from natural disasters, as well as local and national disaster risk management. Implementing effective methods of prevention and disaster relief centers and personnel in areas particularly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters brought by climate change is an integral area of SDG 13. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) established the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 to encourage the prioritization of disaster risk management and response in countries. The framework aims to target the primary societal areas that disasters impact the most, including infrastructure, economic stability, and access to basic healthcare and necessities. These goals are intrinsically interlinked to the other SDG 13 targets<sup>3</sup>, especially those of education and capability to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change.

6. **13.2: Integrate climate change measures into policy and planning**

This target seeks to ensure that member nations have a specific policy or plan that can ensure the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions, and to address the impacts of climate change on the urban and local environments.

7. **Target 13.3: Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change**

Particularly in the context where climate change has lent itself to society in such radical and prominent ways, it is essential to ensure that the final goal is to give rise to a society where people comprehend nature as their home instead of an endless source of capital.

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<sup>3</sup> "Goal 13: Climate Action - SDG Tracker." *Our World in Data*, <https://sdg-tracker.org/climate-change>.

## **8. Target 13.A: Implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

The convention acknowledges the vulnerability of different countries affected by climate change and enables More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) to lead and help out others, strike a delicate balance between economic development and our environmental issues such as stabilizing greenhouse gases.<sup>4</sup> The UNFCCC also aims to provide transparency on the issue of climate change and prevent the potential danger of human interference with our climate system. Additionally, this target also encourages countries to take immediate action and successfully tackle issues with the guide of the UNFCCC, in order to give time for ecosystems to acclimate to climate change.

## **9. Target 13.B: Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management**

With the many issues arising due to climate change, it is important to strive for development with innovative and modern ideas, in which should provide long term effects. In order to stay active and impactful on the matter of climate change, all nations are encouraged to use technological advancements such as renewable energy, which can be used to target the growing issue of the increasing population. As Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) have a lower capacity to deal with climate change issues, it is therefore vital to create effective and realistic plans that can also be implemented in the same matter in MEDCs as in LEDCs.

# **II. Challenges**

## **Financing**

10. All aspects to combat climate change require a significant amount of funding. Regardless of the strategy used to either increase research, education, help those in need of disaster relief, and creating plans and management tools, funding can be accessed in a number of ways, at times funding, if sustainable, can also be used as its own method to prevent the rise of greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable methods of financing may also encourage

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Revised Consolidated Text

economies to rely on a more long-term, sufficient approach of ecological health, as opposed to short-term and unreliable solutions to combat climate change.

11. Financing the advancement to mitigate climate change requires a focus on addressing the needs of developing countries to move toward a low-carbon economy (LCE). A low carbon economy is a system that attempts to produce minimal greenhouse gases while still carrying out the functions of a normal economic program.<sup>5</sup> The encouragement of low-carbon economies was introduced with the signing of the Kyoto Protocol (1997)<sup>6</sup>, and reinforced by the Paris Agreement (2015)<sup>7</sup>.
12. According to the UNDP, Carbon markets, another viable solution for financing SDG 13, is defined by putting a price on carbon emissions, carbon market mechanisms, as well as other carbon pricing mechanisms such as carbon taxes, help to internalize the environmental and social costs of carbon pollution, encouraging investors and consumers to choose lower carbon paths.<sup>8</sup> The main method of establishing carbon markets is known as Emissions Trading Systems (ETSs), which sets a limit or cap on the amount of greenhouse emissions that an organization or company may produce. At the end of a certain period, the entities must fulfill their allowances toward the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that they have emitted, and are liable to fines if that limit is exceeded. Once the ETS is in place, the governing authority oversees the issuance of allowances, enforces the established rules, and makes adjustments as needed. For example, The Republic of Korea's ETS covers 23 subsectors, including power generation, steel, cement, petrochemicals, refineries, buildings, waste and aviation.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *What Is a Low Carbon Economy (LCE)?*

<https://www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/knowledgeBase/glossary/what-is-a-low-carbon-economy-lce>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Goal 13: Climate Action.

<https://www.sdfinance.undp.org/content/sdfinance/en/home/sdg/goal-13--climate-action.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Carbon Markets ([link to pdf](#))

13. However, much of the support toward these services is derived from more economically developed countries who have greater access to resources to support those countries who do not have the resources or capacity to make the shift. These may be operated through trust funds, which have been created as financial mechanisms to mobilize investments through public and private sources. The UNDP defines these environmental trust funds (EFs) as encompassing conservation trust funds, wildlife trusts, climate and forest funds, and other funds established to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits. Notable organizations include the Green Climate Fund established by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Global Environment Committee.

### **Research, Education, and Awareness**

14. Among the most influential ways to create effective climate change adaptation strategies is to further research on preventing additional greenhouse gas emissions, as well as general education and awareness of the issue to the general public. As climate change is a global issue, much attention has already been brought to the matter at hand, yet the actual implementation of any action on a major scale is hesitant. Providing appropriate decision support tools to present information on a cost-loss level, would enable leaders to explicitly include adaptation actions in city and state budgets.

## **III. Future Priorities**

### **Youth Participation**

15. International frameworks on climate change and sustainable development policy support youth education and participation in responding to climate change. The youth are identified as one of the nine major groups of civil society and a major stakeholder with the right and responsibility to participate in sustainable development. Youth participation promotes active citizenship and the empowerment of future generations to engage in environmental governance, including climate change governance.

16. Education for climate change is an essential aspect to ensuring that youth are able to understand and thus adapt and create solutions to alleviate climate change. Empowering the youth of today should be a priority as they are the future citizens and leaders of our planet, and their inclusion provides an intergenerational viewpoint that enriches and strengthens the response that present and future citizens take.
17. Nations should raise awareness of and support existing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as give lots of support to their Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) that currently combat climate change.

## IV. Further Reading

<http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/>

The United Nations Harmony with Nature Website, which describes the dialogues, details of the Rights of Nature policy, events, past UN documents, and additional supplements concerning Harmony with Nature, its creation, future plans, and current ongoing projects and conferences.

<https://therightsofnature.org/>

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature website, a platform for an organization comprised of over 140 countries to advocate for nature to exist and persist in its natural form without disruption. The website also provides links to the creation and timeline of the organization's events, access to its Tribunals<sup>10</sup>, and current events regarding forums on the Rights of Nature which are held globally.

<https://celdf.org/advancing-community-rights/rights-of-nature/>

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund for Rights of Nature assists civil society, indigenous peoples, communities, and governments to advance laws and policies for the protection of nature and the environment. This includes providing legislative and policy drafting, legal research, public engagement and education, and training.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> "International Rights of Nature ." *RON Tribunal*, <https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.com>.

<sup>11</sup> "Fighting for Nature's Rights." *CELDF*, <https://celdf.org/advancing-community-rights/rights-of-nature/>.

<https://www.iisd.org/library/climate-change-conflict-and-sustainable-development-goals>

A report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on the impacts of SDG 13 on SDG 16x specifically, which calls for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. As the website states, climate change does more than grow passively; it instigates conflict and threatens the security of individuals. The inability of many governments to act appropriately under such taxing circumstances is one of great concern, and provides stress to nations with already unpredictable climates.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/196978?ln=en>

A revised consolidated text provided by the UN digital library of the 1992 version of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which outlines the previous actions, goals and plans used to combat the issues. In the document, many outstanding ideas and goals are mentioned, in which countries should take into consideration and inspiration when writing resolutions.

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