Chair Report

Forum: Environmental Council

Issue: The Question of Climate Security and Resilience

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Introduction

Climate change has been and will continue to be a threat to international security. As stated by the UN, climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperature and weather. However, human activities have drastically exacerbated the condition. Man-made actions such as deforestation, burning fossil fuels, farming, or waste, fuel, and greenhouse gasses traps heat and raises the temperature. According to the Sixth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global average temperature of the last decade has increased by 1.09 celsius, affecting 85% of the human population. Such environmental change has caused widespread food insecurity, conflict over natural resources, water scarcity, etc. Climate *security* looks over the societal, physical, and economical aspects of climate change to help counteract new and old effects. The international community has put rules and regulations in place, thus, *mitigating* the impacts of global warming. In short, It is crucial to acknowledge and ease its effects on the world.

Definition of Key Terms

Climate Security

Security concerns associated with climate change such as natural disasters, food insecurity, competition over natural resources, and loss of livelihood.

Carbon Footprint

Total amount of greenhouse gasses released in the atmosphere.

Carbon Sinks

Anything that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it releases.

Mitigation

The reduction of severity towards unwanted events.

Greenhouse gasses

Gasses in the atmosphere that traps heat such as water vapors, carbon dioxide, methane, and monoxide.

Background Information

The entire state of the world has been in decline; as the average global temperature rises, national conflicts prevail. Matters concerning climate security and resilience have been an ever-growing source of debate. The UN Security Council has discussed the security's involvement in climate change since 2007. Unions such as the EU have recognized that climate changes are the cause of many international implications. Climate change's negative impact on human safety is a well-documented axiom in the science community. However, a myriad of politicians have demurred climate change's significance. Governmental action towards environmental predicaments is relatively recent because certain countries are reluctant to accept its threats to mankind.

Changes in weather and temperature have detrimental, physical, and physiological effects on humans. For instance, an increase in temperature exasperates and promotes individuals to act impulsively, thus, leading to reckless behaviors. A research paper about interpersonal violence associated with hot weather reveals that for every one-celsius degree increase, homicide increases by 6%. Additionally, when weather patterns alter and the globe's average temperature rises, extreme weather conditions emerge; engendering treacherous natural disasters. Natural disasters demolish properties and livestock, resulting in the reduction of government earnings and stripping away thousands of businesses and shelters. Furthermore, natural resources such as fisheries, forests, natural oils, fresh water, and land have become more and more scarce. Disrupted rainfalls and rising temperatures intervene with farmers' crops and livestock, which leads to food shortages and potentially deadly famines. Climate change is especially more difficult for developing countries, archipelago nations, and other geographically susceptible regions.

As humans, we constantly find ways to change and adapt to difficulties. In support of preventing temperature proliferation, the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) has helped with over 75 projects on adaptations in over 50 countries. Such examples include educating citizens about climate knowledge and awareness, building water harvesting structures, restoring land, and providing weather stations. These are examples of effective climate resilience as it progresses societies toward achieving a greener and a safer world. Reaching this climate goal requires further thorough planning, awareness raising, and climate recovery.

Major Parties involved and their views

China:

China is stated to be the largest exporter of goods and the biggest emitter of CO2 into the atmosphere. In 2022, China emitted 9.9 billion tons of carbon dioxide. This holds China in a vulnerable state. As glaciers are melting in the Tibetan Plateau, water levels are rapidly increasing in the Yangtze River Basin and Pearl River Delta. From heatwaves and drought to flooding from extreme precipitation, these security threats are a direct risk to crucial infrastructures such as coastal shipyards, islands in the South China Sea, railways, and the greatly populated south-side river deltas of China. This could lead to political instability and aggravate tensions amongst neighboring countries because of competition over food, land, and water due to its ever-growing scarcity.

United States of America:

According to the Biden-Harris Administration: "the United States is already experiencing devastating impacts that climate change has wrecked on almost every aspect of our lives, from food and water insecurity to infrastructure and public health, this crisis is exacerbating inequalities that intersect with gender, race, ethnicity, and economic security." The President has put forward an assessment of climate change's impact, making this the first time the United States has officially recognized this issue. Their assessment includes essential plans to respond to climate threats, humanitarian aid for individuals, and the establishment of an environmental government representative.

UN Environmental Programme:

The UNEP has made considerable efforts in regard to climate security and resilience. UNEP has assisted over 75 projects on climate change adaptation in over 50 countries. Combined, the projects are aiming to benefit around 2.7 million people, restore 131,000 hectares of land, improve the climate adaptation education of 102,000 people and 131 institutions, and build over 1,100 water harvesting structures and 82 weather stations.

Timeline of Relevant Events

Date	Description
June 1972	**Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE)** The UNCHE shed light on conservative issues worldwide and laid out structures for global environmental governance.

March 1994	**UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**
	The first global treaty to explicitly address climate change. Which then established an annual forum, known as COP.
November 2016	**Paris Climate Agreement**
	An agreement in support of reducing carbon emissions and adaptation to the impact of climate change.
January 2015	**Natural Resources Extraction**
	The beginning of mass extraction started between 2014 to early 2015. With a rough estimate of 99 million barrels of oil, 25 trillion tons of coal, and 10.6 trillion cubic meters of natural gasses.
February 2020	**Lowered Carbon Emission**
	Carbon emissions plunged by 4.6% due to the pandemic, as lockdowns restricted mobility.

Related UN Treaties and Events

- Kyoto Protocol December 1997
- Paris Climate Accords April 2016
- United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) November 2021
- Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) June 1972
- UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) 1992

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

In regards to solving the issues that were previously mentioned, countries are finally acknowledging this issue and its risk. Acceptance is ultimately the biggest wake-up call, considering the long-lasting effects. One of the more well-known attempts is the Paris Agreement Accord. The accord is a legally binding treaty that was adopted by 196 parties at COP 21 on December 12, 2015. The treaty aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 1.5 celsius, provide financial support to developing countries to mitigate the effects of climate change, and strengthen resilience and adaptation.

Countries help each other in three main areas: finance, technology, and capacity building. Concerning finance, the Paris agreement strongly believes that developed countries should take the lead in providing financial assistance to more vulnerable countries. This is a necessity to operate large-scale investments that further support technological development. The Paris agreement believes that

sufficient capacity is crucial to dealing with the many climate challenges. As a result, they decided on capacity buildings to protect developing countries.

Using the Paris agreements' 1.5-celsius goal as a baseline, whilst considering its socially, economically, and politically cautious approach, many other organizations, such as the Climate Action Summit, allowed countries to make plans rather than speeches on upcoming goals to achieve a carbon decrease. The summit featured the entire participation of business leaders, governments, indigenous people, youth, and civil stakeholders. All parties are in agreement with the 12 new initiatives that will act as a blueprint for this issue. An initiative includes a 2 trillion dollar investment pledged to reduce gas emissions.

Possible Solutions

Climate security and resilience are one of the more achievable climate goals, as it strives to mitigate possible and upcoming climate crises. To combat this menacing nature, nations can employ carbon catchers, cut down meat consumption, and encourage renewable energy and water conservation.

With this being said, nations still need substantial and appropriate climate funding and commitment to follow through with such plans. Climate funding refers to local, national, or private financing to encourage the mitigation and adaptation of actions that will address climate change. Parties with more financial capabilities and stability can effortlessly assist those that are less endowed and more vulnerable.

Concerning the aftermath of natural disasters, the victim nation will certainly demand international assistance, particularly from neighboring countries. Although the affected country could repair on its own, foreign aid could accelerate the recovery. For example, foreign countries could provide knowledge on how to ease the situation, give donations of necessities or money, and spread media attention. Other nations could provide therapeutic aid and care packages, publicly show empathy through public assemblies or media reports, and by supplying temporary shelters.

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