



American Model United Nations
UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

**Report to The General Assembly on
Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action
to Address Climate Change by Enhancing
Implementation of the Convention**

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Executive Summary

The United Nations Environmental Programme is pleased to present to the General Assembly of the United Nations, its final report on the Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action to Address Climate Change by Enhancing Implementation of the Convention. The following report covers a wide range of sub-topics ranging from bilateral and multilateral partnerships between the developing and developed nations to promote funding for capacity building and green technologies, education and public awareness, and infrastructure and sustainability.

The first chapter of the report includes two draft resolutions, which the UNEP is submitting and recommending to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption. The first draft resolution: "Support for Bilateral and Multilateral Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Build Capacity to Address Climate Change and its Effects" emphasizes the collaboration and partnerships of the Member States concerning the prediction and responses to the adverse effects of climate change. It presents mitigation and adaptation solutions for long-term problems in order to provide continuity in achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The second draft resolution is entitled "Support for the Creation of a World Climate Change Fund (WCCF)," and its focus is on the ways in which funding and commitment to creating possibilities for meeting the costs of an increasingly green world can be achieved. Its operative clauses encourage and recommend the formation of the World Climate Change Fund, which will support developing countries, stimulate research globally, aid grass-roots initiatives for climate change, and help with research and education. It also addresses the issues with current Kyoto Protocol and recognizes that the effects of the agreement are soon to expire. The World Climate Change Fund also is ideally accessible to all nations concerned with climate change, regardless of status of development.

Other recommendations of the committee which are not included in draft resolutions include the formation of research facilities like a self-contained "biosphere," a carbon tax or polluter-pay framework, and alternative innovative funding mechanisms.

Chapter two covers the deliberations and proceedings of UNEP that produced this proposal. It includes a brief summary of the relevant and significant debate on these sub-topics as well as the voting record for the draft resolutions presented in the report. Although there were some meaningful concerns with the formation of the report-writing committee, eventually UNEP came to a consensus that demonstrated the true cooperation of the international community towards reacting to the adverse effects of climate change.

Chapter three presents the adoption of the report and all final voting records. This report was adopted with no amendments and 4 abstentions.

CHAPTER I

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly

The United Nations Environment Programme recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft Resolution I

Support for bilateral and multilateral partnerships to assist developing countries build capacity to address climate change and its effects

The General Assembly

Guided by the United Nations Charter,

Emphasizing the importance of collaborative effort made by the nations that were involved in the Johannesburg Summit, Bali Initiative, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the sustainable development emphasized in Agenda 21,

Recalling the Seventh Millennium Development Goal which focuses upon environmental sustainability and its importance to the eradication of poverty as well as capacity building for developing nations,

Noting with approval the Member States that have signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol,

Alarmed by the mounting repercussions of climate change,

Noting with deep concern the barriers developing nations face when pursuing sustainable development and clean energy technologies,

Recognizing the shortcomings and successes of the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention on Climate Change,

Taking into consideration and noting with deep concern the current global economic crisis that is affecting all nation-states,

Recognizing the local and global responsibility each country has, as a member of the global community, to pursue environmental sustainability,

Recognizing the need for capacity building to assist nations, especially developing nations, to respond to climate change,

Taking into consideration the vulnerability of some nations to the adverse effects

of climate change and the difficulties faced in meeting the costs of adaptations to these effects,

Acknowledging that because every nation is a stakeholder in the issue of global climate change that it is in the best interest of developed nations to support the efforts of developing nations to mitigate the impacts of climate change,

Recognizing the necessity for adaptation to the evident, yet varying impact of climate change,

1. *Congratulates* the innovations of dedicated Member States to their own environmental development that can potentially contribute to and set an example for other states pursuing environmental initiatives;

2. *Invites* other nations to join the governments of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Norway, New Zealand in providing financial resources to support the endeavors of lesser developed nations;

3. *Urges* bilateral and multilateral partnerships between developed and developing nations in order to facilitate the exchange of specific alternative energy technologies and education;

4. *Suggests* these partnerships be regional and impact-specific to share adaptation strategies to address various environmental issues that include but are not limited to:

- (a) Climate change;
- (b) Desertification;
- (c) Deforestation;
- (d) Rising sea levels;
- (e) Low lying areas;

5. *Encourages* countries to identify their specific environmental challenges and develop local solutions that reflect internal capacity and domestic resources in a culturally sensitive manner;

6. *Urges* countries to develop and elaborate appropriate and integrative plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly those affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods;

7. *Calls* on governments to promote the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programs, promote public access to information and public participation, and promote training of scientific, technical, and managerial personnel;

8. *Promotes* the establishment and utilization of green infrastructure;

9. *Recognizes* the unique opportunities for developed and developing countries to form partnerships with the goal of improving environmental sustainability and the development of their populations at large;

10. *Anticipates* innovative funding mechanisms designed to develop long-term solutions to global climate change;

11. *Endorses* those initiatives that cultivate environmental stewardship.

Draft resolution II

Support for the creation of a World Climate Change Fund (WCCF)

The General Assembly

Guided by the goals and principles of the United Nations charter,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

Recalling the principles of Resolution A.RES.62/86 (2007),

Having considered the limitations of the Kyoto Protocol in its current form,

Noting the expiration of the Kyoto protocol in 2012 and the necessity of a new global framework including global participation that will address the mid and long-term effects of climate change,

Having studied existing financial structures outlined in the Monterrey Consensus,

Affirming the belief that it is ultimately the responsibility of national governments to deliver credible and national plans for the implementation of projects,

Expressing its satisfaction in the success achieved on the regional level through existing programmes,

Observing the unique opportunity in developing countries to implement greener infrastructures, and recognizing the need of some countries lacking resources and technology to get assistance from the international community,

1. *Urges* all governments and stakeholders to fulfill and/or increase their commitments made in the Climate Change Kyoto Protocol and subsequent pronouncements;

2. *Calls upon* countries to extend their personal commitments to climate change, and requests governments to set environmental issues as a priority, whenever possible;

3. *Encourages* national governments to integrate environmental development in their development strategies in order to stimulate sustainable development and healthy economic growth;

4. *Supports* efforts of National Action Plans for Energy Efficiency;

5. *Seeks* the close cooperation among existing Non Governmental Organizations, related organizations and other international aid agencies for promoting and funding implementation of the convention;

6. *Affirms* the need for an information sharing platform to promote universal cooperation between municipal authorities, scientific institutions and the relevant private sector institutions for promoting environmental programmes including, but not limited to:

(a) Environmental training and education to inform, specifically:

(i) Sharing environment technology;

(ii) Education on the appropriate use of resources;

(iii) Scholarship foundation for exchanging students from developing countries to receive education on environmental issues;

(b) Energy efficiency;

(c) Technological innovations;

7. *Believes* that all research should be made available as widely as possible;

8. *Encourages* the mobilization of financial resources from innovative financial mechanisms (such as tax incentives and cap and trade);

9. *Strongly supports* the creation of a World Climate Change Fund to address pressing short-term issues in order to establish fully functional long-term cooperative solutions, including but not limited to:

(a) Help vulnerable countries to adapt to climate changes;

(b) Stimulate research globally;

(c) Fund promising grass-root initiatives, NGOs and private entrepreneurship;

(d) Funding government initiatives and programmes;

(e) Fund sustainable agricultural development;

10. *Stresses* the importance of recognizing the need to address short-term issues through the World Climate Change Fund, provided that benefiting nations prove a true commitment to accomplish long-term goals cooperatively;

11. *Recognizes* the special opportunity in post-conflict and developing regions to rebuild using greener policies;

12. *Strongly requests* the parties to the Bali-process to evaluate the mechanisms of administering and funding projects addressing climate change;

13. *Invites* the developed countries to invest in regional initiatives;

14. *Implores* countries to promote energy efficiency and green technologies in the private sector.

B. Other recommendations for action by United Nations Environment Programme

The Commission considers the formations of numerous new and innovative universal research facilities such as a self-contained biosphere and research on generating electricity power from ocean wave movement.

The Commission suggests creating an annual conference of researchers to discuss new discoveries and present recommendations in a universal and cooperative environment as well as a program that was discussed calling for the creation of a universal research facility that would be funded by nations choosing to participate. Such a research facility would ask for scientists from all participatory nations to collectively work in one facility. This would accommodate equitable access to all technological developments achieved at the facility to all participatory nations.

The Commission acknowledges that the majority of funding for sustainable development programs should be the responsibility of developed nations to ensure there are sufficient resources available.

The Commission recognizes the developed nations' concerns regarding the availability of financial resources especially given the current status of the economy.

The Commission further suggests the creation of individual country carbon taxes and similar concepts.

The Commission recommends additional funding mechanisms such as venture capital and direct investment funds

CHAPTER II

Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action to Address Climate Change by Enhancing Implementation of the Convention

At its meeting on 22-25 November 2008, the Commission considered agenda item 1, Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action to Address Climate Change by Enhancing Implementation of the Convention.

For its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documents;

- (a) United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- (b) The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Control
- (c) General Assembly Resolution A:55:2 8 September (2000) - United Nations Millennium Declaration
- (d) The United Nations Division for Sustainable Development -Agenda 21
- (e) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- (f) Decision 1 -/CP.13- Bali Action Plan
- (g) General Assembly Resolution A:RES:62:86 - Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
- (h) Monterrey Consensus (2002)

A. Deliberations

The Member States of the UNEP were enthusiastic to begin discussion on this agenda item in order to further the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Deliberations began amongst present states by the introduction of funding mechanisms that would correct the shortcomings faced in implementation of the Convention, the importance of technological innovation and research on a global scale, as well as the significance of carbon emission reduction and increasing carbon sinks.

UNEP came together as a cohesive body relatively quickly by prioritizing the topics for its session. Each nation recognized the necessity of both topics but quickly determined that the first agenda item would be an appropriate starting point. The preliminary topical discussion was both progressive and teleological, open-minded and goal-oriented. The sentiment of every nation to be innovative and realistic set the tone for forward-thinking diplomacy throughout our deliberations.

For the first session, Representatives discussed how they viewed the implementation of

the Convention and contributed their ideas through formal speeches, but found that more work was being accomplished in more informal sessions. During these meetings, the primary purpose of discussion was to recognize the common goals and similarity of environmental circumstances amongst countries in order to find comprehensive caucusing groups. Caucusing groups formed amongst nations with similar environmental circumstances, as opposed to more traditional regional, cultural, or economic coalitions. Collaborative work of the body was inclusive of nations at each stage of development and of every ecological composition. The receptive characteristic of these caucus groups allowed for the creation substantive documents that garnered overwhelming majority support.

Discussion was also geared towards the twin goals of adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change. In addition to these goals, there was a large consensus among nations to promote technology, research, and information-sharing implementations that would lead to the decrease of carbon emissions globally. This discussion centered on a spectrum of technologies ranging from low-cost facilitation of basic conservation techniques that would contribute to cleaner production, to the promotion of research on higher-cost, resource-intensive technologies that could encourage green innovation in the research community.

Proposed ideas for the information sharing included the suggestion of a platform that could facilitate universal cooperation between nations. In particular, different entities such as municipal authorities, scientific institutions or private establishments require a medium to exchange information extensively with the purpose of developing greener technology solutions and broad-scale implementation.

The Commission came to a consensus that the appropriate use of resources in a responsible way is one of the key points that needed to be addressed in any proposed solution. This included, but is not limited to, the efficient usage of all energy sources. This can be implemented through a database or network, in which innovators could easily share their contributions. To this end, operative clause 7 of Resolution 1-2 was adopted to ensure that all research discoveries would not be used to the sole advantage of developed nations that find it feasible to undertake research.

Two main ideas guided the Commission. First, the modalities of such information exchange could encompass education and training programs. Scholarship programs, funded by a United Nations program, were also a point of interest. Emphasis was placed on the position of developing nations due to their interests in moving towards a greener planet. Furthermore, adaptive training programs within the labor market was presented as a way to improve resource utility. All concerned personnel would have the necessary information available to adapt to a changing global environmental situation. This requirement applies a fortiori to all leading staff employees.

The developed world did express its concern that they would be confronted with unrealistic demands on financial resources in order to develop the World Climate Change Fund. Recognizing their apprehension, the proponents of the fund assured the developed nations that no country, regardless of their status of development, would be precluded

from accessing the World Climate Change Fund. Each nation faces the crisis of climate change and is vulnerable to its effects. To that end, a developed nation must be granted access equal to that of a developing nation.

A large portion of debate was centered on the financial barriers faced by developing nations with regards to predicting or responding to the adverse effects of climate change. The developing nations came together to discuss the elements of sustainable infrastructure and other methods of capacity-building necessary to development and integrate into the Framework. They collaborated with the developed nations in order to identify the extent to which resources would be made available to assist the developing world.

Topics of discussion throughout this debate included: Creating networks and databases of research, suggestions and workshops accessible by any participatory group as a matter of public knowledge. Recognizing methods of distributing the resources and willingness of the developed world to meet the needs of the developing world. Demonstrating the incentives for nations to contribute to the World Climate Change Fund as an investment in long-term mitigation of global climate change. Incentives for developing countries for donating such a fund to guarantee long-term policies to reduce the advancement of global warming. The importance of collaboration between developed and developing countries that contributed to the formation of resolution 1-2. The introduction of resolution 1-1, which ultimately did not pass through the commission, sparked the recognition that short and long term goals cannot be considered in isolation and catalyzed discussion on research partnerships in general. Resolutions 1-2 and 1-3 were ultimately seen as complimentary to each other as per the discussions during consultative session.

A recommendation was made to establish the Cooperative on the Advancement and Research on the Environment (CARE). The recommendation contained enabling legislation for a voluntary organization that any nation could join in order to pool economic, technological, and personnel resources in an effort to advance research on environmentally sound technologies. CARE would have an immediate focus on three short term goals that include: improving energy efficiency, furthering research on emissions reductions, and helping spread current green technologies. These would then be used to help meet the long term goals of the organization, which include: the development of practical alternative fuel technologies, promoting the use of technologies that would drastically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, and facilitating the spread of these new technologies throughout the world. CARE would be accountable to UNEP and would subsequently deliver yearly reports to them on the progress of those goals. The concepts behind CARE were appreciated by UNEP, however in its current form it was felt to be outside the scope of this body and needed further development to differentiate it from other such programs.

Throughout deliberations, the United Nations Environmental Program acted under principles of equality, urgency, transparency and cost effectiveness.

The United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island, and Estonia would like to applaud the labor of this committee who diligently worked on this report. These nations felt that they had been excluded from discussion and input of the body as a whole. As western countries and powers, these Member States were concerned about the economics of the green fund and how reliant it could potentially be on western nations. Also, they felt that there should be more dialog about developed nations in the report, as they would be asked to donate more than most countries towards the fund. Any long term solution would require the cooperation and funding from developed countries. Additionally, they would like to express their concern for the formation of the Report Writing Committee on topic one as there was no western power on the committee, and these nations were worried about the bias of the report as a whole.

B. Action Taken by Commission

At its session on Monday, November 24, 2008 the commission approved for recommendation for adoption by the General Assembly a revised draft resolution "Support for bilateral and multilateral partnerships to assist developing countries build capacity to address climate change and its effects," sponsored by Algeria, Armenia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Haiti, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Myanmar, Nigeria, Portugal, Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation. Before passage, the resolution was amended by amendment A which added operative clause 10. This amendment was introduced by Algeria, Armenia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Haiti, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Myanmar, Portugal, Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation

Also at this meeting UNEP debated and approved a draft resolution entitled "Support for the creation of a World Climate Change Fund" Sponsored by Angola, Argentina, Australia, China, Japan, United States, Nicaragua, Somalia, Serbia, Fiji, Paraguay, Moldova, India and Mexico. This resolution passed by consensus with abstentions from Mauritania, Myanmar, and Brunei Darussalam.

CHAPTER III

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session

At the meeting on November 24th 2008, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted by consensus. Four abstentions were made in the voting process as follows: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.