Chapter Eight
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Along with simulating the General Assembly Plenary and its First, Second, Third and Fourth Committee, AMUN will also be simulating the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP will meet all four days of the Conference, and will report on its findings to the Combined General Assembly Plenary on Tuesday afternoon. UNEP's membership is open to all member-states, and as such, participation is open to one members from each delegation represented at the Conference. Requests for a second seat on this simulation should be directed to the AMUN Executive Office.

About UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme was created in 1972 to be the designated UN authority for environment and to provide leadership for global efforts to protect the environment. UNEP is responsible for coordinating the development of environmental policy at the national, regional and international level. Additionally, UNEP monitors the global environment and brings emerging issues to the attention of the international community.

Purview of this Simulation

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) oversees and coordinates UN environmental activities and policies and assists countries with the implementation of environmentally sound policies which promote sustainable development. UNEP monitors environmental trends and is responsible for alerting the global community of environmental issues that require collective global action. UNEP promotes sustainable development by assessing global, regional, and national environmental conditions, developing international agreements, working to integrate economic development and environmental policies and facilitating knowledge transfer. The United Nations Environmental Programme works with many international partners to promote sound environmental policies.

Website: www.unep.org

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

Climate change is one of the most pressing and challenging environmental issues facing our time. The consequences of climate change extend far beyond environmental security; it will affect agriculture, endanger food security, raise sea levels, accelerate coastal zone erosion, and increase the intensity of natural disasters, species extinction and the spread of vector born diseases. The causes and consequences of climate change extend far beyond the ability of any one country to change, thus necessitating the need for a coordinated United Nations response.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was passed in 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The goal of the UNFCCC is "to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a low enough level to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." The UNFCCC is a significant step because it documents international recognition that climate change is a problem that needs to be addressed by the global community. Moreover, the Convention established a framework for reaching consensus on specific action items and encourages scientific research on climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol was passed in 1997 to augment the Convention. By signing the Protocol, countries agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to a level specified in the Protocol. Countries that sign onto the Protocol are divided into two categories. Annex 1 countries are developed countries and must accept greenhouse gas emissions

reductions standards and submit an annual greenhouse gas inventory. Developing countries that sign the Protocol are categorized as Non-Annex 1. They do not have the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The UNFCCC Secretariat is the agency charged with monitoring and supporting the work being done on the Convention. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making authority for the UNFCCC Secretariat. During its eleventh session, the Conference of Parties called for a Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to "exchange experiences and analyze strategic approaches for long-term cooperative action to address climate change" and to support existing implementation commitments under the Convention. The major issues to be addressed during the dialogue include the advancement of sustainable development goals, adaptation adverse effects of climate change, and realizing the full potential of technology and market-based opportunities to address climate change.

The Dialogue took place across four workshops and was an opportunity for governments to share experiences in an informal and open exchange. The Dialogue was intended to be used as a mechanism for informal information exchange on long-term implementation and not to negotiate new commitments to the Convention. The Dialogue is an important step towards putting into place a mechanism for addressing the long-term policy issues that surround the Convention. Specifically, the Dialogue was tasked with analyzing strategic long term cooperative action that will advance development goals in a sustainable way, address action on adaptation and realize the full potential of technology and market-based opportunities to address climate change. Discussion at the Dialogue centered on these topics and ways in which states can develop policies that are in line with the Convention that would address all three issues. There was also significant discussion on coordinated international efforts that would support and enhance national efforts

specifically in regard to mitigation and adaptation. Global efforts will need to be based on priority activities at the national level in order for international support efforts to be fully effective.

The Dialogue recognized mitigation, adaptation and technology and market-based opportunities as central to an effective international response to climate change. Participants at the dialogue acknowledged that implementation will require significant financial resources as well as capacity-building and awareness raising efforts. The international community will need to be mindful of the resource investment that will necessarily and develop strategies to help states overcome barriers in implementing robust climate change policies. Finally, the international community will need to monitor for unintended consequences of response measures such as potential impacts on trade, agriculture and tourism.

UNEP is fully committed to supporting the outcomes of the Dialogue and continues to actively support countries which address climate changes through, mitigation, adaptation, investments in technology. It is becoming increasingly clear that climate change will negatively impact sustainable development. Engagement and commitment from across the UN system and opportunities such as the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action are vital to ensuring the affects of climate change are reversed.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:
• What is the international community's role in facilitating commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?
• How can mitigation, adaptation and technology and market based strategies be implemented within a larger sustainable development agenda?
• What support can the international community provide to developing countries in their efforts to address climate change?

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FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/6
FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1*
FCCC/CP/2005/5/Add.1
Bali Action Plan
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
The Kyoto Protocol

Additional Web Resources:

unfccc.int/2860.php – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
unfcc.int/meetings/dialogue/items/4048.php – Dialogue on Long Term Cooperative Action homepage
www.ipcc.ch/ - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
www.unep.org/Themes/climatechange/ - UNEP Climate Change homepage

ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS: CONFLICTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Historically, the shortage or abundance of natural resources has been a source of violent conflict across the globe. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that the environmental damage associated with civil and international wars can hinder reconstruction and recovery even in those areas where the original conflict was not related to natural resources. Damage to forestry, contamination from ammunitions or weapons and even the movement of populations displaced by conflict have ecological impacts that can undermine the stability of post-conflict societies. Remedying the environmental destruction of conflicts and providing for sustainable development of environmental resources are key tasks in ensuring the long-term viability of regions touched by war.

The United Nations has worked for decades to reduce the impact of violent conflict on the environment. The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, the Mine Ban Treaty, and the Chemical Weapons Convention reflect concern for the impact warfare has on the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, established in 2006, to integrate environmental perspectives into global sustainable development and collective security efforts.

In 1999 the UNEP formed the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) to monitor and help resolve the environmental impacts of conflict and reconstruction. PCDMB has worked in over 20 countries, providing environmental assessments, advice for reducing the environmental impact of reconstruction efforts and training

for government officials in the area of environmental clean-up and sustainable development. These central operations focus on five areas: conducting environmental assessments, mitigating environmental risk, strengthening institutions for environmental governance, integrating environmental considerations in reconstruction, and strengthening international and regional environmental cooperation.

PCDMB is currently working in Afghanistan, Liberia and Sudan on a variety of assessment and institution-building projects. While efforts in Afghanistan have found strong support from the European Commission and non-governmental actors, the success of PCDMB's efforts in Sudan are constrained by a lack of environmental focus by most organizations. If UN and African Union attempts at peace-building continue to focus solely on the political and social context of the Sudanese conflict, UNEP's work to resolve environmental resource and degradation issues will suffer. Moreover, UNEP faces the challenge of seeking to build national institutions within governments facing large financial resource deficits due to prolonged conflict. UNEP is also tasked with encouraging post-conflict governments to allocate scarce resources to often overlooked environmental issues in order to ensure sustainable environmental efforts once the organization's physical presence in the country ends.

The UNEP is also attempting to address the role the environment can play in pre-conflict situations. The UNEP, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), launched the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in 2003. The major function of the ENVSEC Initiative is "to assess and address environmental problems, which threaten or are perceived to threaten security, societal stability and peace, human health and/or sustainable livelihoods, within and across national borders in conflict prone regions." In partnership with its stakeholders, ENVSEC conducts environmental and security assessments and promotes the integration of environmental matters into national policy making. The strength of the Initiative lies in the mutually supportive mandate of the three major stakeholders, the "operational powers of OSCE in the area of cooperation and security, of UNDP in promoting sustainable livelihoods and of UNEP in assessing and addressing environmental change."

The UNEP's recent cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control (IPCC) indicates a move towards increased emphasis on identifying countries at risk for environment-based conflicts and the use of preventative capacity building. The IPCC has identified numerous regions considered "hotspots," or likely locations for conflict, as climate change worsens various environmental conditions. Increased cooperation with stakeholders across the international community can serve to increase the effectiveness of programs that address the linkages between conflict and the environment. Preventing conflict, however, requires not just awareness and capacity building in those countries at risk for such issues. The UNEP must continue to work with peace-making and peace-keeping organizations to increase general awareness of the role the environment plays in breeding conflicts and the role it can play in any viable solution to such conflicts.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:
- What emphasis should be placed on environmental concerns in peace-building efforts and how can the UNEP's expertise on this issue be utilized by other actors involved in political negotiations?
- What can non-governmental organizations and other actors do to minimize the environmental impact of reconstruction in post-conflict societies?
- What can countries engaged in warfare do to minimize the environmental impact of their conduct?
- What regions or countries need to emphasize environmental issues to help promote the long-term political and social stability?
- What can countries sharing natural resources do to prevent resource scarcity or possible violent conflict over those resources?
- How can the United Nations best address the risk of conflict in regions abundant in natural resources such as oil?

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E/C.19/2008/4/ADD.12
SG/SM/11247
UNEP/GC.23/INF/21
Mine Ban Treaty
Montevideo Programme III
Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of
     Environmental Modification Techniques
Chemical Weapons Convention

Additional Web Resources:

www.ansp.org/museum/kye/human_influences/2001_war.php -
     Academy of Natural Sciences: War and the Environment
www.enviroliteracy.org/article.php/596.html - Environmental Literacy
     Council: Weapons of War
www.envsec.org/index.php - ENVSEC Initiative