



# **GECMUN IX**

## **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

### Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

*Responding to rising sea levels and more severe natural disasters due to climate change*

SDG: 13. Climate Action, 17. Partnerships to achieve the Goal

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## Committee Introduction

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations. The panel was established by the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988 by resolution 43/53 of the general assembly. It aims to prepare an effective solution to human-induced climate change by developing knowledge about the social and economic impacts of climate change and possible response strategies. However, the IPCC does not conduct scientific research or investigations. The panel works to reach its initial goal by publishing reports about climate change and working with a number of nations to prepare for a future international convention regarding climate change.

Since 1988, the IPCC has worked to have five assessment cycles and deliver five assessment reports, which are considered to be the world's most accurate and comprehensive reports about climate change. Because hundreds of experts and editors work hard to publish a masterpiece full of valuable information, many governments, universities, and businesses refer to the IPCC's assessment reports when they need information about any topic regarding climate change.

The IPCC's assessment reports provide neutral and accurate information about the current status of climate change to all member states. The membership of the IPCC is open to every member of the World Meteorological Organization(WMO) and the United Nations, and it currently has 195 members. The IPCC can be broken down into three main sections: plenary, bureau, and executive committee. Delegates from the member states have 2 to 3 meetings per year to make decisions. The assessment reports are written by three different working groups(WG); WG I takes care of the physical science basis of climate change, WG II focuses on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, and WG III's main task is about mitigation of climate change. The assessment reports have to get verified by experts and members of the panel and then approved by the plenary to be finalized.

As a result of their hard work, in 2007, the IPCC and the United States vice president Al Gore were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change". The IPCC is currently planning to publish its sixth assessment report in 2022, which will contain more evaluations of different regions and cities.

## Agenda Introduction

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the global sea level has risen by more than 100 millimeters in the last 30 years. This may not seem to be such a big deal, but this exposes 10 million more people to the danger of sea level rise. Assessment reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change show that the impact of sea level rise is resulting in several trillion dollars of damage a year and millions of migrants. The impact of sea level rise is not limited to several small island nations anymore; every single nation on this planet is exposed to danger.

As our committee strives to address such a great issue regarding climate change all around the globe, the aim of IPCC's agenda is to establish a global standard for reacting to the impacts of climate change. Our agenda focuses on providing aid to those nations highly affected by sea level rise and establishing a long-term policy to minimize climate change for the next generations. Delegates must not confuse air pollution with climate change; they are two very similar ideas, but this committee's agenda is more concerned about the greenhouse effect and sea level rise.

The IPCC's agenda covers a wide range of issues related to sea level rise. This allows the delegates to approach the agenda from very different perspectives. One example might be the scientific way, and another example is the political way. Delegates may choose to directly deal with the fundamental causes of sea level rise by establishing global standards and policies regarding carbon emission, and delegates may also choose to use this situation as a political and diplomatic tool.

## Letters from the Chairs

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to GECMUN IX, delegates! We are Amy Jin, Paul Kim, and Harry Shin from St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju. We are greatly honored to be serving as your chairs for the IPCC. We are not there at the conference to scare you. We will guide you through the conference and help you have a fun time, so please feel free to reach out for help anytime.

Hello, dear delegates! My name is Meichen Jin, and I am currently a junior student at St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju. It is my pleasure to serve you as the head chair of the IPCC Committee. I was a delegate starting in grade 6 and had several conferences throughout my school life. This conference is my second time being a chair at GECMUN. I hope all delegates could gain a unique and memorable experience at this conference. I am open to any questions, so do not hesitate to email me if you have one.

Greetings, delegates! I am JunYoung Kim and I am greatly honored to serve as your deputy chair on this IPCC committee. I am currently a freshman at St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju. My MUN journey started in 8th grade and I experienced several conferences. Serving as a deputy chair of this IPCC committee would be my second time chairing. Delegates, now is the time for the preparation to demonstrate your country's stances within your logic and diplomatic qualities!

Welcome to the joy of MUN, delegates! I am Harry Shin, a freshman attending St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju. It is my pleasure to be serving as your associate chair. For novice delegates, MUN may feel so scary and boring. It was the same for me, too. To be honest, I totally messed up my first conference. It is completely fine to struggle at first. I know what it is like to be debating in a conference room full of strangers. However, it will not be like that in our committee. We are always willing to help you be successful, so please contact us if you have any questions. MUN is not scary. MUN is FUN.

Sincerely,

IPCC Chairs

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## Key Terms

### **Greenhouse Effect**

Heat is trapped in the Earth's atmosphere by greenhouse gasses such as but not limited to carbon dioxide and methane.

### **Renewable/Sustainable Energy**

Energy sources that create no or minimum waste product in the process of creating energy. Examples of renewable/sustainable energy are solar energy, hydroelectric energy, and wind energy. This committee does not recognize nuclear fission as a type of renewable/sustainable energy but recognizes nuclear fusion as a type of renewable/sustainable energy.

### **Paris Climate Agreement**

An international treaty on climate change adopted in 2015 by 196 countries in Paris. Its ultimate goal is to limit climate change and reach carbon neutrality until 2050.

### **Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis**

The sixth assessment report of the IPCC. It contains valuable and trustworthy information about the climate crisis.

### **International Law Association(ILA)**

The role of the International Law Association(ILA) is to study, clarify and develop international law.

### **Carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS)**

A set of technologies used to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

### **Green climate fund(GCF)**

GCF is a fund to support the mitigation and adaptation of climate change in developing countries.

## Historical Background

### **2016 April 22th: The Paris Climate Agreement has been signed**

The Paris Climate Agreement is an international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris. It was targeted to limit increasing global warming to at least below 2 degrees Celsius or much rather below 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the era before emitting greenhouse gasses. The Paris Climate Agreement is meaningful because it was the first agreement to bind all the nations in order to combat climate change. As nations acknowledge that climate change is a serious worldwide problem, cooperations between all countries has become essential in tackling the climate crisis.

### **2018 August 20th: School Strike for Climate has first begun**

Also known as Fridays For Future (FFF), School Strike for Climate is considered one of the largest climate strikes in history, started by a 15 years old Swedish pupil, Greta Thunberg. Over 14,000,000 people in all continents had protested to claim their rights to live on preserved Earth and urged them to take more actions on the climate crisis. These Global-scale school strikes had provoked a high level of awareness to international communities and brought the climate crisis into more serious attention.

### **2019 June: 2019 ~ 2020 Australian bushfire season**

The 2019-2020 Australian wildfire season was a period in which wildfires frequently occurred in many parts of Australia. Compared to other Australian bushfire seasons, it had very unusual intensity, size, and duration. It resulted in over 400 deaths, loss of over 3000 houses, and scoring the new record of proportion of area burnt due to fire. Wildfires that have exceptional power and are very far away out of human control are called "mega-fires". Throughout the climate change, especially desertification and rising global temperature, mega-fires have become more frequent and intense. These more severe natural disasters are spreading economic and environmental effects on many regions, and also seriously challenging society's ability to cope with natural disasters at the same time.

### **2022 January 18th: Indonesia's parliament approved to relocate the capital**

The parliament of Indonesia approved a budget to relocate its capital, Jakarta. The Indonesian government will move its capital into the new city which will be built on Borneo island. The project will be Indonesia's biggest project, estimated to cost over 30 billion US dollars. This crucial project that will determine the fate of a country was the decision followed by growing concerns on rising sea levels. One major concern is that the city stands on a swamp and has been slowly sinking. Due to the effects of climate change, studies have guessed the entire city could sink by 2050. As a response to this, the Indonesian government has decided to relocate its capital into a safer and more sustainable region.

### **2022 June 14th: 2022 Pakistan Floods**

Especially intense monsoon rains in 2022 triggered the most severe flooding in Pakistan, almost compared to the great flood in the Bible. One-third of Pakistan territory has been sunk and caused nearly 1,400 deaths, 13,00 injuries and millions of climate homelesses. Climate change is heavily influenced by this unusual natural disaster. Melting glaciers followed by a severe heat wave has maximized the power of monsoon rains which resulted in an incomprehensible, unprecedented disaster. This devastating flood has damaged many houses, fundamental public facilities, and schools. It became a child survival crisis with about 10 million children needing immediate aid to save their lives. The 2022 Pakistan Floods have proven that climate change could cause serious humanitarian and environmental crises among the world.

## Current State of Affairs

Despite international efforts to tackle climate change, climate change is expected to accelerate. Over recent centuries, greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere have explosively increased to new levels we have not seen in three million years. As a consequence, average global temperature rose about 1 degree celsius and sea levels have risen about eight inches since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, around 1750. These environmental changes have contributed greatly to the increasing severity of natural disasters.

Climate change has also been a substantial factor for international conflicts. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR), refugees related to natural disasters and climate change have almost doubled since 10 years ago. Climate change also indirectly affects refugees. As climate change becomes more clear, more people will be forced to be a climate refugee, as a result of rising sea levels, desertification, wildfire, or any other climate change triggered by natural disasters.

IPCC is currently leading to deal with consequences of changes in the Earth's climate. IPCC has published a scientific report called "Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis". It has recorded every environmental change that is unprecedented for more than thousands of years. The report shows the clear human interference towards nature and urges its member governments to take more actions on climate change. However, it can be considered ineffective because it only provides a factbook not requiring or legislating climate laws to member nations.

## Stances of Parties

### Australia

Australia is a country known for its biodiversity. However, studies show that many of Australia's most biologically diverse areas are highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change does not only threaten the animals of Australia. Despite its big territory, most of Australia's large cities are concentrated along the Southern coast of the country. This is because the Deserts of Australia cover a large portion of Australia. This geographical situation makes Australia very vulnerable to sea level rise and other natural disasters caused by climate change. As a result, Australia's parliament passed a bill that legislates the country's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. Australia is one of the biggest carbon emitters per capita in the world but is also a global leader in climate action.

### Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the biggest victims of climate change. It only produces 0.56% of the global carbon emissions, but Bangladesh is ranked as the seventh most vulnerable country to climate change. Bangladesh lost more than \$3.5 billion and faced approximately 200 extreme weather events due to climate change. Bangladesh's geography makes the country extremely vulnerable to sea level rise, too. It is important for Bangladesh to convince massive carbon emitters and find a solution to the climate crisis.

### Brazil

Brazil's population is heavily concentrated along the coast, as are several industrial developments. A large portion of the economy depends on manufacturing and agriculture. This made Brazil extremely vulnerable to defending itself against natural disasters or recovering from its aftermaths. Although plans like the Steel Industry Plan and the Low Carbon Emission Economy in the Manufacturing Industry Plan have been enacted by Brazil to lower total emissions, the majority of these plans are out-of-date and did not contribute to the development of the nation. Brazil is now in an ineffective phase, in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions or establishing climate adaptation

### Canada

Canada's geographical location caused it to experience double or even triple the world's climate change and relevant natural disasters. In 2021, about \$1.4 billion has been committed to spending on Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation by the Government of Canada. Canada targeted land, sea, and forest separately to develop infrastructure and communities that are more resilient. The government of Canada also collaborates with multiple organizations such as the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and Canadian Forest Service (CFS) to research and learn more about potential adaptation strategies. To strengthen Canada's resilience to a changing environment, the government collaborates with provinces, territories, municipalities, organizations, and communities to identify options and make reasonable decisions.

## **China**

China started developing explicit strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in 2010. According to the Paris Agreement in 2016, China has committed to reaching its carbon emission peak by 2030 in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment released the National Strategy for Climate Adaptation 2035. In the past years, China and the EU have strengthened their cooperation established in 2005 to develop a high-level political framework in funding and supporting low carbon emissions actions and climate-related technologies.

## **Denmark**

According to Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy, and Utilities, Dan Jørgensen, Denmark wants to Be a 'Frontrunner' in the Fight Against Climate Change. Denmark pursues 5 global climate strategies to achieve a Green and Sustainable World with the hope to reduce 70% of emissions by 2030.

## **Egypt**

Egypt is extremely vulnerable to climate change and other negative effects. The economy of Egypt will be affected if no adaptation is made. The Egyptian government recently unveiled the National Climate Change Strategy, which aids in the transition to a more environmentally friendly economy. The collaboration between the government and the private sectors will play a critical role in the transition to a climate-resilient economy. Egypt has also developed the region's first sovereign bond to finance projects in low-carbon transportation and sustainable water management to support the market.

## **France**

France is not a country that is extremely vulnerable to climate crisis, but it is one of the major carbon emitting countries. Therefore, France aims to reduce its carbon emissions and reach carbon neutrality. France has signed the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Agreement, and is working to help developing countries overcome sea level rise and other natural disasters due to climate change.

## **Germany**

The Climate Action Programme 2030's framework was laid out on September 20 by the Chancellor of Germany and members of the Climate Cabinet. In the coming decades, there will be an increase in the CO2 tax on fuels made of fossil, and the funds raised from this tax will go toward funding climate action. In favor of renewable energy, Germany is gradually ceasing to produce electricity using coal. About 43% of the electricity used in 2019 was produced using renewable energy. Prior to 2050, electricity production and consumption are intended to be greenhouse gas neutral.

## **Haiti**

Haiti is a small island country. Because of its geographical location and low average altitude, Haiti is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise. If the global society fails to control

sea level rise anytime soon, the country Haiti itself is in danger of sinking underwater. Because Haiti is in such a desperate situation, the delegate of Haiti must reach out to strong nations for help.

### **Iceland**

Iceland has the largest glaciers in Europe. Due to the constantly increasing temperature, about 11.2% of the glaciers were melted from the late 19th century to 2010. Additionally, this will cause the ocean's acidity to increase, which has a significant negative impact on the region's biodiversity. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, Iceland wants to become carbon neutral by 2040 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. Iceland has enormous potential to reduce soil emissions, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere through afforestation.

### **India**

India's location near the Himalayan mountain and the Indian Ocean made it extremely vulnerable to climate change. The increasing sea level and the melting glaciers in the Himalayas mountain could both cause high risks to the inhabitants in India. More than 60% of India's agriculture is rain-fed, while the annually increasing global temperature is causing severe drought in northwestern India. India has an urgent need to resolve the climate-changing problem.

### **Indonesia**

Indonesia is one of the top ten countries emitting the most amount of greenhouse gasses in the world. After a self-voluntary 12-month trial period, it has enacted a number of policies, including a carbon tax and regulations of the carbon market. The government of Indonesia introduced a carbon tax through Law No. 7 of 2021. The President also approved and signed the Harmonization of Tax Regulations (Harmonisasi Peraturan Perpajakan/HPP) Bill in the same year. The HPP Law is the implementation milestone for eliminating the emission of carbon dioxide.

### **Japan**

Japan has made many remarkable achievements in improving the resilience of climate in developing nations. Many projects were established between Japan and other developing countries. For instance, supporting Philipppians recovery from typhoon Yolanda in November 2013. Japan also donated USD 1.5 billion to the GCF in 2015–2018, and it pledged an additional USD 1.5 billion in 2020–2023, making it the second-largest donor behind the UK.

### **Kiribati**

Kiribati is an island country located in the central Pacific Ocean. Kiribati has accepted and constructed multiple agreements and implementation plans to strengthen the nation's resilience to climate change. For Instance, Kiribati has accepted the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2016. Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management(KJIP) is used for management-related policies.

Currently, the rising sea level would greatly cause the net loss of land. Many low-lying islands will no longer be habitable in the 21st century.

### **Korea, South**

Over the past century, the average annual temperature in Korea has increased by 0.18°C every decade. Korea, a signatory to the Paris Agreement, has provided a plan for dealing with the issue head-on. That the emission program applies to more than 70% of national GHG emissions. The roadmap designed to lay out detailed strategies and sectoral policy tools have been revised as frequently as the most recent policies and technologies.

### **Netherlands**

The 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement served as the foundation for the Netherlands' approach to constructing policies on climate change. The Netherlands has taken action to be a world leader in energy-efficient technologies. For instance, the Central government supports the development of new technologies, cleaner cars, and renewable resources.

### **Nigeria**

Nigeria is one of the countries with the highest climate vulnerabilities. The nation's capacity to address climate concerns is severely constrained by the economy. In October 2022, more than 1.4 million have been affected in Nigeria as a result of the worst floods in the past decades. According to Joseph Nganga, the alliance's regional director for Africa, "we firmly believe that developing countries must have their own transition strategies." The Nigerian government claimed to achieve net zero emissions in 2060.

### **Philippines**

Like many other developing nations, the Philippines is particularly vulnerable to natural calamities and climate change. Founded on a study by the Asian Development Bank on the economics of climate change, the Philippines can minimize losses from 6% to 4% of its yearly GDP by 2100 if it invests 0.5% of its GDP by 2020 in climate change adaptation. With financial aid from Global Environmental Facility(GEF) and Germany, the Philippines is able to develop its national Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

### **Russia**

According to Thane Gustafson Klimt's book, Russia in the Age of Climate Change, the current economic outlook is not desirable. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 had a massive impact on the Russian economy and politics. Many customers have stopped buying the most important category of exports, hydrocarbons. As a result of global warming, Russia will lose approximately 70% of its agricultural, habitable, and economically productive land. Modifications in climate change policies are required to maintain a productive economy.

## **Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia, one of the largest exporters of oil, has concerns about the reduction in exporting oil when joining the Paris Agreement. Saudi Arabia would pull out of the agreement if international climate change policies harm these exports. Although the Saudi government has announced various renewable energy targets since 2013, implementation is still lacking. With the aim of generating 50 % of electricity with renewable energy, only 0.1% of electricity in 2019.

## **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom has experienced dramatic climate change, with the average land temperature rising by 1.2 degrees celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. The United Kingdom has faced people, nature, and infrastructures being vulnerable to strengthened natural disasters and rising sea levels. Baroness Brown, the chair of the Adaption Committee from the U.K. said, "The severity of the risks we must face should not be underestimated... A detailed, effective action plan that prepares the UK for climate change is now essential and needed urgently."

## **United States of America**

The United States is suffering astronomical damage from natural disasters that have intensified due to climate change. In 2021, there were 20 weather and climate disasters that each resulted in at least 1 billion dollars in damages. As a countermeasure, the Biden Administration announces nearly 5 billion dollars in funding to support communities to be aware and prepare for weather and climate-related disasters. The supporting financial plan includes historical investments to reconstruct infrastructures to face more severe floods, wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, and other natural hazards.

## **Vietnam**

Vietnam is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. With the expectation of achieving economic growth and high-income status, there is an urgent need to improve on management of natural capital. In 2020, climate change caused over \$10 billion, or 3.4 percent of GDP. If no action was taken, it is estimated that 12 to 14.5 percent of GDP will be lost each year by 2035.

## Possible Solutions

### **Elaborate on the Climate Resilience Development Framework**

Climate Resilience Development is the solution framework focused on the adaptation and mitigation of impacts due to climate change. There are numerous frameworks suggested by different organizations in relation to Climate Resilience Development. All of the frameworks focused more on remediation instead of directly resolving the issue. The framework suggested by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) includes eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, increasing biodiversity and reducing industry development near the coastal area. With the understanding of the different capacities of different countries, countries could take different paths toward accomplishing Climate Resilience Development.

### **Collaborate with International Law Association to strengthen the laws**

The International Law Commission (ILC) was established by the United Nations (UN). The role of the commission is to support the creation and codification of international law. The committee may collaborate with the ILC to enhance the existing laws in relation to regulations against factors of sea level rising. Although ILC does not have enforcement authority other than the ability to promote the progressive development of international law and codification, the committee still provides laws of international law related to climate change for countries to adapt.

### **Utilizing the carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies**

The massive emission of greenhouse gasses caused severe climate problems such as global warming, which indirectly caused rising sea levels and other severe natural disasters. Technologies known as carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) may be used to achieve the world's energy and climate goals. The CCUS directly targets the issue by reducing the emission of carbon dioxide, the highest proportion of greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities.

## Questions to Consider

1. What is/are the root cause(s) of the rising sea levels and more severe natural disasters ?
2. Is it possible to completely eliminate the problem by restricting the root(s) of the problem?
3. What action could the committee take about the abnormal climate change?
4. How can the committee communicate and collaborate with regional, governmental, or global institutions?
5. Which organization is equipped and willing to deal with climate-changing problems such as increasing sea levels?

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