

GLOBAL GOALS CONFERENCE 2023



BACKGROUND GUIDE Climate Action - Goal #13

What is a position paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Although there are several formats, the most simple one includes the following:

- A. Statement of the problem
- B. Past Actions (or lack of action)
- C. Proposed solutions

Formatting

Position papers should:

- Include the name of the delegate and his/her country and the committee
- Be in a standard font (Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size, 1.15-1.5 spacing, and 1-inch document margins - It should not include illustrations, diagrams, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Your position paper should not exceed a page (if it must, try not to extend past a page too far)
- Include citations and a bibliography, in APA format, giving credit to the sources used in the research

Due Dates and Submission

Please submit your position paper to your committee director by midnight, **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023** or earlier if you would like to get some feedback from your chairs or director. Send your position paper to mfrankle@shawnigan.ca and zrehmat@shawnigan.ca

All position papers may be no longer than one page in length. Please put annotated citations on a second page. You may bring your position paper to the conference.

LETTERS TO DELEGATES

Dear Delegates,

Hello delegates, I am Maya Frankel, a grade 11 student in Renfrew house. This is my third year at Shawnigan Lake school. I am very excited to be the committee director of the climate action committee! I have been in the model UN 360 since I came to Shawnigan and have a great passion for politics and debate. My team and I are so excited to work together to make this all possible!

Maya Frankle
Director

Hello delegates, I hope this finds you all well! I am Zainab Rehmat , your Co-Director and a grade 11 student at Shawnigan Lake School. I joined Model United Nations last year in hopes to find a platform to express myself and dive into my passion for debate and current affairs. I have found MUN to be a great way to expand my horizons and I hope you find as much joy in our conference as I have in the past. I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Zainab Rehmat
Co Director

TOPIC OVERVIEW

A crucial pillar of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the Climate Action Goal, one of the Global Goals of the United Nations. Goal 13 is a call to action for taking rapid, all-encompassing efforts to combat climate change and its wide-ranging effects. The necessity of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions is highlighted by the overarching objective to combat global warming and restrict temperature increases to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with a special emphasis on keeping the rise under 1.5 degrees. Goal 13 also underlines the necessity of boosting resilience and adaptive capacity to protect communities and ecosystems from climate-related risks. To enable people and institutions to effectively meet the issues posed by climate change, it asks for a multifaceted strategy that includes widespread awareness-raising efforts and capacity-building [2xw2@.ww](http://www.2xw2.org) . Goal 13 encourages international partnerships, encouraging cooperation, resource mobilization, and technology transfer to collectively confront climate change on a global scale in recognition of the global character of this crisis. In essence, it stands for a commitment to protecting our planet and making sure that everyone has a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

TARGETS

13.3: BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY TO MEET CLIMATE CHANGE

It is essential that we give the growth of knowledge and capability within our communities top priority if we are to effectively handle the urgent problem of climate change. The first step in doing this is improving our educational systems to include a thorough climate change curriculum that will ensure that future generations are aware of the problems and potential solutions. Furthermore, raising public knowledge and comprehension of the issue is crucial for gaining support for and engagement in climate action. We must simultaneously make investments to increase the knowledge of people and organizations dedicated to early warning, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change. We can work together to lessen the effects of climate change and secure a sustainable and resilient future for everybody by arming ourselves with the required information and abilities.

13.2: INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES INTO POLICIES AND PLANNING

It is vital that we smoothly integrate climate change measures into our national policies, plans, and planning processes if we are to effectively address the many difficulties posed by climate change. Climate change affects numerous aspects of our civilization, notably energy and transportation as well as infrastructure and agriculture. We can proactively address these issues, promoting resilience and sustainability, by including climate considerations into our policymaking and long-term planning. This

integration makes sure that combating climate change and adapting to it are major foundations of our governance, pointing us in the direction of a more secure and environmentally conscious future. We can leverage the power of policy through this proactive approach to guide our societies in the direction of a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

CURRENT SITUATION ON CLIMATE ACTION:

1. **Rising Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Despite international attempts to cut emissions, the amount of greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere is rising. The COVID-19 epidemic caused a brief decline in CO₂ emissions in 2020, which they then sharply recovered from in 2021, underscoring the difficulty of separating emissions from economic development. In 2019, CO₂ emissions totaled 36.8 gigatons.
2. **Extreme Weather Events:** Extreme weather occurrences around the world, such as hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts, are on the rise. A record-breaking 30 named storms formed during the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, shattering the previous mark of 28 from 2005.
3. **Loss of Biodiversity:** The decline in biodiversity is being made worse by climate change. Around 1 million species are threatened with extinction, many as a result of the effects of climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
4. **Slow Progress on Renewable Energy:** The capacity of renewable energy is increasing, but not quickly enough to achieve climate targets. Only 26% of the world's electricity was generated by renewable sources in 2020, underscoring the need for a quicker switch away from fossil fuels.

Country Example: The United States, one of the major producers of greenhouse gasses, has experienced political difficulties in enacting climate legislation, which has caused erratic progress on climate change.

Past Global Actions:

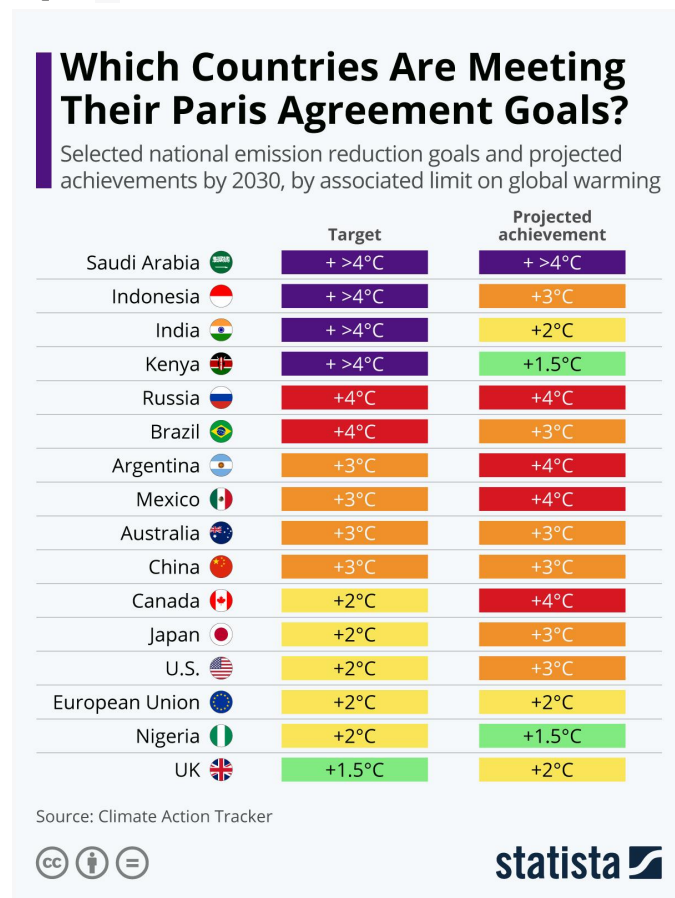
1. **Paris Agreement:** Countries agreed to keep global warming well below 2°C as part of the Paris Agreement, which was ratified in 2015. However, many countries are failing to uphold their promises.
2. **Renewable Energy Growth:** Due to the falling costs of solar and wind technology over the last ten years, there has been a significant increase in the capacity of renewable energy sources.
3. **Youth-Led Climate Movements:** Grassroots initiatives like Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future have heightened awareness and put pressure on governments to adopt more aggressive climate action.

Present Obstacles:

1. **Political Inertia:** In many nations, progress is hampered by political polarization and a lack of agreement on climate measures.
2. **Economic Interests:** Transitions to renewable energy and sustainable practices are frequently resisted by influential fossil fuel industries and economic interests.
3. **Global Inequality:** Due to technological and financial constraints, developing nations have difficulty implementing climate change initiatives, which results in unequal contributions to climate change mitigation.

4. **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The pandemic delayed efforts in some areas by diverting attention and resources away from climate action.
5. **Climate Denial and Disinformation:** Public support for climate action is still being undermined by campaigns of climate denial and misinformation.

In conclusion, while there have been great worldwide efforts and landmarks in the fight against climate change, there are still many problems to be solved, such as rising emissions, extreme weather events, and challenges relating to politics, economics, and global inequality. To accomplish the climate goals outlined in the UN's Global Goals and lessen the worst effects of climate change, urgent and persistent action is required.



BLOC POSITIONS

East Asia:

East Asian countries have vowed to significantly reduce their emissions, notably China, Japan, and South Korea. These nations are aware of their previous emissions and their need to combat climate change. They stress how crucial it is to switch to clean energy sources, make investments in renewable technology, and improve energy efficiency. To meet their climate targets, the group is looking for international cooperation and financial support for technology transfer and capacity building.

North America:

The countries of North America, particularly the United States, Canada, and Mexico, have recommitted to taking action on climate change. In addition to putting a strong emphasis on challenging domestic carbon reduction goals, they are actively recommitting to international commitments like the Paris Agreement. This bloc supports a just transition for communities dependent on fossil fuels and emphasizes the value of international cooperation to address common climate issues including the melting Arctic and harsh weather.

Middle East:

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran are just a few of the Middle Eastern countries that stress how crucial it is to diversify their economy away from fossil fuels while maintaining energy security. In order to finance and develop renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind ones, they are looking for international collaborations. This section also emphasizes how important it is to solve the region's climate-related concerns of water scarcity and desertification.

European Union (EU):

In order to keep global warming to 1.5°C, the EU, a major global supporter of climate action, emphasizes the need for more aggressive emissions reduction targets. They support the Green Deal and place a strong emphasis on the move toward a circular economy, greater energy efficiency, and significant financial investments in sustainable technologies. The EU bloc advocates for international collaboration on carbon pricing schemes and the promotion of climate resilience through partnerships.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):

The OECD, which is primarily made up of high-income countries, encourages green growth strategies, sustainable finance, and technology transfer to underdeveloped countries in order to promote climate action. They place a strong emphasis on how innovation and market-based strategies may be used to achieve climate goals. The OECD emphasizes the significance of climate finance to assist vulnerable nations in their adaptation and mitigation efforts and works to incorporate climate issues into economic strategies.

While acknowledging the urgent need for coordinated international action to address the climate issue, each of these blocs and organizations offers its particular viewpoint and priorities to the discussion of global climate change. These perspectives and priorities reflect their geographical settings and economic situations.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Addressing the UN global goal of Climate Action requires a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders and perspectives. Here are possible solutions from multiple angles:

International Conventions:

1. **Strengthen the Paris Agreement:** Encourage countries to increase their pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions and join forces to keep the global temperature rise to far below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C.
2. **Global Carbon Pricing:** To encourage emissions reduction and provide money for climate projects, support international agreements on carbon pricing structures like carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems.

NGO's:

3. **Community-Based Climate Projects:** NGOs can support community-led projects aimed at reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and the adoption of renewable energy to lower emissions and improve resilience.
4. **Climate Education and Advocacy:** The public's understanding of climate change, the mobilization of climate action, and the promotion of stronger climate legislation at local, national, and international levels are all greatly aided by NGOs.

Public Policies:

5. **Renewable Energy Transition:** Governments should implement policies that encourage the rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, including subsidies, tax incentives, and renewable energy targets.
6. **Green Infrastructure:** Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, such as flood defenses and sustainable urban planning, to mitigate climate-related disasters and adapt to changing conditions.

Specific Goals (e.g., Family Planning):

7. **Family Planning Access:** As part of a larger plan for sustainable development, increase access to family planning and reproductive health services, as these factors can help to cut emissions.

International Financing Mechanisms:

8. **Climate Funds:** To assist developing nations in coping with the effects of climate change and implementing sustainable development strategies, mobilize climate funds through global institutions like the Green Climate Fund.

Locally Available Resource Utilization:

9. **Promote Sustainable Agriculture:** Encourage environmentally friendly farming methods that make use of locally available resources, lessen deforestation, and improve soil health to trap carbon.
10. **Rainwater Harvesting:** Encourage rainwater collection and effective water usage in areas with limited water supplies to relieve pressure on freshwater resources and lessen the effects of drought.

Incentives for the Private Sector:

11. **Carbon Offsetting:** Encourage companies to invest in initiatives that remove or reduce carbon from the atmosphere, including afforestation or carbon capture and storage, in order to offset their emissions.
12. **Tax Incentives for Green Investments:** Governments can provide tax advantages and incentives to businesses that use sustainable practices and technologies.

Accessible Education and Raising Awareness:

13. **Climate Education in Schools:** To increase awareness and encourage future generations to take climate action, incorporate climate change education into the school curricula.
14. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Public awareness campaigns regarding climate change, its effects, and what people can do to lessen their carbon footprint can be carried out by governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Combining various solutions—from international accords to grass-roots movements, from policy adjustments to educational initiatives—can help achieve the UN's global aim of combating climate change. Collaboration is essential for real success in this important endeavor among governments, organizations, enterprises, and individuals.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

What are the current greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related challenges in your country?

- This question helps delegates assess the current state of climate action in their country and identify areas that require attention.

What is your country's stance on international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement?

- Delegates can discuss their country's position on global climate agreements and the level of commitment to addressing climate change.

What significant climate-related policies or initiatives has your country implemented in the past?

- Delegates should explore past actions and policies related to climate change in their country to provide context for their position.

In what ways can the international community support your country's efforts to combat climate change?

- Delegates can outline specific areas where their country requires international assistance, whether it's in financing, technology transfer, or capacity-building.

How does your country plan to contribute to global climate action and achieve its climate goals?

- Delegates can discuss their country's contributions to global efforts, such as emissions reduction targets, renewable energy plans, or sustainable development goals.

What long-term strategies and commitments does your country intend to undertake to address climate change challenges in the future?

- Delegates should consider their country's plans for ongoing climate action and how they intend to adapt and strengthen their efforts over time.

These questions will help delegates delve into their country's specific position and actions regarding climate action, enabling them to engage in meaningful discussions and debates during international conferences or Model United Nations simulations

REFERENCES PAGE (APA format)

United Nations. (2015). Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

IPCC. (2018). Global warming of 1.5°C. Summary for policymakers. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

World Meteorological Organization. (2020). State of the Global Climate 2020. https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10211

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2014). Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2021). Paris Agreement - Status of Ratification. <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

Global Green Growth Institute. (2020). Green Growth and Climate Action: The Case for a Sustainable Recovery. <https://ggi.org/publications/green-growth-and-climate-action-the-case-for-a-sustainable-recovery/>

The World Bank. (2021). Climate Change Knowledge Portal. <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/>

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. (2021). Climate Policy Database. <https://www.c2es.org/content/international-action/>

United Nations Development Programme. (2021). Climate Action for Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide to Integrated Planning. <https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-action-sustainable-development-goals-guide-integrated-planning>

Environmental Defense Fund. (2021). Climate Action Tracker. <https://climateactiontracker.org/>