BACKGROUND GUIDE



Committee:

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

Agenda:

Addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems, exploring conservation strategies and nature-based solutions.



UNEP

United Nations Environmental Programme

Committee Overview

History of the committee

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), was founded in 1972 during the Stockholm Conference. It is a specialized department of the United Nations (UN) focusing on environmental issues. The vortex of UNEP's activities is to promote international cooperation with regard to addressing environmental issues, supplying scientific information and data alongside promoting sustainable solutions and practices globally.

It plays a pivotal role in coordinating efforts worldwide to conserve the environment, protect natural resources and respond to climate change. UNEP works under the supervision of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) pertaining to its governance and policy-making process.

Environmental Milestones:

- I. UN adopts environmental leadership role Environmental mantle in 1968 wherein the Secretary-General delivered a report that prompted the UN conference regarding the Human environment.
- II. Debut of World Environment Day The first ever World Environment Day organized by UNEP took place on June 5th, 1973.
- III. The signing of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer The first convention that was signed by all UN States in 1985 which provided a framework that allows states to share information on the root causes of ozone depletion.
- IV. Launch of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) This launch in 1988 aimed to provide governments with scientific information that can be used to develop climate policies.



- V. Signing of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change This framework signed in 1994 sets a framework for stemming the flow of greenhouse gas emissions before they can drastically alter the Earth's climate systems. [Unep. "50 Years of Environmental Milestones." UNEP, www.unep.org/environmental-moments-unep50-timeline#:~:text=Founded%20in%201972%20following%20the,to%20the%20world's%20environmental%20challenges.]
- VI. Adoption of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification This convention adopted in 1994 is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. [Unep. "50 Years of Environmental Milestones." UNEP, www.unep.org/environmental-moments-unep50-timeline#:~:text=Founded%20in%201972%20following%20the,to%20the%20world's% 20environmental%20challenges.]
- VII. The signing of Nusa Dua Declaration The declaration signed in 2010 emphasizes the benefits of a "green" economy, the critical relevance of biodiversity, and the pressing need to eradicate climate change.
- VIII. The adoption of SDGs Included in a new global agenda adopted in 2015 on sustainable development, the 17 goals represent humanity's vision for an improved future.
 - IX. Adoption of the Montevideo Programme Adopted in 2019 including objectives supported by strategic activities that contribute to creating, advocating for, and putting into practice environmental law on a national, regional, and global scale.
 - X. UNHRC adoption of resolution This resolution adopted in 2021 recognises the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right

Background information

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established in 1972 after the landmark UN conference relating to the human environment. It is the leading global authority on the environment and hence it has a bigger hand in saving the environment and executing its initiatives. Here are some key elements about UNEP:

1. Mission and Purpose:



- UNEP aims to address environmental issues, inspire, inform, and enable people to live sustainable lives and allow people to use resources not at the expense of future generations' lives.
- Collaboration with governments, civil society, the private sector, and other UN entities to address pressing environmental challenges.
- UNEP's work spans a wide range of issues, from minimizing ozone layer depletion to safeguarding the world's seas and promoting a green, inclusive economy.

2. Triple Planetary Crisis:

- UNEP focuses on addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution.
- Its efforts include helping countries transition to low-carbon and resourceefficient economies, strengthening environmental governance, protecting
 ecosystems, and providing evidence for policy decisions.

3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- UNEP, the leading worldwide environmental authority, assists its 193 Member
 States with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It strives to build a future free from pollution, stabilize the climate, and encourage living in balance with the environment.

Key Definitions

- **Disproportionate Impact:** Refers to the unequal effects of climate change on different species, ecosystems, and regions, often resulting in more severe consequences for certain populations or habitats.
- **Mitigation:** Efforts to reduce or prevent the severity of climate change by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration.
- **Ecological Resilience:** The capacity of ecosystems to withstand and recover from disturbances while maintaining essential structure, function, and feedback mechanisms.
- **Ecological Restoration:** The process of repairing, rehabilitating, or reconstructing degraded ecosystems to restore their ecological structure, function, and resilience.



- Conservation Strategies: Approaches aimed at preserving and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems from threats such as habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.
- **Biodiversity:** The variety and variability of life forms on Earth, encompassing ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. Biodiversity plays a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem stability and resilience.
- Ecosystems: Interconnected communities of organisms and their physical environment, functioning together as a dynamic and complex system. Ecosystems provide vital services such as food, water, and climate regulation.

Agenda overview

The agenda and the committee's aim/targets

Agenda - Addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems, exploring conservation strategies and nature-based solutions.

The agenda of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is centered around tackling the disproportionate impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems. This includes exploring innovative conservation strategies and nature-based solutions to mitigate these impacts.

Key components of the agenda include:

Recognition of Disproportionate Impact: Acknowledging that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable species, ecosystems, and communities, amplifying ecological disruptions and socio-economic inequalities.

Emphasis on Biodiversity Conservation: Prioritizing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts as essential measures to enhance ecosystem resilience and mitigate climate change effects.



Integration of Indigenous Knowledge: Integrating indigenous knowledge and local perspectives into climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation efforts to ensure sustainable resource management and resilience-building.

Commitment to Sustainable Development and Climate Justice: Aligning with sustainable development goals and principles of climate justice to prioritize the needs and rights of vulnerable populations, promote equity and social inclusion, and foster resilient and sustainable communities.

Issues faced by the committee

Limited Resources: The scale and urgency of the challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss require significant financial and human resources for effective action. The Inflexibility and restrictive nature of the funding was brought up in the meeting that lasted from 24~28 October 2022.

Global Coordination: Consequences such as climate change and biodiversity loss are problems that need a holistic approach for which UNEP has to coordinate with other countries. However, although climate change is an important concern for all member states, not all are prioritizing it as much or are unable due to other issues.

Complex Interactions: Ecosystems and biodiversity are linked to several environmental variables. It is difficult to comprehend such complexities by UNEP alone.

Political Will and Policy Implementation: Countries frequently find it challenging to identify pollution priorities, according to a World Bank report. The implementation of the political will and policy can vary for different member states which can hinder the successful execution of UNEP's initiatives.



Technology Transfer: While technology is considered to be a useful mode to transfer information by UNEP it also introduces environmental risks related to pollution and overconsumption of natural resources which goes against the aims of UNEP.

Despite such numerous challenges UNEP and its partner organizations, governments and the global community continue to put in their best efforts to resolve issues and increase the effectiveness of implementation.

UN Response (Actions taken):

Climate action:

- <u>Climate Transparency</u>: UNEP supports countries in adopting the Enhanced Transparency Framework by providing technical and financial support for reporting and support for high-quality, credible, open climate and environmental data, information, statistics, as well as scientific assessments and expertise. UNEP also focuses on building and developing national capacity for climate information services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning systems in developing countries, particularly in LDCs and SIDS.
- Adaptation and resilience: UNEP has assisted over 75 projects on climate change adaptation in over 50 countries. Combined, the projects aim to benefit around 2.7 million people, restore 131,000 hectares of land, improve the climate adaptation knowledge of 102,000 people and 131 institutions, and build over 1,100 water harvesting structures and 82 weather stations.
- <u>Climate finance</u>: UNEP works towards changing how investment decisions are made, engages with the finance industry, and encourages the flow of public and private investment towards low-carbon and resilient development.
- <u>Mitigation</u>: UNEP promotes cost-effective and available solutions to reduce emissions
 from the energy systems, industry, buildings, transport and AFOLU sectors to help close
 the emissions gap. Mitigation can mean using new technologies and renewable energies,
 making older equipment more energy efficient, or changing consumer behavior. It can be



as complex as a plan for a new city, or as simple as improving a cook stove design. Efforts around the world range from halting and reversing deforestation, to high-tech subway systems to cycle paths.

Nature action:

- Air quality: UNEP strengthens the capacities of governments on clean air by enhancing
 understanding of air pollution sources and impacts, supporting legislation, catalyzing
 actions and policies across high emitting sectors, and promoting regional cooperation and
 global advocacy efforts.
- <u>Chemicals and pollutants action</u>: UNEP promotes joint approaches that demonstrate the
 economic, environmental and health advantages of sound chemicals and waste
 management. Countries are actively addressing challenges related to air, soil, and water
 pollution, as well as exposure to harmful chemicals, through Multilateral Environmental
 Agreements.
 - UNEP takes a leading role in supporting collaboration across sectors to develop strategies and actions to put into effect the recently adopted Global Framework on Chemicals.

Scope of Debate:

Possible Caucus Questions:

- 1. In what ways does global climate change impact various species and ecosystems disproportionately?
- 2. In what ways can technology be used to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of conservation strategies?
- 3. In what ways can the government help in the successful execution of UNEP's initiatives?
- 4. How does the current Palestine -Israel conflict affect the successful execution of nature-based solutions?



- 5. How can member states ensure that decisions made with regards to biodiversity and climate change are inclusive and consider various perspectives including those of vulnerable communities?
- 6. How does climate change specifically impact biodiversity and how does UNEP plan on mitigating the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
- 7. How can countries increase funding for renewable energy to fight climate change?
- 8. What steps can be taken to ensure fair environmental policies for all, especially marginalized groups?
- 9. How can investments in parks and green spaces help biodiversity and climate resilience?
- 10. What can be done to better educate people about climate change and its impacts?

Sources/Useful websites

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- Contact details

ac.intl@un.tsukuba.ac.jp

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Hi, I am Dwitipriya (プリア). I am a 3rd year undergraduate student at the University of Aizu's ICTG program.

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- > Political Science
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Int	take	Admission Category	Application Period	
			Starting Date	Closing Date
	ring 25	> Degree-seeking students > Transfer students (applicants who need a student visa)	Apr 1	Nov 18, 2024
		> Degree-seeking students > Transfer students (applicants who have a valid status of residence)	Apr 1, 2024	Jan 24, 2025
Fal 20:		> Degree-seeking students > Transfer students (applicants who need a student visa)	- Sep 2, 2024	Apr 14, 2025
		> Degree-seeking students > Transfer students (applicants who have a valid status of residence)		May 30, 2025

Tuition and Other Fees (Prices in JPY)

Tuition and Other Fees	First Year	Second Year and Onwards
Enrollment Fee	200,000	-
Tuition, Facility and Equipment	1,596,000	1,596,000
Total	1,796,000	1,596,000

Accommodation/Meal Plan (Prices in JPY)

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Meal Plan	Approx. 350,000/year (3 meals/day on class days)

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П	3/4 (75% tuition)	> Academic Achievement
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