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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear delegates,

The first and foremost message would be to clarify and assure that being a part of the UNGA, diplomacy and respect remain to be the key elements of this committee.

“No voice would remain unheard,” is the motto around which we would revolve.

The understanding of the importance of model united nations and gaining at least one key area to improve upon at the end, would mark this conference as successful and productive.

In the modern world, the youth emerging out as young leaders and participating in such impactful conversations and sessions is what eventually guides and shapes them for the bigger obstacles for the future. The topics that we will discuss are not just mere statements or debate but rather real-world issues. It is henceforth critical to keep in mind that the standards of the discussions fulfil the aim and help solve the issue at large.

Preparing and participating in a MUN helps students develop leadership skills, research, writing, public speaking, and problem-solving skills. Moreover, coming up with solutions that are acceptable to most of the representatives also inculcates skills of negotiation, conflict resolution, and cooperation.

As the executive board, we will make sure that equal opportunity and justice is rooted for all. We highly encourage the first timers to break out of their shell and indulge in the debates. We hope to establish and maintain the decorum of the platform to achieve a just result.

We encourage you all to do rigorous research and use this study guide only to give an impetus to your research and give this conference your best shot!

Thus, we sign off by stating that “your voice is the ultimate weapon,” do embrace it.

Regards,

Avni Shah,

CHAIRPERSON, UNGA

Introduction to Committee

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its works are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

The UN is headquartered on international territory in New York City, and has other main offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, and The Hague (home to the International Court of Justice). On 25 April 1945, 50 nations met in San Francisco, USA for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on 25 June 1945 and took effect on 24 October 1945, when the UN began operations. Pursuant to the Charter, the organization's objectives include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law.

The UNGA is responsible for the UN budget, appointing the non-permanent members to the Security Council, appointing the UN secretary-general, receiving reports from other parts of the UN system, and making recommendations through resolutions. It also establishes numerous subsidiary organs to advance or assist in its broad mandate. The UNGA is the only UN organ where all member states have equal representation.

Introduction to the agenda:

Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. We must be aware of its diverse effects on peace and international security. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Actions must be taken specially the developing countries in the tropical regions since a well-established fact has come over the years in front of the world that the per capita liberation of carbon is more in the developed countries (mostly temperate) but it's the developing countries like Pakistan, India and Central African countries which are suffering more from droughts and famine, floods

etc. These countries are in tropical areas which has high diversity which implies that the destruction in these regions will not only create a ecological problem but also economical problem too since majority of the countries falls into the low-income group. The global temperature has already risen 1.1°C above the pre-industrial level, with glaciers melting and the sea level rising. Impacts of climate change also includes flooding and drought, displacing millions of people, sinking them into poverty and hunger, denying them access to basic services, such as health and education, expanding inequalities, stifling economic growth and even causing conflict. By 2030, an estimated 700 million people will be at risk of displacement by drought alone. Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its devastating impacts is therefore an imperative to save lives and livelihood, and key to making the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals – the blueprint for a better future – a reality. To limit warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as set out in the Paris Agreement, global greenhouse gas emissions will need to peak before 2025.

Background to the Issue:

Climate change poses escalating risks to stability and security, with potentially far-reaching consequences, from the risks to fragile states from more volatile weather to the combined effects of rising sea levels and storm surge on the survival of island nations and coastal populations.

In the past few years, the Security Council has paid more attention to climate security concerns. Prompted by Sweden the UN created a small Climate Security Mechanism in 2018 to help the United Nations more systematically address climate-related security risks and devise prevention and management strategies.

The Security Council also recognized the role of climate change in complicating peace operations in African conflicts, including those in Mali, Sudan and Somalia.

In July 2020, Germany led a high-level debate on climate change and security at the Security Council and proposed several new measures to raise the profile of climate and security concerns, including creating the post of a special representative, developing an enhanced early warning system, and incorporating climate security in all peace operation mandates. However, the Trump administration quashed any hopes of a joint Security Council resolution.

Challenges and barriers :

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a driver of displacement and migration, as changing environmental conditions render certain areas uninhabitable or unsustainable for human populations. The following paragraphs provide a comprehensive understanding of the displacement and migration patterns associated with climate change and their implications for international peace and security.

1. Displacement from Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and the increased frequency of extreme weather events pose significant challenges to small island developing states. Countries such as the Maldives, Tuvalu, and Kiribati face the risk of complete submergence, leading to the displacement of entire populations. The loss of territory and the resulting displacement can create complex security challenges, including the loss of sovereignty, potential conflicts over migration and resettlement, and strained resources in host countries.

2. Internal Displacement: Climate change-induced environmental factors, including prolonged droughts, floods, and desertification, contribute to internal displacement within countries. For example, in the Horn of Africa, recurrent droughts have led to the displacement of pastoral communities as they search for water and grazing lands. Internal displacement can strain social and economic structures, exacerbate existing tensions between host communities and displaced populations, and lead to conflicts over resources and livelihood opportunities.

3. Cross-border Migration: Climate change impacts, such as water scarcity and agricultural disruptions, can drive cross-border migration as people seek more favourable living conditions and livelihood opportunities. For instance, the ongoing environmental degradation in the Sahel region of Africa has led to

increased migration towards North Africa and Europe. These migratory flows can generate social and economic pressures, strained relationships between countries of origin and destination, and potential conflicts arising from competition for resources and employment.

4. Urbanization and Informal Settlements: Climate change-induced displacement often results in the formation of informal settlements in urban areas. Rapid urbanization and the influx of displaced populations can strain infrastructure, social services, and resources, leading to increased social tensions and potential conflicts. Inadequate housing, limited access to basic services, and socio-economic inequalities further exacerbate vulnerabilities and can contribute to social unrest and instability.

5. Conflict-Induced Displacement and Climate Change: Climate change can interact with existing conflicts, exacerbating displacement and creating complex security challenges. For example, in the Lake Chad Basin, the combined impacts of climate change, including resource scarcity and environmental degradation, have compounded the humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing conflict with Boko Haram. Displacement resulting from both conflict and climate change can strain humanitarian responses, further destabilize fragile regions, and potentially fuel new conflicts.

Emphasising the role and involvement of un

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century, affecting every aspect of human life and development. It poses significant risks to the environment, health, food security, economic growth, social stability and human rights. It also has implications for international peace and security, as it can exacerbate existing conflicts, create new sources of tension and undermine the efforts of the United Nations to maintain peace and security around the world.

The United Nations has been at the forefront of addressing climate change and its impacts on peace and security, through various organs, agencies and initiatives. This section will provide an overview of some of the key actors and mechanisms within the UN system that are involved in this issue, as well as some of the main challenges and opportunities for cooperation and action.

A. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNF

The UNFCCC is the main international treaty on climate change, adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. It has 197 parties, including all UN member states. The UNFCCC sets out the general principles and objectives for global cooperation on climate change, such as stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and assisting developing countries in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

The UNFCCC also establishes a framework for regular negotiations among parties on specific commitments and actions to achieve its goals. These negotiations take place at annual sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), which is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. The COP adopts decisions and resolutions on various aspects of climate change, such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building, transparency and compliance.

One of the most important outcomes of the COP process is the Paris Agreement, which was adopted in 2015 at COP21 and entered into force in 2016. The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping the global average temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. It also aims to enhance adaptation to climate change impacts, and to mobilize financial resources and technological support for developing countries.

B. Paris Agreement and its Goals

The Paris Agreement is a landmark achievement for global climate action, as it represents a universal, legally binding and ambitious framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. The Paris Agreement has several key features that make it different from previous agreements under the UNFCCC:

- It applies to all parties, both developed and developing countries, while recognizing their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.*
- It requires each party to communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are their voluntary plans and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing adaptation actions.*

- *It establishes a global stocktake every five years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the goals of the agreement and to inform future actions by parties.*
- *It creates an enhanced transparency framework to track and report on parties' actions and support, as well as a mechanism to facilitate implementation and promote compliance.*
- *It sets a goal of mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020 from developed countries to developing countries for climate action, as well as enhancing financial flows consistent with a low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathway.*

The Paris Agreement has been widely hailed as a historic step forward for global cooperation on climate change, but it also faces significant challenges in terms of implementation, ambition and equity. Some of these challenges include:

- *Ensuring that parties fulfil their NDCs and increase their ambition over time, especially considering the current gap between pledged actions and required emissions reductions to meet the temperature goals.*
- *Providing adequate and predictable financial resources and technological support for developing countries to implement their NDCs and adapt to climate change impacts.*
- *Addressing the loss and damage caused by climate change impacts that cannot be avoided or adapted to, especially for vulnerable countries and communities.*
- *Enhancing synergies and coherence among various actors and initiatives within and outside the UN system that are involved in climate action, such as regional organizations, civil society groups, private sector entities and subnational governments.*

Suggested topics to cover

Barriers posed by the climate crisis

Climate crisis disrupting world peace

Plans and actions implemented by the UN and global involvement

Switching to natural alternatives in industries to preserve sustainability

Climate crisis threatening the success of sdgs

Sources-

[The Climate Crisis – A Race We Can Win | United Nations](#)

[Home – Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet \(nasa.gov\)](#)

[Causes and Effects of Climate Change | United Nations](#)

[Climate change is a crisis. How did we get here? – Century of Science | Science News](#)