Country- France

Committee- UNEP

Agenda- Promoting the Coherent Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development

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"The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become."- Lady Bird Johnson.

France strongly supported the United Nations' adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the world to eradicate extreme poverty, combat inequalities and protect the planet. Many of the sustainable goals are related to environment. The world needs to promote the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. This means that the citizens of every country need to pay attention to the environmental growth. France is equally attached with respect to environmental protection as it is to other goals. France has done very well in improving standard of living and required facilities. Yet there is still work to be done, especially to maintain healthy ecosystems and sustainably manage natural resources. On 17 August 2015, the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act gave legislative shape to France's voluntary commitment to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. The Government led Parliament to pass a "climate energy contribution" on greenhouse gas emissions built into the taxes on petroleum products on a pathway, already adopted by Parliament, set to rise from €56 per tonne of CO_2 in 2020 to €100 per tonne of CO_2 in 2030. It will propose that Parliament introduce a price floor on carbon of some €30 per tonne in the power generation sector in 2017.

The French bill for the restoration of biodiversity, nature and landscapes, which is currently being debated, thus provides for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, the acknowledgement of the notion of ecological prejudice, the establishment of action plans for all threatened species in France, the enhancement of protection of marine biodiversity, the prohibition of neonicotinoids, and the exchange of traditional seed.

GUIDELINES BY FRANCE-

- Keep global warming well below 2° C or even 1.5° C by rolling out short- and long-term emissions strategies that drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Incorporate adaptation to climate change into public action and anticipate risks (prevention).
- Step up efforts to increase energy efficiency and the share of renewables in the energy mix, and step-up carbon sinks.
- Invest in international cooperation and research and disseminate information in order to mobilise players.
- Support developing countries in their transition to low-carbon economies.

France mobilised all its capacities to host the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change, which culminated in December 2015 in the first universal agreement on climate change. Amongst other measures, it adopted the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act, which aims to develop a low-carbon economy with the ambitious objective of reducing emissions by 40% by 2030 in relation to the 1990 level. In order to achieve this goal, the government is encouraging the development of renewable energy sources and reducing France's nuclear power base. In order to encourage all players to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, since 2014 the polluter-pays principle has been applied through the climate energy contribution, a tax on all emissions generated by the use of fossil fuels, the revenue from which helps to finance the tax credit for competitiveness and employment. In 2013, France produced 0.9% of global greenhouse gas emissions while accounting for 3.5% of global GDP, making it one of the least intensive countries in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. Most emissions are generated by the transport, residential, commercial, farming and industrial sectors. Emissions linked to household consumption remain high, given the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the production of imported goods.