

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

Agenda – Addressing Climate-Fragility Risks

Committee – UNEA

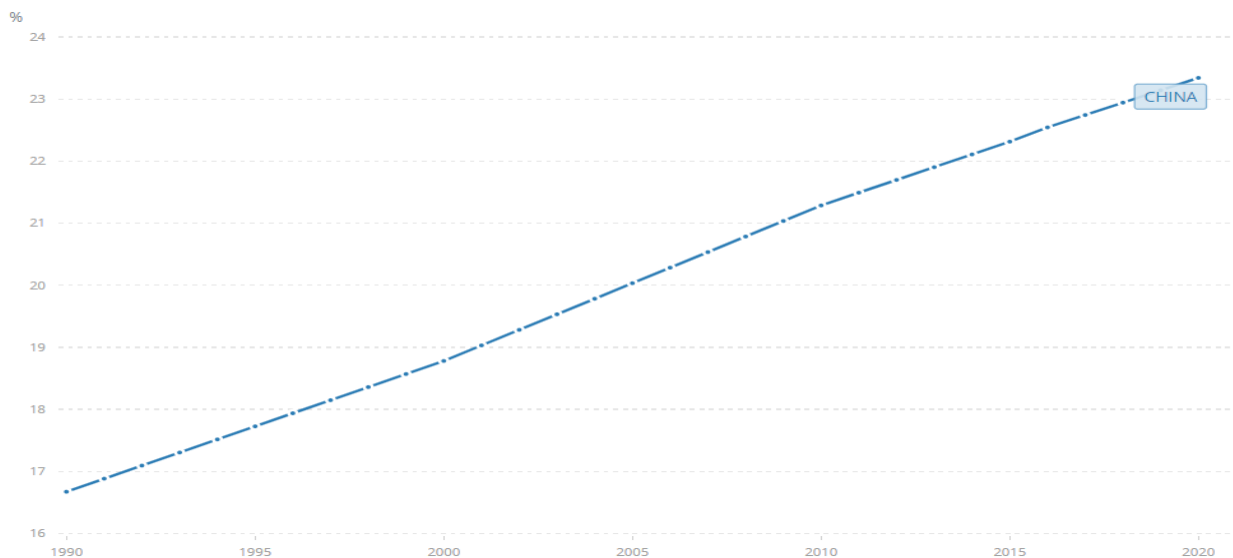
Position – Delegate

Delegate's Name – Aarush Dutta

With soaring economic growth over the past few decades, China has successfully transformed itself into a global economic giant. But China's thriving economy has made the country the world's largest polluter, but it has also been the country that planted the most amounts of trees in the last few years. In China, everyone is aware about the climate changes taking place around them, China is a part of the problem but an even greater part of the solution.

The Great Gobi Desert covering an enormous area of half a million square miles, was slowly grasping the entirety of China southwards. China is in a desperate time race against the Gobi Desert. The expansion of this desert wasn't only affecting 400 million people but also sandstorms from this desert were frequently bothering

the industrially active regions of China, like Beijing. These sandstorms from Gobi had to be immediately halted to stop draining the country's economy. That's why, China came up with an insane plan to build up a line of trees between The Gobi and the rest of China to stop it from expanding more into the Chinese mainland. This world-shaking program of China is part of its 14th five-year plan. This plan aims at covering 19 billion cubic meters or 24.1% of its land area with thick forest by 2025, to halt the encroachment of the Gobi Desert in mainland China. This forest program of China has already started showing promising results. The land area for agriculture has increased, industries are less affected, and most importantly, the expansion of the Gobi has been slowed. The following graph represents China's increase in forest area: -



China is the world's biggest carbon emitter, but not for long. It has already pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. In 2019 China implemented several windmills, solar energy powerplants and other renewable energy production facilities. To reduce carbon emissions, China has constructed tens and hundreds of Nuclear Powerplants. Even, it is the biggest Nuclear Power consumer in the world. For the last few years, China has been continuously producing new and improved electrical cars, which are making a difference not only in China but also in the countries that bought that car.

Private sector participation is crucial to China's path to carbon neutrality. A more predictable regulatory environment as well as better access to markets and finance would allow the private sector to play a central role in delivering market solutions, improving productivity, reducing costs, stimulating technological innovation, and filling the financial gap.

Shanghai invested 3% of total GDP in environmental protection in 2018, and that number looks set to remain steady. The city also planted 50 square kilometers of new forest in 2019, and made way for 1,200 hectares of new greenery. Around 200 kilometers of greenway was planned to be constructed in 2019.

In Hong Kong the Government has designated 24 country parks, 22 special areas with a total area of about 44,300 hectares for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation, and education. There are also five marine parks and one marine reserve, covering a total sea area of 3,400 hectares to protect marine species and habitats.

China considers climate change as one of its top priorities as a global leader and has surpassed all major climate leaders to become the country with the best environment preservation measures. China is implementing new and improved techniques to stop climate change. China is expected to continue these measures till it becomes completely carbon neutral.