## General Assembly

## Addressing conservation issues of resources while establishing preservation efforts in developed and developing countries.

## Report of the Chair

**I. Overview**

As the global population continues to rise, the strain on resources becomes a weighted issue. The high rate of natural resource consumption, such as fossil fuels, impacts not only the environment but the health of populations. For example, 3.4 million people die each year from water related illnesses, and an estimated 780 million lack access to clean water.[8] In addition, the scarcity of resources has caused prices to skyrocket. According to climate records from 2012, the experienced heat waves will only keep increasing, negatively affecting crops and thus causing crop prices to rise.[7] The need to conserve and preserve natural resources has become crucial to not only the global economy, but the global population.

**II. History**

Historically, the use of fossil fuels such as coal and oil emerged during the Industrial Revolution, accelerating the rate of globalization which was followed by the international race to find more natural resources. Organizations like the National Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) were formed to aid in the mission to preserve these non-renewable fuels. There were immediate impacts, but in the following centuries, the world began to witness natural resources drain over time. Aside from the depletion of fossil fuels, other resource-based issues arose, such as pure water and the lack of it in areas of the world. To put it into perspective, if one were to imagine that the entire world’s supply of water was 26 gallons, only .003 litres (one-half a teaspoon) would be fresh water.[9]

As the multiple crises surrounding resources began to surface more prominently, the United Nations recognized this as a global issue and took the following steps. In October of 2007, The Chief of Executive Boards approved the “Climate Neutral Strategy,” which asks all the United Nation’s (UN) agencies to measure how much emissions they use. The purpose of this was to find a way to monitor and discourage UN countries from emitting large amounts of emissions. Then in September of 2009, the High Level Committee on Management, a committee that analyzes and identifies common concerns in the UN, accepted a recommendation submitted by the Environment Management Group that changed the Climate Neutral Strategy to the Sustainable Strategy; this was put forth to harmonize all environmental and social sectors of a country’s economy.[2] In December 2009, the General Assembly chose to make further procedures in the UN system about the Sustainable Strategy. Finally in the following February of 2010, the Issue Management Group finished their report in Geneva.[3] Today, the UN works through the World Bank which takes field initiatives for water, land, and forest management, and partners with committees like World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). [1] In the resolutions already made, there are programs in place that can mandate land, water and natural resources management, but their funds are limited. [1]

**III. Research Tips and Useful Sources**

When looking into this topic, it is helpful to start with basic questions that your delegation needs to know. Ask yourself, does your country have resources to preserve? Has your country taken any strides towards preserving it’s resources? Does your country's economy rely heavily on the use of non renewable resources? Is your country industrialized, or newly industrializing? Check how many resources are consumed in your country, and which are the most crucial to protect. When examining these answers, define any unfamiliar vocabulary. It is best to use only valid sites. Avoid personal sites with users. Use government or educational sites, even non profit sites (.gov, .mil, .edu, .org). Check out your assigned country’s websites by using country codes. Example: .uk (United Kingdom), .af (afghanistan), .bz (Belize), .cn (China). Lastly, remember to look for your country’s history on the issue, the present state of the problem, and your country’s political stance as it pertains to the topic. Multiple useful links are listed below.

* <http://www.un.org/> (This site is the official UN website)
* <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/gfn/page/earth_overshoot_day/> (This site gives insight to nations and the amount of resources they use)
* <http://www.iucn.org/about/> (This site is the official International Union for Conservation of Nature website)
* <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/Freshwater/Pages/freshwater.aspx> (This site gives direct information pertaining to the importance of fresh water)
* <http://goes.gsfc.nasa.gov/text/web_country_codes.html> (This sire is a guide to country codes, on the web, to assist in research)

**IV. References**

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[3] Finance for Change (2014, May 7). Global Footprint Network. Retrieved May 20, 2014, from <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_for_finance/>

[4] History of the NRCS (2014, May 20). NRSC. Retrieved May 20, 2014, from <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/about/history/>

[5] Report: 'Over-Consumption' Threatening Earth (2012, May 15). Common Dreams. Retrieved May 20, 2014, from <https://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/05/15>

[6] Rio-20 (2011). United Nations Conservation History. Retrieved May 20, 2014, from <http://www.uncsd2012.org/history.html>

[7] Stone, Daniel. National Geographic. (January 16, 2013). 6 Ways Climate Change Affects You. Web. August 27. Retreived from: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/01/pictures/130115-climate-change-superstorm-atmosphere-science/#/orange-orchard-california_63396_600x450.jpg>

[8] Water.org (2012). WaterPartners International. Web. August 27. Retreived from: <http://water.org/water-crisis/water-facts/water/>

[9] Water Facts - Worldwide Water Supply (2014, May 20). Reclamation- Managing Water in the West. Retrieved May 20, 2014, from <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/arwec/news/water_facts_worldwide.html>

[10] Wilderness Preservation Begins With the Kings of England. (n.d.). History of Conservation. Retrieved April 23, 2014, from <http://www.spacesfornature.org/greatspaces/conservation.html>

[11] World Conservation Problems. (n.d.). : Environmental Facts. Retrieved April 23, 2014, from <http://www.ypte.org.uk/environmental/world-conservation-problems/20>

1. **Notes**

The Chairs of General Assembly congratulate you on being a part of our MUNSA XIX conference! We want to thank you for putting forth the effort to participate, and hope to hear many innovative ideas from everyone of you. General Assembly is a large room, but that is even more of a reason to speak up; everyone’s voice is worth something! If there are any questions feel free to ask us before and during session, and remember, stay authentic! Goodluck and thank you for being a delegate at this year’s MUNSA!

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