

Alster Model United Nations



FORUM: The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

QUESTION OF: Taking responsibility for global climate damage by developing laws and measurements to ensure climate justice in regards to those responsible and affected

STUDENT OFFICER: Marie Veit

INTRODUCTION:

Climate change is a pressing global issue that disproportionately affects vulnerable communities. To address this challenge, it is crucial to establish legal frameworks and measurement systems that ensure climate justice. To effectively act upon this matter it is important to recognize the current state of climate change and its impacts. And moreover propose a comprehensive framework for holding responsible parties accountable while striving for climate justice for those affected.

BACKGROUND:

Climate change is a global crisis resulting from greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and unsustainable practices. It poses severe threats to ecosystems, economies, and vulnerable communities worldwide.

Vulnerable communities, particularly in least developed countries, are disproportionately affected by climate change due to limited resources and infrastructure.

Climate justice seeks to address the ethical and moral dimensions of climate change. It emphasizes principles of equity, fairness, and shared responsibility in tackling the climate crisis.

DEFINITIONS OF KEYTERMS:

Climate Justice: A principle that emphasizes equitable and fair responses to climate change, recognizing the disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities.

Attribution of Responsibility: The process of determining who bears responsibility for climate damage based on contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and capacity for mitigation and adaptation.

International Legal Framework: A collection of agreements and treaties, including the Paris Agreement, that guide global efforts to combat climate change.

Emission Measurement Systems: Tools and methodologies used to monitor and quantify greenhouse gas emissions accurately.

Restorative Justice Principles: Ethical guidelines that focus on repairing the harm caused by climate change and restoring affected ecosystems and communities.

MDCs (More Developed Countries): MDCs are nations characterized by advanced industrialization, high standards of living, and well-developed infrastructure. They typically have a strong economy and a high Human Development Index (HDI).

LDCs (Less Developed Countries): LDCs are nations characterized by lower levels of industrialization, lower income levels, and less developed infrastructure. They often face challenges related to poverty, limited access to healthcare, and lower education levels.

Green Growth: Green growth refers to a sustainable economic development approach that aims to promote economic growth while minimizing environmental impact. It involves adopting environmentally friendly practices, investing in renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to create a more sustainable and equitable future.

POTENTIAL ISSUES:

Achieving equity in climate action is a central challenge. Historically, MDC's have been the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, while LDC's and vulnerable nations often bear the brunt of the resulting climate impacts. Striking a balance that recognizes historical responsibility for emissions while ensuring that developing countries have the resources and support to adapt to climate change is a pressing issue.

Corporations and businesses play a significant role in global emissions. Holding those accountable for their contributions to climate change is a critical step.

However, doing so in a way that encourages sustainable practices and green investments without stifling economic growth is a delicate balance.

The equitable transfer of climate-related technology from developed to developing nations is a key component of climate justice. Balancing technology transfer with intellectual property rights and ensuring that developing countries have access to the tools they need to address climate change is an ongoing challenge.

Balancing the focus on adaptation (preparing for and addressing climate impacts) and mitigation (reducing emissions) can be challenging. Some countries may prioritize one over the other based on their immediate needs and vulnerabilities.

POSSIBLE COUNTERMEASURES:

Historical Responsibility; Recognizing that countries with significant historical emissions must lead in reducing emissions.

Financial Support; Providing aid from developed to developing nations for transitioning to low-carbon economies.

Technology Transfer; Encouraging sharing of green technologies to bridge gaps.

Transparency and Accountability; Establishing clear reporting and accountability mechanisms.

Global Cooperation; Fostering dialogue, diplomacy, and collaboration.

Public Awareness; Empowering civil society and citizens to advocate for fairness in climate policies.

USEFUL SOURCES:

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - [IPCC](#)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - [UNFCCC](#)

Climate Justice Alliance - [Climate Justice Alliance](#)