



LAGOS MODEL UNITED NATIONS (LMUN) 2020

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Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

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United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change
- II. The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life.

Resolutions Adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNEA 1/1	The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change	Adopted without a vote
UNEA 1/2	The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change	18 votes in favour, 4 against and no abstentions
UNEA 1/3	The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change	19 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention

Summary Report

The United Nations Environment Assembly met to consider the following agenda:

- I. The Role of Youth and Children in Combatting Climate Change
- II. The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life.

The Committee session started at exactly 2:00 pm on Monday with 22 Member States in attendance. The committee set the agenda for topic 1 “The Role of Youth and Children in Combatting Climate Change” to be addressed first and debate began. By the end of the day, delegates were already lobbying for the creation of blocs.

By Tuesday, 3 blocs (Blocs Carbon Zero, Go Green and Greener Earth) had been formed. Delegates worked thoroughly on their working papers and were given strict deadlines. By 8:45 pm, the Dais had received a total of 3 working papers for approval. Corrections were made to these working papers and sent back to delegates to work on.

On Wednesday, the Dais encouraged the delegates to attend the side attractions organized by the Lagos Model United Nations. The side attractions included The Idea Fair, The School Fair and The SDG Workshops. The delegates thoroughly enjoyed these events. The second drafts of their working papers were received by 11:59 pm.

By Thursday, the committee resumed formal session. This time, the delegates thoroughly debated on finding adequate solutions to the problems their various Member States were facing in order to add these to their working papers. By Thursday night, the Dais was alerted on the creation of another bloc (The AU Bloc) and hence the committee had 4 Blocs in total. The Dais also received and corrected the third draft of each working paper and merged two blocs (i.e. Greener Earth Bloc and Go Green Bloc). At the end of the day, the committee had 3 Blocs and 3 Working Papers in total.

Friday was the last day of the conference. Delegates had done a lot of work and had come up with beautiful working papers. By the beginning of the second committee session, the Dais was pleased to announce to delegates that their working papers had been approved as draft resolution and coded by the Dais. The debate was closed and the draft resolutions were presented to the committee. All draft resolutions cut across educating children and youths on what climate change is and also on ways they can reduce their carbon imprint with of their solutions being to partner with animation companies to produce cartons aimed at piquing children’s interest in climate change and practicing energy conservation and carbon zero lifestyles also generally the various issues of climate change and particularly the role of youths and children in combating these issues. There were no amendments to any of the draft resolutions and they all passed. All delegates worked extremely hard in unity during the conference and came up with exciting resolutions we hope will be implemented in the nearest future.

Code: UNEA 1/1

Committee: The United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1990) that states that a child is every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier,

Fully aware of the General Assembly resolution 50/81 (1995) which defines youths as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years,

Further recalling Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1990) which assures that children capable of forming opinions the rights to express them towards issues affecting them,

Taking into consideration the General Assembly resolution 43/53 (1988) which recognized that climate change was a common concern of mankind and determined that necessary and timely action should be taken to deal with climate change within a global framework,

Recalling the goals of the Paris Agreement (2015) to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change,

Reaffirming the General Assembly resolution 64/130 (2009) which stresses the need to encourage environmental awareness amongst youth,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) that beckons on Parties to the Convention to cooperate through systematic observations, research and information exchange in order to better understand and assess the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and the effects on human health and the environment from the modification of the ozone layer,

Guided by the General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) which urges Member States to enhance sensitization, education, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation,

Recognizing the World Program of Action for Youth (1995) that was adopted through the General Assembly resolution 50/81 (1996) that asks that governments should initiate programmes to promote participation in tree planting, forestry, waste reduction, using renewable energy, recycling and other environmentally friendly practices,

Reaffirming the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration (2019) that calls upon Member States to support initiatives to amplify the youth's voice in their respective communities, to cultivate leadership capacities and enhance communication of youth across the globe in order to foster the form of collaboration that is imperative in addressing global crises,

Affirming Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) which sought to advance the role of youth in sustainable development,

Bearing in mind that youth and children are becoming increasingly aware of the seriousness and effects of climate change, as evidenced by the “Fridays for Future” movement,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to further improve educational systems to accommodate climate change education by:
 - a. Ensuring the children and youth become climate-conscious adults by modifying school curriculums through;
 - i. The inclusion of subjects such as Biodiversity and Climate Change, Climate Change and Forest Soil Carbon, Ecosystem Services;
 - ii. The creation of extracurricular activities like Eco-Club that provide activities like carbon footprint calculations with the aim of making sure the club members become carbon conscious;
 - b. Encouraging healthy competitions that foster technological innovations towards creating a greener earth by;
 - i. Hosting Paper contests open to children and youth that will be centred around providing written solutions to climate problems faced in their immediate environment to be conducted by Centre for Science and Environment, Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlement, European Citizen Science Association, Future Earth International;
 - ii. Organizing Science fairs focused solely on practical solutions to climate-based problems conducted by Australian Rangeland Society, African Biodiversity Institute, International Forestry Students’ Association, Taking IT Global, Youth for Action;
2. *Invites* Member States to promote green studies by:
 - a. Providing scholarships to students seeking to study in related fields (like energy engineering, environmental engineering);
 - b. Providing financial assistance through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to university faculties that teach green courses;
3. *Urges* Member States to facilitate the conversation between the youth by:
 - a. Conducting online referendums among the population of children and youth in their countries, asking what they want their leaders to do with regards to addressing climate change, and therefore encourages Member States to use these referendums to;
 - i. Assess the effectiveness of their current youth-related policies and thus, improve on them;
 - ii. Encourage youth to take greater climate action on their own, as they can now know their opinions are considered in decision-making;

- b. Holding regular round-table discussions between policy-makers and youth/child representatives;
- 4. *Encourages* governmental organizations to engage youth social media influencers as children and youth make up a majority of the social media population by:
 - a. Creating social media campaigns that will sensitize the audience on climate action;
 - b. Conducting social media challenges that will spur the younger demographic to propagate green practices;
- 5. *Urges* that governments of Member States and global affairs organizations encourage better carbon lifestyle policies and facilities in university campuses and schools by:
 - a. Promoting the development and usage of renewable energy options from local to global levels;
 - i. Encourage the strengthening, collaboration and participation amongst local and state government, global affairs organizations and developers of renewable energy such as biomass, hydropower, wind energy and solar energy through policy support from the General Assembly this will promote better operation;
 - ii. Supporting domestic solar-model industries, biomass energy companies with relaxed trade barriers, subsidized tariffs, exportation and offtake security policies from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that will encourage developers to work with universities on a pro-bono case;
 - iii. Expresses hope for provision of funding incentives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that will support renewable energy developers to supply and service more university campuses and schools;
 - b. Reducing water waste in schools by introducing water-saving policies and using water-saving appliances;
 - i. Encourages water conservation policies with policy support from the United Nations General Assembly on sustainable and efficient plumbing codes, water control and controlled irrigation;
 - ii. Recommends funding the development of water-saving appliances that will have automatic and regulated timers for specific purposes such as washing, shower and brushing from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
- 6. *Requests* that Member States recognize the International Day of Forests and also set aside a day annually that will be called children and youth green day in their national calendars:
 - a. Recommended activities for the youth green day;

- i. Engagement of the Ecological Youth Angola, Youth for Action, Youth for Development and Cooperation, SustainUS Incorporated, Global Attitude Institute, to conduct a plant a tree initiative;
 - ii. Providing rewards for outstanding youth and child climate change advocates;
7. *Recommends* the implementation of Youth Delegate Programmes in all Member States to encourage the engagement of youth in proceedings at the national and international level;
8. *Appeals* to Member States to provide and encourage eco-friendly transport for youths and children through:
 - a. The allocation of free bicycles to children between the ages of 10-16 especially in urban areas and cities by both regional government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) so as to further cut down the emission of carbon in the atmosphere;
 - b. The provision of more public transport such as trains, buses, subways and water transport in cities and urban areas by governmental bodies so as to encourage more youths to opt for public transport;
 - c. The adoption of strict policies ensuring that each private car adheres to laws which ensure that cars are fuel-efficient and eco-friendly;
9. *Expecting* Member States to create an encouraging environment for youth spearheaded movements as well as NGOs in the battle against climate change by:
 - a. Supporting and encouraging already established youth movements and NGOs through funding by the government;
 - b. Constantly rewarding individual youths who are doing their bit in the fight against climate change through monetary compensations and national recognition;
 - c. Calling for the strong support of existing institutions at both international and regional levels that support the participation of young people in climate change processes more specifically the Action for Climate Change (ACE).

Code: UNEA 1/3

Committee: The United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Taking into consideration the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992) whose ultimate objective is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

Aware of the General Assembly resolution 36/81 (1981) where the definition of youth is given as those persons falling between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive,

Acknowledging the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change where Member States recognized the importance of youth and children in combating climate change,

Reaffirming Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 which encourages all countries to take urgent action to combat climate change and its effects,

Recalling the efforts of the Paris Agreement (2015) in which Member States pledged to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by a certain percentage in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting with satisfaction the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1989) which aims to phase out substances responsible for depleting the ozone layer,

Expressing its appreciation for present measures Member States have in place to involve youth and children in climate change mitigation and adaptation,

1. *Calls for more action by Member States National Ministries of Education or equivalent departments for the education of youth and children in combating climate change through:*
 - a. *The inclusion of subjects concerning climate change in the educational curriculum for students within the school setting of all Member States;*
 - i. *subjects could be tagged Environmental Studies, Carbon Zero Practices introduced in varying stages of difficulty at all levels of education;*
 - ii. *the co-operation of the Ministries of Education of Member States with youth-focused Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and United Nations (UN) frameworks like One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UNCC: Learn) to raise awareness and provide information on children and youth activities on climate action;*
 - iii. *teaching carbon zero lifestyle practices and energy conservation techniques to children and youths and having practical sessions in schools through classroom individual and group projects with teachers monitoring student progress;*
 - iv. *with Member States providing a supervisory structure at their discretion where representatives as youth and children monitor practical carbon zero practices and energy conservation measures in schools and possibly home settings;*

- b. Introduction of a youth initiative in Member States to help educate youth and children on the management of energy resources which:
 - i. will be called Youth to Youth Carbon Zero Initiative (YCZI);
 - ii. will be established through liaison with NGOs, youth associations, interested companies, international bodies like UNICEF and YOUNGO;
 - iii. will have climate change and greenhouse gases emissions awareness and education done by youths to youths in rural communities;
 - iv. will have international outreaches to sensitize youth and children in underdeveloped and developing countries spanning from one week to three months, at the discretion of Member States, and sponsored by a proposed joint fund of Member States, interested NGOs, individual donations and business corporations;
 - c. Ensuring youths and children actively participate in the United Nations (UN) Joint Frame Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate change by;
 - i. imploring all Member States to make use of UN International days such as International Day of Forests to keep children and youth aware by embracing tree planting schemes in schools and environment to contribute towards curbing the effects of greenhouse emissions;
 - ii. providing basic literacy climate action programs for illiterate children and youths in underdeveloped and developing countries using local languages in conjunction with Member States, interested NGOs, Corporations, individual donations and possible support from initiatives of the United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF);
 - d. Partnerships with national frameworks such as the Chinese Youth Climate Action Network in China and Climate Youth Japan or equivalent youth frameworks in Member States and Youth Non-Governmental Organization;
 - i. To produce brochures and pamphlets for youth and children to be educated on climate change and action;
 - ii. With national youth and children frameworks and NGOs working with school administrations in Member States to distribute these brochures in schools and local communities;
 - iii. These brochures may be translated to local languages of Member States for effective communication;
2. *Recommends* the involvement of children and youth by using print, electronic and social media platforms as a tool to tackle and address climate change by:
- a. Enabling the rise of independent activists in Member States by starting “Carbon Zero” challenges on social media for youth and children to yield more interest in Climate Change mitigation;

- i. Providing an avenue for youth and children in underdeveloped countries to share and participate in these “Carbon Zero” challenges through partnerships with the proposed youth division of Ministries of Environment, interested NGOs, business corporations, individual donations and United Nations bodies like the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA);
 - ii. This partnership may create a Foundation to be called “The Joint Initiative for Climate Action in Underdeveloped Countries”;
 - iii. This foundation aims to help youth and children in Member States spread awareness and training to participate in carbon zero challenges and avenue to share their efforts through available media with the rest of the world;
 - iv. The proposed foundation would have a feedback mechanism where the youths and children in developing and developed countries could encourage and suggest more means to effect carbon zero and energy management lifestyle practices;
- b. Using hashtags such as “CarbonZeroEarthHundred”, “MyCarbonZeroJourney”, “Switch It Off” in print, electronic and social media platforms that can help youth and children globally share their efforts and encourage one another to continue climate change action;
- c. Member States partnership with animation and film making companies such as Netflix and MAPPA studios to;
 - i. Produce cartoons and films piquing children's interest to advocate for climate action and practice energy conservation and carbon zero lifestyle measures;
 - ii. Hold comic and short film contests for youth and children on themes of environmental stability and carbon zero lifestyle practices with book or movie adaptation as incentives;
- d. Collaborating with broadcast companies for youth and children to host radio and television shows enlightening peers on dangers of climate change and movements towards carbon zero goal;
- e. Creating print media environmental magazines, journals or carbon zero monitoring reports:
 - i. Containing reports and columns run by youth and children on climate action and climate mitigation;
 - ii. Establishing NGOs, foundations and youth-led platforms whose aim will be to monitor and gather carbon zero activities in underdeveloped

countries, using proposed geotags and hashtags to share their experiences and challenges to the world;

- iii. With cooperation from NGOs and government of Member States to find and secure agreements with print media;

3. *Further recommends* Member States to partner with technological organizations such as the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSID) to create innovative ideas to include youths in combating climate change by:

- a. Improving carbon zero lifestyle practices through organizing training programmes where youths can learn how to build sustainable and renewable power sources to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy such as fossils fuels;
- b. Creating awareness and disseminating information on youths and technology through every possible means of communication in developing and underdeveloped countries;
- c. The creation of campaign pressure and the use of technology in building sensing hardware which the youths would be educated on how to use in order for them to keep track of information about the environment taking the cue from the Country of Magnolia whose youths have been trained to monitor air quality;

4. *Encourages* all Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to engage youth and children on sustainable practices and move towards creating a cleaner environment with zero carbon emissions by partnering with eco groups such as the International Tree Foundation and the Good Planet Foundations to offer youth and children first-hand experience with internships or otherwise on practices that improve zero carbon emissions and greener earth;

5. *Urges* Member States, NGOs and International Organizations to assign funding in national budgets and liaise to create a joint fund for:

- a. The organization of national, sub-regional and international essay competitions, idea fairs and projects with incentives as rewards designed for children and youths to proffer innovative strategies for environmental sustainability;
- b. Establishing and initiating creative frameworks and programs, to involve the youths in developing and underdeveloped countries by:
 - i. Forming of youth alliances for efficient cooperation, by connecting youths in developed countries and youths in underdeveloped or developing countries to work together and achieve the common global goal through international youth summits and conferences;
 - ii. Keeping youths in these countries informed on climate change events through television broadcasts and radio programs;
 - iii. Funding for youth and government-led literacy and sensitization schemes for children and youth;

- c. Establishment of yearly youth-focused seminars and youth-led organizations to combat climate change in developed countries and youths in underdeveloped and developing countries to work together and achieve the common global goal through international youth summits and conferences;
 - d. Providing science grants for youths with cooperation from Universities, science foundations or similar organizations on climate change mitigation research and projects youths may undertake in building instruments and machine to harness clean energy sources such solar, geothermal and wind energy;
 - e. Providing sponsorships for workshops, seminars, conferences for youth and children participation in climate change mitigation education and carbon zero practices training;
6. *Urges* the Member States to adopt political inclusion of youth and children on the issue of climate crisis and climate change policy discussions by:
- a. Creating youth divisions of Ministries of Environment or equivalent department in Member States;
 - b. Gathering and listening to opinions on law provisions made by youth and children through;
 - i. Proposed youth divisions in Ministries of Environment of Member States;
 - ii. National public opinion polls and referendums done physically or virtually through verified official websites when drafting at the various law-making levels in Member States to curb carbon gas emissions;
 - c. Enacting accommodating environmental sustainability laws on climate change adaptation and mitigation that recognize the input and participation of youth and children as necessary and important;
 - d. Creating forums that encourage government and youth interaction where the older and younger generation can convene to develop useful and strategic resolutions for the good of Member States and the world.

Code: UNEA 1/3

Committee: The United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: The Role of Youth and Children in Combating Climate Change

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging the importance of the implementation of the *Paris Agreement* (2015) for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Recognizing the General Assembly resolution 36/81 (1981) where “youth” is defined as those persons falling between the ages 15 and 24 years inclusive,

Taking into consideration Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1990), which defines a “child” to be every human being below the age of eighteen years,

Fully aware of the African Rift Geothermal (2006) which objective is to accelerate the development and utilization of geothermal resources in the Rift Valley of Africa and also African countries as a pathway to low carbon development,

Having considered the estimated increase in the population of young people in Africa by 2030,

Noting with deep concern the fact that lots of African youths do not have the basic knowledge of climate change, which is dangerous to environmental condition,

Taking note of the African Union Agenda 2063 which hopes for environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities,

Further recognizing the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change as providing an effective platform to address regional challenges at international gatherings,

Reaffirming Sustainable Development Goal 13 which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,

Alarmed by the devastating effects that climate change has on African countries and least developed countries (LDCs) having agriculture as a major source of livelihood,

Realizing the lack of public sensitization on the impacts of climate change in Africa,

Taking into account Africa’s limited access to climate change finance meant to adapt to changing climate risks,

Deeply conscious of the usually unexplored link between trade and climate change,

Having considered that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) can be used as an avenue to promote climate-friendly trade practices,

Emphasizing the importance of active youth participation and action around the continent and beyond in climate change mitigation and adaptation,

1. *Draws the attention* of Member States on the need to preserve biodiversity and invest in nature-based solutions through the involvement of youths by;

- a. imploring the youths to conserve and restore habitats and ecosystems, as they can help to store carbon and reduce the disastrous impacts of climate change;
 - b. introduction and promotion of climate-resilient agriculture education to youths in Member States, which reduces poverty and hunger in the face of climate change, and improving the resources it depends on for the future;
 - c. placing stake lines around coasts to reduce sea surges, cleaning canals, and promoting coastal forest growth through education and sustainable activities;
 - d. creating and promoting initiatives for youths on the need to adapt to climate change and protect biodiversity;
2. *Strongly advises* Member States to include youth and children in the climate change awareness plan through:
- a. making sure that climate change is included in their curriculum at primary, secondary and tertiary levels;
 - b. creating institutions such as Model United Nations Societies at the primary level and ensuring active participation;
 - c. Imploring youths to maintain liaison with NGOs, interested organizations like the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP), Climate Action Network (CAN), YOUNGO, and UNICEF which will equally enable them to be representative in climate change affairs;
3. *Requests* that Member States also focus on encouraging youths to be a part of the climate change discussion by:
- a. making good use of social media and virtual platforms in this pandemic period to organize online workshops and events that create awareness among youths on climate action;
 - b. drawing attention to the importance of SDG 13 on climate action through publications and campaigns;
 - c. starting up youth-led initiatives aimed at sensitizing the general public on climate change which is a step forward to meeting Goal 13 on combating climate change and mitigating its impacts;
4. *Calls for* the creation of green jobs to alleviate the rate of unemployment amongst African youths and the development of green technology in agricultural practices and the energy sector, enabling millions of people, especially youths to live above the poverty line and enjoy improved livelihoods;
5. *Suggests* that the negotiations between African States under the AfCFTA should focus on and seek to promote climate-friendly trade practices among Member States and engage the youths in the various decision-making processes that come with these negotiations;
6. *Further recommends* the enhancement of climate-resistance in vulnerable communities with prominent attention given to the youth through:

- a. the introduction of improved farming techniques for youths that are into farming;
 - b. development projects and better land management with an emphasis on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities;
7. *Urges* African leaders to work hand in hand and present the continent as a business case with opportunities for youth and children, to attract climate finance as well as fully implementing the Paris Agreement;
8. *Appeals to* other Member States to partner with African countries and provide support where and when needed by maintaining the status of the continent and contributing to combating climate change through frequent assembly among Member States.