

United Nations Commission on Population and Development

Background Guide



Resource Scarcity in 2030

Lincoln Model United Nations

April 6 – 7, 2019

Table of Contents

Introduction to the Topic.....	1
History of the Committee.....	2
History of the Problem.....	3
Current Situation.....	6
Bloc Positions.....	7
Possible Solutions.....	8
Quest. Resolution Must Answer.....	10
Sources.....	11

Intro to the topic

The committee is set in the year 2030. The circumstances building up to this year regarding climate change, food and water scarcity, and pollution, have lead England's chief scientific advisor, John Beddington, to forecast a "perfect storm" by this year.

The world's population will have reached a shocking 8.3 billion people, an enormous increase that has taken place since the year 2019, when the population was 7.6 billion. Most of this growth is concentrated in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Because of this growth, there is a need for an increase of about 50% in food and energy production, combined with a need for 30% more fresh water to sustain the population. There is also a growing need to adapt to and mitigate the alarming effects of climate change, since efforts to diminish the soaring emissions of greenhouse gases have not

been effective to prevent the global deterioration.

Furthermore, the rising global temperatures have caused a ripple effect leading to an increase in tropical diseases around the globe. These diseases, combined with malnutrition due to resource scarcity, have led to what the World Health Organization calls "an unprecedented global health crisis." The crisis mainly affects areas of South America, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia due to the growing presence of diseases like malaria and dengue fever in these tropical climates. This has also caused child and infant mortality and maternal death rates to increase significantly, while life expectancy as a whole has decreased.

The biggest crisis is the accelerated increase in global temperatures which has led to the melting of the polar ice caps. This was caused by a rapid and continual increase in CO₂ emissions (Figure 1). An alarming rise in the sea level by 12 centimeters has affected many coastal cities, islands, and important rivers. Diversely, other countries have been hit with prolonged droughts.

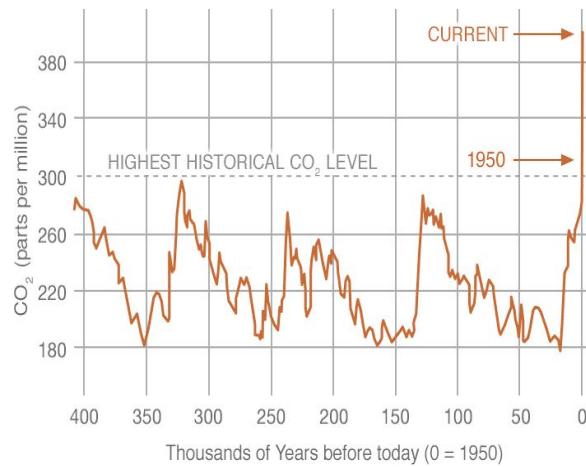


Figure 1: Global CO₂ levels

Overall, many countries are struggling with meeting the basic needs for their population and controlling the crisis in their society. Global turmoil has been increasing due to energy prices increasing, failing to meet the demands for food, water and energy, contamination, and spread of disease. Because of the diversity of every country's situation, every country needs different solutions depending on their specific situation. This issue requires urgent and

drastic changes if we want to survive.



History of the Committee

The United Nations Charter founded the Economic and Social Council on 1945. It was established as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. ECOSOC consists of 54 members that are distributed the following way: 14 seats are given to African countries, 11 to Asian countries, 6 to Eastern European countries, 10 to Latin America and Caribbean island nations, and 13 to Western European countries. The General Assembly elects these members for a period of three years. The ECOSOC council was established as the main branch in charge of economic and social issues.

The committee has several functions that are outlined in the United Nations Charter X, specifically in Articles 62 to 66. Among these functions, ECOSOC has the ability to initiate reports and studies regarding issues that relate to its mandate. It can also make recommendations to the General Assembly and other agencies that specialize on the mandated topics of this committee. Additionally, it can call for international conferences, coordinate actions of specialized agencies, and assist the Security Council when requested. Its work is distributed in commissions, for example human rights, social development, population, and technology. Each commission specializes on topics regarding topics of concern for ECOSOC. Regarding resolutions, each member has a vote, and decisions are taken considering the majority of votes. However, The United Nations Charter allows the council to permit a level of advisory to NGO's. 2,500 NGO's were permitted this advisory by the early 21st century.

The Commission on Population and Development is one of the ten commissions of the Economic and Social Council

(ECOSOC). It was established by ECOSOC on October 3, 1946, first called the Population Commission. In December 1994 its name was changed to Commission on Population and Development. It is made up of 47 Member States elected for a period of four years, with a background on population and development experience. At first, it only met every two or three years until 1994, where it met once every year. The General Assembly decided both the Council and the Commission would play as key factors on the follow up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The commission is to be of assistance to the council on population issues, development strategies, policies, and monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action at national and global levels. It is also in charge of providing recommendations to the Council in the United Nations System, and other population-related organizations.

History of the Problem

In the 1800s, the world's population was around 1 billion people. In 2018, it had increased above 7 billion people. Currently, in 2030, there are 8.3 billion people on

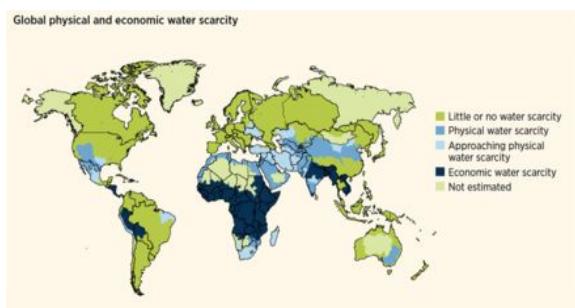
earth. The world's population is rapidly increasing, as the ratio of births to deaths is four to one. Because of this, the global population will continue increasing exponentially until it reaches a point where the Earth can no longer sustain it. This unbalance between the two rates arose hundreds of years ago by the discovery of agriculture by our ancestors, as they were able to sustain their nutrition without the risk of hunting. Since then, political, social, economical and technological advances have further aggravated this imbalance of life and death.



The industrial revolution (1760-1840), which began in Great Britain but then expanded to the rest of the world, brought major technological advancements that became a big factor in the global growth of population and pollution. It not only generated an increase in the food

production, allowing more mouths to be fed, but it also created a rapidly growing need for resources to sustain this new development. Medical advancements assisted in the defeat of a wide range of diseases, and the invention of vaccines was a factor as well. The increase in food supply, plus fewer means of mortality became the start of overpopulation. Furthermore, fertility treatments were developed, which lead to an increase in birth rates as well. On the other hand, the industrial revolution also marked the start of mass production, and with it the exploitation of natural resources and extensive pollution. For instance, the main source of electricity used during this time was coal. The massive burning of coal produced extensive quantities of air pollution that greatly damaged the environment. Furthermore, with increasing movement of people from rural to urban areas for work and the lack of proper sanitation practices aggravated pollution as there was not a correct disposal of waste, most notably chemical waste. Overall, this period brought the first ever need to overexploit resources and marked the beginning concerning air, water and land pollution.

After the industrial revolution there were many changes and events that led to resource scarcity and climate change as we know it now. Among these there were global conflicts like World War I & II, local conflicts within nations, new discoveries and advances that required many resources, among others. All these factors have contributed to the climate change and resource scarcity that are affecting many nations right now. One of the greatest issues is immigration and the shortage of resources it promotes, as it affects the density of population in an area. Poverty and lack of education are big factors as well, as this results in a lack of family planning, which get children married at an early age and increases the production of more kids, especially in third world countries.



All of these factors combined have resulted in overpopulation, which have caused a depletion of natural resources, degradation

of the environment, a rise in unemployment and poverty, as well as a high cost of living.

As of 2019, the United States was 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it was a century ago. Seas were nine inches higher and the damage continues to grow. The rise in deforestation has caused the remaining forests to be unable to keep up with CO₂ emissions. Rising temperatures are striking icecaps, which have been melting since the 1930s.



Now, Earth's average temperature has gone up to 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 2019, which have caused even more rising sea levels and the melting of polar ice caps. Warmer ocean temperatures have cause stronger storms, as well as flooding. Climate change has been a threat to habitats, homes,

and

lives.



action from world leaders as the state of the world is concerning. The growing scarcity of resources is also causing growing tension and conflicts between nations as all of them struggle to maintain their population and find new sources to meet the growing need and decreasing quantity of resources. Access to water is one of the main concerns, because wasteful policies are still practiced, and the rise in temperature has caused increased evaporation.

Current Situation

It is the year 2030. Global population has reached about 8.3 billion people. Resources are scarce, natural disasters are aggravating, and overpopulation is creating chaos throughout nations around the globe. Developed countries continue to exploit less developed ones in search for resources to sustain their growing population. Immigration is also a growing concern as people try to flee zones prone to natural disasters that not only increase in quantity, but also on intensity, however, most countries do not have the infrastructure or resources to support these refugees.

Overall, there is a wave of unrest throughout the world, and a need for serious



Furthermore, the sea level has risen an additional 8 inches this year. This affects coastal cities and areas that are less than 10 meters above sea level, which includes two-thirds of the world's cities, because they have a population of over five million are in low coastal areas. Among the most affected cities are Miami, Osaka, Shanghai and Rio de Janeiro. The people that live in these cities and many more require relocating

because of the high risk of flooding and other natural disasters. This flooding has led to an almost complete submersion of many island nations. Again, this has caused more environmental refugees.

Diversely, deadly heat waves are striking countries as the overall temperature level in the world has increased. This, combined with factors like the increase of the spread of diseases, the overpopulation, lack of sanitation and clean water, and environmental disasters lead to a decreased life expectancy and increased infant mortality.



All this change in global environment caused for the need for countries to find specific solutions regarding their situation. A global solution is necessary as the current situation constitutes a global crisis of the highest level, and a solution is necessary before the population of the world starts to

die. There is a need to determine new energy sources that are sustainable as to prevent any further damage to the already suffering environment. Furthermore, all nations, especially the most developed ones, need to make agreements to relocate refugees and aid developing countries in need. However, this might be difficult because of the strains that have been created by the tension that has been caused by all these issues.

Block Positions



China: China has surpassed the US to become the world's largest economy. Its population has reached its peak of 1.44 billion by 2029 and it is starting to decrease. However, their CO₂ emissions keep increasing at a deadly rate. Being one of the largest populations in the world, they will

have a serious lack of resources in the country, and the increasing need for energy to sustain the whole population has forced China to search for innovative ways to meet this demand. Furthermore, other countries are observing China's actions, being the largest economic power, towards the issues regarding resource scarcity and environmental disasters.



United States of America: The United States is the second largest economic power in 2030. The US being one of the major emitters of CO₂, is suffering major climate change issues. These changes made the seasons grow longer. One of the main issues in the USA is water scarcity, since large rivers and other bodies of water have begun to dry up. For example, the Colorado River no longer exists. Furthermore, natural resources like droughts, earthquakes, tornados and hurricanes have increased,

leaving behind devastating effects. The USA is looked towards to be a leader in finding solutions to this crisis.



India: India is the third largest economy in the world. Its population surpassed China's in 2024 to reach about 1.51 billion people. The country is suffering serious issues with resource scarcity and lack of energy sources because about 400 million people are living without electricity. Furthermore, as migration from rural to urban areas are increasing significantly, with more than 200 million more people moving to the cities by this year, there is a need to build new infrastructure. This is causing the already high CO₂ emission in the country to reach concerning levels never seen before. In addition, the bad living conditions and air pollution are leading to dangerous diseases spreading rapidly in the country.

Possible Solutions

Educating the masses will implement social change, and the use of campaigns and NGOs is indispensable. These should cover topics such as sustainable development, sex education, and resource administration. Governments should also implement resource management practices such as water distribution, decreasing production costs, tax changes to address the growing population, making contraception available to everyone, replacing coal as a source of energy, implementing energy efficient programs, and practice safety for dealing with harmful materials.

Cars should also meet regulations. New standards should be imposed, for example making sure the electricity being used does not come from burning fossil fuels. This way, cars emit less pollution. Appliances like air conditioners and washing machines should also meet certain standards, for example using light-emitting diodes replacing less efficient bulbs.

Farmers must also be educated to adapt to and prevent climate change. This includes preserving wetlands to cut down on erosion and flooding, managing grasslands to store CO₂, adopting techniques to reduce

greenhouse emissions like precision agriculture, covering crops and bio-digesters.



Questions a Resolution

Must Answer

- How can governments from first-world countries ensure effectiveness on promoting awareness of the issue?
- How can the UN join forces with other organizations in order to have influence over the matter?
- How can governments from developed countries control the consumption of scarce resources?
- How will specialized companies and their products (home appliances, cars. etc.) be regulated in each country?

- How can the UN along with the represented countries aid victims of environmental disasters?
- What guidelines can the UN establish to mitigate the issue at hand?
- To what extent should the UN intervene in the countries affected by this issue?

Works Cited

Biello, David. "7 Solutions to Climate Change Happening Now." *Scientific American*, 17 Nov. 2014, www.scientificamerican.com/article/7-solutions-to-climate-change-happening-now/.

Cama, Timothy. "UN Report Predicts Catastrophic Consequences If Greenhouse Gas Emissions Not Reduced by 2030." *The Hill*, The Hill, 8 Oct. 2018, thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/410343-world-needs-unprecedented-efforts-to-avoid-key-global-warming-level.

Carrington, Damian, and Michael Safi. "How India's Battle with Climate Change Could Determine All of Our Fates." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 6 Nov. 2017, www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/06/how-indias-battle-with-climate-change-could-determine-all-of-our-fates.

"Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet." NASA, NASA, climate.nasa.gov/. Gabbatiss Science Correspondent @josh_gabbatiss, Josh. "Worst-Case Global Warming Predictions Are the Most Accurate, Say Climate Experts." *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 7 Dec. 2017, www.independent.co.uk/environment/global-warming-temperature-rise-climate-change-end-century-science-a8095591.html.

Harvey, Chelsea. "Seas Will Rise for 300 Years." *Scientific American*, 21 Feb. 2018, www.scientificamerican.com/article/seas-will-rise-for-300-years/.

Indo-Asian News Service. "China's Population Growth May Begin To Decline From 2030: Report." *NDTV*, NDTV, 4 Jan. 2019, www.ndtv.com/world-news/chinas-population-growth-may-begin-to-decline-from-2030-report-1972769.

Quora. "How Big Of A Problem Is Overpopulation?" Forbes, Forbes Magazine, 30 July 2018,

www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2018/07/30/how-big-of-a-problem-is-overpopulation/.

“Overpopulation: Causes, Effects and Solutions.” *Conserve Energy Future*, 12 Apr. 2017,

www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-of-overpopulation.php.

“Projections of Mortality and Causes of Death, 2016 to 2060.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 12 Nov. 2018,
www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/projections/en/.

“Water Scarcity - The U.S. Connection.” *The Water Project*, thewaterproject.org/water-scarcity/water_scarcity_in_us.
“2030: The Perfect Storm Scenario.” *Population Institute*, www.populationinstitute.org/external/files/reports/The_Perfect_Storm_Scenario_for_2030.pdf.