

Heidelberg National Model United Nations 2020

General Assembly of the United Nations



UNITED NATIONS

Study Guide on “Combating Climate Change through Development Aid and Technology”



A. Welcome remark

Honourable Delegates,

We warmly welcome you to the General Assembly at Heidelberg National Model United Nations Conference 2020, held on January 11th and 12th in the wonderful “Neue Aula” in the old town of Heidelberg.

This year, the General Assembly will be debating a highly interesting but also complex topic: “*Combatting Climate change through Development aid and Technology*”. We believe this issue, also recently discussed by the real UN General Assembly in its 74th session, is broad enough for every country to contribute in debate, but still specific enough to create a sufficiently concrete draft resolution. This present study guide should serve as an introduction and overview for you get to know different facets and major challenges to be tackled. We would nevertheless firmly encourage you to use the suggestions for further research and additionally to get closely acquainted with your country's position. This combination should be best for everyone to take part actively in committee.

We are sure not only the committee sessions, but also the whole conference will be an amazing experience for all of you, with interesting debates, great speeches, and of course meeting delegates from all subjects coming from all over Germany. If not during committee or lunch breaks, then surely at the pub crawl on Saturday evening!

We are especially heartily welcoming all MUN Newcomers in our committee. Don't be shy, just start talking and debating, and you surely will catch the spirit, feel the groove and quickly be fully in MUN mode!

See you all in January

Best,

Your chairs



B. About the General Assembly¹

All 193 Member States of the Organization are represented in the General Assembly - one of the six main organs of the UN - to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations, such as development, peace and security, international law, etc.

Every year in September, all the Members meet in the General Assembly Hall in New York City for an all-including session, carrying issues together and finding common solutions with the aim to present a unified answer to the world's major topics. Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote. Resolutions passed by the General Assembly serve as recommendations for the international community and require a simple majority to pass. After those by the Security Council, GA resolutions are the widest recognized and thus strongest signals the United Nations sends out into the world and thus, the GA finds itself in the position of being able to actively influence the development of binding international law.



Figure 1: Wide view of the General Assembly Hall. UN Photo/Manuel Elias

¹ Cf. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>.



C. Climate change: Between Science and Politics

I. The Science behind Global Warming

"I'm not a believer in man-made global warming. It could be warming, and it's going to start to cool at some point. And you know, in the early, in the 1920s, people talked about global cooling... They thought the Earth was cooling. Now, it's global warming... But the problem we have, and if you look at our energy costs, and all of the things that we're doing to solve a problem that I don't think in any major fashion exists."

Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America²

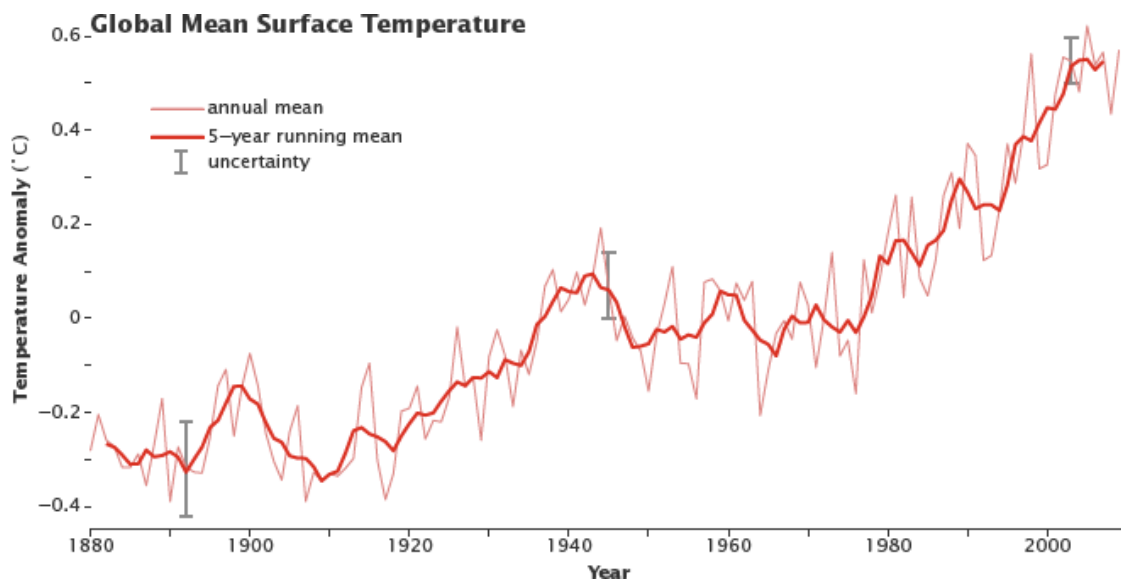


Figure 2: NASA Earth Observatory. <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/GlobalWarming/page2.php>

Our planet Earth is warming. This is at least what the data provided by NASA, the International Panel on Climate change et al. seems to show. Within the last 40 years, they could ascertain a significant rise in Earth's temperature. Despite this seemingly obvious correlation between the growth of the industrial production across the globe – going along with an emission of so-called 'green-house gases' – the existence of a man-made, i.e. anthropogenic climate change and global

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/03/22/this-is-the-only-type-of-climate-change-donald-trump-believes-in/>.



warming is often contested by politicians and neoconservative news agencies across the globe.³ Global warming skeptics claim that the factual basis which supports the assumption of an anthropogenic climate change caused by the emission of greenhouse gases is neither conclusive nor convincing.⁴

While many of skeptics of a man-made climate change are adherent to a more critical standpoint towards sciences and scientists which they consider to be lobbyists of a certain political agenda (c.f. the parallels to the Anti-Vax-Movement), several scientists accept the data clearly stating a rise in Earth's temperature.

However, these 'skeptical' scientists emphasize that Earth's climate constantly changed throughout the millennia. Therefore, the claim that the current rise in temperature is not of anthropogenic origin. Most of them blame solar winds and sunspot activities as the source of the recent rise in global temperature. Sunspots are storms on the sun's surface that are marked by intense magnetic activity and play host to solar flares and hot gassy ejections from the sun's corona. Scientists believe that the number of spots on the sun cycles over time.⁵ Solar wind consists of magnetized plasma flares and in some cases is linked to sunspots. It emanates from the sun and influences galactic rays that may in turn affect atmospheric phenomena on Earth. This solar activity therefore could periodically lead to a rise and a fall of Earth's temperature.

Many climate scientists agree that sunspots and solar wind could be playing a role in climate change. Nevertheless, the vast majority view it as very minimal and attribute Earth's warming primarily to emissions from industrial activity—and they have thousands of peer-reviewed studies available to back up that claim.^{6 7}

³ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/meet-the-money-behind-the-climate-denial-movement-180948204/>.

⁴ For a deeper analysis of the underlying mechanisms in producing this effect:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2015/03/science-doubters-climate-change-vaccinations-gmos/>.

⁵ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/sun-spots-and-climate-change/>.

⁶ However, an evaluation of multiple publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals demonstrates that about 97% of scientists actively publishing in the field of climate agree: Climate-changing events throughout the last 200 years are with a high probability anthropogenic.⁶

⁷ Cf. <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/> with further sources.

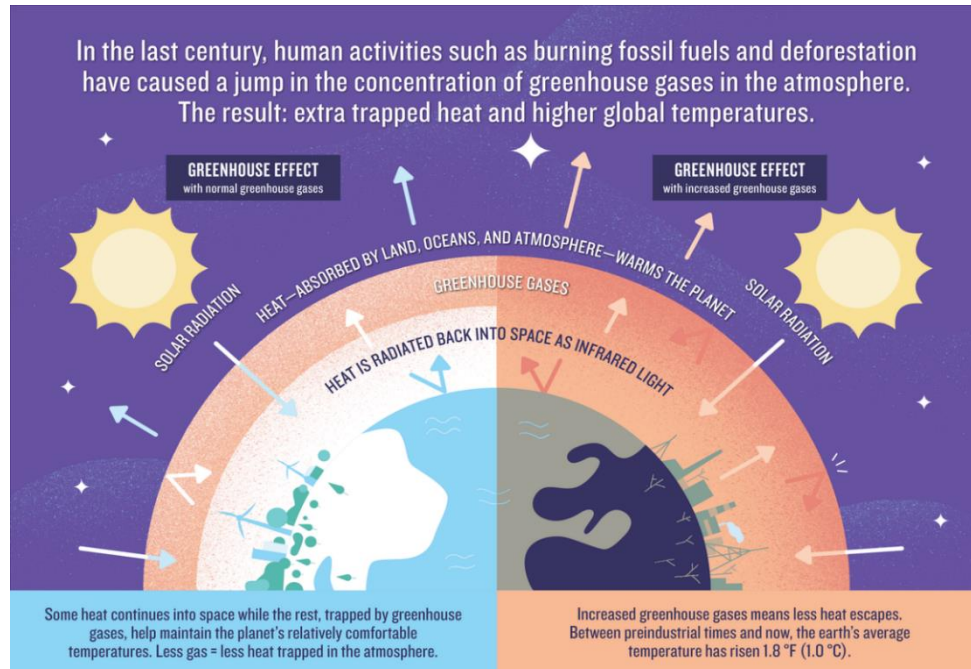


Figure 3: Natural Resources Defense Council, <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/greenhouse-effect-101>.

The mechanism behind the “greenhouse effect” is in fact rather simple: Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide or methane concentrate within Earth’s atmosphere. Thereby, a cover is formed which prevents heat from radiating back into space as infrared light. This causes Earth’s temperature to rise. This effect is accelerated by the clearing of vast parts of the rain forest – the only forestall area transforming carbon dioxide to oxygen by the means of photosynthesis throughout the whole year thereby having a considerable influence on the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Another factor, having the potential to cause a dramatic acceleration of global warming, is a potential rise of the water temperature. E.g. the oceans serve as a natural carbon dioxide storage: the so-called carbon cycle transports billions of tons of CO₂ every year. However, the natural mechanism is based on a fragile equilibrium of external conditions and heavily determined by climate and temperature. However, a rise in water temperature could certainly affect the streams which permit a transport of CO₂ from the atmosphere to lower sea levels.⁸

The potential consequences of a further progressing global warming could be devastating for man and nature. By now, the frequency of droughts has already increased in some regions (including the Mediterranean, West Asia, many parts of South America, much of Africa, and north-eastern

⁸ <https://worldoceanreview.com/de/wor-1/meer-und-chemie/kohlendioxidspeicher/>.



Asia). Besides, the warming has increased the frequency, intensity and duration of heat-related events, including heat waves in most land regions.⁹ In addition, the rise of Earth's temperature causes a dramatic melting of glaciers and ice caps leading to an increased sea level. This will most certainly affect island states and states bordering the sea, e.g. Bangladesh but also the Netherlands.¹⁰

As you can see, besides a rather conclusive factual basis, there is no unanimity on the consequences or even the very existence of man-made climate change. Especially the role of CO₂ emissions is hereby extremely controversial. A country's position might be heavily determined by the amount of CO₂, they are currently emitting¹¹:

Country	Contribution to the global CO ₂ emission in the year of 2018 (in %)
China	27,52
USA	14,81
India	7,26
Russia	4,68
Japan	3,18
Germany	2,08
Iran	1,97
Korea	1,8
Saudi Arabia	1,7
Indonesia	1,68

However, one must be cautious facing this statistic: While the USA has a per capita emission of 14,61 tons of CO₂ within a year, China's per capita emissions only amount to 6,68 tons. The biggest emitter per capita – by far – is Qatar (30,36 tons per capita).¹²

II. Global Warming on the political agenda

The United Nations – inspired by the work of the Club of Rome and seeing the need to act – adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change in 1992. Within this framework, the signatory states regularly meet for the World Climate summits (Conference of the Parties, COP), such as COP 3 (Kyoto) and COP 21 (Paris). So far, the UNFCCC, entered into force in 1994, was the starting point of the endeavor to fight climate change on an international level.

⁹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/02_Summary-for-Policymakers_SPM.pdf.

¹⁰ [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/960SIDS_Flyer_SEPT_27_09\[1\].pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/960SIDS_Flyer_SEPT_27_09[1].pdf).

¹¹ <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/179260/umfrage/die-zehn-groessten-co2-emittenten-weltweit/>.

¹² <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/167877/umfrage/co-emissionen-nach-laendern-je-einwohner/>.



1. Kyoto Convention

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted at COP 3, is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change, which **commits** its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."¹³

The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on 16 February 2005. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 2001, and are referred to as the "Marrakesh Accords." Its first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012. Under the Protocol, countries must meet their targets primarily through national measures. However, the Protocol also offers them an additional means to meet their targets by way of three market-based mechanisms: International Emission trading, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the Joint Implementation (JI).

Despite its milestone character as the first international agreement on climate change, scholars and politicians criticize it from the very beginning. One major point of criticism was the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". By leaving out – at that time – emerging economies such as China and India, the protocol failed to include the largest future sources of CO₂ emissions. A projection suggests that, by 2050, China's cumulative contributions of CO₂ to the atmosphere will exceed those of the United States.¹⁴

Even though President Clinton signed the Kyoto Protocol, the policy of "common but differentiated responsibility" led to huge controversies within the United States. It led to the so-called Byrd-Hagel Resolution of 06/12/1997 which prohibited the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the US.¹⁵ In consequence, the biggest emitter of CO₂ at that time did not implement the obligations under the first international framework for the reduction of carbon emissions. The Harvard professor and economist Robert N. Stavins consequently concluded: "*The Kyoto Protocol may come into force even without U.S. participation, but the effects on climate change will be virtually nonexistent.*"¹⁶

2. Paris Agreement

In 2015, the signatories of the UNFCCC gave it another try and adopted the so-called Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention and for the first time brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt

¹³ https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol.

¹⁴ <https://harvardmagazine.com/2002/11/problems-with-the-protoc.html>.

¹⁵ <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/a-lesson-from-kyotos-failure-dont-let-congress-touch-a-climate-deal/>.

¹⁶ <https://harvardmagazine.com/2002/11/problems-with-the-protoc.html>.



to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. As such, it set a new course for the global climate effort.

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement seeks to strengthen the ability of countries to mitigate the effects of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The agreement also provides for enhanced transparency of action and support through a more robust transparency framework.

In addition, the Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.

However, these NDCs not only function on the ground of self-commitment. The Paris Agreement does not contain an effective way to enforce them and can only rely on 'naming and shaming'. However recently, NGOs on a national level try to enforce the NDCs (e.g. the lawsuit of the German Organization for Environment and Protection of Nature against the Federal Republic of Germany in front of the Federal Constitutional Court).

According to climate scientists, the Paris agreement is certainly a step in the right direction. It puts the international community on the right path to keep warming under 2 degrees Celsius, but even under the same level of commitment of the Paris agreement after 2030, a MIT study indicates a 95 percent probability that the world will warm by more than 2 degrees Celsius by 2100.¹⁷

3. Current State of Affairs

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight."

Greta Thunberg, Speech to the United Nations GA¹⁸

¹⁷ <http://news.mit.edu/2016/how-much-difference-will-paris-agreement-make-0422>.

¹⁸ <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/23/763452863/transcript-greta-thunbergs-speech-at-the-u-n-climate-action-summit?t=1575886123948>.



Despite having committed to their NDCs, many signatory states fail to achieve even their autonomously set goals. However, according to the eighth Emissions Gap Report produced by UN Environment, even if all Signatory States fulfilled their NDCs, there would still remain a significant “gap” between the emissions reductions necessary to achieve the 2°C goal agreed within the Paris Agreement.¹⁹

The fate of the Paris Agreement mechanisms also remains uncertain as the US administration in 2017 declared their ambition to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in 2020. In consequence, the second biggest polluter will sooner or later not be bound by the mechanisms within the Paris Agreement. This on the other hand could cause other major polluters to withdraw from the treaty as well in order to safeguard the competitiveness of their industries in the global market.

While policy on a multilateral level seems paralyzed, the civil society mobilizes in an unprecedented way on a global level to call for actions to fight climate change, e.g. Fridays for Future or Extinction Rebellion. Many signatory states, especially within the EU, face domestic pressure to adapt further going measures to fight climate change. On the other hand, the GDP of these often export-orientated economies heavily depends on the competitiveness of their industries.

D. Development aid between Climate Justice and Neo-Colonialism

“Climate change is happening now and to all of us. No country or community is immune. And, as is always the case, the poor and vulnerable are the first to suffer and the worst hit.”

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

III. The status quo in development aid

Climate change is a global issue that has led to new forms of international cooperation such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. However, even the strongest advocates of multilateralism cannot deny the fact, that our globalized world is shaped by major inequalities between nations – especially regarding the level of socio-economic development. In the context of climate change those differences become particularly apparent. While industrialized countries are the major emitters of greenhouse gases, the consequences of a rising world temperature are suffered by all countries – regardless of their wealth or level of development. The heaviest burden, however, is carried by non-industrial countries which lack the financial means for measures against new climate extremes.

¹⁹ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22070/EGR_2017.pdf?sequence=E2%80%A6.

Projected changes in agricultural productivity 2080 due to climate change, incorporating the effects of carbon fertilization (Ahlenius, 2009)

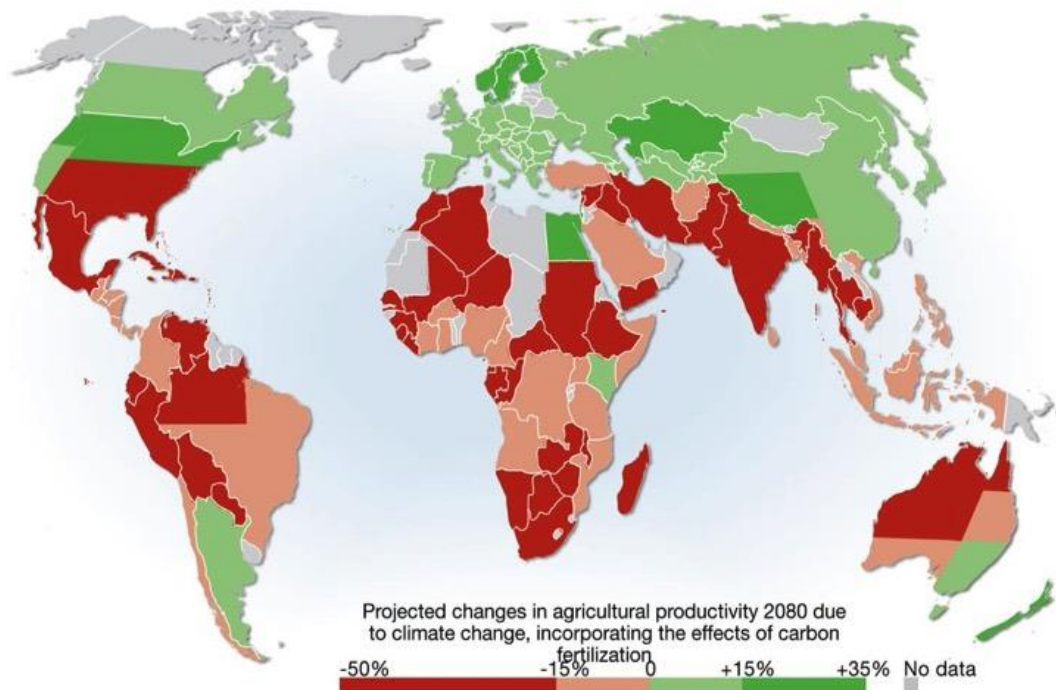


Figure 4: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Projected-changes-in-agricultural-productivity-2080-due-to-climate-change_fig1_299607897

The traditional instruments rely heavily on providing financial support to countries to foster economic growth. Within the UN Framework the World Bank Group (consisting of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes) is the main actor for this purpose. The World Bank essentially consists of two groups: lending and receiving countries. Historically, the goal of development aid was to help countries on their path to economic prosperity. In other words: Developing countries should develop their economy, with the goal of more socio-economic equality around the globe.²⁰ This approach, however, has turned out to be ineffective.

In a lot of cases, for examples receiving countries are forced to let foreign companies exploit their natural resources. The giving countries thus benefit from providing “aid”: The money they transfer

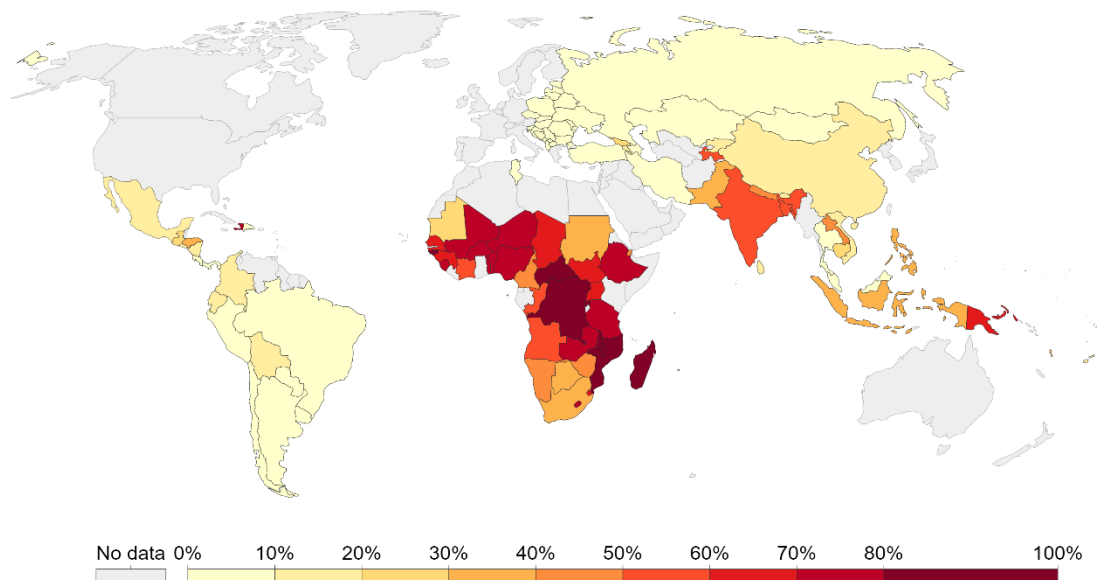
²⁰ Cf. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/history-foreign-aid>.

into the foreign economy, secures access to the resources resulting in a net profit for the “donor”.²¹ Particularly the international involvement in Africa is subject to heavy criticism. Western involvement in the second half of the 20th century, is described as ineffective if not counter-productive: Instead of achieving economic prosperity, the African continent is still subject to increasing instability and poverty.²² Some scholars go as far as characterizing foreign aid as form of neo-colonialism.²³

Share of population living with less than 3.10 int.-\$ per day, 2014

Share of population living with per capita household consumption below 3.10 international dollars per day (in 2011 PPP prices). International dollars are adjusted for inflation and for price differences across countries.

Our World
in Data



Source: World Bank – WDI

Note: Consumption per capita is the preferred welfare indicator for the World Bank's analysis of global poverty. However, for about 25% of the countries, estimates correspond to income, rather than consumption.
OurWorldInData.org/extreme-poverty/ • CC BY

Figure 5: <https://ourworldindata.org/extreme-poverty>

The international community, however, has not been complete inactive. There have been some efforts to improve the effectiveness of foreign aid. The 2005 Paris Declaration, which has been

²¹ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/04/why-natural-resources-are-a-curse-on-developing-countries-and-how-to-fix-it/256508/>; c.f. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/jan/14/aid-in-reverse-how-poor-countries-develop-rich-countries>.

²² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/10/13/why-trying-to-help-poor-countries-might-actually-hurt-them/>.

²³ <http://jpanafrican.org/docs/vol3no10/3.10Post-Colonial.pdf>.



signed by the majority of UN member states, aimed to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development.²⁴ The agreement set out the following principles for aid effectiveness:²⁵

- **Ownership:** Developing countries set their own strategies for poverty reduction, improve their institutions and tackle corruption.
- **Alignment:** Donor countries align behind these objectives and use local systems.
- **Harmonisation:** Donor countries coordinate, simplify procedures and share information to avoid duplication.
- **Results:** Developing countries and donors shift focus to development results and results get measured.
- **Mutual accountability:** Donors and partners are accountable for development results.

After several more declarations, the Paris Declaration has ultimately led to the establishment of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), a multi-stakeholder platform, that wants to further improve aid effectiveness in line with the UN Sustainable Development goals.²⁶

IV. Adapting Development aid to the Challenges of Climate change

In the light of the current debate on climate change, aid effectiveness is being discussed in the light of its environmental impact. Regardless of their lack of effectiveness, the traditional approach to development aid directly conflicts with environmental ambitions as set out by the 2015 Paris Agreement: If every country on this globe were to become industrialized, carbon emission would sky-rocket and the climate crisis would become unavoidable. This is illustrated by the fact that some major emitters of today have been referred to as developing countries a few decades ago, such as China and India.

The international community has thus tried to implement aid schemes which help countries implement measures against climate change and pollution. At the 1992 Rio Summit, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established *“to help tackle our planet’s most pressing environmental problems.”*²⁷ The GEF has 183 member countries out of which 39 are donor countries.²⁸ The fund has been replenished 7 times and has provided over \$19 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$100 billion in co-financing for more than 4,700 projects in 170 countries.²⁹ The GEF follows a comprehensive multi-dimensional approach to effectively mitigate

²⁴ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/parisdeclarationandaccraagendaforaction.htm>

²⁵ An explanation of the principles can be found here: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/45827300.pdf>.

²⁶ A quick overview of this institution and its history can be found here: <http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/GPEDC-AT-A-GLANCE.pdf>.

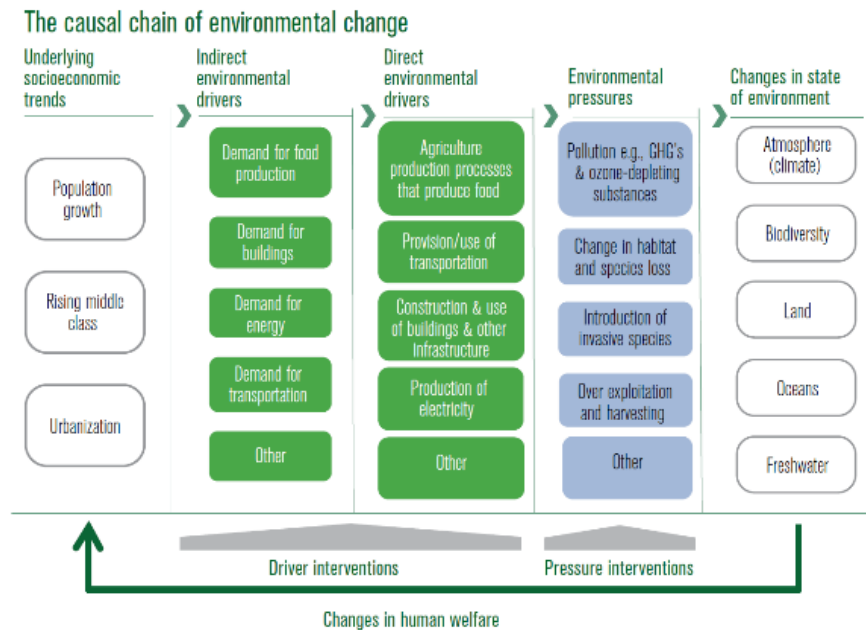
²⁷ <http://www.thegef.org/about/funding>.

²⁸ <http://www.thegef.org/partners/countries-participants>.

²⁹ <https://www.thegef.org/about-us>.



environmental change. Through their support for projects the GEF tries to address the underlying socioeconomic drivers of environmental chain:³⁰



The World Bank has implemented a “Finance for Climate Action” framework as an effort to deploy financial development aid in a way that helps to fight against climate change.³¹ In 2008, the international community set up a Climate Investment Fund (CIF) with the aim of supporting developing and middle-income countries adapt to climate change.³² The 14 participating donor countries have contributed an amount of \$ 8 billion USD.

Then, as a part of the 2015 Paris Agreements, a consensus was reached that the burden of Climate change should be carried equally in a spirit of fairness and cooperation. Industrial countries seemed to have accepted their responsibility regarding huge amounts of greenhouse gases they have already emitted historically. and agreed to increase their efforts to support developing countries on their path to sustainable prosperity.³³ To put this commitment into action, two main instruments were established in order to facilitate the implementation of the NDCs

³⁰ The graphic can be found in the GFE 2020 Strategy Paper:

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF-2020Strategies-March2015_CRA_WEB_2.pdf.

³¹ https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Climate/FinanceClimateAction_Web.pdf.

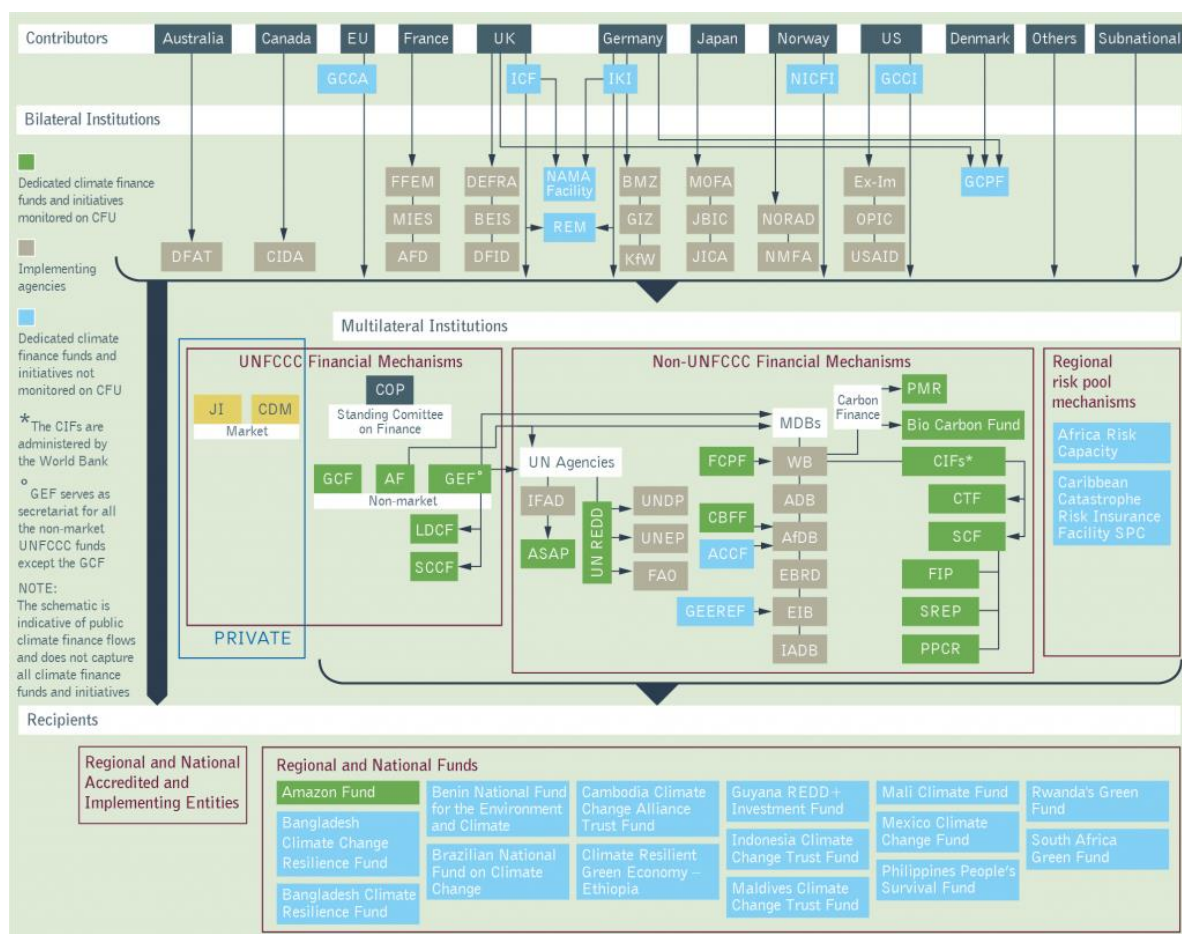
³² <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/finances>.

³³ Cf. <https://ecdpm.org/great-insights/from-climate-commitments-to-action/paris-agreement-pact-solidarity-developing-countries/> and <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-019-0298-6>.



pledged under the Paris Agreement: The NDC Partnership and the NDC Support Facilities. The NDC Partnership is a platform of about 100 countries that are willing to share knowledge and resources to support their work in climate action.³⁴ The NDC Support Facility is a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank that provides financial support for countries implementing the climate change targets set out in the NDCs.³⁵

There are even more national, regional and multilateral initiatives to provide aid that aim to help mitigating the climate crisis leading to a complication system of different institutions:³⁶



³⁴ <http://ndcpartnership.org/members>.

³⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/ndc-support-facility>.

³⁶ The source of the graphic provides corresponding abbreviations: <https://climatefundsupdates.org/about-climate-finance/global-climate-finance-architecture/>.



It is still too early to tell, if these measures are sufficiently effective to prevent a further rise of world temperatures while also helping those still suffering from extreme poverty. There are, though, lots of reasons to be pessimistic. Despite the emphasis on international cooperating within the World Bank system, it is easy to spot potential conflict. When the World Bank announced that its intent to continue lending money to China as part of their development scheme, the United States under the leadership of President Trump responded with harsh criticism.³⁷ While this issue is not directly linked to the World Bank's initiatives against climate change, it seems likely the United States, the World Bank's largest shareholder, might discontinue to support the existing World Bank programs. Seeing that the United States have already withdrawn from the Paris Agreement as it imposed an "unfair economic burden" on them, not much support can be expected.³⁸

E. The Role of Technology

As carbon emissions are the main source of global warming, countries face a harsh dilemma: Either they cut back on carbon emissions and risk jeopardizing their economy or they continue the status quo and risk accelerating global warming. While the dilemma is the same for all countries, the necessary consequences are different for every country. Industrialized nations, who are already emitting high amounts of greenhouse gases, must actively reduce their emissions. Developing countries, who are just emitting low amounts of greenhouse gases seeking to grow economically, must find ways to combine economic growth without increasing their emissions.

A third way might be technology: Only if carbon-based energy sources are completely replaced by carbon-neutral sources, the current standard of living can be preserved in industrialized countries. The perspective on the potential of technology as an instrument against climate change ranges between optimism and disbelief. Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, criticized Greta Thunberg for example for "*underplaying the role of technology and innovation*".³⁹ Boris Johnson, the prime minister of the UK, stated at his speech to the UN General Assembly that "*new advances are making renewable energy ever cheaper, aiding our common struggle against climate change*" mentioning "*pink-eyed terminators*" and "*terrifying limbless chickens*".⁴⁰ Critics, however, argue that the hope for technology is more a wish than a reality and just serves as an excuse to avoid harsh political measures.⁴¹ Technology serves as a tool to mitigate climate change rather than actually prevent it completely.

³⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/business/us-china-world-bank.html>.

³⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-50297029>.

³⁹ <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/innovationen-bei-klimaschutz-wichtig-merkel-kritisiert-thunberg-rede/25052046.html>.

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-to-the-un-general-assembly-24-september-2019>.

⁴¹ C.f. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-09-26/future-technology-will-solve-climate-change-don-t-believe-it>.



The actual role of technology in the future remains to be seen. It is clear, however, that the race for new technologies itself has already begun. And its economic impact is huge.⁴² “Green” has become a label for all sorts of products from groceries, over travels to financial products. If this transformation will lead to economic decline or growth remains to be seen. In the context of re-assessing development aid, technology in any case plays a more and more important role as it touches the questions of how wealth and knowledge should be distributed around the globe. It is up to the United Nations General Assembly to suggest what role technology should play as a means to combat climate and improve the life of people in all nations.

F. Questions for Delegates

The link between Climate change, Development aid and Technology is complex. You should prepare answers for the following questions when preparing for your participation at the Heidelberg National Model United Nations General Assembly:

1. Is the issue of Climate change of scientific or political issue? Should the General Assembly take a stand on this matter?
2. Should the Paris Agreement be amended? Should the General Assembly suggest implementing an enforcement mechanism? Are goals already enough or should the international community set higher goals? Should other countries try to compensate for the withdrawal of the United States from the Agreement?
3. Can foreign aid be used as a measure against Climate change? Should the principles of aid effectiveness reflect climate goals? What should a more coherent framework for sustainable foreign aid that incorporates environmental impact look like?
4. Is technology the key to solving the climate crisis or just a justification for the current status quo? What should a framework look like to promote international cooperation on technological measures against climate change?

⁴² <http://www.saisjournal.org/posts/the-transition-to-a-green-economy>



G. Materials for further research

I. The 2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement:

Original text: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

Summary of key points: <https://unfccc.int/resource/bigpicture/#content-the-paris-agreemen>

II. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action

Original text: <https://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>

Related materials: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/thehighlevelforaonaid/effectivenessahistory.htm>

III. The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development

Original text: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

V. Climate Change and Technology

Overview Article: <https://time.com/5669039/technology-fight-climate-change/>

Overview over recent developments: <https://www.technologyreview.com/climate-change/>

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