

Sample Position Paper

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Topic: Climate Change Related-Natural Disasters
Country: Montenegro
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Climate change causes more frequent and more harmful natural disasters like wildfires, storms, floods and droughts. Ice caps and glaciers are melting and causing a general rise in sea levels. There are more floods from rivers and lakes affecting towns, cities and farms ("What are the effects of flooding?"). Extreme temperatures cause droughts from global warming and the critical thing is droughts are happening in poorer countries such as Africa where people can't always get water for themselves ("Climate Change"). These are the two major problems in the world and cause millions of deaths each year but there are ways to adapt to the new climate in simple ways.

Floods and droughts cause poverty and force people to leave their homes to look for better places to live. It is estimated that 36 million people are affected around the world. Droughts cause crops to die, and people cannot get enough to drink, causing death. Droughts are the second most deadly disaster and floods are the most common disaster and are increasing due to global warming. Wildfires, caused by droughts and global warming, have caused 339,000 deaths each year alone and have cost Australia more than 170 lives ("Wildfires kill 339,000 people per year-study"), (Climate Change Related Natural Disasters).

Since 1992, Montenegro has been helped by UNHCR which has given Montenegro's government 60 million USD to help support their refugees and is still helping to this day ("UNHCR in Montenegro"). Montenegro is at high risk of floods in the Lim and Tara rivers and high risk of extreme heat in some regions ("Impacts of climate change on the water regime of river basins Lim and Tara"). Floods are more common and more damaging, but more deaths have occurred during extreme heat or droughts. The underground part of the Lim and Tara rivers in Montenegro could flood and overflow onto agricultural land causing huge farmland damage. Montenegro's government has asked people to reduce water use which helps with extreme heat and droughts.

Montenegro's government is measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sending their results to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They have found and are finding more ways to reduce climate change emissions with different practices ("Climate change in Montenegro"). They signed the Kyoto Protocol in June 4, 2007 and they have also signed the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South-East Europe. Montenegro's government has stated, "At the moment, there is no official strategy or

national policy which integrally addresses this problem and provides recommendations for adaptation” ().

Montenegro has signed treaty number XXVII-10 titled “United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (“Chapter XXVII Environment. 10. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”). Montenegro knows that climate change is a real threat and is working with its government to find ways to cope with climate change.

Sand filters are a very possible solution. Sand would normally suck water underground where it would not be accessible, but by digging out the ground until a hard surface is found, or by adding clay over the sand, you can contain the water and save it for people that need it. Drought resistant crops are also a possible solution to droughts and by planting these types of plants, it reduces the amount of water needed for crop irrigation and allows it to be used for more useful things, like drinking water. To reduce flood impacts dykes and flood walls can be built and more urban trees can be planted to give shade in urban areas which reduces chance of heat stroke.

Montenegro is helping with GHG emissions and will continue to do so even though they are a small, new and poor country (“Climate change in Montenegro”). The EU recognizes them and they are applying to get into the EU which will help later on with more efforts to reduce climate change and global warming.

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