



NOVA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ADDRESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND MEASURES
TO ELIMINATE NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY**

CHAired BY KARA ROLLE



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 NIRAMUN high school conference everyone! My name is Kara Rolle I am currently a sophomore pursuing my Bs in Public Health. I began Model United Nations for as a freshman student during my first semester at Nova Southeastern University and have been in love ever since. I have developed a passion for the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals with an interest in sustainable energy. The primary objective for everyone to achieve is to have a successful, eye-opening session! In order to ensure optimal success, a thorough background guide was composed and made available for everyone to use as a resource. I am excited to witness you all negotiate possible solutions to ensure clean air for all. Enjoy NIRAMUN 2019!

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Formed in 1945, the United Nations General Assembly (GA) is the main representative body of the organization. Through this committee, every member state has equal voting rights and representation. As the deliberative organ, the General Assembly has the power to elect and impeach member states accordingly. Its duties include – but are not limited to – making recommendations on international sociopolitical cooperation; implementing measures in order to improve the economy, cultural preservation, health care, education and peace and security on a global scale; mediating in hostile disputes amongst nations. While every member state has the right to participate in the debate on assigned topics, certain nations are appointed non-voting observer status; i.e., the member state may participate in discourse but is not permitted to vote on resolutions. The General Assembly can also be called to emergency sessions, as identified by the Security Council or a majority of the member states. In total, the General Assembly is divided into six main committees – Disarmament and International Security; Economic and Financial; Social, Cultural and Humanitarian; Special Political and Decolonization; Administrative and Budgetary; Legal.

ADDRESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND MEASURES TO ELIMINATE NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY

INTRODUCTION

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy has become a prominent goal of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Satisfying the ever-increasing demand for energy in a sustainable manner is a major challenge globally, especially for less economically developed nations who require non-renewable energy to improve their economic standing in the world order, social mobility within domestic economies and the quality of life for their citizens.

Research shows that about 80% of global energy and 66% of electrical generation are supplied from fossil fuels which contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions (GhG) which are accelerating the rate of climate change exponentially. In addition to such pressing evidence, greenhouse gas emissions are adversely affecting air quality and human health with links to asthma, cancer, neurological problems, and heart and lung ailments. With the knowledge that the three pillars of sustainable development are economic, social and environmental, sustainable energy must be made an urgent priority within the international community.

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

The introduction of fossil fuels as a primary means of energy was highly underdeveloped until the industrial revolution in England in the mid 1700s where it replaced biomass (plant and animal matter) as the primary source of energy. Energy needs were not as pressing and alternatives were used like burning straw, wood and dried dung as a source of heat, horses for land transportation and wind power used to sail. In 1880, coal powered steam engines which was attached to the world's first electric generator. A year later, the first hydroelectric plant was used in Wisconsin. By the late 1800's petroleum had become a new competitor in the fuel industry though it was originally looked down upon for its reputation of contaminating drinking water. Energy use began to spark this century. Power plants, coal plants and hydroelectric dams began to rise significantly, and energy use nearly doubled every 10 years. Efficiency was not merely a matter of concern; it was a priority.

After World War II, nuclear energy became a matter of interest for governments. Over 200 nuclear power plants were planted across America. In 1973, The American support for Israel during the Arab-Israeli War ended trade relations between western nations and Arab oil-producing nations. As a result, oil prices nearly tripled. In 1979, After the fall of Shah, the Three Mile nuclear power plant experienced multiple mechanical failures and operation mistakes resulting in a partial meltdown of the plant. This nuclear accident marked the age of negative stereotype concerning the safety of nuclear power plants therefore further increasing the world's dependence on fossil fuels.

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The world did not begin to become concerned with efficient energy use until the mid 1900s when a scientist by the name of M. King Hubbert made a prediction that the fossil fuel era would be short lived. The problem was, by this point, fossil fuel usage was already a primary dependency for most industries.

CURRENT SITUATION

The current unsustainable trend of energy productions threatens human health, quality of life and even contributes significantly to changes in the ecosystems that lead to climate change. The current reliance on fossil fuels is simply unreliable and nonrenewable as the resources are depleting and cannot support the overdependence the world has placed on them. The combination of climate change and resource depletion could lead to global calamity, economically and environmentally.

Currently, oil is the world's primary fuel source for transportation and a major contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P) for many nations. Member States fear that eliminating fossil fuels will have a negative economic effect, declining the GDP of fossil fuel producing nations as well as, developing the nations who need energy to support mass production. Three countries, China, India and the United States consume more energy than the rest of the world combined.

The sustainable energy industry, however, has the potential to increase economic growth, reduce poverty, create jobs and enhance the environmental sustainability for many industries. UN Environment asserts that renewable energy technology would be deployed much more rapidly if countries would introduce energy policies that addressed subsidizing the cost of sustainable energy sources as well as the impacts of fossil fuels. Cleaner energy sources are a matter of utmost urgency in order to mitigate climate change and save the planet. The implementation of sustainable energy sources and measures to eliminating non-renewable energy must be addressed with an international multilateral contribution in order to save the world's natural resources and protect human health.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Transition to cleaner energy sources are on the rise with countries like Iceland, Sweden, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Germany, Uruguay, Denmark amongst others leading this movement. These include hydropower for electricity production and bioenergy for heating. Also, countries have implemented green policies such as the 'Green Electricity Certification' in Sweden which stipulates that electricity must come from wind, solar, geothermal or wave power; biofuels or small-scale hydroelectric plants.

Further, the United Nations designed essential sustainable development goals. Affordable and clean energy was listed at number 7 stating that energy is the dominant contributor to climate change with about 60 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions globally. These goals target ensuring universal access, increasing renewable energy globally, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, enhancing international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology and expanding the infrastructure and upgrading technology to supply modern and sustainable energy services all by 2030.

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Many countries believe that these goals are too ambitious, with others believing that they are not strong or ambitious enough. The U.N. has also established the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century which provides a forum for international leadership on renewable energy to fortify policy development for the rapid expansion of renewable energies in developing and industrialized economies, by connecting governments, NGO's and other institutions.

POTENTIAL BLOC POSITIONS

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Latin American and Caribbean Member States are experiencing an energy transformation which has quickened due to the rising pressures of climate change affecting these nations first, due to their size, geographical positions and unprotected indigenous populations. However, these developing countries attract foreign investment in their energy resources that they welcome to increase their GNP.

AFRICA

The developing nations of Africa are rich in natural resources for the application of renewable energy technology due to their status as the sunniest continent on the planet and large coastline where wind energy can easily be harnessed. Technologies applied in rural areas are, however, in need of funding.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Although many countries in Asia and the Pacific Islands have adequate energy resources to develop its renewable energy sector, 85% of these resources are concentrated in only 5 countries. Further, trade and investment in this natural energy resource sector is low and ownership of these resources remain in the hands and control of the governments.

EUROPE

Europe has seen great improvement in the pace of their transition to clean energy through carbon taxes on coal and subsidies for solar and wind power. European Union Member States have signed an agreement which stipulates that all members must obtain 32% of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.

NORTH AMERICA

Cities in North America both large and small have been setting the standard for natural energy storage which will then be used when the weather does not allow the sun to shine or the wind to blow. This will influence the transportation system, along with many others that require energy and is estimated to increase employment as jobs have to be created to build new infrastructure that facilitates renewable energy.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What incentives can be used to implement forms of sustainable energy?
- Can sustainable energy implementation be made affordable and practical?
- What is a practical timeline for which states can be expected to eliminate non-renewable energy sources?

THERE CAN BE NO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

MARGOT WALLSTROM

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- What are some measures that can be put in place to eradicate such prominent use of fossil fuels?
- How can developed Member States assist in the introduction and funding of renewable resources usage in developing Member States?
- What can be some possible repercussions for not meeting the environmental SDGs deadlines and greenhouse gas emission quotas?

RESEARCH LINKS & REFERENCES

- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>
- <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-and-other-fossil-fuels/coal-air-pollution>
- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>
- https://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/our-energy-choices/a-short-history-of-energy.html
- <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-and-other-fossil-fuels/coal-air-pollution>
- <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development/planet/sustainable-energy.html>
- <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/energy/what-we-do/renewable-energy>
- <https://www.clickenergy.com.au/news-blog/12-countries-leading-the-way-in-renewable-energy/>
- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>