

HISAR SCHOOL

JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2018

“Globalization: Creating a Common Language”

GA3: Environmental

*Preventing the increase of carbon dioxide emissions
in the globalizing world*



**RESEARCH
REPORT**



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Forum: GA3: Environmental

**Issue: Preventing the increase of carbon dioxide emissions in the
globalizing world**

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Introduction

Carbon dioxide, also known as CO₂, is a gas that is necessary to sustain life on Earth. Plants use it for photosynthesis, which supplies oxygen to animals and several bacteria. On the other hand, carbon dioxide can be extremely damaging to the atmosphere and to Earth. When the density of carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere, it starts to trap the heat inside and causes a global heat increase. This is also known as global warming. Global warming causes many harmful natural disasters. An example of this is draughts that endanger the lives of many people, animals and living organisms. It also causes the ice caps to melt, raising the sea levels and leading to loss of land and species' endangerment.

The increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere first started with the industrial revolution in the 19th century. When the steam machines were invented, the vapor caused by the burning coal released immense amounts of carbon dioxide into the air. This did not matter at the time because the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were nowhere near critical levels. As time passed and technology developed, the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere also increased gradually. There were more people that used and/or produced materials that released carbon dioxide, there were more factories that had carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being released from their chimneys, and there were cars and airplanes instead of horse carriages and sail boats for transportation. Shortly, it was inevitable to have this much carbon dioxide in our atmosphere at that rate. However, it is not impossible to firstly stop and then reverse the situation, especially through international cooperation, multinational agreements, and state-mandated laws on an international scale.

Definition of Key Terms

Greenhouse Gases: Gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared lights. Some examples of these gases are carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons.

Greenhouse Effect: The Greenhouse effect is the trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere, due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface.

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Global Warming: Global warming is the gradual increase in the overall temperature of the Earth's atmosphere, because of the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of greenhouse gases

Climate Change: a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

Industrial Revolution: Industrial Revolution was the rapid development of industry that occurred in the United Kingdom (UK) in the late 18th and 19th centuries, thanks to the introduction of machinery. It was known mostly by the use of steam power, the growth of factories and production rates, and the mass production of goods.

Great Depression: The Great Depression is the long and severe recession in the United States of America's economic market in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement is a contract signed by 125 nations within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed on the 22nd of April 2016, and was affective on 4th of November 2016.

Renewable Energy: Renewable energy sources are power resources that come form infinite supply. Some examples are solar panels, wind turbines, and biomass.

Fossil Fuels: Fossil fuels are energy resources that are limited and the result of heat and pressure applied on animal and plant fossils for thousands of years. When burned or used they release greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, and contribute to global warming and climate change by causing the greenhouse effect.

General Overview

Since the industrial revolution, the greenhouse gas emissions growth rate has increased. To put this into perspective, even only the global emission rate of carbon dioxide has amplified by 50 percent since 1990, in merely two decades. Although many countries are putting limitations on fossil fuels and use of utilities that leave carbon footprints the problem is growing. According to a Forbes article published in June, carbon emissions are breaking records. In April, 2018, it broke a record with over 400 ppm of carbon emissions.. Although developed countries are the primary contributors

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America (USA)

Being the biggest producer of humanity's carbon foot print with over 3 million tons of carbon dioxide emission a year, United States of America owes its success to its heavily industry based economy. To supply the demand, especially since the Great Depression in the 1920s and 1930s, has relied on factory produced goods to sustain its financial stability. Because of this industrial separation and not wanting to lose the prosperity and leadership it brings, USA does not want to cooperate with the nations of the world or the member states of the United Nations (UN). As proof of this attitude, one can easily show the fact

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that USA has backed off the universally acknowledged The Paris Agreement. That it signed a year ago. Moreover, USA also does not look warmly upon renewable energy. The power supply of the US is mostly composed of fossil fuels and nuclear energy, rather than greener resources.

People's Republic of China

Nearly 70% of all goods produced worldwide are made in PR China, according to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Because of this dense and centralized production and the ever increasing demand for almost every supply, PR China is not willing to limit its production. If PR China were to accept the terms of the Paris Agreement, then its GDP would drop significantly, wages would decrease even more and would unavoidably lead to a nationwide economic crisis that could even go global. This is the reason why they do not go with the accord, but this path might as well cost humanity its home.

France

France has been ranked number one in preventing carbon emissions by the global climate index. It has not only held the climate conference in its own borders, it has also been loyal to the limitations set by the agreement. Since the 1980's it has continuously been decreasing its carbon emissions.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Perhaps the only unionized and long term goal setting attempt in resolving this issue is the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement was drafted in COP21 taking place in Paris, France –hence the name– which agreed to limit the global raise in heath to 1.5 degrees Celsius by taking strict measures against the growing carbon footprints, climate change, and the greenhouse effect. The attempt seems very promising, however, the most carbon dioxide producing nations have not signed up to this agreement, thus putting the future of the Earth at risk. This fact is the major reason why the Paris Agreement has not been very fruitful.

Possible Solutions

Despite the severity of the situation there are several possible solutions. One of them is encouraging the use of renewable energy sources worldwide. Instead of depending on fossil fuels which emit the most carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, such as petrol and coal, eco-friendlier sources can be used. A few of these are wind turbines, dams, solar panels, and biomass. States and nations could also fund research that would work on increasing the vehicle fuel efficiency so that the use of fossil fuels would decrease.

International laws could be created to limit the amount of carbon emitted by polluters. This could first start as an accord of the United Nations, but then degrade to a nation wide scale, to better suit each country's individual necessities and its people.

International climate negotiations are vital for any and if all of these solutions to be implemented. Peaceful discussions will lead to the most viable solution and save our planet in the best, most satisfactory way which will suit and benefit all.

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