



# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Topic Guide

Chairs:  
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# Junior Academy Model United Nations

- THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE -

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Dear delegates,

Welcome to JAMUN 2019! My name is Esteban Medina and I am extremely excited to be co-chairing UNDP this year with Enrica. Just a few things about me: I am a current sophomore in the Academy of Business and Finance here at BCA, where I have a passion for all things business and humanitarian related. I became interested in Model United Nations as a freshman because of the ability to meet new, intelligent people, as well as due to the high level of debate displayed at these conferences. Although this JAMUN will be my first time chairing, I have experience with Model United Nations. I have attended multiple conferences and won awards at Yale, Princeton, and George Washington University's conferences. In my free time, I love to read, watch movies on Netflix, and hang out with my friends.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with you all in UNDP to figure out and debate solutions to one of the most pressing issues of the era-- climate change. When thinking about how to approach committee, I advise you to read through this guide, but remember that it is a complex issue that is very specific to your individual nation. It is my hope that we can debate and work maturely the issue of climate change, and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have, I would be happy to help!

-Esteban Medina

Dear delegates,

It is my absolute pleasure to invite you all to participate in this year's JAMUN. You have already been introduced to my co-chair Esteban Medina, but let me tell you a little about me. I have been participating in Model United Nations since the very first trimester of my high school career. I love this club because there is something for everyone in it. Whether you are a good writer, good speaker, good thinker, or even a good social butterfly, this club can be your home. I have went to multiple college and high school conferences. I even chaired last year's SOCHUM committee in JAMUN. Some of you might even remember me from there.

Besides Model UN, my interests include watching Netflix, swimming, listening to music, and hanging out with my friends. I also love making new friends, so introduce yourself!

Climate Change is a topic that might seem black and white, but it has many layers to it. We expect you to touch a majority of these, and we cannot wait to see how everyone presents and justifies their country's position on this issue. This topic can evoke strong feelings from some people, but do not let it make your arguments biased.

Overall, Esteban and I cannot wait to chair this year's committee. See you all there!

Good luck,  
Enrica Kumar



## Topic A:

# Combating Climate Change

## Introduction:

Though the topic of climate change seems to have contradicting views, it is undeniably one of the most talked about issues in the modern world. Country leaders hold distinct views on how to solve this issue, and some even deny its importance. Climate change can be defined as “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.” Some people argue that our planet’s climate is constantly changing, and soon the climate will go back to being cooler. Others argue that it is an apparent issue that humankind does not have much time left until its effects become permanent. Delegates of the United Nations Development Programme will explore ways to combat climate change and subdue its effects on our globe in this session of JAMUN.



## Topic History:

America's NASA started looking into Earth's climate in the late 1900's. Around this time, scientists believed that Earth's climate only changed gradually. But, after close observation, reports showed that the climate was changing quicker than expected. Before this, some problems were identified, such as the appearance of the greenhouse effect due to industrialization and other changes. Entering into the late 19th century, theories tying natural events with the climate drastically changing started arising. These theories included the idea of uniformitarianism by James Hutton- which is the name for the idea that Earth goes through cyclic periods in which the climate becomes either really cold or hot. Eunice Newton Foote theorized that if the presence of carbon dioxide became more apparent in our atmosphere, the climate temperature would go higher. Remember greenhouse gasses were not a well-known fact around this time. Peter Kropotkin observed that the Siberian glaciers were melting after the Industrial Revolution

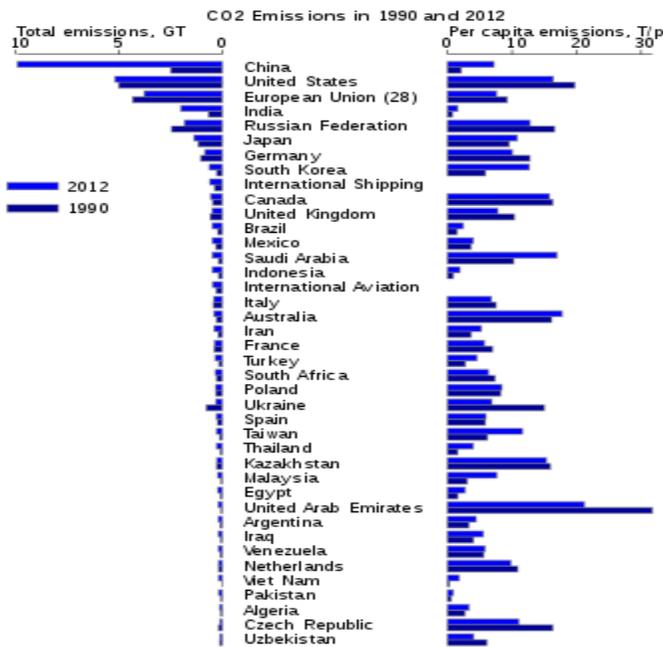
initiated. By the end of this century, scientists conducted experiments to confirm the theories. The solar cycle was also attempted to connect as a cause of climate change. By the middle of the 20th century, scientists continued to provide more evidence for climate change. In 1955, Hans Suess used the advanced spectrometer of that time to show that the carbon dioxide released from fossil fuels were not completely absorbed by the ocean as quickly as was previously thought. NATO was the first to address climate change globally. They organized local groups to prevent excess air pollution in metropolitan areas. It established the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society. Their actions caused multiple people to also realize their changing globe, which now is addressed as Climate Change.

## Current Situation:

Multiple organizations are calling for action to this significant problem. NATO has continued its fight in decreasing the effects of climate change. It is participating



in multiple policies and international operations.



The United Nations held a Climate Change Conference in 2015 which attempted to tackle this issue globally. The Paris Agreement, which was a global agreement on the reduction of climate change, was agreed at this. The significance of this was the achievement of a global agreement on climate, which was the first in twenty years. Representatives of each attending country participated in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, also known as INDCs.

These included the reduction of gas emissions per capita by 9% by 2030. The two largest national

emitters (U.S. and China) were identified to being crucial to this policy. Due to the lack of enforcement and the non-binding commitments, some countries got by without participating in the worldwide effort. Non-state organizations also put their hand in helping the effort to combat climate change. NASA satellites continue to look at our planet’s land, air, water, and more.

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) was founded in 1988, specifically dedicated to helping the globe move forward in its fight to combat climate change. This division’s solutions include cutting fossil fuel use in half within 15 years and completely get rid of them in 30. IPCC calls on “heavy industry like steel or aluminum production either using carbon-free energy sources or employing technology to capture CO2 emissions and permanently store it.” It calls for between 0.4 and 2.7 million square miles of land to house bioenergy crops and up to 3.86 miles of forests to be grown by 2050. They predict that these forests and carbon dioxide capture is crucial, because by 2050 there will be too



much CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. A building made up entirely of wood from mature forests is aimed to be completed this year in Portland and Vienna, Austria, due to the fact that the wood can store CO<sub>2</sub> for the long term.

This committee will address the effects of climate change, which include, rising sea levels, hotter climates, and unpredictable weather patterns. Despite delegation positions the effects of climate change are apparent. The appearance of diseases like malaria, Lyme disease, and West Nile virus can be blamed on this. Increasing allergens, decrease in water quality, environmental degradation, extreme heat, and impacts on food supply can all be listed as the effects of climate change. Now this committee needs to see how to prevent these changes from becoming permanent.

## Possible Solutions:

Climate change currently is posing as one of the most pressing issues, and therefore, it is up to the international community to come together in the implementation of standards and policies that will lead to short-term and long-term

solutions. These solutions must provide means in which current effects of climate change are addressed and mitigated, while future issues are also prevented. Only through international cooperation and innovation will the problem of climate change be solved.

Possible solutions include:

**Pricing carbon emissions:** This adds an incentive for companies and nations to produce less greenhouse gases and use alternatives.

**Invest in research and innovation.**  
**Require supply chains with “zero deforestation:”** Deforestation accounts for 15% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

**Consider making a commitment to halting deforestation for the production of commodities and goods.**

**Setting definitions for climate change and its causes.**

**Create maximum and minimum standards in terms of emissions and other non-environmentally friendly pollutants.**

## Bloc Positions:



The point of division will be based upon both levels of emission standards present in a country and governmental views of international solutions currently in place (i.e. does your country support the Paris Climate Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, SDGs, etc.?). Emission standards will usually be an important consideration, as they may reflect a nation's economic status because a higher emissions standard proves the country's ability to afford such regulations being in place.

Delegates are reminded that this bloc division should merely be a starting point for research and will likely, but not definitely follow the division seen in committee.

The member states of the European Union (EU) usually set strong goals in terms of reducing their current levels of greenhouse gases. These developed countries, alongside other Nordic countries, are highly efficient in lowering their greenhouse gases through the use of alternative sources of energy production. Rising water, heat waves, and forest fires in continental Europe are pressing issues in the continent. The EU is also known for considering issues of human rights very important. In fact, climate and human rights are

issues that European countries take very seriously and their common position is very progressive on the subject. They also have the technological and financial means to help developing nations move towards a greener energy production, which is one of their many goals in terms of climate change.

Eastern Asian nations, such as South Korea and Japan, are on the same line as the European countries. They all face the consequences of climate change, as seen through strong rains and winds in South Korea and Japan. Other developed nations such as the United States of America (USA), Canada, Australia, and Russia have a completely different stance on climate and refugees. That is because as of 2016, Russia was the world's largest oil producer with more than 10 million barrels per day, with the USA and Canada in the top ten as well. In terms of greenhouse gas emission per capita, Australia is the seventh country as of 2015, the Canada, Russia, and USA are also amongst the 20 countries that are performing the most badly in this sense. These countries have a record of high greenhouse gas emission, an industry that is oil dependent, and



a lack of political willingness to diversify and change their current means of energy production. They could face environmental refugees on their own soil with droughts, hurricanes or extreme temperatures. Concerning refugees, if Canada is more liberal and progressive on the issue, the others do have tougher and more conservative stance on the welcoming of refugees.

China and India have as a mid-term objective to place themselves as potential leaders on the international scale, and both have increasing financial and technological means to achieve this in the coming decades. To increase their credibility on the international scene and be a model for all, they will position themselves as proactive in tackling global warming. This was made clear by China ratifying the Paris Agreement before the USA. The two countries still have a great amount of effort to undertake in order to minimise their greenhouse gas production, but they also have the resources and political support to do so. China and India will face environmental refugees in their own countries, and their large populations will be subject to

floods, droughts or natural disasters.

South East Asian countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, or Malaysia, are still developing countries, and thus, will usually lack some of the appropriate infrastructure to face natural disasters, like typhoons, floods, volcano eruptions or earthquakes (common in these areas due to their location in the region known as the “Ring of Fire”). In South Asia, India and Bangladesh are especially considered to be the two countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Middle Eastern countries already face high temperatures and water scarcity, and are also highly dependent on their oil and gas production from an economic point of view. The politically unstable region is also the ground of destructive wars that have led to recent refugee crisis. The richer countries in the area such as Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf States are welcoming millions of refugees, and they will surely welcome an increasing amount in the years to come.

Countries in Sub Saharan and Eastern Africa are on their way to development, but will still surely be



affected in the coming years. From an environmental perspective, the emergency is obvious as well as from a humanitarian one. These countries often receive help from more developed ones in the form of technology and resources in order to combat the effects of climate change.

Latin American countries are usually progressive on climate change, with the notable exceptions being Brazil and Venezuela, who are large producers of oil. Brazil deforests thousands of acres of primary forest for agricultural purposes, which also, in turn, produces a large amount of greenhouse gases. The area is also subject to natural disasters: Chile faces the risk of earthquakes and the melting Argentinians' glaciers might cause sea levels to rise, while the Caribbean Islands are also exposed. More than seven million people can be considered as displaced, especially in Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador...).

Finally, the people living in the various Pacific islands are facing devastating hurricanes and the effects of rising sea levels, which could cause some islands to even disappear.

## Questions to Consider:

How does climate change affect your country?

Does your government have any programs that address the effects of climate change?

Based on policies utilized by your country, what kinds of solutions can be applied on a more international scale? To what extent are domestic policies regarding climate change within your country applicable globally? What is the economic and environmental feasibility of changing your country's climate change policy to be more sustainable and more universal?

What should the definition of climate refugee be?

What are the links between migration, the environment, and climate change?

How can the international community adapt to and cope with the threats posed by climate change?



on human and international  
security?

