



ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) STUDY GUIDE

Agenda item: Climate Change: Lifestyle Change or Geoengineering? Discussing the issue of Third-world climate Financing

Chair Board

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I. Letter from the Secretary-General

Greetings everyone!

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you to the first edition of İstanbul Aydın University's Model United Nations, an edition that will surely go down in history!

Secondly, as you dive into your study guides to prepare for the big day, I wish you a fruitful journey of research and learning. The world of Model United Nations is one of diplomacy, collaboration, and critical thinking, and I have no doubt that each of you will rise to the occasion with passion and intellect.

Thirdly, as you engage in debates, negotiate resolutions, and forge alliances, remember that you are not just representing countries, but embodying the spirit of global citizenship. The challenges we face today require innovative solutions, and it is through events like MUN that we can cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.

Fourthly, I encourage you to seize every opportunity to engage with your fellow delegates, share perspectives, and craft resolutions that reflect the diverse voices of our world. Whether you are an experienced delegate or new to the world of Model UN, this experience promises to be one of growth and camaraderie.

Lastly, on behalf of the entire team, I extend my sincerest wishes for your success. May your debates be dynamic, your resolutions impactful, and your memories lasting.

Welcome to IAUMUN 2024!

II. Letter from the Under Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

I would very much like to welcome you all to the Istanbul Aydin University Model United Nations Conference. I, Salman Ravy, consider it an honor to serve you as the Under Secretary General of the United Nations Environment Programme in IAUMUN'24, and I am especially excited to meet each and every one of you.

Our goal is to simulate a debate in the diplomatic atmosphere of the United Nations, Hence we are expected to abide by the rules of procedure and diplomatic etiquette. It is advised for each delegate to comprehensively study the rules of procedure.

As the representatives of your nations at the UNEP Committee, you are expected to study and understand the following sections of this guide and conduct further elaborate research on the position and interests that might be relevant to the nations you represent for engaging in an abundant debate.

I am thrilled to see your contributions and insights during the sessions and hope you enjoy this committee and conference.

Best Regards,

Salman Ravy,

Under Secretary General of The United Nations Environment Programme,

III. Letter from the Chairboard

Dear delegates, we hope this message finds you well,

As the chairboard of the UNEP committee, we would like to welcome you all for the first edition of the IAU Model United Nations Conference. We're thrilled to have you on board and can't wait to see the incredible contributions you'll make during the event.

We believe that Model United Nations is an amazing platform for self-development and exploration. It will open the doors for you to learn about and discuss contemporary issues from around the globe.

We worked hard to put together this informative yet short study guide, which we hope you will take the time to read. Focus on the agenda item overview points and the links for extra information. This committee will be addressing a global crisis that our world is facing nowadays, we encourage you to actively participate, share diverse perspectives, and work collaboratively to formulate resolutions that address the challenges we are facing.

Remember, even if you are a first-timer or an experienced delegate, your voice matters. Your insights, ideas, and perspectives will contribute to shaping the resolutions and policies discussed during the conference. So, don't hesitate to share your thoughts, engage in fruitful debates, and collaborate with your fellow delegates.

If you have any questions or need any assistance before or during the conference don't hesitate to contact us via our emails: maryamelsaleh77@gmail.com, osamadx1x1234@gmail.com, we are here to support you every step of the way.

Best of luck in your preparations, get ready for an unforgettable experience filled with growth, fruitful discussions, and also fun. We can't wait to see you all shine!

IV. Introduction to United Nations Environment Programme

In 1972, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), also known as UN Environment, emerged with the purpose of coordinating and supervising environmental efforts across the UN. Originating from the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, this entity was formally established on December 15, when Resolution 2997 was passed. While its inaugural meeting occurred at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, its official headquarters eventually shifted to Nairobi, Kenya, once all necessary infrastructure was in place. Initially composed of a team of 300, including 100 experts from diverse fields of study, the United States contributed \$40 million, while the remaining \$60 million was pledged by the other 57 member states.

The mission of UNEP is to inspire, educate, and empower nations and their citizens to enhance their standard of living while preserving that of future generations.

Restoring the ozone layer, protecting the world's seas, and promoting an environmentally friendly, inclusive economy are just a few of the critical environmental problems that UNEP has been addressing for more than 50 years in collaboration with governments, civil society, the private sector, and UN organizations.

UNEP is promoting transformative change by focusing on the root causes of the three global crises: climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution.

UNEP's mission focuses on assisting nations in transitioning to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies, strengthening environmental governance and law, protecting ecosystems, and providing evidence-based data to inform policy decisions.

Through cutting-edge science, coordination, and advocacy, UNEP supports its 193 Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and living in balance with nature.

V. Agenda item overview:

1. Climate change: Lifestyle Change or Geoengineering? Discussing the issue of Third-world Climate Financing

Climate change refers to the long-term change in the Earth's climate and weather patterns. The vast majority of the scientific community did not accept that climate change was caused by human activity from the beginning. It took nearly a century for scientists to collect data and finish research demonstrating that human actions may affect the temperature of our entire world.

1.1. Reasons for climate change

It's important to define the reasons for this change. First, the escalating human population, driven by lower death rates and increased life expectancy, spurs urbanization and infrastructural development. Cities, offering better services and employment opportunities, attract migration from rural areas. Historically, the shift from hunting to agriculture led to city formation, with waste disposal practices evolving.

The Industrial Revolution in the mid-nineteenth century, most prominently in Britain, marked a turning point, introducing air and water quality challenges such as smog and acid rain, and indeed, water pollution, a longstanding historical concern, intensified during the Industrial Revolution as factories discharged waste directly into water bodies. Today, 70% of industrial waste is released into the environment, emphasizing the need to address these practices to mitigate climate change impacts. With the formation of strong workers and distracted minds,

Capitalism took the lead in being chosen as the unequivocal form of government in the world, and laissez-faire opened the door for more folks to go into investment in human capital and factories, which have paved the way for harmful carbon monoxide emissions.

1.2. Effects of climate change

Global surface temperatures grow in line with greenhouse gas concentrations. 2020 marks the end of the warmest decade on record. Since the 1980s, each decade has seen rising temperatures. There are more hot days and heat waves in almost every land area. High temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and complicate outdoor labor.

Wildfires start and spread more quickly in warm weather. Global temperatures have risen twice as fast as in the Arctic. Destructive storms are becoming more common and intense in many locations. Rising temperatures lead to increased moisture evaporation, which causes flooding, heavy rainfall, and the frequency of severe storms. The warming ocean affects the frequency of tropical storms.

Typhoons, hurricanes, and cyclones feed on warm ocean surface waters. These storms often result in fatalities and major financial damage, destroying homes and cities. Climate change is causing water scarcity in increasing regions. Global warming causes water shortages in already drought-prone places. It also increases the risk of droughts, which may harm crops and damage ecosystems. Droughts can trigger destructive sand and dust storms that move billions of tons across continents. Desert expansion leads to a decrease in agricultural land. Many people now face the threat of water scarcity. The ocean absorbs the vast majority of the heat from global warming. Over the past 20 years, ocean warming has accelerated at all depths. The volume of the ocean increases because water expands as it warms. Melting ice sheets create a threat to island and coastal communities by rising sea levels.

Rising ocean acidity creates a threat to the marine resources that support billions of people worldwide. Changes in the level of ice and snow have impacted traditional food sources such as hunting, fishing, and herding in the Arctic.

Heat stress can reduce water and grazing areas, thus impacting animal and crop production. The single greatest threat to human health is climate change. Climate change is negatively impacting people's health through air pollution, disease, harsh weather, forced relocation, mental health strains, increased hunger, and inadequate nutrition in areas with limited food production.

Every year, around 13 million people die as a result of environmental problems.

Extreme weather events can lead to higher mortality rates and make it challenging for healthcare systems to keep up with disease outbreaks caused by shifting weather patterns. Climate change creates additional issues for poor communities. Floods have the potential to

severely devastate urban slums and livelihoods. Working outside in high temperatures can be challenging. A lack of water may destroy crops. Over the previous decade (2010-2019), weather-related disasters have moved an estimated 23.1 million people annually, increasing the threat to poverty.

2. Lifestyle change challenges

Delegates are expected to be aware of the new lifestyle adjustments and challenges that people will encounter while attempting to adapt to the issue of climate change; these changes include addressing these people's habits, financial constraints, and raising awareness. Acknowledging and overcoming these barriers through specialized interventions, education, and community participation can help individuals and communities overcome inertia and pursue more sustainable lifestyles.

2.1. Resistance to Changing Established Habits and Behaviors

Psychological factors: Humans are creatures of habit, and breaking old habits of behavior can be challenging. Even when people acknowledge the need for change, they may struggle to overcome inertia and take action.

Perceived Inconvenience or Sacrifice: Transitioning to more environmentally friendly habits frequently demands sacrifices or lifestyle changes that people may find inconvenient or uncomfortable. For example, decreasing meat consumption or using public transportation may be perceived as less convenient than the usual alternative.

Lack of immediate impact: Climate change is a long-term, global issue, and the impacts of individual actions may not be immediately visible or tangible. This can make it challenging for people to connect their everyday behaviors with broader environmental consequences, reducing their motivation to change.

2.2. Socioeconomic Barriers to Adopting Sustainable Lifestyles

Financial constraints: Many sustainable goods and services, such as energy-efficient appliances or organic food, require a larger upfront or ongoing cost. Lower-income individuals and communities may not have the financial resources to invest in these alternatives.

Limited access and infrastructure: in some developing countries regardless of the people's willingness, they struggle to adopt more sustainable lifestyles due to the lack of environmentally friendly alternatives like public transportation (lack of trains and public buses), recycling facilities, or renewable energy sources may be scarce or even inaccessible.

Time and Energy Constraints: Individuals facing socioeconomic issues may have limited time, energy, or bandwidth to prioritize environmental projects. Daily challenges in work, parenting, or other responsibilities often leave little time to research and implement environmentally friendly alternatives.

2.3. Lack of awareness or education

Knowledge Gap: Many people may not completely understand the causes and consequences of climate change, or they may have misconceptions about its severity or urgency. This information gap could hinder efforts to mobilize popular support for climate action.

Information overload: In today's fast-paced world, people are bombarded with information from a variety of sources, making it difficult to distinguish fact from misinformation or prioritize climate-related issues over competing concerns.

Disconnect between local and Global Impacts: Climate change may appear abstract and distant, especially to people who have not personally experienced its effects. The disconnect between global trends and local consequences might lower the perceived relevance of individual actions and motivation to act.

3. Geoengineering risks

Geoengineering interventions require careful consideration of consent, equity, and accountability. Decisions made by a few powerful actors, whether governments, corporations, or international institutions, could have far-reaching consequences for global ecosystems and populations.

3.1. Potential Unintended Consequences and Unknown Long-term Effects

- ❖ Geoengineering interventions, such as solar radiation management (SRM) and carbon dioxide removal (CDR), involve large-scale changes to the Earth's climate system.

These actions may have unexpected consequences, which are difficult to predict.

- ❖ Altering atmospheric conditions or ocean currents may affect ecosystems and weather patterns, causing harm to biodiversity, agriculture, and human societies.
- ❖ The long-term effects of geoengineering on the Earth's climate system are not fully understood, and there is a risk of permanent damage if interventions result in unavoidable feedback loops or tipping points.

3.2. Ethical concerns

Manipulating the Earth's climate raises ethical questions about the moral responsibility of humans to preserve the natural balance of ecosystems and protect future generations from harm.

Concerns have been raised concerning the unequal distribution of risks and benefits of geoengineering operations. SRM approaches, for example, may have varying effects across locations, thereby increasing existing disparities or unfairly harming vulnerable populations.

Decisions about whether to deploy geoengineering technologies raise questions of equity and justice, particularly regarding who has the right to make such decisions and who bears the burden of potential harm. Vulnerable communities in developing countries, who have contributed the least to climate change but are most at risk from its impacts, may have limited representation and voice in geoengineering governance processes.

3.3. Geopolitical tensions

As geoengineering technologies become more feasible and potentially powerful tools for addressing climate change, control over these technologies could become a new source of geopolitical competition. Countries that develop or possess advanced geoengineering capabilities may seek to leverage them to enhance their strategic influence and competitive advantage.

Control over geoengineering technologies could also raise concerns about power asymmetries and the potential misuse or abuse of these technologies for geopolitical purposes. There is a risk that dominant actors could wield geoengineering capabilities to assert dominance over weaker states or regions, exacerbating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Uncoordinated geoengineering actions may also exacerbate existing geopolitical rivalries and tensions, particularly if they have differential impacts on different regions or countries. There is a risk that geoengineering interventions could be perceived as acts of aggression or interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, leading to diplomatic disputes and geopolitical instability.

4. Third-world climate financing issues

4.1. Limited Financial Resources and Capacity in Developing Countries

Resource Constraints: Many developing countries, particularly those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, have limited financial resources to allocate to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. These countries often face competing priorities, such as poverty alleviation, healthcare, and education, which can strain already limited budgets.

Capacity Constraints: Developing countries may also lack the technical expertise, infrastructure, and institutional capacity to effectively implement climate change projects and policies. This includes limited access to scientific research, data, and technology needed to assess climate risks and develop appropriate adaptation strategies.

4.2. Challenges in Accessing Climate Finance

Bureaucratic Hurdles: Bureaucratic barriers, complex application procedures, and lengthy approval processes can all make it challenging to access climate funds. Developing countries may struggle to overcome these administrative barriers, especially if they lack the skills or resources to prepare funding demands and meet donor standards.

Lack of Institutional Capacity: Lots of developing countries lack strong governance structures and institutions, limiting their ability to effectively manage and disburse climate funds. This includes issues like corruption, transparency, and accountability, which can deter potential donors and investors from providing funds.

Limited information and awareness: Developing countries may lack awareness of available climate finance opportunities or how to access them. This information gap can result in missed opportunities for funding and hinder efforts to mobilize resources for climate change projects and initiatives.

4.3. Concerns about Effectiveness, Transparency, and Accountability

- **Effectiveness:** There are concerns about the effectiveness of climate finance mechanisms in achieving their intended goals and delivering tangible results on the ground. This includes questions about the efficiency of resource allocation, the scalability of projects, and the sustainability of outcomes over the long term.
- **Transparency:** Transparency is essential for ensuring that climate finance flows are used efficiently and effectively. However, there may be a lack of transparency in how funds are allocated, disbursed, and monitored, leading to potential misuse or misallocation of resources.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring accountability in the use of climate finance is critical for building trust and confidence among stakeholders. However, accountability mechanisms may be weak or insufficiently enforced, making it difficult to hold governments, donors, and implementing agencies accountable for their actions and decisions.

4.4. Importance of international cooperation and support

International cooperation and support are essential for addressing the challenges of climate change, particularly for developing countries that lack the resources and capacity to tackle the issue alone.

Developed countries have a responsibility to provide financial assistance and technical support to developing nations to help them adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This includes fulfilling commitments made under international agreements such as the Paris

Agreement, which calls for developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion annually in climate finance by 2020 to support developing countries.

Many organizations and NGOs working on climate change issues in developing countries often lack the necessary resources, technical expertise, and institutional capacity to effectively implement projects and initiatives. International support can provide funding, training, and technical assistance to strengthen their capacity, enabling them to better serve their communities and implement impactful solutions.

VI. Key Vocabularies and Definitions

What is geoengineering?

Geoengineering encompasses a range of methods designed to mitigate the adverse effects of global warming, including solar radiation management and the removal of carbon dioxide. Given its contentious nature, numerous initiatives involving public engagement with geoengineering have been implemented in the last decade, with a particular focus on the Global North.

Upstream engagement with emerging technologies – such as nanotechnologies, synthetic biology and geoengineering – is key to problematizing their potential social, political and ethical implications (Anderson et al., 2008)

Some terms and relationships to know in geoengineering:

Solar radiation Controls how much solar energy reaches the Solar geoengineering, sunlight *management* surface by manipulating the planet's radiation reflection methods, aerosol (*SRM*) budget to ameliorate the main effects of injection, solar radiation greenhouse gases (i.e., warming) modification

Carbon Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse Carbon storage, carbon *sink* gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas or aerosol from sequestration the atmosphere

- **Delineation:** climate finance refers to local, national or transnational financing drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing - that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change

- **Mitigation:** Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, like transitioning to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, to slow down climate change.
- **Adaptation:** Strategies to adjust to the impacts of climate change, such as building stronger infrastructure and implementing early warning systems, to cope with changing conditions.

VII. Further readings

Here are some of the primary reasons why the economies of developing nations are under threat:

Dependence on agriculture - Many developing countries rely heavily on agriculture as a primary source of income, employment, and food security. Climate change can lead to erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, or devastating floods, all of which directly impact crop yields and livestock.

Limited financial resources - Developing countries often lack the financial means to invest in adaptive measures or rapidly recover from climate-induced disasters. This financial constraint makes them more susceptible to long-term economic damage from extreme weather events.

Infrastructure vulnerabilities - The infrastructure in many developing nations, whether it's roads, bridges, or buildings, are often not built to withstand extreme weather events. The cost of rebuilding after disasters can strain these countries' already limited resources.

Geographical challenges - Many developing countries are located in regions especially vulnerable to climate change effects, such as rising sea levels, hurricanes, or desertification. Ports, for example, which are crucial for trade in developing nations are at risk from rising sea levels. The future scenario is even graver: by mid-century, coastal areas home to approximately 300 million people may be exposed to devastating floods, threatening lives, infrastructure, and economies.

Health impacts - As we've already discussed, climate change can exacerbate the spread of certain diseases, especially in tropical regions typical of many developing countries. An increase in health crises can strain medical resources and result in significant economic costs.

Loss of ecosystem services - Many developing countries rely on ecosystem services for their livelihoods, such as fisheries or forest products. Climate change can threaten these ecosystems and, by extension, the economies that rely on them.

Population Displacement - extreme weather events or gradual changes like sea-level rise can displace large populations, leading to "climate refugees." Such displacements can result in the loss of skilled labor, reduce productivity, and increase social tensions.

Supply chain disruptions - As global trade networks become more intertwined, disruptions in one region due to climate change can have ripple effects on the economies of developing countries, especially if they are heavily reliant on specific export or import goods.

Limited access to technology - Access to technology that aids in predicting, monitoring, and responding to climate threats is often limited in developing nations. This lack of information can hinder timely and effective responses to emerging threats.

Debt and economic dependency - Many developing nations are burdened with significant debt, limiting their fiscal space to address or adapt to climate change. Additionally, economic dependency on a few commodities makes them vulnerable to global market fluctuations exacerbated by climate impacts.

Dependence on agriculture - Many developing countries rely heavily on agriculture as a primary source of income, employment, and food security. Climate change can lead to erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, or devastating floods, all of which directly impact crop yields and livestock.

Why is transparency so important?

The COVID-19 epidemic has imparted numerous lessons to people in a variety of areas. Having access to current, reliable scientific data facilitates informed decision-making by policymakers, particularly during emergencies. A nation can evaluate its unique situation, requirements, and priorities as well as the amount of progress—or lack thereof—it has achieved in tackling climate change when it is able to gather, examine, and present climate data. As a result, having credible climate data enables nations to create action plans, policies, and assessments that are realistic, effective, and customized to their specific needs.

Finding the balance— What to Prioritize?

Many nations are increasingly emphasizing individual contributions to combatting climate change. However, governmental policies and financial regulations in the climate and business sectors remain entrenched in the prevailing neoclassical economic paradigm prevalent in the Western world. Historically, a significant driver of climate change has been the persistent involvement of capital. Despite the emergence of new perspectives and strategies aimed at

achieving climate stability, there exists a persistent dichotomy between mitigation and adaptation approaches.

Mitigation endeavors seek to curb the severity of climate change, often targeting crucial benchmarks like limiting global warming to 1.5°C. This is primarily pursued through measures aimed at reducing and sequestering greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, efforts in adaptation focus on enhancing our preparedness and responses to climate change impacts, thereby minimizing adverse effects on human and non-human populations, as well as the environment.

Energy, in its various forms, serves as a cornerstone for both adaptation and mitigation strategies. In seeking balanced and equitable solutions, international efforts, notably those led by the United Nations, prioritize interventions with the greatest potential for positive outcomes, considering opportunity costs and broader societal impacts.

VIII. Previous Solutions

- 1992 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) was established in 1992. One of its foundational principles is the concept of "shared responsibility with varied capabilities", which is rooted in the understanding that nations differ greatly in their contributions to climate change and their abilities to address and adapt to its effects. Recognizing that substantial financial investments are essential both to curb emissions significantly (mitigation) and to adjust to the negative consequences of a shifting climate (adaptation), the UNFCCC called for wealthier nations to provide financial support to countries that are less wealthy and more susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

- 1997 - Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol introduced the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), enabling developed countries to invest in emission-reducing projects in developing nations. In return, they would receive carbon credits to meet their emission targets.

- 2007 - Bali Action Plan

The Bali Action Plan was a significant milestone, underscoring the need for long-term financing for developing countries. The plan set a goal to amass \$100 billion annually by 2020.

- 2009 - Copenhagen Accord

While not legally binding, the Copenhagen Accord stressed the importance of sufficient climate finance. It called on developed countries to pledge "new and additional" resources, aiming for \$30 billion between 2010-2012 and \$100 billion yearly by 2020.

- 2010 - The Cancun Agreements

The Cancun Agreements, established during the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) formalized the goal of providing climate finance amounting to \$100 billion per year to support climate action in developing countries. It established the Green Climate Fund as a dedicated finance mechanism and the UNFCCC's principal funding mechanism. The GCF supports developing countries in mitigation and adaptation efforts against climate change. It became operational following the Paris Agreement in 2015 and has become one of the primary channels for climate finance.

- 2019 - Green Climate Fund mobilization

In 2019 the GCF completed its first replenishment (i.e. an expression of global solidarity and partnership with countries), securing pledges worth \$9.8 billion from developed nations. This move marked a step towards the \$100 billion annual target.

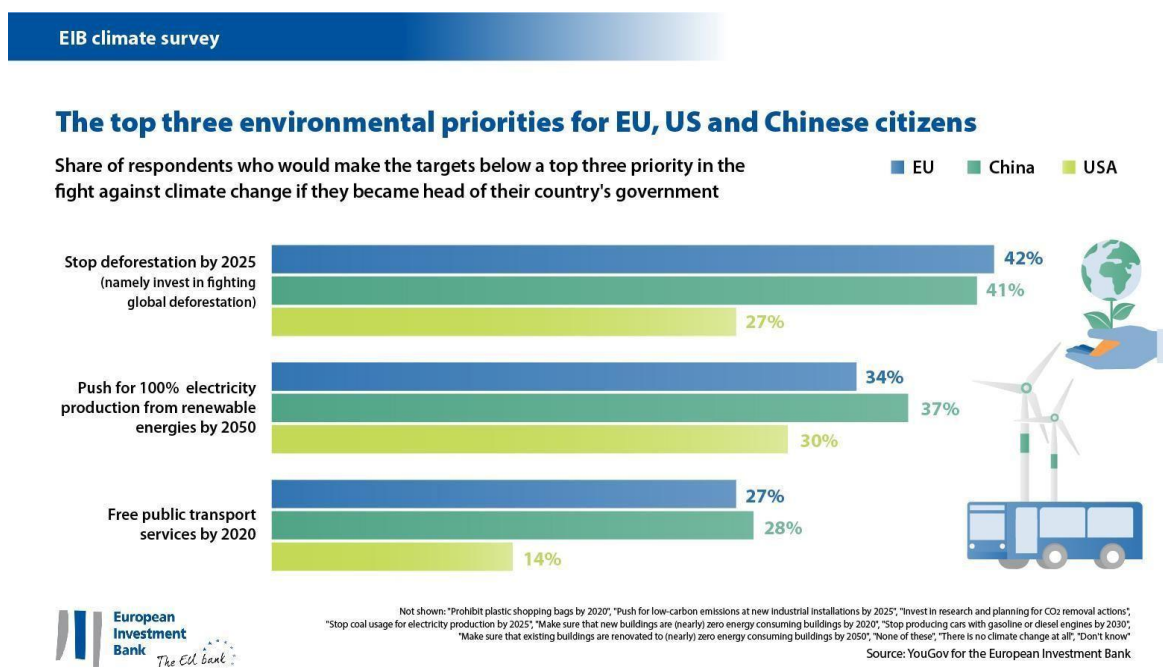
- 2021 - Glasgow Climate Pact

At COP26, held in Glasgow, a pact was reached to enhance climate finance through the establishment of a new Loss and Damage Fund to support countries suffering from the impacts of climate change. Key provisions of the pact include

- Reiteration of the \$100 billion annual climate finance commitment, with adjustments reflecting current economic conditions.
- Mobilization of additional climate finance from all sources, including the private sector.
- A commitment to ensuring accessible, predictable, and consistent climate finance.
- Emphasis on strengthening developing countries' capabilities to access and manage these funds.

- 2015 - Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a global commitment to address climate change, emphasizing bolstered financial support for developing nations. Developed countries re-affirmed their \$100 billion annual pledge by 2020. This Agreement seeks to keep global warming far below 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels, with a goal of 1.5 degrees. Through financial assistance, technological transfer, and recurring international evaluations, nations pledge to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, submit plans (known as Nationally Determined Contributions), and collaborate to combat climate change. As you can see, different countries have different priorities, and while they might want to have equal footing, the intricacies of internal conflicts present many struggles.



IX. Questions to be answered

- **What precautions can be taken in order to decrease the effects of climate change?**
- **What can be done to raise public awareness across the society?**
- **What kind of a future does climate change and climate future entail?**
- **What adjustments should be made for past agreements and how can they be implemented efficiently?**
- **How can legal frameworks encourage public involvement in environmental governance?**
- **How can governments encourage their citizens to adopt eco-friendly practices?**
- **What actions could be taken to raise awareness about the impact of individual actions on climate change?**
- **How can international cooperation be enhanced to establish effective environmentally friendly practices?**

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