



SRMUN ATLANTA 2016

*The United Nations Post-2015 Agenda:
Peace, Security and Development for a Sustainable Future*
November 17 - 19, 2016
unea_atlanta@srmun.org

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to SRMUN Atlanta 2016 and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). My name is Dieyun Song and I am very excited to have the privilege of serving as your Director. This is my second time on Staff after directing the League of Arab States at SRMUN Atlanta 2015, and I am thrilled to make it a wonderful journey for all of us! I received my B.As in Business Management and Economic Crime Prevention and Investigations in 2015, and I am pursuing my M.A. in History with an emphasis on international drug diplomacy. The Assistant Directors are Allie Fowler and Zach Greiger. Allie is a current History Major who is soon to graduate and wants to pursue a career after with the United Nations. Zach is a graduate from Winthrop University in Broadcast Journalism and an aspiring news producer. Model United Nations has been one of our greatest passions, and all of us have attended regional, national and international Model UN conferences for numerous years. Model UN provides a unique frame for people from different parts of the world with different backgrounds to develop new visions of global issues and foster new friendships. We truly hope that you could enjoy this experience and broaden your vision through researches and dialogues among your peers.

Serving as the highest-level global environmental decision-making platform for 193 Member States, UNEA addresses pressing and critical international environmental challenges and provides innovative and collaborative global platforms. The second session of UNEA is themed "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and took place in Nairobi, Kenya, which is the headquarter of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in May 2016. To work towards the common goal and further implement the post-2015 agenda, UNEA is a vital role in the initiation of dialogues as well as implementing adopted resolutions and frameworks in the world. Echoing the theme of SRMUN Atlanta 2016, "*The United Nations Post-2015 Agenda: Peace, Security and Development for a Sustainable Future*," Allie, Zach, and I have developed the following two topics for delegates to research and discuss:

- I. Enhancing Carbon Trade Transparency
- II. The Impact of Waste on Environmental Sustainability

The Background Guide provides delegates a starting point of research and a strong introduction on both UNEA and the two topics. Delegates should utilize the resources in the Background Guide as a foundation of their research. However, delegates are also expected to go above and beyond the Background Guide and conduct further research on their Member State's position and the topics on a local, regional and international level. Each delegation is expected to submit one position paper discussing its Member State's positions on both topics by **Friday, October 28, 11:59 PM, EST** via the SRMUN website (www.srmun.org). Position Papers should be single spaced and no longer than 2 pages in length. Details such as formatting and other items can be found on the SRMUN website.

I appreciate and value the opportunity to serve as your director of UNEA. We are very enthusiastic and excited about having the incredible opportunity to serve as your dais, and we are always more than happy to help you with any questions you may have in your research and during the conference. Please feel free to contact us using the committee email address of unea_atlanta@srmun.org if you have any further questions. Allie, Zach, and I look forward to reviewing your excellent work and working with and learning from each and every one of you during the conference.

Dieyun Song

Allie Fowler

Zach Greiger

Allie Molinari

Director

unea_atlanta@srmun.org

Assistant Director

unea_atlanta@srmun.org

Assistant Director

unea_atlanta@srmun.org

Deputy Director-General

ddg_atlanta@srmun.org

Committee History of the United Nations Environmental Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the primary committee on the environment within the United Nations (UN) system.¹ The purpose of the UNEA is to serve as a mechanism for Member States and other stakeholders to build a healthier, sustainable environment by tackling a number of different environmental challenges.² One of the main goals of the UNEA was to give United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the elevation within the UN to a “specialized agency,” which would grant UNEP the ability to directly implement field works and efficiently utilize its resources allocated through the UN system.³ The priority of the UNEA is to assist Member States in: discussing, establishing, and executing policies in order to extend the health of the environment.⁴

The UNEA consists of 193 Member States of the UN General Assembly (GA).⁵ Major Groups and stakeholders, including businesses, local authorities, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs,) are all eligible to apply to be observers of the plenary session and to share their expertise and insights with Member States.⁶ Much of the UNEA support comes from the Major Groups, because they have the ability to interact with the delegates of the UNEA to initiate dialogues and establish partnerships.⁷ There are a few NGOs that play significant roles in UNEA’s policy formation and execution such as: the Earth System Governance Project, who conducts research on the environment and provides its findings to for further policy making.⁸ The UNEA has the ability to bring draft resolutions to the GA for further considerations to establish a UN-wide action behind a particular issue.⁹ Specific functions of the body include the promotion of policies involving environmental protection and promoting sustainability on a global scale.¹⁰

The UNEA has become the governing body of the UNEP and serves as the ultimate authority on environment-related issues within the UN. The UNEA has its own governing bureau consisting of 25 representatives of 10 Member States; with most of the representatives coming from environmental conservation agencies within their Member State.¹¹ This bureau acts as the leaders of the session and oversees the creation of the resolutions with the president being the ultimate authority.¹² For example, UNEA-1 had Oyun Sanjaasuren from Mongolia as president; while UNEA-2 has Edgar Gutierrez Espeleta from Costa Rica as the current president.¹³ UNEA is able to recommend their draft resolutions to the GA to instill the resolutions throughout the UN.¹⁴

¹ “About UNEA,” *United Nations Environment Assembly*, <http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea>. (Accessed July 5, 2016).

² Ibid.

³ “The Advent of the United Nations Environment Assembly,” *American Society of International Law*, https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/19/issue/2/advent-united-nations-environment-assembly#_edn2 (Accessed July 5, 2016).

⁴ “Media Fact Sheet,” <https://www.cbd.int/idb/image/2014/celebrations/wed-2014-factsheet-unea.pdf>. (Accessed July 5, 2016).

⁵ “About UNEA,” *United Nations Environment Assembly*, <http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea>. (Accessed July 5, 2016).

⁶ “Accreditation to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP,” *United Nations Environment Programme*, <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/UNEAUNEPAccreditation/tabid/52182/>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

⁷ “UNEA Delivering on 2030 Agenda,” *United Nations Environment Programme*, http://www.unep.org/docs/UNEA_2_Brochure.pdf, p. 3. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

⁸ “About,” *Earth Systems Governance*, <http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/about>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

⁹ “Media Fact Sheet,” *United Nations Environment Assembly*, <https://www.cbd.int/idb/image/2014/celebrations/wed-2014-factsheet-unea.pdf>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ “Ministers Prepare for UNEA-2,” *Implementation of the Intergovernmental Sustainable Development Agenda*, <http://sd.iisd.org/news/ministers-prepare-for-unea-2-in-may-2016/>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹² “16th Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF) and 2nd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” *Implementation of the Intergovernmental Sustainable Development Agenda*, <http://www.iisd.ca/unep/unea2/23may.html> (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ “About UNEA,” *United Nations Environment Assembly*, <http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

The first session of UNEA convened in June 2014 upon the request of UNEP and Member States to enhance the working methods and efficiency of UNEP.¹⁵ The agenda of the first UNEA session included many different areas of the environment with special emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹⁶ In regards to sustainable development, the first meeting of the UNEA encouraged more efficient containment of wastes and that this management is key to the progress of the SDGs.¹⁷

The UNEA is an important addition to the UN as it allows for the enhancement of deeper partnerships between Major Groups and governments on the environmental issues facing the world today, which began with UNEP.¹⁸ The body also allows for an unprecedented leadership opportunity for Member States that wish to take a leading role in environmental change and sustainability; enabled by the synergy of the legislative, financial, and development arenas for international citizens to draw possible guidelines and funding for the projects conceived by UNEA.¹⁹ The UNEA demonstrates that environmental sustainability is a global issue and is best addressed when the world comes together.²⁰ It is also the responsibility of the UNEA to set the environmental agenda and to make key strategies when it comes to addressing environmental challenges.²¹ The UNEA's main strategy for environmental sustainability is the creation of international dialogues between Member States and using these dialogues to help create environmental sustainability policies that can be effectively used by Member States.²² It is the duty of the UNEA to attempt to establish guidelines and outlines that Member States can use in order to ensure the planet Earth is still usable for generations to come in the future.²³

The following Member States are Member States of the UNEA at SRMUN Atlanta 2016:

AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLUMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, HAITI, HOLY SEE, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LATVIA, LEBANON, LIBYA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALAYSIA, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PALESTINE, PANAMA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, SPAIN, SUDAN, SYRIA, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND, TOGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, and YEMEN

¹⁵ "Summary of the First UN Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme," *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, <http://www.iisd.ca/vol16/enb16122e.html>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹⁶ "About UNEA," *United Nations Environmental Programme*, <http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹⁷ "Summary of the First UN Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme," *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, <http://www.iisd.ca/vol16/enb16122e.html>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹⁸ "Environment," *United Nations*, <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/environment/>. (Accessed July 7, 2016).

¹⁹ "A Joint Vision for delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda." *UNEA*. <http://web.unep.org/unea/side-events/joint-vision-delivering-environmental-dimension-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-through> (Accessed July 7, 2016).

²⁰ "A Joint Vision for delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda." *UNEA*. <http://web.unep.org/unea/side-events/joint-vision-delivering-environmental-dimension-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-through> (Accessed July 7, 2016).

²¹ "UNEP Handbook for Stakeholder Engagement," *United Nations Environment Programme*, http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/Handbook/HANDBOOK%20FOR%20STAKEHOLDER%20ENGAGEMENT,%20UNEP%202015_interactive%20final.pdf (Accessed July 7, 2016).

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

I. Enhancing Carbon Trade Transparency

Introduction

The concept of carbon trading emerged in the 1980s, when pollution's effects started to become more visible, such as acid rain and smog; which drove Member States to create a solution to the problem of excessive resource consumption.²⁴ The United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA) regulations, that were created through the Kyoto Protocol, for a carbon trade market created the means to regulate industrial emissions, transportation, and manufacturing industries from the numerous Member States that contribute to excessive pollution.²⁵ The basic process of carbon trading is the assigning of value and exchanging of emission rates from different Member States, in order to keep the pollution from Member States within the acceptable levels for environmental protection.²⁶ Carbon trading also helps prevent excessive pollution and resource consumption, which is when unchecked power plants produced an excess amount of sulfur dioxide, which leads to the creation of acid rain clouds, which in turn causes harm to lakes, streams, and ecological systems.²⁷

The process of buying resource rights to curb pollution for businesses was introduced by the lawyer C. Boyden Gray.²⁸ The United Nations (UN) started to endorse and encourage carbon trade to combat the problem of environmental pollution within the international community, especially within developing Member States, which tended to use more emissions in industrial productions.²⁹ The early Trade Emissions Act that was brought up by Boyden Gray was divided into four main categories, which are: gestation, proof of principle, prototype, and regime formation.³⁰ Gestation is the act of changing legislation within a local Member State's federal government or the UNEA's policies towards pollution and emissions creation.³¹ Proof of Principle is the first set of developments towards emission trading by an allowance of pollution that could be increased by convincing another Member State or company to reduce their emissions.³² Prototype, which was later adopted in the *Kyoto Protocol* in 1997, is the first "cap and trade" system made under the Acid Rain Program and the 1990 Clean Air Act, to bring together environmental and industrial interests; which saw the creation of a great deal of the emissions trade policies that we have in the international community today.³³

With carbon trading transparency, comes the process of creating a means to regulate the creation of policies that help to establish regulations for carbon trade, and what Member States should follow when it comes to trading their

²⁴ "First Steps to a Safer Future: Introduction to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change." *United Nations Framework for Climate Change*. http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/6036.php (Accessed July 5, 2016).

²⁵ "Modalities, rules and guidelines for emissions trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol," *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/cmp1/eng/08a02.pdf#page=17>, pp. 17-21, (Accessed August 17, 2016).

²⁶ "International Emissions Trading," *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/mechanisms/emissions_trading/items/2731.php, (Accessed August 17, 2016).

²⁷ "Acid Rain" *Peoples Trust Factsheet*. http://webprojects.oit.ncsu.edu/project/bio183de/Black/chemreview/chemreview_reading/acid_rain.html (Accessed July 11, 2016).

²⁸ "The History of Cap and Trade." *altfuelsnow.com* Last Modified April 3, 2016. <http://www.altfuelsnow.com/carbon/cap-and-trade.shtml> (accessed July 11, 2016).

²⁹ Conniff, Richard. "The Political History of Cap and Trade." Last Modified August 2009. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/air/the-political-history-of-cap-and-trade-34711212/?no-ist> (accessed July 11, 2016).

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Crocker, T. D. (1966). *The Structuring of Atmospheric Pollution Control Systems. The Economics of Air Pollution*. H. Wolozin. New York, W. W. Norton & Co.: 61-86

³² "The Clean Development Mechanism: A Review of the First International Offset Program" Center for Climate and Energy Solution. Michael Gillenwater, Stephen Seres. Retrieved 26 Oct 2014. <http://www.c2es.org/docUploads/clean-development-mechanism-review-of-first-international-offset-program.pdf> (Accessed July 11, 2016).

³³ Bastasch, Michael. "UN says the world needs cap-and-trade, carbon taxes." *Daily Caller News Foundation*. April 04, 2014. <http://dailycaller.com/2014/04/14/un-says-the-world-needs-cap-and-trade-carbon-taxes/> (Accessed July 9, 2016).

emissions with other Member States to secure their means of industry.³⁴ The current carbon trade regulations vary among individual Member States and an international standard is still absent.³⁵ The most recent treaty regarding carbon trade was the *Paris Agreement* which was ratified on 12 December 2015.³⁶ The agreement established a new market-based mechanism and built upon the model in the *Kyoto Protocol*, and will be created and launched by the participating Member States by 2020.³⁷ Carbon trade transparency is important to create clear trade parameters and to provide a fair environment for all.³⁸ Furthermore, a transparent and fair trading system also promotes information sharing that empowers developing Member States to further their technology for more environmentally sustainable practices.³⁹

International and Regional Frameworks

The international community has seen a number of different conferences put in place in order to regulate carbon trading and allow for more transparency between Member States involved in the trading of emissions.⁴⁰ The process began in 1992 with the Rio+20 Conference, which brought over 160 Member States together to establish the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), which was officially put into effect in 1994.⁴¹ The UNFCCC's main goal was to help: "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."⁴² This solution is still being used and has been further adapted by various committees today, and is known as the "cap and trade" solution.⁴³ The "cap and trade" solution puts caps on annual domestic emissions, while offering the ability to trade with other Member States if more emissions are desired.⁴⁴ Such a solution helps create a free market that both encourages economic growth and advocates for environmental sustainability.⁴⁵

The *Kyoto Protocol* was then adopted in 1997 to extend the policies of the UNFCCC and to help diversify the UNFCCC's treatment of developed Member States by putting them on different standards of energy consumption targets than other Member States; this was based on the limits for emissions and resource consumption that could be used by more developed Member States.⁴⁶ The *Kyoto Protocol* also helped to create a rolling system for emission reduction in order to fully fulfill the UNFCCC, which involved the stabilization of greenhouse gases and the creation of binding commitments for Member States to decrease their greenhouse emissions.⁴⁷ The *Kyoto Protocol* is being implemented by Member States as a basic guideline to obtain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

³⁴ "Impact of corruption on climate change: threatening emissions trading mechanisms." *UNEP Alert Service*. March 2013. http://www.unep.org/pdf/unep-geas_march_2013.pdf (Accessed July 9, 2016).

³⁵ Busch, Jonah. "Let Countries Carbon Trade." Center for Global Development. Last Modified December 5, 2015. <http://www.cgdev.org/blog/let-countries-trade-carbon> (Accessed July 11, 2016).

³⁶ "The Paris Agreement." *United Nations Framework for Climate Change*. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php (Accessed July 11, 2016).

³⁷ Szabo, Mike. "Paris Agreement Rings in New Era of International Carbon Trading." Carbon Pulse. Last Modified December 12, 2015. <http://carbon-pulse.com/13339/> (Accessed July 9, 2016).

³⁸ "UN Climate Change Conference of 2015." *Sustainable Development Goals*. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cop21/> (Accessed July 7, 2016).

³⁹ "Environmental Governance." *United Nations Environmental Programme*. <http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/> (Accessed July 7, 2016).

⁴⁰ "Kyoto Protocol." *United Nations Framework for Climate Change*. http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php (Accessed July 9, 2016).

⁴¹ "First steps to a safer future: Introducing The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ". The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Retrieved 15 November 2005. http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/6036.php (Accessed July 10, 2016).

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Burton, Ellison, and William Sanjour (1967) *An Economic Analysis of the Control of Sulphur Oxides Air Pollution DHEW Program Analysis Report No. 1967-69* Washington, D.C.: Ernst and Ernst. (Accessed July 11, 2016).

⁴⁴ Bastasch, Michael. "UN says the world needs cap-and-trade, carbon taxes." *Daily Caller News Foundation*. April 04, 2014. <http://dailycaller.com/2014/04/14/un-says-the-world-needs-cap-and-trade-carbon-taxes/> (Accessed July 9, 2016).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "Kyoto Protocol." *United Nations Framework for Climate Change*. http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php (Accessed July 11, 2016).

⁴⁷ Ibid.

that are on the UN list of improvements that should be enacted within the international community to help increase the overall wellbeing of world citizens.⁴⁸ The main development goals that the UNEA targets in regards to carbon trade are: responsible consumption and production, climate action, partnerships for the goals, and sustainable cities and communities.⁴⁹ These development goals were adopted during Resolution 70/1, which brought about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the world, and were updated from the original SDGs that were created during the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.⁵⁰

The UNEA's inaugural session that occurred during June 2014 focused on a variety of topics including illegal wildlife trade and ecosystem sustainability and adaptation, however the conference also discussed some various issues with air quality.⁵¹ The UNEA will convene again in order to hopefully discuss the new SDGs that were issued for the 2030 agenda for its UNEA-2 conference in Nairobi, Kenya and hopefully discuss the lack of transparency within the global carbon trade marketplace.⁵²

The Role of the International System

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) was established in 1972 to tackle international environmental issues, ranging from: the marine and terrestrial ecosystems, the atmosphere, to environmental governance, and a green economy.⁵³ UNEP has been able to participate and fund a number of environmental development projects as well as increasing cooperation between NGOs and regional institutions and national governments.⁵⁴ One example of the UNEP's work with NGOs is to help with the transparency and reliability of the carbon trade market is their work in Kenya with the Wildlife Works Kasigu Corridor.⁵⁵ This project called REDD+ helped to conserve thousands of acres of natural habitat through the uses of a migration corridor and the use of a more conservative logging technique for charcoal creation.⁵⁶

The General Assembly (GA) has adopted several resolutions in regards to environmental sustainability. These resolutions include resolution S-19/2, adopted on 19 September 1997, which created general guidelines for resource consumption limits, including timber, carbon, and natural gases.⁵⁷ A few examples of NGOs that have become partners with the UNEA are; Greenpeace, Oxfam, and Friends of Earth International, which all help to bring the policies and guidelines that UNEP creates into the governments and cultures of Member States.⁵⁸

Current Challenges

There are several challenges that UNEA is facing when it comes to the concept of being able to bring transparency to carbon trade within the international community. Many SDGs deal with sustainable outputs for resources that are

⁴⁸ "17 Sustainable Goals to Transform our World" *United Nations*.

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (Accessed July 10, 2016).

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "Resolution and decisions adopted by UNEA of the UNEP at its first session of 27 June, 2014." *United Nations Environmental Assembly*.

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Portals/9/Special%20Programme/UNEA%20Special%20Programme%20resolution%201-5%20and%20annex%20II.pdf> (Accessed July 10, 2016).

⁵² "About UNEA." *United Nations Environmental Assembly*. <http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea> (Accessed July 9, 2016).

⁵³ "Organization Profile." *United Nations Environmental Programme*.

<http://www.unep.org/PDF/UNEPOrganizationProfile.pdf> (Accessed July 11, 2016).

⁵⁴ "Parliament of the Environment." *United Nations Environmental Assembly*.

http://www.unep.org/Docs/UNEA_Infog_en.jpg (Accessed July 4, 2016).

⁵⁵ "Communities and Forests Reaping the Benefit of Carbon Trading." *United Nations Environmental Programme*. June 2, 2015. <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=26827&ArticleID=35145> (Accessed July 9, 2016).

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly A/S-19/29" <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/spec/aress19-2.htm> (Accessed July 10, 2016).

⁵⁸ "Major Groups and Stakeholders." *United Nations Environmental Programme*.

<http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/Accreditation/NGOs-6.11.14%20lz.pdf> (Accessed July 11, 2016).

outside of the pollution and resource consumption goals, such as the consumption of food and waste disposal.⁵⁹ Having all Member States reach consensus and work cohesively under international frameworks could also prove to be difficult, due to the varying cultures and national goals within each Member State. One possible reason for the difficulties of Member States to agree on a set standard for emission output is that many different Member States are at different level of development and more developing nations need higher outputs in order to maintain the economic output. Transparency within the carbon trade is important for the international community as it helps to keep the system honest and make sure that no Member State is attempting to over consume the amount of resources they are allowed.⁶⁰

Conclusion

The main focus of the UNEA is to provide a conference where the Member States of the United Nations can meet and discuss policy ideas, as well as attempt to bring guidelines and leadership to the international community in terms of environmental sustainability. For the carbon trade transparency topic, the main focus of the UNEA is to bring about basic guidelines that Member States can bring back to their nations. It is also the opportunity to the UNEA members to bring about policies and idea that were used in the UNEP and update them for use in the UNEA Member States and to have them updated with modern technology and information. The biggest concerns for the new UNEA session is to work on the cohesive efforts of all nations to adopt guidelines or policies that allow for greater moderation of the carbon trade and that give developing nations the ability to increase the GDP without overstepping their pollution output.

Committee Directive

To enhance UNEA's policies to increase the effectiveness of regulations to carbon trading while enhancing the fairness of emissions trade, delegates should consider the following questions: what revision should be made to the existing international frameworks to make them more efficient and feasible to implement? Should the UNEA mandate all Member States becoming signatories of the *Paris Agreement*? What should carbon trade transparency look like in the modern world or in the future 14 years? Should the UNEA start to look in trade markets for other resources in order to help with the overconsumption of not just carbon but other non-renewable resources? Is the UNEA's job to create transparency within the carbon trade market or just awareness of the importance the carbon market has on environmental sustainability?

⁵⁹ "17 Sustainable Goals to Transform our World" *United Nations*.
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (Accessed July 10, 2016).

⁶⁰ "Historic UNEA calls for Strengthened Action on Air Quality Among 16 Resolutions." *UNEP News Centre*. June 28, 2014.
<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2791&ArticleID=10931> (Accessed July 11, 2016).

II. The Impact of Waste on Environmental Sustainability

“Sustainability is the key to our future well-being. There can be no lasting progress for people if we destroy our resources and ecosystems. True profits can never come at the expense of our planet or the poor people. Sustainability means meeting today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.”

– United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon⁶¹

Introduction

Waste, in its various forms, leads to the serious deterioration of the environment across the world.⁶² According to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), waste is defined as: “materials that are not prime products for which the generator has no further use in terms of his/her own purposes of production, transformation or consumption, and of which he/she wants to dispose.”⁶³ Waste can lead to serious environmental damage if not controlled effectively.⁶⁴ According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), pollutions, which are typically dumped instead of being disposed of properly, make their way into the water cycle and end up affecting all water sources from the ocean to our drinking water as well as acid rain and affects the entire globe.⁶⁵ With the increased usage of electronic and plastic items, ineffective disposal of waste has had serious effects on the environment.⁶⁶ Electronic wastes that are not properly disposed of will leach mercury and battery acids into the ground and, according to the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), there was 41.8 million tons of electronic waste generated in 2014 alone.⁶⁷ Plastic waste, because it is manmade, can take between 450 to 1000 years to decompose in landfills, which means that pollutants from the plastic could spread in the soil and animals could eat the plastic resulting in illness or death.⁶⁸ For instance, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of plastics and micro-plastics that spans the Pacific Ocean from Japan to the United States.⁶⁹ In the ocean, plastic does not decompose but instead breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces; and these pieces could then be swallowed by a marine animal or leach chemicals into the ocean itself.⁷⁰ Global leaders have begun the process of bringing the environment to the same level as poverty, health, and security with the founding of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in a way that has never been seen before within the United Nations (UN) system.⁷¹ As this newly formed committee begins the great task of bringing global attention to the environment, the impact of waste on environmental sustainability needs to be a key focus because waste affects all aspects of the environment.⁷²

International and Regional Frameworks

⁶¹ Moon, Ban-Ki. “Secretary-General’s remarks at 39th Annual UN International School (UNIS) International Student Conference: ‘Sustainability: Balancing People, Planet, and Profit.’” 5 March 2015. <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8433>. (accessed April 22, 2016).

⁶² “What is waste - A multitude of approaches and definitions.” *GRID-Ardenal*. <http://www.grida.no/publications/vg/waste/page/2853.aspx> (accessed June 14, 2016).

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ “Waste Disposal.” *World Wide Fund for Nature*. http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/teacher_resources/webfieldtrips/waste_disposal/ (accessed April 23, 2016).

⁶⁶ C.P. Baldé, F. Wang, R. Kuehr, J. Huisman. *The Global E-waste Monitor – 2014*. United Nations University Institute for Advanced Study for Sustainability. <https://i.unu.edu/media/unu.edu/news/52624/UNU-1stGlobal-E-Waste-Monitor-2014-small.pdf> (accessed July 6, 2016).

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Kari O’Connor. “How Long Does It Take a Plastic Bottle to Biodegrade?” *Postconsumers*. 31 October 2011. <http://www.postconsumers.com/education/how-long-does-it-take-a-plastic-bottle-to-biodegrade/> (accessed July 6, 2016); “Waste Disposal.” *World Wide Fund for Nature*. http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/teacher_resources/webfieldtrips/waste_disposal/ (accessed April 23, 2016).

⁶⁹ “Great Pacific Garbage Patch.” *National Geographic*. <http://education.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>. (accessed April 23, 2016).

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ “About UNEA,” *United Nations Environmental Programme*, <http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea> (accessed April 23, 2016).

⁷² Ibid.

The UN Secretary-General (SG) Ban-Ki Moon defines environmental sustainability as: “developments that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.”⁷³ According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) Article 25: “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family.”⁷⁴ This statement encourages proper sanitation practices including proper waste disposal, as to not harm the environment nor those who live there.⁷⁵

One of the first milestones on environmental sustainability came from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE), where world leaders gathered for the first time to discuss environmental issues specifically in Stockholm in 1972.⁷⁶ During this conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established with the responsibility of protecting the global environment.⁷⁷ Twenty years later in 1992 at the Earth Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, leaders adopted Agenda 21 which focused on safe environmental practices in waste management.⁷⁸ In the document, the focus on waste centered around encouraging recycling to protect the environment and discourage harmful landfill usage.⁷⁹ In 2000, at the Millennium Summit, the Millennium Development goals (MDGs) were adopted in GA resolution 55/2 on 18 September 2000 in which environmental sustainability was addressed.⁸⁰ The MDGs set specific goals in each area of concern and set 2015 as the deadline to reach the goals.⁸¹ In September 2013, another meeting, hosted by the UN SG called MDG Success, took place to assess the improvements made towards the MDGs, though major lags still remained, and to further urge Member States to have the goals completed by the deadline.⁸²

As the MDGs concluded and the goals had not been met, leaders met again at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 2015 and adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.⁸³ This agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a completion deadline of 2030.⁸⁴ Of the 17 SDGs, the following six are directly related to the environment: Goal six: “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;” Goal seven: “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all;” Goal 12, “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;” Goal 13: “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;” and Goal 14: “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.”⁸⁵ The SDGs provide realistic goals for the UNEA to work towards specifically with environmental sustainability, something critics said the MDGs lacked.⁸⁶

Role of the UN System

The GA, the primary legislative body within the UN, has worked alongside the UNEA to seriously take on the task of the SDGs following the Rio+ 20 Summit.⁸⁷ In the past several years, the GA has adopted several resolutions on the topic, such as resolution 65/173 adopted on 20 December 2010, which called for tempered ecotourism to

⁷³ Sung, Hyun. “Sustainable Development.” General Assembly of the United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/sustdev.shtml> (accessed June 8, 2016).

⁷⁴ Article 25. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. United Nations General Assembly. December 10, 1948.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1. *Action Plan for the Human Environment*. United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. 1972.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ “Agenda 21”. *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*. 14 June 1992.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2016).

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ A/RES/55/2. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. September 18, 2000.

⁸¹ “MDGs: What They Are.” *Millennium Project*. 2006. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/> (accessed July 8, 2016).

⁸² “MDG Success: Accelerating Action, Partnering for Impact,” *Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015*, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdgpartner.shtml> (accessed July 9, 2016).

⁸³ “Sustainable Development Goals.” *Division for Sustainable Development UN-DESA*. 12 August 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>. (Accessed April 23, 2016).

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ “SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production.” United Nations Environment Programme. <http://www.unep.org/uneal/sdg.asp> (accessed July 8, 2016).

⁸⁷ A/RES/65/173. *Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection*. December 20, 2010.

endangered environments to create job opportunities and to promote conservation, education, and environmental sustainability.⁸⁸ Ecotourism is key to environmental protection, because it raises awareness of environmental sustainability on a local level and can directly deliver the information to the public.⁸⁹ Furthermore, the GA also stressed education of the environmental effects of waste in resolution 65/149, especially with chemical munitions that are being dumped in the ocean.⁹⁰ Continuing on with the environmental protection efforts following the Rio+20 conference, during its 66th session, the GA adopted resolution 66/288 on 27 July 2012, which encouraged Member States to continue in their efforts of environmental sustainability and further implement the decisions made at Rio+20.⁹¹ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has also begun to establish efforts to protect the environment through resolution 2010/3 adopted on 19 July 2010, which promoted the use of science and technology to increase and protect environmental sustainability and development.⁹²

The UNEA adopted a series of resolutions in its first meeting in 2014 to promote the protection of the environment with respect to waste and its impact on the environment.⁹³ For instance, resolution 1/5 which encourages safe management of waste as a key element of sustainable development.⁹⁴ The UNEA also focused on future efforts on higher standards of air quality, reduction of plastic in marine ecosystems, and to evaluate efforts made to reduce chemical waste in conjunction with the MDGs.⁹⁵

UNEP was the first UN committee tasked with environmental protection and called for the creation of the UNEA as a committee in which all Member States can contribute. UNEP adopted resolution 16/30 on 31 May 1991 in its 16th session and stated that hazardous wastes need more efficient ways of disposal and cleaner means of production.⁹⁶ Furthermore, it specifically called for Member States to implement national and regional endeavors to adjust the current practices to those of the standards stemming from the UNCHE.⁹⁷ UNEP, in the past, has used the Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Scoreboard to evaluate Member States in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) based on their municipal solid waste programs at the local, regional, and national levels.⁹⁸ This scoreboard is used internally by that Member States' environmental protection agency who will then report to the UNEP and lead in the reduction efforts at the regional and local levels.⁹⁹ UNEP encourages that the score be taken internally because the Member State can then fully understand the specific issues involved and address them accordingly, however an international committee can be used if requested by the Member State.¹⁰⁰ UNEP encourages Member States using this scorecard to promote and raise funds for research for their own Member State and to establish a database on the efforts being made in their solid waste management.¹⁰¹ In the past, landfills have

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ "What is Ecotourism?" The International Ecotourism Society. <https://www.ecotourism.org/what-is-ecotourism> (Accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹⁰ A/RES/65/149. *Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea*. UN General Assembly. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/149. (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹¹ A/RES/66/288. *The future we want*. UN General Assembly. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E. (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹² 2010/3. *Science and technology for development*. Economic and Social Council. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2010/res%202010-3.pdf>. (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹³ 1/5. *Chemicals and waste*. United Nations Environment Assembly. (accessed 24 April 2016.) <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Portals/9/Special%20Programme/UNEA%20Special%20Programme%20resolution%201-5%20and%20annex%20II.pdf> (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ "Historic UN Environment Assembly Calls for Strengthened Action on Air Quality, Linked to 7 Million Deaths Annually, Among 16 Major Resolution," United Nations Environment Assembly, <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2791&ArticleID=10931&l=en> (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹⁶ 16/30. *Hazardous waste*. United Nations Environment Programme. <http://www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=55&ArticleID=826&l=en> (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ "Integrated Waste Management Scoreboard," *United Nations Environment Programme*, http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/Publications/spc/IWM_scoreboard-binder.pdf (accessed April 24, 2016).

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

typically been the most cost-effective means of solid waste containment.¹⁰² Recently recycling has been highly encouraged through the UNEP because of its lessened impact on the environment.¹⁰³ However, many Member States continue using landfills for disposal due to tradition and the low cost of maintenance.¹⁰⁴ Unfortunately, there have been several instances of landfills, which did not meet the expectations of the environmental protection agency, to simply be closed without taking the necessary steps to ensure safety of the environment due to the costs.¹⁰⁵ Therefore careful planning must occur in each new landfill in order to protect harmful chemicals from mixing with groundwater sources and more education on recycling and its benefits be given out to local citizens.¹⁰⁶ Despite those rare instances, the UNEA and UNEP hope to implement a global scoreboard, as a supplement to the SDGs, so that environmental protection is closely monitored.

Civil Society Organizations

The UNEA works closely with many Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in order to best serve each Member State in preserving their specific environment and to ensure work is being done locally.¹⁰⁷ The World Environment Center (WEC), which began in Shanghai, China, offers its services to Member States and businesses to efficiently use natural resources and reduce the production of waste.¹⁰⁸ WEC helps manage many different environmental projects for the UNEP and UNEA, such as an Executive Steering Committee in Guatemala and El Salvador, Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD), the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID), and the Ministries of Economy and Environment to promote environmental safety in the private sector.¹⁰⁹ As of June 2010, these private companies saved 30 tons of generated solid waste and 16,876 meters cubes of water.¹¹⁰

Additionally, the Association for Sustainable Human Development (ASHD) formed as a collaboration between the Earth Council Alliance, a group that promotes sustainability and global peace, and UNEP in 2002 to actively follow up with Member States after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which took place in September of 2002.¹¹¹ Based out of Armenia, ASHD provides bulletins and other educational materials to other Member States, such as Azerbaijan and Georgia, in order to educate the public on sustainable actions.¹¹² The International Conference on Waste Management, Ecology and Biological Sciences (WMEBS) is an international platform for researchers and engineers to present their findings within the waste management, ecological and biological sciences.¹¹³ With the personal aspect of this convention, participants at the convention are able to make business deals, try out new technological advances, and develop partners for research from around the world.¹¹⁴ The International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) oversees several working groups who go out into the international community to promote safe waste disposal and works alongside many UN branches, including the UNEP, to educate and aid participants in the proper disposal of solid wastes both regionally and globally.¹¹⁵

Further, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) is an association of professors and other members in the academic community who wish to strengthen environmental laws across the world by connecting

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ "UNEA-2:Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)," *United Nations Environment Programme*, <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/GMGSF/GMGSF16/GMGSF%20at%20UNEA%202.pdf>, pg. 12 (accessed July 9, 2016).

¹⁰⁸ "General Motors and WEC." *World Environment Center*. <http://www.wec.org/about-wec/history> (accessed April 30, 2016).

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ "Cleaner Production Private Sector Partnerships (CPP): El Salvador and Guatemala." *World Environment Center*. <http://www.wec.org/2011-es-guat-summary> (accessed June 19, 2016).

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² "Activity: 2001-2007." *Association for Sustainable Human Development*. <http://users.freenet.am/~ashd/whbd.html> (Accessed April 30, 2016).

¹¹³ International Conference on Waste Management. <http://wmebs.eacbee.org/> (accessed April 23, 2016).

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ International Solid Waste Association. <http://www.iswa.org/> (accessed April 23, 2016).

with other educated individuals across the world through conferences that they host.¹¹⁶ Currently, IGSD members are working on spreading awareness of hydrofluorocarbons, which are found mostly in air conditioners and refrigerators that could overshadow the efforts made in the reduction of carbon dioxide due to their greenhouse effect.¹¹⁷ IGSD encourages awareness of these gases in order to decrease their release of carbon dioxide between 100 to 200 billion tons by 2050 and prevent 0.5 degrees Celsius of global warming by 2100.¹¹⁸ Reduction in global warming from safe waste containment is exactly what the UNEA and the SDGs are promoting.¹¹⁹ These NGOs as well as many others create the means of direct collaboration between the UN and other stakeholders, including the civil society, State governments, and the private sectors.¹²⁰ Their activities are helping to spread awareness of harmful environmental practices and are paving the way for an overall better environment for all.¹²¹

Case Study: Alaminos, Philippines

The Philippines is one of the first developing Member States to address the harmful side effects that waste played on the environment and their people.¹²² After an improperly maintained dumpsite collapsed outside of Manila killing approximately 300 people in 2000, the Philippine government decided to intervene.¹²³ The *Republic Act 9003* was adopted in 2000 and it requires cities throughout the country to implement more efficient solid waste management systems, including the construction of a materials recovery facility and municipal composting, as well as outlawing mixed waste collection and open burning of waste.¹²⁴ By 2009, however, the city of Alaminos had yet to see any such systems being implemented within the city or surrounding cities.¹²⁵ Later that year, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), the city of Alaminos began the Zero Waste Alaminos project, which aims to leaving Alaminos with no waste.¹²⁶ GAIA is an alliance of around 650 different groups, including NGOs and even individuals, that seek to end the practice of incinerating waste, which adds to air pollution and global warming.¹²⁷ GAIA provided guidance, education, and finances to jumpstart the process including education materials, buying shredders, and granting money for the construction of different waste collection facilities and purchasing waste collection vehicles.¹²⁸ A survey group, composed of one GAIA member, two Alaminos representatives, and a representative from the Mother Earth Foundation, travelled to each barangay to interview the village chiefs of their common practices on waste management.¹²⁹ By organizing and analyzing the results, the group was able to develop strategies to transform these districts to be more environmentally conscience and sustainable. Further, the survey group in conjunction with GAIA began administering technical workshops to local leaders about how to properly dispose of waste. From there, the leaders held assemblies in their villages over a 14-month span so that every citizen knew exactly how to dispose of their waste. By 2011, 88 percent of the

¹¹⁶ “About IGSD.” *Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development*. <http://www.igsd.org/about/igsd/> (Accessed April 30, 2016).

¹¹⁷ “Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).” Think Global Green. <http://www.thinkglobalgreen.org/hfc.html> (accessed July 8, 2016).

¹¹⁸ “About IGSD.” *Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development*. <http://www.igsd.org/about/igsd/> (accessed April 30, 2016).

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ “UNEA-2:Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (MGGSF),” *United Nations Environment Programme*, <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/GMGsf/GMGsf16/GMGsf%20at%20UNEA%202.pdf>, pg. 12 (accessed July 9, 2016).

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² Gilles Van Kote. “Manila’s waste scavengers are integrated into the recycling chain.” *The Guardian*. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jan/29/manila-philippines-recycling-payatas> (accessed April 24, 2016).

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ Anne Larracas. “From Dream to Reality in the Philippines: On the Road to Zero Waste.” *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)*. <http://www.no-burn.org/from-dream-to-reality-in-the-philippines> (accessed April 24, 2016).

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ “About US.” *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)*. <http://www.no-burn.org/article.php?list=type&type=65> (accessed July 8, 2016).

¹²⁸ Anne Larracas. “From Dream to Reality in the Philippines: On the Road to Zero Waste.” *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)*. <http://www.no-burn.org/from-dream-to-reality-in-the-philippines> (accessed April 24, 2016).

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

population recycled and open burnings of waste had decreased to almost zero.¹³⁰ As a result, the Philippines has begun implementing similar institutions and have drastically reduced the waste they produce nationally.

These efforts provide an excellent example to the global community how local change can have an effect on the world.¹³¹ What has been done in the Philippines shows the global community that true and effective change needs to begin at the local level.¹³² The city of Alaminos saw a need in their area to provide a safer environment for their citizens and took action.¹³³ The citizens worked with an international NGO to establish long lasting practices within their country which will have an impact on years to come.¹³⁴ What happened in Alaminos is a prime example of the work that happens when a Member State works together with its people to ensure the safety of the environment.¹³⁵ The outcome seen here should encourage other Member States to begin waste reduction efforts at the local level and eventually make their way to regional and national levels.¹³⁶

Conclusion

The UNEA and its partners have been working hard on environmental sustainability and a great future for all.¹³⁷ The implementation of the SDGs will be the determiner for how well the UNEA and the UN system create programs and policies to protect the environment and meet the goals by the year 2030.¹³⁸ In the meantime, Member States, with due diligence, are also making the efforts to create a sustainable environment by taking a serious look at how their traditional practices, especially in the management of their waste, effect the local and global environments. With these efforts, humanity will have a greener and cleaner Earth by the 2030 deadline and beyond. From now on, sustainable development will be the process the UN uses to improve our world.

Committee Directive

Waste is a difficult entity to monitor due to the daily increase of it, and is challenging to sustainably dispose because of its dangerous effects. Member States should take this opportunity to delve into their own local autonomies to gain information on how the impact of waste can be best reduced in an environmental friendly fashion. Delegates should focus on the following questions: What is the role of the UN as a whole in regards to the control of waste? Should the impact of waste be controlled directly through UNEA, by region, or locally? How can the UNEA as well as Member States reduce the impact of waste with issues including the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and other environmental hazards that stem from waste? Can efforts like those in Alaminos, Philippines be implemented on a global scale? How is waste managed within your Member State and can the institutions your Member State uses be adopted on a global scale?

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ "SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production." United Nations Environment Programme. <http://www.unep.org/uneal/sdg.asp> (accessed July 8, 2016).

¹³⁸ Ibid.

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I: Enhancing Carbon Trade Transparency

Carlén, Björn et al. "Market Power in International Carbon Emissions Trading: A Laboratory Test." (2003).

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Market-Power-in-International-Carbon-Emissions-Carl%C3%A9n-Jacoby/c7fc694aea872565b0896fddfe78dd0c0d454f2f>

The purpose of this source is to attempt to show the effect that market power of a nation could have on its carbon trade. By a similar effect the report talks about the influence of the carbon trade market on the environment and the impact that comes from individual nation needs and policy changes within Member States. This article also has a focus on the power that individual Member States

Felder, Stefan and Rutherford, Thomas F. *The Economics of International Trade and the Environment*, 1993.

The main purpose of this book is to show evidence that attempts to look at the future of the carbon trade business in comparison to recent green technologies and electrical energy. The results of the study also speak to the potential of synthetic fuels and also the barriers that come with carbon intensive production and carbon taxes, and the barriers that it creates to alternative sources of energy production. The article also hints on the welfare cost of unilateral carbon abatement and the cost of welfare for each Member State and their change over the course of the century.

Glen P. Peters and Edgar G. Hertwich. "CO₂ Embodied in International Trade with Implications for Global Climate Policy". *Environmental Science & Technology*. 2008 42 (5), 1401-1407.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es072023k>

The main focus of the article is to point the effect that emissions can have on trade the effectiveness and the policies that are implemented in order to make a sustainable earth, such as the Kyoto Protocol or the Paris Treaty. The article also discusses several policies to help reduce trade in order to make global climate policies easier to manage.

Machado, Giovanni Schaeffer, Roberto and Worrell, Ernst. "Energy and carbon embodied in the international trade of Brazil: an input-output approach". *Ecological Economics*.

Volume 39, Issue 3, December 2001, Pages 409–424.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800901002300>

This study begins with the basic premise that all goods and services in an economy are based around the consumption of energy and the effects that the means of energy use effects the economy of individual Member States and the decisions that they make. The study uses Brazil as its macro model for the way that energy consumption effects and trade effect a Member States policies and economy. The study shows that policy makers need to be concerned about their energy policies and consumption because of the effects that it can have on a nation's economy and international trade with other Member States.

Topic II: The Impact of Waste on Environmental Sustainability

"Global Partnership on Waste Management," *United Nations Environment Programme*,

<http://www.unep.org/gpwm/Home/tabid/79392/Default.aspx>.

The Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM) is an international organization that combines the efforts of government, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), and others to help manage waste reduction efforts. On this website, delegates will be able to search for the objectives of the GPWM as well as locate their Member State's profile to see efforts that have been made to reduce waste within that Member State.

"Knowledge Base," *International Solid Waste Association*, <http://www.iswa.org/media/publications/knowledge-base/>.

The International Solid Waste Association provides a search engine on its website that will locate articles based on the keywords provided that deal with waste. This website will be helpful for delegates to research projects and programs associated with waste that are in their Member State.

“SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction,” *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, <http://www.fao.org/save-food/en/>.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has put together this website as a way to help researchers understand the impact that waste, especially that of food, has on the environment. This website also creates awareness of the issues stemming from food waste and encourages every person to look at their own participation in this epidemic in order to reduce waste.

“Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform,” *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.

The Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform is a comprehensive website that will allow delegates the opportunity to research key documents related to sustainable development. This website also has abundant information on different topics that involve sustainable development and would therefore be especially useful to delegate for research within their Member State.