**POSITION PAPER**

**Country:** South Africa
**Committee:** United Nations Environment Programme
**Agenda Items: I**- Assesing the Current State of the Climate crisis
**II-** Environmental Problems Regarding Cities
**Delegate:** Çağrı Çelik

South Africa is the southernmost country in Africa. South Africa is known for national scenic beauty. Also South Africa is the biggest producer of gold, platinum, chromium, vanadium, manganese and aluminosilicates. South Africa has 12 offical languages. Most importants are Afrikaans and English. The nation’s capitals are Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein.

Climate change is the most important crisis of our time and it’s happening quicker then we expected and feared. Causes of the climate crisis are burning fossil fuels, deforestation, industrial procceses, land use changes, greenhouse gases etcetera. For South Africa, effects of climate crisis are already devastating. The researchs show that, on a high carbon pathway, temperatures in South Africa could increase by as much as 2.1°C by 2050. Changing climate could effect South Africa’s ecosystems and infrastructures. Forests are very important for clean air and respiratory tract diseases. In South Africa, If carbon levels remain high, losses in forests will damage South Africa’s agriculture and tourism industries. South Africa faces multiple threats from climate change. In different sectors South Africa’s economy can be damaged by climate change and the impacts of damage in economical sectors can be huge. South Africa signed Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. And it got ratification on 01 November 2016. Also South Africa is a part of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, having acceded to the Convention in 1977 and ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. South Africa is not listed in Annex 1 of the UNFCCC and is a developing country in terms of the Paris Agreement. South Africa’s climate priorities are focused on climate adaption and mitigation. The South African cabinet has approved key climate actions, including creating a Presidental Climate commision, South Africa’s Low Emissions Development Strategy, a National Climate Chande Adaption Strategy, a carbon tax, and a just Transition Framework.

South Africa refined it’s minimizing targets for 2025 and 2030, creating fixed-level target ranges for both years. Critical sectors that identified for mitigation were: energy, waste, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, forestry, and other land use. In Fiscal Year 2021, USAID helped to South Africa to adapt 6.500 people to climate change. Independent observers have called the current actions by the government insufficient. The European Investment Bank Global and the Development Bank of Southern Africa have agreed to a €200 million loan to support a new targeted financing initiative aimed at unlocking €400 million for private sector renewable energy investment in South Africa. Getting easier finance and investment for transition to a lower carbon economy and society is a huge challenge for South Africa. Because of that We want to highlight the importance of international collabrations in climate crisis. When it comes to climate crisis one nation’s problem is everyone’s problem. It is hard to get a lower carbon economy for South Africa but we can get it to the lowest level with international collabrations. Also we want to raise our people with better knowledge on climate change. We want a generation who has knowledge on climate change.

Cities are accounting for more than 70% of global energy-related CO2 emmisions and an estimated 50% of global waste. Because of that cities are one of the most substanial topics for the environment. Pollutions are a consequence of certain human actions can have a damage to environment. The global environmental pollution can cause a worldwide public health problem with multiple impacts. Air pollution is considered to be one of the greatest environmental terrors of today. Emissions from factories, planes, aeorosol, cans and cars; largest portion of air pollution is caused by humans. Air pollution causes people cardiovascular diseases and respiratory track diseases. According to datas of World Health Organizaton (WHO) every year 7 million people dies because of air pollution. Also water pollution is a very significant consequence of city based environmental problems too. Most common 6 reason of water pollution are: Sewage and wastewater, agricultural flow, industrial waste, oil spills, garbage pills and plastic pollution in the seas, radioctive waste. The drinkable sources of water are less than 1% of the Earth’s freshwater. Because of that waters need to be saved for future generations. A green city improves the environment, ensures rich biodiversity, reduces air pollution, ensures water storage and help cooling down in warm periods. Green cities have big benefits on health and well being. Patients who had a tree view from their room recovered measurably faster from surgery than patients with a view of a blind wall. Also resarchers showed that people are healthier when their living environment has more greenery. Green cities are significant investment that we need to do for better health, well-being, environment and a green future.

Tree main environmental issues in South Africa are pollution, lack of energy, and deforestation. South Africa has putted in place National Ambent Air Quality Standarts (NAAQS) to make sure that the air that people breathe is not harmful for their health. Most part of South Africa’s emmisions are produced by the electricity sector, the metals industry and the transport sector. The electricity sector’s reliance on fossil fuels is one of the main reasons for the high levels of nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide in South Africa’s air. The biggest sources of air pollution in South Africa are combustion on fossil fuels, emmisions and factories and waste production. For minimizing the combustion on fossil fuels, we need to get our people informed about the fossil fuels and environment problems. We can do it by announcing the real situation at the air pollution based death rates. If we force factories and companies to install filters by legislating on filtered chimneys, we can get a lower rate on air pollution. In South Africa almost half of all water supply systems (46%) do not comply with microbiological standarts.Parasites like Legionella and Cyanobacteria might have grown in the piped water systems. To fix that, we need to pay attention to the lack of technical and management capacity. A facility can not be function properly without rhe requiered skilled and experienced personnel. The poor drinking quality must be controlled for the health of people. We can not afford another tragic case such as Hammanskraal in South Africa’s Gauteng province, where 31 people died of cholera in May 2023 after drinking contaminated municipal water. We need dedicate that where we spent money and research the poor and critical water supply systems. Also South Africa has 4 green cities: Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and Pretoria. For better environment we need to support the projects with more green effective terms.

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