

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Agenda Item 1: Assessing the Current State of the Climate Crisis

Agenda Item 2: Environmental Problems Regarding Cities

Assessing the Current State of the Climate Crisis

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. As Saudi Arabia we have been the controller of oil and gas since the Industrial Revolution. Since the interest upon electric cars increased in last 20 years the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is trying to change their policy and path regarding renewable and sustainable energy sources.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been improving themselves and trying to adapt their economy policy to the ongoing crisis in the world. Regarding this issue we have launched the Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) and the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) in 2021. With this new improvement we are aiming to reduce carbon emissions in Middle East by more than 10% of the current global contributions. Over the past decade we recognized the importance of prioritizing the actions that could tackle with climate change. We have revised our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which is to reduce emissions by 278 million tons per year 2030, more than double the previous goal set in 2015. We also announced our target to achieve net zero by 2060. Furthermore we announced our intention to be a part of the Global Methane Pledge which is to limit methane emissions by 30% compared with 2020 levels. We have published the details of more than 53 Saudi initiatives with more than 185 billion dollars investment.

These initiatives include:

increasing the share of renewables in the power mix to 50%,
launching the Saudi Energy Efficiency Program ,
establishing one of the largest hydrogen hubs in the world in Neom.

In addition we are establishing a 10 billion dollar fund for the deployment of CCE technologies in Middle East.

As Saudi Arabia in order to solve this issue efficiently we listed some possible solutions:

1-Governments should develop their own economic plans away from fossil fuels which is compatible with Paris Agreement.

2-Pace of renewable energy deployment should be increased.

3-Communication Programmes and workshops should be presented to the community by the staff selected by the government.

4-Marine ecosystems and oceans should be protected in order to keep marine environment clean.

5-Governments should urgently start investing in renewable energy sources such as geothermal,wave,tidal,wind and solar energy.

6-The economics of every nation must shift away from fossil fuels and try to invest more in keeping fossil fuels underground.

Environmental Problems Regarding Cities

Cities are playing such an important role when it comes to providing solutions to climate change and minimizing any further impacts of it on the environment.Cities are a key contributor to climate change, as urban activities are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Estimates suggest that cities are responsible for 75% of global CO2 emissions, with transport and buildings being among the largest contributors.

Only with a coordinated approach and action at the global, regional, national and local levels, can success be achieved. It is essential to make cities an integral part of the solution in fighting climate change. Many cities are already doing a lot and our Kingdom is trying to adapt to this current status.Environmental problems in cities could be presented as air,water and land pollution,global warming,waste disposal,loss of biodiversity

and deforestation. All these points have devastating impacts on environment and public. Regarding all these difficulties green cities hold the most important role in their hands. They have positive effect on environmental issues such as decreasing air pollution and ensuring rich biodiversity and water storage.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is improving and adapting themselves to the new world. Which must be full of renewable energy and zero carbon emissions. In 2019 we have launched a project named “Green Riyadh”. This is a revolutionary project that is set to transform the capital city of Saudi Arabia into a green oasis. The project is planting trees in neighborhood gardens, parks, mosques, schools, universities, healthcare facilities, and along streets and roads. By 2030, 7.5 million trees will be growing throughout the city. By creating green public spaces, improving air quality, decreasing power consumption, reducing temperatures, and enhancing the urban landscape of Riyadh, the project is helping people live happier, healthier, and more sustainable lives.

The Kingdom has efficient solution ideas listed as:

1-Environmental friendly practices should be supported by governments.

2-Decreasing the amount of taxes for private transportation sectors and sustainable industrial companies.

3-As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia we urge every member state to establish their own organization. This organization will work with volunteers in order to take some actions against cities’ environmental issues.

4-There should be an urgent investment in hydroponic farms in order to grow almost the same amount of plants and vegetables as a fully functioning farm.

5-Green public spaces should be created.

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