

Student Plan of Action
5 December 2008
11th Annual United Nations Students Conference on Human Rights
“Climate Change and Human Rights”
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Preamble:

Bearing in mind that this plan of action includes the input of young representatives from 19 different countries and one territory, including Mexico, The Dominican Republic, Haiti, USA, USA (Puerto Rico), Panama, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, El Salvador, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Canada, India, South Africa and Bahrain;

Affirming the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at its 60th anniversary;

Deeply disturbed by the fact that Global Climate Change significantly impacts the integrity of all people’s human rights and in most cases causes violations of the most vital amongst them;

Cognizant of the fact that in some regions, schools are located in areas which are vulnerable to the detrimental effects of climate change and are unprepared for the natural disasters that might wreak havoc on their environment, thus leading to migration into locations with insufficient educational facilities to accommodate the increase in population,

Concerned that the economic stress caused by climate change will directly affect poor families and intensify pressure to send children to work instead of attending school,

Acknowledging that climate change poses a substantial, exigent threat to human life, In contemplation of the scale at which Global Climate Change affects our planet,

Observing that global climate change indeed greatly affects the economic stability of significant portions of the world’s population through natural disasters and climate change in agriculture,

Acknowledging that a person’s social rights will be greatly affected by a devastated economy caused by global climate change, such that they will be unable to pay for education and healthcare due to financial despair,

Dismayed by the fact that the aforementioned effects lead to the development of new and different forms of slavery, such as child labor, prostitution and child pornography, human trade and trafficking, labor exploitation and servitude, the exploitation of undocumented migrants, child soldiers, corruption of minors, and debt bondage,

Alarmed by the fact that most nations lack political will to sufficiently address the issue of slavery, which allows the appalling acts of human trafficking, prostitution and slavery to continue to prevail in these nations in situations impacted by Global Climate Change,

Concerned that developed nations are the main contributors to the climate change crisis and that developing countries shall be less capable to adapt to the Climate Change,

Deeply concerned that due to climate change increases, the women of many countries will be greatly jeopardized for their families' welfare and generational equality issues will therefore be created,

Realizing that various cultures are dependent on the specific conditions of their regional ecosystems which are greatly affected by Global Climate Change,

Acknowledging that the natural disasters caused by Global Climate Change destroy and disassemble societies, families and cultures altogether, as does the diminishment of resources which occur in such scenarios and which can lead to vast migration of large proportions of ethnic groups.

Forward.

0.1 Recommends the help of all member states to those states who have been affected by a natural disaster and cannot recover due to a poor economic status;

0.2 Exhort the reinforcement of research about the consequences of climate change on the economies of the region guarding the protection of human rights, in cooperation with enterprises, universities, governments, nongovernmental organizations and the international community;

0.3 Calls to promote international cooperation, the exchange of knowledge and experience in prevention against the effects of climate change on society and the economy, through a practice of fair sharing in the reduction of carbon emissions, promotion and purchase of clean development mechanism in developing countries;

- i. Governmental and civil society projects, programs, and public policies that increase awareness and improves human rights protection and enforcement;
- ii. Continuous education strategies and programs with a preventive focus in order to promote the respect of human rights specially respect to liberty and human dignity, as well as utter respect for the environment;

0.4 Recommends the nations to set up an equipped weather forecasting system to ensure proper and timely information;

0.5 Exhorts governments to respect the rights of property in zones that have been affected by natural disasters as a consequence of the climate change;

0.6 Invites the implementation of a publicity campaign at both national and international level, meant to promote economical, cultural, social and gender equality; affected all by the climate change;

0.7 Strongly suggests the creation of legal advisory instruments to ensure the state of progress of governments abiding by rules and recommendations related to rights of victims of natural disasters in receiving aid and empowerment to rebuild their households and societies;

1.1 Emphasizes the importance of the protection of natural resources since they are the basis of a country's economy and are a determining factor for the welfare and living standards of a population;

1.2 Urges member states to identify members and groups of their societies that are economically impacted by climate change and provide the General Assembly with a concise report and suggestion of what assistance could come from United Nations;

1.3 Encourages Member States to create institutions that will provide economic aid to those recognized groups of their society, such as groups that have been forced to change their crops due to climate change or, in severe situations, groups that need aid in the replacement to areas with fertile soil or assistance in the adaption to new professions;

1.4 Encourages these newly established aid agencies to cooperate with the regional educational and health-care providing institutions and to negotiate solutions which will keep economically suffering groups of the society from the deprivation of their social rights;

1.7 Draws the attention of Governments to the strengthening and improvement of existing departments through the mechanisms that ensure the reintegration of the refugees displaced by the natural disasters into the society and economy;

2.1 Exhorting the international community to reinforce cooperation between the people and increase the technician and humanitarian assistance in the fight against the diverse forms of slavery, in order to minimize the consequences caused by these practices which undermine human dignity and severely weaken the development of societies;

2.2 Suggesting to the international community, on a national, regional, and international level, to increment the aid given to the people and communities affected by the adverse effects of climate change and to develop the following prevention and rehabilitation actions in favor of those affected by different slavery forms;

2.3 Developing and complementing programs of rehabilitation, psychological aid, technical education, occupational therapy, agricultural training, safe refugee practice, education about the machinations and consequences of contemporary slavery and human trafficking caused by climate change as a preventative measure;

2.4 Recommending that neighbor States of States who have suffered the grievous effects of climate change and the practice of the different forms of slavery, to establish refugee camps

that assist victims of natural resources, as well as those who have escaped the hardships of slavery, in order to aid in the process of rehabilitation of the aforementioned;

2.5 Urging the corporate sector to economically cooperate with the NGO's that work for the rehabilitation of enslaved persons;

2.6 Instructing States to maintain a practice of investigation of cases of human trafficking and to cooperate in international investigation and the development of informational programs;

2.7 Emphasizing States, especially those developing States, about the necessity to make periodical census, in order to establish not only the number of disappearances as a consequences of natural disasters, but also allow an adequate distribution of basic necessities, such as food, refugees, healthcare programs and clothe distribution among displaced people and groups;

2.8 Resolving than an international response team, in coordination with peacekeeping forces of the United Nations, be established in order to initialize cooperation between the affected parties when natural disasters strike, granting special attention to evacuation, rescue and respond plans;

2.9 Reaffirming our belief that an idea may change a person, a person may change his or her community and communities may change the world;

3.1 Encouraging governments to make environmental friendly consumer goods more accessible to citizens by funding and promoting more research resulting in more affordability therefore accessibility;

3.2 Calls upon the recognition of countries and regions which will be either more severely impacted by climate change or less capable to adapt to it;

3.3 Calls upon local governments, NGO's and local organizations to identify vulnerable sectors of the community and assist them;

3.4 Demands the assistance of developed nations be available to undeveloped nations which are being affected by climate change or in a case of natural disaster;

3.5 Encourages the establishment of clinics the specialize in the care needs of women and children to ensure that women are fit and able to take on all the responsibilities of caring for their families and themselves;

3.6 Recommends the integration of gender analysis and gender equality indicators into programs and projects to identify where specific vulnerabilities to climate change lie;

3.7 Exhorts the creation of new initiatives in order to find opportunities for migration and adaptation to climate change can be found;

3.8 *Empowering* women with skills, education and opportunities for social and economic uplifting and to educate about their rights;

3.9 *Encouraging* governments to make environmentally friendly consumer goods more accessible to citizens by funding and promoting more research resulting in more affordability and therefore accessibility;

4.1 *Requests* that when natural disaster strikes a vulnerable area, Non-government organizations, national governments, and international governments work together to provide the continuance of education to families who have been affected by the disaster, that states adopt measures which guarantee education for those who reside in areas vulnerable to natural disaster, and that the global community as a whole provides educational tools to the students in areas affected by global climate change;

4.2 *Emphasizes* the necessity of building shelters to avoid the use of schools as shelters, disturbing the academic development of the youth who reside in the affected area;

4.3 *Exhorts* the educational sector to engage in the practice of training citizens of vulnerable areas in the science of teaching so as to improve the overall education of said vulnerable area, thus establishing a global standard for education, while respecting the cultures and religions of the population;

4.4 *Urges* governments to implement public policies of which the general population are aware, involving it actively and passively, and in agreement with the features exposed, and those established in the pertinent treaties;

4.5 *Calls* governments to aid in the assistance of groups in financial despair due to global climate change, so the education of these groups is not disrupted;

5.1 *Encourages* the private sector to invest in vertical farming, land preserving, and gene banking with the incentives of publicity and tax benefits;

5.2 *Calls upon* developed countries to supply funds for farmers to create irrigation to keep a stable crop production;

5.3 *Appeals* to all developed countries to identify all potential natural disaster locations so as to implement necessary precautions before any mass cultural loss can occur;

5.4 *Advises* that governments install warning systems and improve existing ones to alert communities to impending disasters, so that they have ample time to safeguard their historic, cultural sites and their own lives;

5.6 *Requests* that governments assist such communities in constructing dykes, seawalls or other related systems to protect cultural and agricultural land from rising sea levels, or to give incentives for the private sector to do so;

5.7 *Urges* school programs that teach students about various cultures and their viewpoints so as to promote understanding and acceptance of cultures threatened by climatic effects;

5.8 *Further Facilitates* cultural and environmental knowledge by giving incentives for indigenous elders or representatives to travel abroad and participate in cultural education programs;

5.9 Urges governments to construct education facilities and resources specifically for indigenous areas and people whose culture is being threatened by Climate Change;

6.1 *Calls on* nations to donate to an international emergency relief fund managed by the United Nations;

6.2 *Stresses* on establishing coastal shelter belt plantations, which will mitigate the impacts of strong cyclonic winds, coastal flooding and inward sand drift;

6.3 *Strongly suggests* that pharmaceutical companies and hospitals provide free vaccinations for diseases such as malaria, cholera and others which may be induced by climate change;

6.4 *Encourages* experts and scientists to inform people about natural disasters and how to avoid them;

6.5 *Requests* to create conscience with informative campaigns in towns far from cities that are vulnerable to the natural disasters and help them prepare for it;

6.6 *Recommends* to the member states to create an institution of the government to be in charge of the prevention of, and protection from, natural disasters.