

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME
ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY MODEL
UNITED NATIONS
HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE
(MARCH 2019)

CHAIRING STYLE

Fellow delegates, welcome to the 2018 Model United Nations Conference here at St. Bonaventure. I am looking forward to sessions of productive and lively debate. This President's Letter is meant to help you with your research efforts and topics preparation. I have high expectations when it comes to your knowledge of the Rules of Procedure. The proper use of parliamentary language and procedure is a must and will be looked upon favorably. Knowledge of parliamentary procedure is a significant part of your score. Your score also depends on how often each delegation participates in caucuses, discussions, debates and working paper and resolution development. Besides knowledge of rules of procedure, a solid understanding of your country's policy and positions regarding the issues we are discussing is a must. Be sure to read various articles on your country and on the various topics we will discuss in this panel. I expect you to make every motion, speech and recommendation count, and to be respectful of your fellow delegates. The goal of our committee is to pass meaningful documents that will offer meaningful options for progress forward. I look forward to seeing you all in the upcoming conference and I assure you that this will be a fun and enlightening learning experience.

The Topics

Sustainable food systems and the Eradication of hunger

The world's population is expected to reach 10 billion in our lifetime and the need is rising for more concentrated efforts on topics including, but not limited to, sustainably increasing agricultural production, cleaning up and expanding the global supply chain, decreasing and eliminating food loss and food waste, and ultimately eradicating hunger and malnutrition. The right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, was reaffirmed at the 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development.

The Second Sustainable Development Goal, "to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture," is multifaceted and requires extensive efforts on

several fronts to achieve the stated goals. Issues that need to be considered include climate change, rural poverty, lifestyle choices, employment, economic development, and small farming, etc....

Nutritious diets are important to maintain, especially for pregnant woman, infants, and the elderly. The Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform says adequate nutrition during the 1,000 days from the beginning of a pregnancy through a child's second birthday is particularly important. This should especially inspire plenty of proposals from various countries. Those living in areas with limited access to water or other important resources must also be taken into consideration. Not only is this a concern for health reasons, but this also causes issues for plant life. Healthy land and soil, sunlight and plant genetics all play an important role in food production.

Resources:

[UNICEF: Millennium Development Goals](#)

[Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[International Food Policy Research Institute](#)

[Food security analysis](#)

Questions to consider:

Does your country have any nutrition or food access program specifically geared to pregnant women, infants, or the elderly?

How do you implement nutrition programs in rural areas and what how do we combat water scarcity?

How predominant is agriculture in your country? What are you producing? Does your country import foods, exports them?

Does your country suffer from hunger/food/water scarcity issues?

Is this topic something that your country is interested in addressing? If so, how? Do you have specific proposals?

Fighting and limiting the effects of Climate Change

In recent decades, the international community has taken more actions to combat climate change across the globe. Slight changes to the environment could potentially threaten the prosperity and even existence of some vulnerable nations such as those living on small islands. While many nations may agree that climate change exists, there is still ongoing debate over the extent of its

effects and the proper means to combat it. There is a near-scientific consensus that climate change is man-made but there is no consensus on the most efficient means to combat it and limit its effects.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty signed in 1997 that aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions among signatories. A key part of the Protocol is that it asserts that global warming is occurring and that man-made CO₂ emissions are a major contributing factor. A major objective of the Protocol is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to “a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” The targets outlined within the Protocol are binding and differ from nation to nation. This binding aspect has led some nations to criticize the Protocol since combatting emissions may be damaging to a nation’s economy or at least very costly.

The Paris Agreement is another significant international agreement within the UNFCCC dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, starting in the year 2020. Each nation within the Agreement must determine, plan, and regularly report their work towards combatting global warming. Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement lacks binding dates but implores nations to exceed previous goals.

Resources:

[United Nations: Climate Change](#)

[The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)

[UN BONN: Climate Change](#)

[UN Climate Change Learning Partnership](#)

[UN-Habitat](#)

Questions to consider:

Does your country believe that global warming is happening?

Does your country believe global warming is man-made?

Did your country sign the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Climate Agreement?

What policies have your country implemented to combat climate change? Has your country been successful? Has it made significant progress?

What plans or goals does your country have to combat climate change?

Preservation of wildlife and the natural world

Humans are not the only creatures that call Earth their home. There are millions of species living on land and in the sea whose survival is dependent upon the preservation of their habitat. Members of the international community have recognized the need for preserving wildlife and the environments they (and we) live in. International conservation efforts have taken aim at everything from reducing poaching to protecting endangered species.

The International Coral Reef Initiative is a UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC) - led initiative to conserve coral reefs internationally. Coral reefs are often home to unique ocean life, and they have been under threat from the effects of global warming, ocean acidification, and destructive fishing practices. The Initiative has a diverse set of goals ranging from information campaigns to instructing nations on the methods they can use to reach conservation goals.

In tandem with the Paris Agreement, the UNEP-WCMC has set forth a framework for increasing biodiversity post-2020. A major component of the framework is “The 2020 Biodiversity Strategic Planning Timeline.” This is an interactive timeline of initiatives and milestones leading up to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and links to details on each of the listed meetings. The UNEP-WCMC will also assist in processing the biodiversity implications of different targets set forth by nations.

Resources

[WILDLIFE CONSERVATION](#)

[UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#)

[Act now to save wildlife: 5 actions that make a difference](#)

[Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust - Saving species from extinction](#)

[The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit](#)

<https://www.wildcru.org/>

Questions to consider

Does your country have any endangered species?

Does your country have significant coral reefs? Are they endangered?

How has your country worked to preserve its wildlife and their environments?

Is your country involved in any international conservation efforts? If not, does your country plan on joining any such efforts?

What plans does your country have for conservation in the future?

Do those issues of wildlife conservation affect your country? Neighboring countries? How?

Individual country policies

www.embassy.org

www.newint.org

www.libraryspot.com

www.infoplease.com

www.eldis.org/country

www.economist.com/countries

www.emulateme.com

<http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middleeast/country_profiles

More Resources to consult:

The World Almanac

The Economist

The New York Times

Fox News lol

CIA World Fact Book