



UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

October 3, 2019

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the sixteenth annual FUMUN Conference. My name is Tushi Patel. I am a sophomore with a major in Behavioral Neuroscience, on the Pre-Med Track, and minors in Biochemistry and International Studies. Today I will be acting as the chair for the Committee on Climate Change. I sincerely welcome you to Fairfield University, and thank you for your participation in this annual event. Through this event hosted by FUMUN, you should expect to further develop your public speaking and debating skills as well as interact with individuals with differing perspectives and learn to formulate stronger arguments.

Earth's climate is rapidly changing as a result of human activity. Many human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels which releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contribute to the increasing change in Earth's temperature. Other causes are the release of gases from farms, landfills, deforestation and burning of trees, leaking coolants, and various other human activities.

There have been many concerning signs of this rapid climate change that includes but is not limited to rising temperatures, heat waves, droughts, increased flooding, changes in precipitation patterns, warmer oceans, rising sea levels, melting sea ice and glaciers, ocean acidification, and extreme weather. Even though some countries produce more gases than others, everyone is affected, especially the developing and third world countries who do not possess the means or infrastructure to protect themselves from the storms, and many other events caused by our actions.

Climate change is a global issue and concern as it truly does affect everyone. The continual warming of Earth's atmosphere affects agriculture, water supply, human health, and ecosystems. The droughts, floods, and rising temperatures affect agriculture. The warmer it gets, the more likely people are to use energy, generally from fossil fuels, to power air conditioning or fans, which only results in the release of more gases. Water supply will continue to be depleted, specifically in areas that are experiencing severe droughts and heat waves. Human health is severely affected by the weather, which has the potential to kill and injure people. In regions of high humidity and heat, infectious diseases have a higher chance of being transmitted and spread such as malaria and West Nile virus. Ecosystems are actively being destroyed as the climate

changes. Arctic ice and glaciers are melting. Coral reefs are deteriorating. Species that live in the effect habitats are also dying. Wildfires are increasing, which release even more gas into the atmosphere.

The goal of this committee is to consider the effects of climate change that pose disastrous consequences for all the inhabitants of this Earth. From there, delegates should consider effective strategies on reducing greenhouse gases, and pass a resolution. We challenge delegates to remember that most countries are dependent on the use of fossil fuels, thus the banning of fossil fuels will not work. If delegates are to consider the abandonment of fossil fuels, what will it be replaced with? Delegates should work on immediate resolutions that will have a positive affect in the next few years. The goal is to create short term and long term solutions to climate change that will turn the path the world is taking towards destruction.

We look forward to hearing the solutions and ideas proposed by the delegates for our committee on climate change. We encourage delegates to perform their own research before arriving to help them better develop their positions. We look forward to meeting all of you! Good luck!

Sincerely,

Tushi Patel and Alessandra Guido

Fairfield University Model United Nations

FOCAL QUESTIONS:

1. How did climate change so drastically? What actions have led to the present day state of the climate?
2. What are the effects of climate change? What will we continue to see if our current actions are not addressed and changed?
3. What are we currently doing? What resolutions are in place? And what can we do about them so that we have measures and agreements in place that will be effective going forward?
4. What does a continual increase in climate change mean for the world, focus on specific countries and nations as well, such as developing, developed, third world?
5. How do our actions contribute to climate change and what can be done? What are developing and developed countries contributions to the situation, and what can they do to reduce their carbon footprint?

SOURCES TO CONSIDER:

Explore the websites. Most of the links take you to the homepage, so you actually will have to explore the web pages to find information. The NASA one has a lot of data but some pretty neat solutions as well. On the IPCC, you should find reports and assessments on different aspects of climate change, the various signs. The link to the UN website on climate change has some basic information but the most helpful part of that is the legal instruments section in the article. The last link is an entire platform dedicated to climate change. If you scroll down, you will find video spotlights, which might be something that could be of use to you. It could be a great resource for you to visit and see how some structure their arguments. There are a bunch of articles on that platform that are worth a read as well.

- <https://climate.nasa.gov>
- <https://www.ipcc.ch>
- <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/index.html>
- <https://unfccc.int>