

Dear Delegates

I welcome you to the UNEP simulation of JIRSMUN 2017. It is our privilege to serve as your dais members for the duration of this MUN. I believe that Background Guides can only help to an extent and hence, this document will be short, only to guide you in your research for this committee.

Environmental protection has been a topic of debate for many years now, but has quickly gained importance due to the increasingly alarming degradation of the natural ecosystem. Hence, it becomes imperative that policy makers are able to incorporate sustainable development into laws pertaining to the industry, social welfare and finance.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an agency of United Nations and coordinates its environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. UNEP has overall responsibility for environmental problems among United Nations agencies but talks on addressing global warming are overseen by the Bonn-based Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its activities cover a wide range of issues regarding the atmosphere, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, environmental governance and green economy. It has played a significant role in developing international and environmental conventions, promoting environmental science and information and illustrating the way those can be implemented in conjunction with policy, working on the development and implementation of policy with national governments, regional institutions in conjunction with environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs). UNEP has also been active in funding and implementing environment related development projects. UNEP has aided in the formulation of guidelines and treaties on issues such as the international trade in potentially harmful chemicals, trans-boundary air pollution, and contamination of international waterways. Their Mission statement: "To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The agendas set are to ensure that our debate goes beyond what is usually encountered in an UNEP and since there's no right answer, should make for 3 days for captivating debate. Hoping to see you well-researched and battle ready on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Regards  
Barghav Cavale  
Chairperson

## Message from the Chairperson

Greetings, delegates!

My name is Siddharth and I'm in Grade 12 at Greenwood High International School, Bangalore. It's been a while since I've MUNed competitively, so I'm looking forward to temporarily coming out of 'retirement'.

I've been debating and MUNing since Grade 4, so rest assured that you are in safe hands. Given the extensive experience of your Executive Board, I anticipate that you will present some very well-reasoned arguments, backed up with high-quality research on the agenda. **Please do not** limit your reading and research to the topics covered by the Background Guide; we expect all aspects under the purview of the agenda to be debated vociferously.

Given recent events in the United States, especially the election of Republican nominee Mr. Donald Trump to the post of President, I recommend that special attention be paid to the COP21 agreement and its implementation.

That's enough about committee; let me tell you a little about myself. I'm a digital entrepreneur, and run a startup called Debate for Change, the world's first platform for online voice debate. The venture is supported by Google, among other firms.

I'm also an avid footballer, and have represented my school as a central defender. I follow La Liga, and am always ready for a spirited discussion about football, or my favourite team, Atletico Madrid.

I hope you're all as excited as I am to be a part of the UNEP at JIRSMUN 2017.

See you soon, and happy researching!

Warmest Regards

Siddharth Pandiya

Chairperson

The United Nations Environment Programme

Agendas :

**Predicting and analysing the political and economic ramifications of the use of alternate sources of energy as replacements for petroleum-based products with specific reference to power shifts in the Middle East.**

**Creating a structure to ensure the COP21 Paris Summit Agreement has legal ramifications and penalties for nation states that refuse to reduce fossil fuel consumption which specific reference to "carbon taxes".**

There's a word coined after the rise of OPEC and the importance of petroleum in our economy and lives – "Petro-politics"

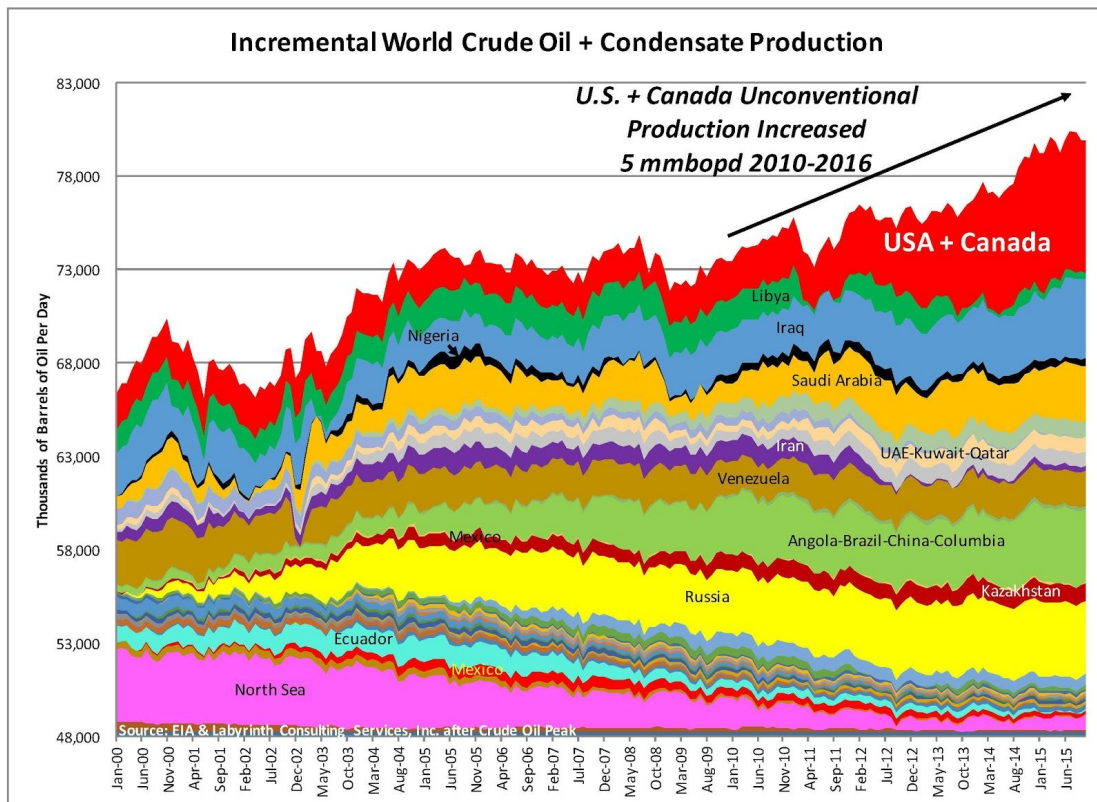
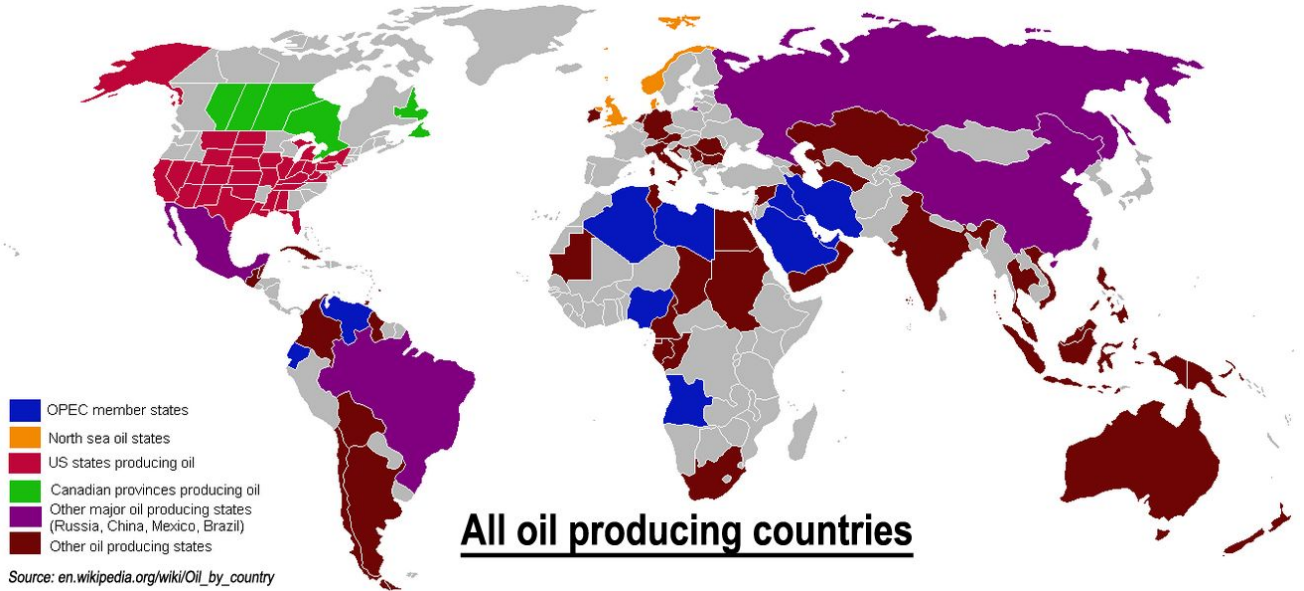
The first law of Petro-politics states that the price of oil and the pace of freedom always move in opposite directions and this is the main point which we need to discuss in this committee. What happens when the countries which rely solely on petroleum lose their clout because oil is no longer important?

The first Arab Gulf state to hold a free and fair election, in which women could run and vote, and the first Arab Gulf state to undertake a total overhaul of its labor laws to make its own people more employable and less dependent on imported labor, was Bahrain. Bahrain happened to be the first Arab Gulf state expected to run out of oil.<sup>[1]</sup> Will this happen in the rest of the Middle East?

There are correlations between many political and economic factors and the price of crude oil and these correlations need to be explored and panned out in committee. Professional economists have, for a long time, pointed out in general the negative economic and political impacts that an abundance of natural resources can have on a country. This phenomenon has been variously diagnosed as "Dutch Disease" or the "resource curse." Dutch Disease refers to the process of deindustrialization that can result from a sudden natural resource windfall. The term was coined in the Netherlands in the 1960s, after it discovered huge deposits of natural gas. What happens in countries with Dutch Disease is that the value of their currency rises, thanks to the sudden influx of cash from oil, gold, gas, diamonds, or some other natural resource discovery. That then makes the country's manufactured exports uncompetitive and its imports very cheap. The domestic industrial sector gets wiped out and leads to deindustrialization. The "resource curse" can refer to the same economic phenomenon, as well as, more broadly speaking, the way a dependence on natural resources always skews a country's politics and investment and educational priorities, so that everything revolves around who controls the oil tap and who gets how much from it — not how to compete, innovate, and produce real products for real markets.

In committee we must consider three alternate futures

- 1) Where the petrol monopoly continues to grow and effect the world and respective domestic economies
  - 2) Where alternate sources of energy completely removes petroleum as a resource of importance
  - 3) Where these same sources gain an equal market share to petroleum
- For this agenda, there is no real solution in mind. It is up to the delegates to consider what must be put on the resolution and what actions must be taken by predicting the problems that can arise from such economic turbulence.



The anchoring of an ambitious aim to “pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels“ (Article 2, para. 1 (a)) is widely celebrated as a major achievement and the contribution of civil society pressure to get there well acknowledged. The explicit reference to this temperature goal is a significant improvement over what was achievable in Copenhagen and deserves to be celebrated. The “High Ambition Coalition,” led by the EU and the ACP countries, was very important in calling for an ambitious and **legally binding agreement**. Interestingly, by the end of COP 21 the Coalition counted more than 100 members, including the USA, Canada, Brazil and Australia.

The 186 intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), pledged by the end of COP 21 lead us on a 3°C of warming pathway. **The Paris Agreement does not contain firm obligations (emission reduction targets and their review or the means of implementation, especially finance) that give any confidence of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees**. The second piece of the ambition package for Paris (contained in Article 4 and referred to as the “**long-term goal**”) was one of those sections that was heavily bracketed until the very last day. It outlined options such as

- 1) climate neutrality
- 2) net zero emissions
- 3) decarbonization

All of which have significantly different meanings. The compromise was to resort to IPCC language, with the final text calling for a *peaking* of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible “so as to achieve a balance of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century,” It is already clear that different parties will interpret this, as well as many other compromise formulations elsewhere in the Agreement, according to their national needs and preferences.

The idea of “net-zero emissions” implies that the world can continue to produce emissions, as long as there is a way to “offset” them. So, instead of embarking immediately on a radical emissions-reduction trajectory, we can continue to emit massive amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> – and even establish new coal plants – while claiming to be taking climate action by “supporting” the development of CCS technology. It is apparently irrelevant that such technology might not work, is riddled with practical challenges, and carries the risk of future leakage, which would have major social and environmental consequences.

The main task for the delegates at this juncture is to come to a conclusion by researching the COP 21 and the **jurisdiction of the UN and the UNEP** to create a **legitimate legally binding system**.

Any resolution containing action points not within the purview of the UN will not be accepted.