

Model United Nations Conference Xiamen

Introduction into the Topic:

„Energy Use and Climate Change – Perspectives for sustainable Growth?!“

- Commission:** UNFCCC — United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Topic:** „Energy Use and Climate Change - Perspectives for Sustainable Growth?!“
- Countries:** 15 Countries, each represented by two delegates
- Angola
 - Australia
 - Brazil
 - Canada
 - France
 - Germany
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Japan
 - Myanmar
 - PR China
 - Russia
 - Saudi Arabia
 - South Africa
 - USA

Introduction to the Committee

The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of three adopted at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. It entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 195 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC. Additionally, it also aims to work out ways of adaptation to climate change.

Background

In the Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly following the RIO+20 Conference in 2012, the UN stated that climate change is “one of the greatest challenges of our time”. The member countries stressed the importance of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions as well as improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy and cleaner technologies.

At the very heart of the response to climate change, however, lies the need to reduce emissions. In 2010, governments already agreed that emissions need to be reduced in order to limit global temperature increases to below 2.0 degrees Celsius pre industrial level. Furthermore, at the UN’s annual climate change conference in Doha 2012, 194 countries agreed to an extension of the Kyoto Protocol through 2020. But the second phase still omits the world’s two biggest greenhouse gas emitters – China and the United States.

The latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report published in November 2012 stated that the pledges made by countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions might be insufficient to achieve the 2.0 degrees Celsius temperature limits by year 2020. Although the world saw lots of climate conferences in recent years, the United Nations still haven’t found a way to unify the different interests of the participating countries on the climate issue.

What is this 2.0 degrees Celsius goal?

A 2.0 degree Celsius limit in global temperatures from pre-industrial levels is the highest rise we can afford, if we want to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

What is the purpose of this conference?

Getting aware of its growing role in climate issues, the People’s Republic of China has decided to launch a Conference of the Parties (COP) on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). By solely discussing one section of the big topic of “climate change”, namely ways of meeting the 2.0 degrees Celsius limit without effecting economical growth of (developing) countries, this Model United Nations Conference functions as a platform to exchange ideas and innovative plans. The ultimate goal is to foster cooperation between developing and developed countries and fix new emission goals.

During the Conference, the following questions need to be answered:

- How does the rising demand of energy of the developing countries affect the global climate?
- With the BRICS on a significant economic upturn and increasing demand of energy – is there a realistic chance of achieving the Rio-goal? What are realistic policies to ensure economic development and stick to climate objectives?
- Is sustainable and a more energy efficient growth possible? What are realistic long-term targets to slow, stop or instead adapt to climate change?