



For the purpose of the international conference held by the Forum for the 21st century, United Nations Environment Programme are expressing its attitude towards Draft no. 2 as followed:

Is it going to take a global environmental crisis?

UNEP expresses its hope for the capacity of the world leaders to act enough upon the present situation and believes world is able to face the present situation and to find solutions that will deal with the concerns. Hence, according to the UNEP, the introductory statement should be reformulated in a more binding way. Also, the word “protests” should be avoided or replaced by a word e.g. “demands”. UNEP asks the participants to present, and further to demonstrate with actions, their willingness to undertake all the necessary steps to tackle the environmental challenges. The proposed formulation might be: “The participants of the Conference held the Forum for the 21st century declare their willingness to act upon the environmental challenges with all the required means that may have positive impact. Being conscious of the worldwide interconnections among the discussed topics, the participants also declare their preparedness for international cooperation and help.”

Emissions reduction

The recent estimates show that the 2°C increase in temperature is likely to have more severe impacts. The sea-level rise is expected to be double, up to 1 meter, compared with the previous studies. This increase will highly endanger the Small Island States as well as the coastal areas. Considering this, UNEP re-demands the goal to be set to 1,5°C increase.

For 2020, UNEP expects the goal of minimum 35% decrease in emissions below the 1990 levels and fully agrees with the 80% decrease of emissions by 2050. UNEP also recalls that the responsibility of doing so is in the hands of the developed and new industrialised countries which are the biggest polluters at the same time.

As for the developing countries, they should be incentivised and helped to deviate their economies from the business-as-usual scenario, otherwise they may soon become important emissions emitters. This goal may be reached by adequate financing and high technology transfers to these countries. The countries that have not been industrialised yet must become “green” economies or the efforts of the developed and new industrialised countries will go to waste. The focus shall be on the forestry policies as well as many developing countries use their forest reserves for economic purposes, thus degrading the biodiversity, water resources, increasing greenhouse gases emissions, etc.





UNEP suggests the Forum for the 21st century and the participants to avoid using the emissions-per-capita indicator as this indicator has been introduced recently and would not be fair to use it as one of the main indicators. UNEP prefers emissions-per-GDP indicator that shows the carbon intensity of economy. Obviously, this indicator should be decreasing in the developed countries and not be increasing in the rest of the world. Hence, the effort may be measured by this indicator which actually shows the real engagement of the country in achieving an environment-friendly economy.

UNEP recalls the effort of none of the groups of countries is sufficient. The Annex II countries emissions were actually still 12% higher by 2008 compared with 1990 levels, but with the offset programmes in the emerging post-communist markets with fast industry decline they reached the 1990 levels. Being said this, UNEP pronounces that the developed countries shall strengthen their emissions reduction policies and the developing countries shall deviate their economic development towards sustainable energy use and low-carbon activities.

Technology transfer mechanism

To succeed in the above mentioned goals, it is necessary to enable a more simple mechanism to transfer new technologies among countries. The research mentioned in the previous statement showed the positive point that majority (70%) of the respondents in the survey was willing to offer more flexible licensing terms for the developing countries. The developed countries shall therefore support the transfer of technologies to the developing countries investing in building of infrastructure and providing capacity building programs and helping in negotiating with the licensing companies that the licensing terms be more flexible for the developing countries. On the other hand, as mentioned in the draft, the developing countries shall enhance the intellectual property rights.

Moreover, an international framework set of core contractual principles should be created for businesses engaged in clean energy technology licensing in developing countries to simplify the process of the transfer of technologies and to reduce the transaction costs. These are the means of how to overcome the barriers mentioned in the draft.

Reforestation

The reforestation activities are an important way to address the climate change. Deforestation with its high impact on the greenhouse gases emissions levels plays undoubtedly an important role in the whole emissions decrease process. As the deforestation generates 20% of greenhouse gases emissions, it is clear the high potential in reducing emissions if reversing





this process. For this purpose, UNEP suggests to enhance cooperation with the UN-REDD+ programme whose goal is to support reforestation and afforestation activities. It is to remember that the motives of the developing countries to cut down their forests are based on the economic value they get in exchange. If this value can be got from a different source it is probable that these countries will switch to a different kind of activities. If forest protection becomes a paid activity, it may cause a significant incentive to change the attitude.

The UN-REDD+ represents a complex program of forest protection and renovation with international background. UNEP proposes the participants to be bound to include UN-REDD+ in financing mechanism of the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.

As to the creation of the Global Forest Carbon Mechanism, UNEP recalls UN-REDD+ mechanism goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD+ could reach up to US\$30 billion a year. This could reward a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and could also support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services. According to UNEP, UN-REDD+ may include a sort of a Global Forest Carbon Mechanism.

Biodiversity

As to the biodiversity, UNEP agrees with the proposed solutions, but it would like to stress the fact that the 7th Millennium Development Goal is to reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss. According to the latest Millennium Development Goals report *in 2009, only half of the world's 821 terrestrial ecoregions – large areas with characteristic combinations of habitats, species, soils and landforms – had more than 10 per cent of their area protected. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, one tenth of the areas of all these ecoregions should have been under protection by 2010.* The goal has been missed, the consequences may be grave. UNEP invites all the participants to make a firm declaration on supporting the Goal and adopt the measures proposed in the draft.

Water resources

As stated in the draft, water is about to become one of the most important resources reaching the same level as crude oil or other natural sources. If the wars are nowadays conducted because of the oil, in the future it may be water. Just to remind, another Millennium Goal says to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The progress in this field is positive except the regions of Africa and Oceania which lack any progress or even the situation is getting worse.





The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

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As UNEP stated in its first statement, countries with relatively low water availability have been achieving a higher coverage rates than countries with plenty of water resources. Moreover, the most threatened countries are the poorest ones which complicates the whole situation. The solution is complex and covers basically all the aforementioned issues going from temperature rise through technology transfer and deforestation ending up with biodiversity protection, health, agricultural, and other problems. It is not to expect that the most threatened regions are able to face this situation successfully and the international community is to help financially as well as with capacity-building. UNEP also recalls that some of the new “green” technologies are significantly water-demanding, thus these technologies should be set into action with precaution in the concerned areas.

Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency is a common goal of many different environment-related efforts. The main problem the humanity has been facing is the overconsumption and inefficiency. This is the first thing we must take into account and improve it. Moreover, as mentioned in the draft as well, volatile markets and prices of energy force countries to decide and act on their own energy security policies. Thus, energy efficiency not only acts as an environment-friendly factor, but also improves energy security since the natural resources are not distributed in a uniform manner and in the case of some resources the geopolitical risks are considered significantly high.

