

Committee: SOCHUM 2

Topic: The question of mitigating the effect of climate change on LEDCs

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Summary

Climate change is a global issue faced by many countries, some which are more vulnerable than others. Due to such vulnerability, the challenges faced by these countries such as extreme weather and agricultural issues with temperature changes, are more difficult to handle, recover from and prevent. Factors such as their geographical location, reliance on agriculture and their socio-economic state are put under immense pressure to recover from such events. The majority of countries that face such challenges are LEDCs and many schemes have been implemented to help these countries from funds in programs to rules. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) main objective is to stabilise the atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations in doing so they have also prioritised the importance of helping LEDCs.

Definition of Key Terms

LEDCs – Stands for Less Economically Developed Countries and known as LICs - Low Income Countries. The criteria states that “countries must have an average capita income below USD\$1,018 for inclusion, and above USD\$1,222 for graduation”, they must also have “a low score on the Human Assets Index” and have “a high score on the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index.”

MEDCs – Stands for More Economically Developed Countries and known as HICs – High Income Countries.

Climate Change – “Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas), which produces heat-trapping gases.” - <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate->

annually by 2050 due to natural disasters: areas like Sub-Saharan Africa potentially losing up to 4% of the GDP annually. Climate related disasters in LEDCs have increased by 83% over the past 20 years and to adapt to climate change in LEDCs, costs estimate to range between \$140 billion and \$300 billion per year by 2030.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

(45 countries)

Africa 33, Asia 8, Caribbean 1, Pacific 3



Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United States of America: They help provide funds for the technical aspects of climate resilience projects in LEDCs. It is also through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that the U.S financially contributes to the projects for developing countries.

EU: With help from countries like France and Germany which have made considerable financial impacts for the development projects for LEDs with migrating climate change in mind, the funds are targeted at projects such as the EU External Action and the European Development Funds.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Has a funding scheme designed to support developing countries. The scheme is known as the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** and it is “Considered the world's largest fund of its kind, assisting developing countries with climate change adaptation and mitigation activities”.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF): An organisation that works on preservation of the wilderness and reduction of human impacts on the environment.

Timeline of Events

Date:	Description:
1992	The UNFCCC was established in Rio de Janeiro. It emphasised the needs for supporting LEDCs when addressing climate change.
1997	The Kyoto Protocol was established with solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for LEDCs.
2001	Created under the Kyoto Protocol, the Adaption Fund was established
2010	Establishment of the GCF
2011	Climate Investment Funds (CIF) was launched as well as the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) which provide financial support for climate resilience and technology development for LEDCs that reduce carbon emissions.
2012	The Doha Amendment extended the Kyoto Protocol from 2012 till 2020.
2015	The Paris Agreement aimed for global warming to be limited by 2°C.
2016	The Paris Agreement was put into place.
2021	COP26 in Glasgow highlighted the importance of supporting LEDCs

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

COP21 (2015): The conference in which the Paris Agreement was adopted

COP26 (2021): The Glasgow conference where climate goals for LEDCs were seen as an issue to be prioritised for support.

COP27 (2022): The Sharm El Sheikh conference where the need for increased finance and support for vulnerable countries was addressed.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Kyoto Protocol – 1997:

One of the earliest international agreements to do with greenhouse gas emissions. It set targets for developing countries as well as established mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The targets and ideas are what encouraged some countries to invest in emission reduced projects for the developing countries.

Doha Amendment – 2012:

This allowed for the Kyoto Protocol to be extended from 2012 till 2020. As well as this, many other articles were amended from the first commitment for the second.

Paris Agreement – 2015:

This built on the Kyoto Protocol with the aims to limit global warming below 2°C as well as the supporting of developing countries in terms of technology and finance. It was financial mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund that allowed for LEDCs to be supported in mitigation and adaption efforts.

Green Climate Fund (GCF):

Formed in 2010, the GCF was established as part of the UNFCC's solutions to reduce climate change and resources used. Their aims were to support the developing countries with their transitions to low-emission solutions.

Possible Solutions

Invest more in renewable energy resources such as solar panels and wind turbines as these sustainable methods of renewable energy production reduce greenhouse gas emissions and can produce economic growth.

Build more climate resistant infrastructures that can withstand the extreme weather conditions in other countries such as flood defences and get local people into developing resilient agricultural practices. This process is costly though and requires technical expertise.

Educate the locals by letting them know the tools and knowledge that implement climate change adaption strategies. For example: educating farmers on how practices can be adapted to reduce vulnerability of climate change related shocks.

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<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>

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UNFCC:

<https://unfccc.int/>

Green Climate Fund:

<https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/funds-and-financial-entities/green-climate-fund>

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/governance#unfccc>

Kyoto Protocol – 1997

https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol

Paris Protocol - 2015

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>