



UN Environment Programme

President: Andrea Valeria Cervantes Murguía

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Change will not happen if we wait for someone else or wait for the right moment. We are what we have been waiting for; We are the change we crave.
(Barack Obama)

Dear delegates,

On behalf of the Tecnológico de Monterrey, as well as the Organizing Committee, we give you the warmest welcome to our Model United Nations Campus Toluca, TOLMUN 2022.

We are incredibly excited to see you again after facing a whole stage full of changes and adaptations that have arisen from the epidemiological crisis that has shaken us for 2 years now. Without a doubt, receiving them again in our facilities fills us with joy and happiness. And we are sure that each of you will make this model a unique, memorable, and incomparable experience after so long without seeing each other.

During these three days, we hope not only to enrich your knowledge regarding issues of relevance to the international community; but also, to develop an immense number of new skills such as participation, diplomacy, critical thinking, teamwork, and global vision.

It is generally believed that the best delegate is the one with the most powerful delegation, the most influential, or the most developed; we have to confess that this is a hoax. Well, the best is who puts their full effort inside and outside the forum, who questions and questions themselves but above all, who dares to be a leader and provides a guide for others. Well, a leader is not one who only focuses on his own success, but one who knows the path walks it, and shares it.

Debate and argue, but above all listen and analyze. Keep this in mind during each of your discussion sessions, and we assure you that by the end of the model, you will have collected great lessons that will translate into enormous personal satisfaction. We are sure that this will be possible thanks to the incredible team of tables that we have formed this year. Without every chair, moderator, and conference officer it would not be possible to bring this sublime experience to you.

Finally, we want to express our pride in each delegate who is willing to participate. We are eager to hear from you and your proposals. Much success!

Sincerely,

Secretaria General
Natalia Alcántara Millán

Subsecretaria General
Valeria Vizcaino Sánchez



WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Delegates, we give you the warmest welcome to TOLMUN 2022, thank you for choosing to be part of UN Environment Programme. We encourage you to use your voice to create a solution, help to raise awareness, and share your opinion. We remind you that our voices have power, a power we have to take responsibility for.

During these 3 days we will discuss topics that affect our lives and our future, due to this we ask you to be informed and conscious when debating, but do not let this discourage you from accepting this amazing challenge.

In this model, you will have the opportunity to explore different points of view and opinions, but above all, you will be able to use your voice. Please act with fellowship between the delegates, be respectful, and overall enjoy the opportunity given. Also, we want to motivate you to keep sharing your thoughts on topics that matter in your community, do not let this be the only place where you share your voice.

Once more we want to thank you for choosing to take part in this model, at the same time, we want you to know that even if it becomes hard, we believe you are the future of our world, and we would love it if you decided to keep being part of the positive voices of our community, the voices that are going to make a huge contribution to every issue we are going to face.

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

A healthy environment is key to meeting many of the goals of the 2023 agenda, basically, we have 8 years to make our biggest effort to improve every aspect of our lives and make a better place for us. Reason why this committee is focused on maintaining environmental balance as it is fundamental to life on the earth. Its protection and care are a necessity for the survival of humans, and all living things.

UN Environment Programme arose on December 15th, 1972 inside the system of the UN. Firstly, UN Environment Programme sets the environmental global agenda, its main function inside the UN is to act as a defender and catalyst. It also foments the sustainable development of the environment. However, the committee is also in charge of guiding different governments in order to improve life quality.

UN Environment Programme has prioritized 7 areas which are: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystems, environmental governance, chemical products, resource efficiency, and environment under revision.

Under the leadership of the “Environmental Law and Environmental Conventions Division,” UN Environment Programme participates in activities whose main objective is the development and improvement of the environmental rule of law. In the same way, it faces and takes over crimes against the environment and works towards improving laws made to help the environment.

Some of the highlighted actions of the committee are the ecological achievements made during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. At the same time, Mexico has contributed to the acceleration of investments in renewable energies however, UN Environment Programme has designed and launched the Mexican Carbon Platform: MEXICO2.

UN Environment Programme is integrated by 58 members:

- 16 seats in African states.
- 13 seats in Asia states.
- 6 seats in Oriental Europe states.
- 10 seats in American states.
- 13 seats in Occidental Europe and other states.

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TOPIC A: Preservation of oceans to ensure the future of humanity

Since the beginning, oceans have been an important part of human civilization. Plentiful fishing encouraged the first humans to settle along the coastlines, and later on, those settlements grew into villages, then into towns, and finally to big cities. Thanks to the trade of goods, information, and knowledge, many coastal cities took an essential role in the formation of each nation. Port cities are not only in charge of sustaining the economy, but also the culture and social aspects. These cities are characterized for their gastronomy and richness in culture. These cities are surrounded by bays and costs, which increases the importance of the conservation of oceans and climate change.

However, as coastal cities grow, they become increasingly detached from their surrounding environment while simultaneously requiring services from their local ecosystem. Coastal cities are an indispensable source of economic income, mainly due to their strategic location, which facilitates connections between production and distribution networks. However, coastal cities are not only spaces for economic exchange, but they are also places rich in culture, due to the constant flow of goods and people, the constant culture shock, has caused coastal cities to be in constant change. Apart from being places rich in culture, they are also the main environmental assets for the countries, and since they are considered as coasts or bays, the sustainable exploitation of the surrounding sea plays a very important role, so that this resource can continue to be used even by future generations

Not only do we depend on the oceans, but also the oceans depend on us. The equilibrium of the planet is affected by the health of our oceans. The planet is 70% water and 30% earth, and oceans represent 97% of the water of all the earth.

We can define marine pollution as the “direct or indirect introduction by humans of substances or energy into the marine environment (including estuaries), resulting in harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrances to marine activities” (OECD Statistics Directorate, 2022) the main ocean pollutant is the plastic, which represents the 85% of all pollutants. Each minute, the equivalent of 1 garbage truck is dumped in the ocean, and by 2040, there will be the equivalent of 50Kg of plastic per meter in the ocean. This will have severe consequences on the economy, biodiversity, climate, and health.

Oceans and coastal ecosystems are negatively polluted by human activities. But pollution is not just tossing a soda can, plastic bags, bottles of water, etc. It takes many forms, and each one can impact the ocean in different ways. For example: Hipping activities, fishing gear, and legal and illegal dumping, are the main source of marine pollution. All types of pollution cause serious economic losses. Because all coastal communities must deal with huge expenses in beach cleanups, waste disposal and public health.

Each country generates a certain amount of plastic waste, but it depends on each country, for example, developed countries tend to produce more plastic waste per person than the countries in development. Also, another factor that contributes is each of the country's management infrastructure. Developing countries tend to lack waste management programs



or infrastructure, such as incineration, recycling, or sending to well-managed landfills. Last but not least it also depends on the geographic location of each country, for example, the majority of plastic enters the ocean through rivers.

The oceans are not only polluted by plastics, also a great source of pollution are the chemicals, such as fertilizers, herbicides, oil, detergents, etc. when chemicals products enter in contact with the surface water, their releaser stimulate microorganism growth. The reproduction of microorganisms reduces the amount of oxygen in the water, creating dead zones. Since there is not enough oxygen, no animal, plant, or living creature can survive. Globally, there are used around 40,000 to 60,000 industrial chemicals, and every year are introduced new chemicals for industrial and agricultural industries, for example the phosphorous and the nitrogen. Each year, between 10.5 and 15.2 million tons of phosphorus end up in the ocean. The problem with the phosphorus is that it causes the ocean to acidify, and when the pH of the ocean is below 7.8 makes the water unfit for life. Also, in the World, there are 450 million tons of nitrogen, which are used for agriculture. On average, around 60% of nitrogen evaporates into the atmosphere, and the 20% of nitrogen, but in the end, the nitrogen will end up in the ocean.

Key questions:

- What are some roles or actions that your government has taken toward the resolution of this issue?
- Does your delegation comply with sanctioning companies that throw the most waste, both plastic, and chemical, into the seas?
- Does your delegation truly comply with investing in infrastructure for waste management?
- How does sea pollution affect your country in an economy, social, and environmental way?
- What position does your delegation have regarding the banning of certain chemicals or pesticides?

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TOPIC B: Threats of catastrophes in the face of climate change

Climate change affects every single aspect of our life, it has become such a critical topic that the concept is taught in elementary school. According to the Director of the National Geographic Society, “climate change is the long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns in a place. Climate change could refer to a particular location or the planet as a whole. Climate change may cause weather patterns to be less predictable.” (Thiessen, 2022). Climate change can be man-made, and also it can be caused by the same planet. Man-made is a more common way to face climate change, this being due to industrialization, modernization, deforestation, emissions, etc. Natural causes such as greenhouse gas emissions, changes in solar radiation, drastic weather changes, and more.

The issue to be debated has an impact on the whole world, concerning every living creature. Climate change has got to be stopped by current generations if we want to keep living in the world we love and cherish. Catastrophes are inevitable, humanity has faced them over a million times figuratively talking, we have had everything from earthquakes and floods to increasing levels on our weather, we may not acknowledge them because they may only increase by 2% a year. Climate change has in some ways worsened our lives, as an example: the increasing sea levels, the sudden difficulty toward growing crops, we now have to worry about environmentally safe options. Countries face a new reality which According to “Save the Children” is rather difficult to face, as 90% of the diseases which are going to be generated by climate change will affect children under 5.

Nowadays, climate change is a great determinant of newer generations. The information which allows us to make informed decisions about the well-being of our planet is now available.

This is why this topic was open for discussion, as we believe that every country has a different take on the problem we are now facing. As well as each will have a different outcome depending on the strategies they wind up taking. However, countries in development will have to find a way to catch up with developed countries, as they both face the same issue, and both have a population to look after. According to the NPR, developed countries have been generating more carbon emissions and the consequences of this are expected to be solved by the developing countries as they have to face the terrible repercussions.

Key questions:

- How is climate change affecting your delegation's environment, economy, and population?
- What will your delegation do in order to help prevent catastrophic events from happening?
- Supposing your country were to find a solution toward the issue in debate, how will you distribute it?
- Is your country part of international environmental treaties? Which ones?
- How is climate change impacting your country?
- Is your country impacted in a beneficial or atrocious way due to climate change?



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CONTACT

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NOTE: To this contact you will have to send the position paper of the delegates.