TOBBMUN'26

TURKIYE ODALAR VE BORSALAR BIRLIGI SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

UNFCCC

UNDER SECRETARIES GENERAL:

MARE TANEM & DORUK SAPMAZ

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT:

DOGUKAN YORGANCI

Table of Contents

12.Bibliography and Further Research

13. Further notes from the committee secretariat

1. Letter from the Secretaries General

Honourable participants of TOBBMUN’26,

As the Secretaries-General of TOBBMUN’26, taking place from January 17th to January 20th, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to all participants of this prestigious conference.

With its first official edition, and this years first conference in Antalya, of TOBBMUN, we are proudly bringing together enthusiastic and passionate individuals eager to experience, witness the best instance of diplomacy, collaboration, and intellectual exchange at its finest. As the years and institutions first conference in Antalya, we are confident that we will not only achieve but we will even surpass our motto.

Throughout the path we took in the MUN circuit, we have worked hard and tirelessly to build this conference upon the foundation of experience, dedication, and innovation. With the knowledge and expertise we have gained, we want to shed light on your experience as well and help you feel the same joy we did while creating and attending such committees.

With a blend of experienced and new generation of academic members, we strongly believe that TOBBMUN’26 will provide an unparalleled MUN experience for all of its participants. The seasoned members of our academic team contribute their deep knowledge and insight, while the newer members bring forward creativity and fresh perspectives.

We hope and believe that this conference will grant all participants a platform and an opportunity for all attendees to develop and acquire skills, learn how the dynamics of different specialized committees work, and engage in a constructive way. By organizing TOBBMUN’26, we are not only trying to create something remarkable but also to inspire and contribute to the growth of new members and delegates within the MUN community.

To achieve this, we have brought an academic team of unparalleled intellect and proven capability, supported by an organization team marked by its commitment and strength. When you attend TOBBMUN'26, you will start your MUN year at the very peak of excellence and in the rest of the year, you will continue striving to reach even higher summits.

Welcome to TOBBMUN’26,
With our warmest regards,

Kuzey Karlık & Mustafa Aslan

2. *Letters from the Academy of UNFCCC*

2.1 Letters from the Under Secretaries General

Dear delegates, eminent Academic team and Executive team, fellow participants.

I would like to gladly welcome you all to this committee that involves one of the most important topics globally; Global Warming. This issue may seem like a normal committee to all of you but let me ensure you IT IS NOT.

Let me introduce myself; my name is Doruk Sapmaz, and I'm the Co-Under Secretary General next to my sister in Christ, Mare Tanem Yavuz. I'm currently a high school graduate from the High School of Antalya and also studying to get into the Middle Eastern Technical University.

My expectation from the ones that are reading this guide is that you thoroughly read the guide and also check out the original article that is stated in this guide so that you will be all ready to participate as you best in this committee.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Co-Under Secretary General, Mare Tanem Yavuz for her efforts for this committee and Doğukan Yorgancı, he is so hungry to learn new things even that amazes me, and the Secretariats of this prestigious conference, my brothers Kuzey Karlık and Mustafa Aslan, for giving me chance.

I'm excited for the opportunity that I get to meet you all in person, I will be leaving my contact information below if you have any questions feel free to contact me

Sincerely,

Doruk Sapmaz dorukdoam@gmail.com
0530 011 47 01

Dearest Delegates,

It is with great honor and excitement that I welcome you to the UNFCCC Committee. This committee holds a special place for me, as it marks my second time working alongside my brother in Christ, Doruk. I am truly grateful to share this space with him once again. His dedication, insight, and reliability make him an invaluable part of this committee, and working with him is both a privilege and a source of strength for me.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Academic Assistant, Doğukan. Beyond being a dear friend, he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support both me and this committee especially with the guide. His commitment, discipline, and academic passion have not gone unnoticed, and I sincerely look forward to watching him continue to grow and rise in the MUN community.

My deepest thanks go to the entire Secretariat, whose hard work and vision made this conference possible. In particular, I would like to thank my dear friend Mustafa, not only for his leadership and dedication to this conference, but also for his constant support and friendship throughout this journey.

To the delegates: the UNFCCC committee is not just about policy, clauses, or procedures. It is about responsibility, compromise, and the difficult balance between ambition and reality. You are stepping into the roles of states that shape the future of our planet. Use this space to challenge one another, to defend your national interests with integrity, and to engage in meaningful, solution-oriented debate.

I encourage you to approach this committee with courage, respect, and open-mindedness. May your discussions be passionate, your negotiations thoughtful, and your resolutions impactful.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me whenever, I'll happily guide you.

I wish you all a productive, challenging, and unforgettable conference.

Warmest of regards,
Mare Tanem Yavuz
Co-Under-Secretary-General
UNFCCC Committee
+90 540 197 2615
6b.maretanemyavuz@gmail.com

2.2 Letter from the Academic Assistant

I extend my most cordial greetings to the distinguished delegates of UNFCCC, my name is Doğukan YORGANCI and I am the Academic Assistant of UNFCCC; serving under my beloved friends, partners and Co-Under Secretaries General, Doruk Sapmaz and Mare Tanem Yavuz. I would like to express my most sincere gratitude for their leadership, as their enthusiasm and compassion never ceases to amaze me. I am currently studying in Istek Konyaaltı Schools Anatolian High School as an 11th grade student.
We are trusting you to do your research and to benefit from this Study Guide that we have put out an exceptional effort for you.
Last but not least, I would like to thank the remarkable Secretariat of this astonishing conference and my esteemed friends; Kuzey Karlık and Mustafa Aslan for giving me this invaluable chance.
I am very enthusiastic to see you all at the conference. If you have any inquiries regarding the committee, the agenda item and/or the study guide please feel free to contact me without any hesitations.

Most Sincerely,

Doğukan YORGANCI dogukanyorganci@gmail.com
+90 (541) 813 20 08

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3. Introduction to the UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Convention or UNFCCC) was adopted at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on the 9th of May, 1992.

In accordance with Article 20, it was open for signature at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992, and thereafter at the United Nations Headquarters, from 20 June 1992 to 19 June 1993. By that date, the Convention had received 166 signatures.

Pursuant to Article 22, the Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by states and by regional economic integration organizations. States and regional economic integration organizations that have not signed the Convention may accede to it at any time.

The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1994, in accordance with Article 23, after the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession had been deposited.

Today, it has a universal membership. Currently, there are 198 parties to the UNFCCC. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the Convention.

The authoritative information on the status of approval, acceptance, accession and ratification of the Convention is provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the respective internet page of the United Nations Treaty Depositary under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

3.1 Goals and functions of the UNFCCC

The main goal of the UNFCCC is to protect the climate system for present and future generations. It aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous human interference with the climate, while still allowing countries to develop economically and socially. This is a goal that aims to recognize that environmental protection and human development must go hand in hand.

To reach this goal, the UNFCCC serves several important functions. First, it acts as a negotiation platform, where countries discuss policies, propose solutions, and revise agreements like the Paris Climate Agreement. These negotiations allow states to adapt global climate action to new scientific evidence, changing economic conditions, and growing public concern.

Second, the UNFCCC aims to promote transparency and accountability as a main principle. Countries are encouraged to report their emissions, climate actions, and progress toward their commitments, despite these commitments being often blind sighted by the states. While these reports are not always legally binding, they were supposed to help build trust between states and allow the global community to understand where progress is being made, and where it is falling behind.

Another key function of the UNFCCC is providing support to countries that need it most. Many developing nations face serious climate risks but lack the financial or technical capacity to respond effectively. Through climate finance mechanisms, technology transfer, and capacity building programs, the UNFCCC helps ensure that climate action is inclusive and does not leave vulnerable states behind, fostering an environment for collaboration and growth rather than competition.

Ultimately, the UNFCCC is not just a legal document or a negotiation forum. It is a space where the international community confronts difficult questions about responsibility, fairness, and the future we are creating together. For delegates, participating within this committee, you are not only about drafting articles or negotiating language, you must work together to shape a system that affects real people, real environments, and hopefully generations yet to come.

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4. Introduction to the agenda item

The primary objective of this Agenda Item is to conduct a comprehensive legal and structural evaluation of the Paris Agreement, with the intent of proposing specific, binding revisions to its constituent articles. Since its adoption in 2015 at COP21(The 21st session of Conference of Parties), the Paris Agreement has served as the central pillar of international climate policy. However, the persistent divergence between diplomatic pledges and actual atmospheric data suggests that the current framework is structurally insufficient to meet its own stated goals. The agenda item focuses on the critical need to transition from an -all over the place- aspirational model to a more robust accountability-based and transparent system.

This agenda explicitly operates on the premise that the current cycle of denial is a byproduct of the Agreement's existing legal architecture. The new contributors are expected to move beyond the acknowledgment of the crisis and enter the realm of legislative and diplomatic reform. This involves identifying specific legal loopholes, such as the ambiguity in the definition of “voluntary” contributions and the lack of punitive measures for non-compliance. The choices made here are not merely theoretical; they represent a fundamental redesign of the global social contract to ensure that the articles reflect the urgent pace of climate change as dictated by current Earth system science rather than political convenience.

4.1 Role in international climate governance

Revision of an international treaty under the UNFCCC is an intricate diplomatic undertaking that requires a delicate balance between the principle of Westphalian national sovereignty and the collective necessity of planetary survival. The process involves a rigorous, clause-by-clause analysis of the existing text to determine where the language is either too ambiguous to enforce or too lenient to catalyze the rapid industrial decarbonization required by the 1.5°C pathway.

In this committee, the revision process will follow a structured methodology:

Identification of Jurisdictional Gaps: Analyzing which articles allow states to bypass emissions targets without legal or economic repercussions.

Strengthening Transparency Mechanisms: Moving from self-reported data to a system of independent, satellite-verified, and standardized reporting requirements.

Integrating Enforcements: Discussing the transition from "voluntary participation" to "mandatory compliance." This includes the potential introduction of "Climate Clubs," carbon border adjustment mechanisms, or diplomatic sanctions for parties that fail to meet their ratcheted commitments.

Refining Equity Frameworks: Ensuring that revisions do not disproportionately burden developing nations, thereby maintaining the "Global Social Contract" while increasing the stringency of the requirements for high-emitters.

The goal is to produce a refined set of articles that close the effectiveness gap and the implementation gap simultaneously, ensuring that the Paris Agreement evolves from a statement of intent into a binding instrument of global survival.

4.2 Relationship between the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement

The legal landscape of international climate policy is defined by a hierarchical and symbiotic relationship between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. Understanding this relationship is critical to identifying how the international system can be legally strengthened.

The UNFCCC, adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, serves as the Parent Treaty or the constitutional foundation for all subsequent climate action. It established the core objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. While the UNFCCC provides the legal authority and the guiding principles—most notably Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)—it does not set specific, binding emissions limits. Instead, it created the permanent infrastructure of climate diplomacy, including the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) and the technical subsidiary bodies (SBSTA and SBI) that provide scientific and implementation advice.

The Paris Agreement is a subsidiary instrument that lives under the UNFCCC. Its purpose is to operationalize the broad goals of the 1992 Convention for the modern era. While the UNFCCC acts as the Constitution, the Paris Agreement is the Executive Action Plan. It introduced the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as the primary tool for action. One of the most significant legal distinctions is that while the UNFCCC is a Law of principles, the Paris Agreement was designed primarily as a Law of Procedures. It mandates that countries have a plan and report on it, but it does not technically mandate that the plan be successful in stopping warming.

This institutional nesting means that the Paris Agreement relies on the UNFCCC for its legal legitimacy, its staff, and its scientific inputs. However, the voluntary nature of the Action Plan has led to a situation where the goals of the Constitution are not being met. Revising the articles of the Paris Agreement is an attempt to give the parent treaty the enforceable statutes it lacks. It is a process of moving the international regime from a facilitative era, where cooperation was encouraged, to a compliance era, where cooperation is legally required to ensure the ultimate objective of the 1992 Convention is achieved.

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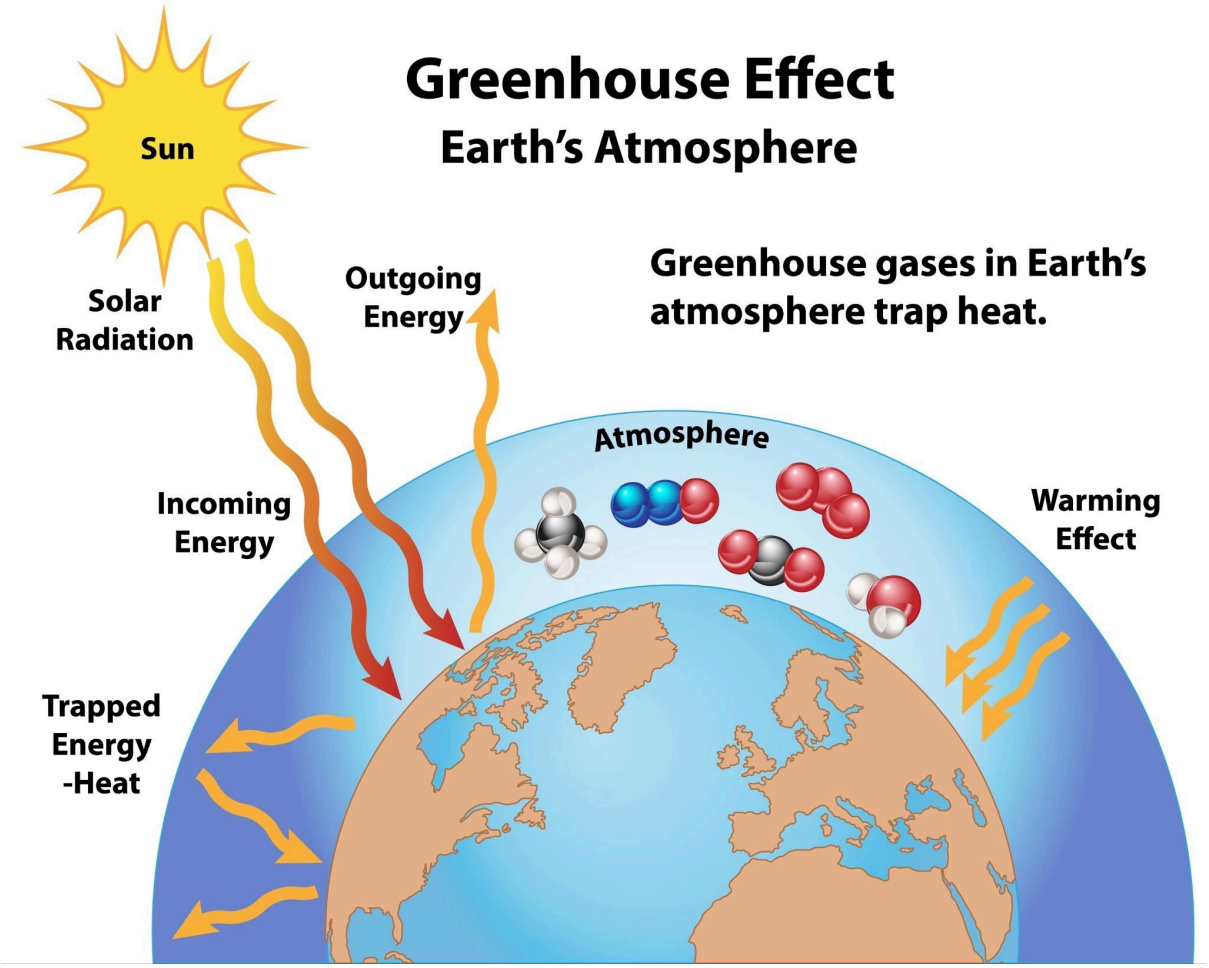
5. Understanding The Climate Change and Causes of The Climate Change

Climate change is primarily driven by the "Greenhouse Effect", it is the trapping of heat within the Earth's atmosphere due to the accumulation of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), leading to a phenomenon that today we know as global warming.



The primary drivers of global warming are fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and industrial agriculture.

Fossil Fuel Combustion: The burning of coal, oil, and gas for energy and transport remains the largest contributor of carbon dioxide emissions.

Deforestation: Forests act as carbon sinks; their removal not only releases stored carbon but reduces the planet's capacity to absorb future emissions.

Industrial Agriculture: Activities such as livestock farming and rice cultivation release significant amounts of methane and nitrous oxide, which have much higher global warming potentials than carbon dioxide.

The current climate crisis is primarily a result of human-induced interference with the Earth's energy balance. The fundamental mechanism driving this change is the "enhanced greenhouse effect," wherein the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increases, trapping infrared radiation that would otherwise escape into space. Long-term warming: Carbon dioxide concentrations have risen from pre-industrial levels of approximately 280 parts per million (ppm) to over 420 ppm as of the mid-2020s. This gas is characterized by its long atmospheric residence time, meaning the emissions of today will continue to influence the climate for centuries. Methane. Although its concentration is lower than carbon dioxide, its Global Warming Potential (GWP) is significantly higher—approximately 80 times more potent over a 20-year period. Significant sources include fugitive emissions from the energy sector (leaking pipelines), enteric fermentation in livestock, and the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter in landfills and rice paddies. Nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases are largely a byproduct of synthetic fertilizer application in intensive agriculture. Synthetic F-gases (hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride), while present in smaller quantities, possess GWPs thousands of times higher than Carbon Dioxide and are used primarily in refrigeration and electronics manufacturing. The term Land-Use Change refers to The conversion of primary forests into agricultural land or urban sprawl reduces the "terrestrial sink" capacity of the planet. Deforestation in the Amazon and the Congo Basin not only releases stored carbon but also disrupts the hydrological cycles that regulate regional climates.

5.1 Global impacts

The failure to maintain global temperature increases within the 1.5 celsius degrees threshold has led to systemic disruptions across all Earth systems. These impacts are not isolated incidents but interconnected phenomena that threaten the stability of human civilization.

Cryosphere Disruption and Sea-Level Rise (SLR)
The cryosphere, comprising the Earth's ice sheets, glaciers, and permafrost, is undergoing rapid mass loss. The melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, coupled with the thermal expansion of warming seawater, has led to an accelerating rate of sea-level rise. This poses an existential threat to low-lying coastal regions and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The loss of sovereign territory and the eventual forced migration of millions constitute a primary failure of current international protections. Furthermore, the thawing of Arctic permafrost presents a significant risk of releasing sequestered methane, potentially triggering a self-reinforcing warming loop that lies beyond human control.

Oceanic Alteration and Marine Ecosystems
The world's oceans serve as a primary heat and carbon sink, absorbing approximately 90% of excess heat and 30% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide. This absorption results in ocean acidification, a lowering of pH levels that inhibits the ability of calcifying organisms, such as corals and mollusks, to form skeletal structures. The subsequent "bleaching" of coral reefs threatens the foundational levels of the marine food web, jeopardizing the protein sources and livelihoods of billions. Additionally, the warming of surface waters contributes to

deoxygenation and the slowing of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which regulates Northern Hemisphere weather patterns.

Hydrological Instability and Extreme Weather
Climate change acts as a force multiplier for extreme weather events. Scientific attribution studies demonstrate that the increased frequency and intensity of heatwaves, mega-fires, and catastrophic flooding are directly linked to atmospheric warming. The intensification of the hydrological cycle leads to a "wet-get-vaster, dry-get-drier" paradigm. Prolonged droughts are compromising global food security and freshwater availability, while unprecedented precipitation events overwhelm existing urban infrastructure. These disruptions are no longer seasonal anomalies but permanent features of a changing climate.

Socio-Economic Displacement and Threat Multiplication
Beyond the physical environment, climate change serves as a "threat multiplier" for socio-political instability. It exacerbates existing inequalities by disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations who lack the resources for adaptation. The resulting food and water insecurity are primary drivers of conflict and the emergence of "climate refugees," a demographic currently unrecognized by international law. Furthermore, the loss of biodiversity and habitat encroachment increases the risk of zoonotic disease transmission, presenting a permanent threat to global public health.

5.2 Why collective action is essential

The necessity for collective action in climate mitigation is rooted in the "Ultimate Tragedy of the Commons," an economic and political theory describing the degradation of shared resources. Because the atmosphere is a global common, belonging to no single jurisdiction yet vital to all, the actions of individual states create externalities that affect the entire global population. This creates a systemic barrier to progress that can only be overcome through a unified, binding legal framework.

The Free-Rider Problem and Market Failure In the absence of a mandatory compliance regime, the international system is susceptible to the "Free-Rider Problem." This occurs when a nation-state avoids the economic costs of transitioning to a low-carbon economy while still benefiting from the emission reductions achieved by other nations. From a rational-actor perspective, individual states are incentivized to maintain high-carbon industrial outputs to preserve their global market share. Without a collective agreement that imposes equivalent costs on all participants, such as carbon border adjustments or mandatory standards, virtuous actors are effectively penalized for their environmental leadership, leading to a "race to the bottom" in environmental standards.

The Prisoner’s Dilemma of Decarbonization is that collective action is further complicated by the "Prisoner’s Dilemma" inherent in climate diplomacy. Even when all nations acknowledge that total global decarbonization is in their best interest, they fear that unilateral action will leave them economically vulnerable if their peers do not follow suit. This lack of trust results

in the "minus accountability" mentioned in the committee mandate. Collective action serves as the mechanism to resolve this dilemma by providing a platform for "mutual coercion, mutually agreed upon." By binding all parties to the same transparent and enforceable rules, the revised articles can provide the certainty necessary for nations to invest in radical systemic shifts without the fear of being cheated by competitors.

Global Interdependence and Earth System Feedbacks The physical reality of the carbon cycle dictates that climate change cannot be solved by a coalition of the willing alone. Carbon molecules do not respect national borders; a ton of CO_2 emitted in a non-compliant state has the same radiative forcing effect as a ton emitted in a compliant one. Furthermore, we are approaching "tipping points," such as the dieback of the Amazon or the release of methane from permafrost, that could trigger self-sustaining warming independent of human activity. Collective action is essential because these thresholds represent a global "point of no return." Once breached, the damage becomes irreversible across all jurisdictions, regardless of individual national policies.

The Social Contract and Intergenerational Equity Finally, collective action is a matter of expanding the social contract to include both a global and an intergenerational dimension. The current generation of policymakers holds the authority to "break the cycle of incompetence" because their decisions will determine the habitability of the planet for future generations. Collective action ensures that the burden of mitigation and the responsibility for adaptation are shared equitably. It moves the discourse from a series of bilateral negotiations to a unified global response that recognizes that the survival of the most vulnerable, such as SIDS and the Global South, is intrinsically linked to the stability of the entire global order.

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6. Overview of the Paris Climate Agreement

The Paris Climate Agreement is a global treaty adopted in 2015 under the UNFCCC, as it was created in response to the growing and visible impacts of climate change around the world. Its initial purpose was to unite all countries, regardless of size, wealth, or level of development, under a shared commitment to protect the planet and the people who live on it. The Agreement reflects a global understanding that climate change affects everyone, but not everyone equally, it's a revolutionary step that shows competition is not always the answer.

Unlike earlier climate agreements, the Paris Agreement does not impose one single set of rules on all countries. As it instead aims to allow flexibility, recognizing that nations face different challenges, responsibilities, and capacities whilst abiding by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that were introduced a few months prior the agreement. This approach aimed to foster and encourage universal participation alongside long-term cooperation. The Agreement was meant to evolve over time, adapting to new scientific knowledge, technological progress, and changing global realities.

At its core, the Paris Agreement connects climate action with human well-being. It addresses not only the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but also adaptation to climate impacts, financial and technological support, and cooperation between states, creating a hub for all states to collaborate in and work together. As climate risks continue to intensify, the Agreement serves as both a guide and a reminder that collective action is essential.

6.1 Core objectives and principles

The primary objective of the Paris Climate Agreement is to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while making every possible effort to keep warming below 1.5°C. These targets are not symbolic numbers; they are grounded in scientific research showing that even small increases in temperature can lead to serious and irreversible consequences. A rise beyond these limits increases the likelihood of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, wildfires, and stronger storms. It also worsens food insecurity, water scarcity, and public health risks, particularly for communities that have the least resources to adapt. For many small island states and low-lying coastal regions, exceeding these temperature thresholds threatens their very existence.

Another core principle of the Agreement is shared responsibility guided by fairness. The Paris Agreement acknowledges that while climate change is a global problem, countries have contributed to it in very different ways. Industrialized nations have historically produced a larger share of greenhouse gas emissions and have greater financial and technological capacity. For this reason, the Agreement calls on developed countries to take the lead in reducing emissions and to support developing countries through climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. This principle aims to ensure that climate action does not come at the expense of development or poverty reduction, and that no country is forced to choose between protecting its people and protecting the planet.

The Paris Agreement also places strong emphasis on transparency, cooperation, and continuous improvement. Countries are expected to regularly report their emissions, climate policies, and progress, allowing the international community to track collective efforts and build trust. In addition, states are encouraged to update and strengthen their commitments over time, reflecting new scientific findings and technological advancements. Rather than presenting a fixed or final solution, the Agreement is designed as a living framework that evolves with global needs. These objectives and principles form the foundation of current debates on revising the Agreement’s articles, as delegates seek ways to transform long-term goals into stronger action and measurable real-world impact.

6.2 Structure of the Agreement

The Paris Climate Agreement is structured to reflect the complexity of the global climate challenge. It accepts that while climate change is a shared problem, countries differ greatly in their levels of development, historical responsibility, and capacity to respond. Rather than

enforcing a single, uniform approach, the Agreement establishes a common framework within which all countries operate, allowing flexibility while maintaining collective direction.

At the core of the Agreement are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These are nationally prepared climate plans that outline how each country intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to climate impacts. The self-determined nature of NDCs respects national sovereignty and encourages broader participation. At the same time, the Agreement requires that each successive NDC represent a progression beyond the previous one, embedding the idea of increasing ambition directly into the structure of the Agreement.

The Agreement operates on a five-year implementation cycle. Within this cycle, countries submit updated NDCs and participate in a Global Stocktake, a collective assessment of global progress toward the Agreement's long-term goals. This process links scientific evidence with political decision-making, ensuring that climate commitments remain aligned with evolving climate data and global needs.

Transparency is another fundamental structural pillar. Through the Enhanced Transparency Framework, countries regularly report on emissions, policy measures, and progress toward their commitments. This system is designed to promote trust, clarity, and mutual understanding among parties. It also allows for flexibility in reporting for developing countries, acknowledging differences in technical and institutional capacity while maintaining overall accountability.

The structure of the Agreement extends beyond emission reductions to address adaptation. It recognizes that climate impacts are already affecting communities worldwide and emphasizes the importance of strengthening resilience, protecting vulnerable populations, and sharing adaptation knowledge. Adaptation is treated as a long-term, continuous process rather than a secondary objective.

In addition, the Agreement incorporates provisions for climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. These mechanisms aim to support developing countries in implementing their climate actions and adapting to climate impacts. Financial and technical cooperation is framed as an essential element of global climate action, reinforcing principles of equity and shared responsibility.

Overall, the Paris Agreement is structured as a living framework rather than a static treaty. Its design allows it to evolve over time, responding to new scientific findings and shifting global realities. This flexible yet goal-oriented structure enables sustained international cooperation while steadily guiding the global community toward stronger climate action.

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7. How the UNFCCC Operates

The foundation of the UNFCCC's operation rests on its nearly universal membership of 198 Parties (sovereign governments and regional economic integration organizations). These

Alongside the legally bound Parties are a diverse array of Observer Organizations, including Environmental NGOs (ENGOs), Business and Industry NGOs (BINGOs), and Children and Youth NGOs (YOUNGOs). These groups, while lacking formal voting rights, are critical for delivering the established goals. They attend sessions, influence negotiators, ensure transparency, and provide the indispensable technical and political pressure that helps to bridge the gap between national interests and collective planetary necessity.The Mechanics: Sovereign Equality and the Practice of Consensus (7.2)

The UNFCCC's decision-making is structured on the principle of sovereign equality, where each of the 198 Parties possesses a single vote, preventing a limited bloc of powerful states from dictating global policy. However, the system primarily operates not by voting, but by consensus. This practice is a political necessity rather than a strict legal requirement, ensuring that resolutions achieve universal buy-in. Since compliance under the Paris Agreement is largely non-punitive and relies on national implementation, securing the political consent of all major actors is paramount to guaranteeing future adherence and preventing the fragmentation of the global effort. Formal voting rules remain only as a legal backstop, requiring a two-thirds majority for substantive decisions like amendments or new protocols.The Central Authority: The Role of the Conference of the Parties (COP) (7.3)

The COP is the single most important operational component. It is the diplomatic and legal body that translates the broad constitutional goals of the UNFCCC into actionable global policy. The COP's function is carried out through three pivotal roles:

- Constitutional Oversight: The annual COP now effectively consists of three concurrent meetings to govern the entire climate regime: the COP (for the original 1992 Convention), the CMP (for the Kyoto Protocol), and, most critically, the CMA (Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement). Any attempt to strengthen the legal framework—such as the binding revisions proposed by this Agenda Item—must be formalized as a Decision or Amendment adopted by the CMA.
- Policy Integration: The COP/CMA governs the Global Stocktake (GST), the five-year process mandated by the Paris Agreement to assess the world's collective progress on mitigation, adaptation, and finance. The GST synthesizes scientific data and national reports to provide a global reality check, which directly informs and pressures countries to ratchet up the ambition of their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Operational Mandate: The COP provides the legislative mandate for action by reviewing implementation, adopting formal Resolutions, and creating and governing key technical and financial mechanisms. This includes overseeing the work of the

Subsidiary Bodies (SBSTA and SBI) and establishing critical funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Loss and Damage Fund.

In sum, the UNFCCC operates as a facilitative and consensus-driven legal system. Its success depends not on punitive enforcement but on its ability to leverage scientific knowledge and political legitimacy, channeled through the annual COP/CMA, to continuously compel its Parties toward increasingly ambitious and accountable climate action.

7.1 Member States and observers

The UNFCCC currently has universal membership, comprising 198 Parties.
Parties are the sovereign governments and regional economic integration organizations that have ratified the Convention, granting them the legal right to vote and negotiate on decisions.

Their representatives attend the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) to review the implementation of the Convention and adopt decisions.
Negotiators operate based on national positions, which are typically developed through internal consultations within their respective governments. The Principle of Differentiated Responsibility

A fundamental aspect of the parties' roles is the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). This principle acknowledges that while climate change is a collective global problem, nations have contributed to it differently and possess varying capacities to address it.

Therefore:

- Developed countries are expected to take the lead in reducing emissions and to provide financial and technical support to developing countries.

- Developing countries are expected to increase their action over time, with their efforts often dependent on the support received from developed nations.

This distinction is central to ensuring that climate action is inclusive and does not undermine the goals of development and poverty reduction in the Global South.

Observer Organizations

Observers are non-governmental participants who attend sessions to bring diverse experiences, perspectives, and ensure transparency in the process.
They do not have legal obligations arising from the treaty but are critical for delivering the established goals.

Observer organizations are categorized into three main types:

- United Nations System and its Specialized Agencies.
- Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) (over 170 admitted as of COP 29).
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (nearly 4,000 admitted as of COP 29)

NGOs are often grouped into constituencies, loose associations of organizations with broadly shared interests, which facilitate communication with the UNFCCC secretariat and include:

- Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO).
- Environmental NGOs (ENGO).
- Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO).
- Children and Youth NGOs (YOUNGO).
- Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO).

Observers assist in coordinating interaction at sessions and can influence the process between conferences by engaging directly with governments and civil society.
The dynamic between legally-bound Parties and their supportive Observers is the engine of climate diplomacy, transforming the broad constitutional foundation of the UNFCCC into actionable global policy.

7.2 Decision-making and consensus

The decision-making process within the Conference of the Parties (COP), as the central governing body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is structured on the principle of sovereign equality of all Parties. This framework ensures that every Party, regardless of its economic size, level of development, or historic contribution to climate change, holds equal standing in the formal proceedings.

Key procedural elements of the decision-making process are as follows:

- ***Sovereign Equality and Voting:*** Each of the 198 Parties to the Convention possesses one vote. This ensures that the collective will of the international community, rather than a limited bloc of powerful states, guides the direction of global climate policy.
- ***Categorization of Decisions:*** Decisions adopted by the COP are formalized as Resolutions and are determined by the nature of the **substantive and procedural** voting procedures.
- ***Substantive Voting:*** Resolutions concerning significant policy, financial mechanisms, or the admission of new Parties and amendments to the Convention require a two-thirds (⅔) majority of the Parties present and voting.
- ***Procedural Voting :*** Decisions relating to procedural matters, administrative functions, or less critical policy guidance are passed by a simple majority (%50+1) of the Parties present.
- **Nature and Authority of Resolutions:** The resolutions adopted through this mechanism are authoritative expressions of the Parties' collective political commitment. While the parent treaty (the UNFCCC) and its subsidiary instruments (like the Paris Agreement) are legally binding under international law, the majority of

COP resolutions and decisions are considered non-binding. They serve as high-level political guidance, providing the necessary operational mandate for the subsidiary bodies and driving the national implementation of climate commitments.

7.3 Role of Conferences of the Parties (COP)

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is the annual gathering of representatives from all 198 Parties (countries and regional economic integration organizations) that have ratified the Convention. The COP is the core engine that drives and legitimizes the entire international climate regime, operating at the intersection of law, diplomacy, science, and finance.

Its function is carried out through three critical and interconnected roles: Constitutional Oversight, Policy Integration, and Operational Mandate.
Constitutional Oversight and the CMA/CMP

While the COP is the governing body for the original 1992 UNFCCC, its annual session now effectively consists of three concurrent meetings to ensure a cohesive governance structure for the entire regime:

- COP (Conference of the Parties): The main body for the original Convention, dealing with high-level guidance, institutional matters, and pre-2020 commitments.
- CMP (Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol): The governing body for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, primarily focused on its implementation and winding down its operations.
- CMA (Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement): This is the most crucial segment today. The CMA governs the 2015 Paris Agreement, overseeing its implementation and evolution. Any proposed revisions, amendments, or adoption of new binding protocols (such as those being drafted by the committee) must be submitted to and ultimately approved by the CMA. The CMA ensures that the procedures outlined in the Agreement, especially the five-year ambition cycle, are executed.

2. Policy Integration: The Global Stocktake (GST) and Agenda Relevance
The COP/CMA instituted the Global Stocktake (GST) under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement, which is one of its most significant functions:

Function: The GST is a comprehensive, two-year process that occurs every five years. It assesses the world's collective progress towards meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, specifically:

- Holding the temperature increase to well below 2°C, and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
- Building resilience to climate impacts (adaptation).

- Making finance flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.
- Impact on the Agenda Item: The GST provides a non-confrontational, global reality check by synthesizing scientific data (primarily from the IPCC) and national reports. Its findings directly inform the next round of NDCs, pressuring countries to ratchet up their ambition. This process is central to the committee's Agenda Item, as the GST findings provide the scientific and implementation assessment that legally justifies the need for the binding revisions the committee is tasked with proposing (the transition from an "aspirational model" to a "robust accountability-based system").

3. Operational Mandate and Key Mechanisms

The COP provides the legislative mandate for climate action and makes its high-level decisions actionable through technical bodies and financial mechanisms:

- Review and Assessment: The fundamental task of the COP is to review the implementation of the Convention and all its subsidiary agreements, assessing collective progress toward the ultimate objective of preventing dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system.
- Adoption of Decisions: At the conclusion of each session, the Parties adopt formal Decisions (protocols, agreements, or resolutions) by consensus, or through voting rules where a two-thirds majority is required for substantive matters.

Subsidiary Bodies:

- SBSTA (Scientific and Technological Advice): Provides the COP/CMA with scientific advice, directly linking the output of the scientific community to the policy-making process.
- SBI (Implementation): Assists the COP/CMA in the assessment and review of the effective implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

Key Mechanisms Created by COP Mandate:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF): The largest dedicated climate fund, operationalized by the COP to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt.
- Loss and Damage Fund: A landmark agreement reached at COP28 to provide financial assistance to particularly vulnerable developing countries for impacts that cannot be avoided.

In summary, the COP is the diplomatic and legal body that translates the broad goals of the UNFCCC into actionable global policy. For the Agenda Item, it serves as the final political and legal gateway for the committee's work, as any attempt to strengthen compliance, enforcement, or accountability must be formalized through a Decision or Amendment adopted by the COP/CMA.

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8. Key Concepts and Terms

- **Paris Agreement:** A legal instrument under the *UNFCC*, adopted at ***COP21*** (Conference of Parties) in 2015. It functions as the "main-action-strategy-to-be-executed," aiming to limit global temperature rise. The Agreement operates as a law of procedures, promoting a flexible, cooperative, and shared-responsibility approach.

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** NDCs are the primary way the conditions are ascertained and executed under the Paris Agreement. They represent each country's self-determined, **non-binding** climate action plan.

- **The Enhanced Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming:** This refers to the primary mechanism driving climate change: the atmospheric trapping of infrared radiation due to the excessive accumulation of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), primarily carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. The principal human-induced causes include fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and industrial agriculture. The rise of CO2 concentrations beyond the pre-industrial baseline of approximately 280 parts per million to over 420 ppm is the fundamental measure of long-term climate destabilization.

- **The Free-Rider Problem:** This is a systemic governance challenge arising in the absence of a mandatory compliance regime. It describes the incentive for a nation-state to avoid the economic costs associated with transitioning to a low-carbon economy while still benefiting from the emission reductions achieved by other nations thus, leading to the demotivation of the other contributing parties meaning, this dynamic can effectively penalize environmentally virtuous actors.

- **Earth System Tipping Point:** These are critical, irreversible global thresholds—such as the dieback of the Amazon rainforest or the release of sequestered methane from thawing permafrost—that, once breached, could trigger self-sustaining warming independent of human activity. Crossing these thresholds would inflict permanent damage across all jurisdictions, underscoring the urgent necessity of collective global action.

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9. Achievements of the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement inaugurates an unprecedented achievement in the history of international relationships. Because it established a legally binding climate regime for the first time in humanity in which approximately every sovereign government in the globe willingly committed to this agreement. All of the states that agreed to this agreement in advance also agreed to an increase in global average temperature to below 2°C and to extreme efforts so as to restrain it to 1.5°C above levels before the Industrial Revolution via submitting globally determined contributions that are annually updated and frequently monitored. through an augmented transparency frame. This augmented framework is aided with financial transfers, shareage of technology, and mechanisms meant for capacity building complemented by cooperative market and non-market approaches under Article 6. Aligned with a lengthened collective goal of achieving climate neutrality and near zero greenhouse gas emissions in the second half of the 21st century. Moreover, it is implanted within development strategies and economic planning. At last it is legalized by near universal consensus and corroborated by the recognition that the need to prevent climate change is urgent and must be dealt with immediately.

9.1 Progress and successes since 2015

From the moment of its adoption in 2015, the Paris Agreement has made significant progress in governing global climate action and governmental policies. The agreement has victoriously steered climate change from a peripheral environmental issue into a global issue of economic planning and international cooperation. One of the most crucial successes ever since its adoption has been the widespread participation of countries in regime of climates. Almost all of the nations in the globe have validated the agreement and submitted national contributions outlining their emissions reduction plans.Over the long run these dedications have become more ambitious, mirroring a growing political recognition of the urgency of climate action. Moreover, another success has been the hasty expansion of renewable energy globally. Since 2015, the cost of solar and wind power has fallen drastically, thus making clean energy more competitive than fossil fuels.

Consequently, the capacity of renewable energy has grown at a never-before-seen rate, helping to decarbonize electrical systems and lessen reliance on coal and oil.

Over the past ten years, there has been a significant increase in investment in clean technologies, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency. Governments and economic actors have been impacted by the Agreement, as evidenced by the increasing alignment of financial markets, corporations, and cities with climate goals.

Many nations have set mid-century net-zero emissions goals, indicating a structural shift toward long-term decarbonization pathways.
Innovation, research, and the creation of policies that prioritize sustainable growth over merely reducing emissions in the short term have all benefited from this.

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10. Current Challenges in Implementation

Contrary to the progress achieved since its adoption of the Paris Agreement, significant hardships continue to hinder its implementation. These hardships are political, economical challenges that vary from nation to nation. One of the crucial challenges is the inadequate ambition of current climate commitments. Most globally determined contributions remain inconsistent with the aim of limiting the global limit to 1.5°C and also achieving the 2°C goal requires partially stronger action. This huge gap between political pledges and scientific hindrances hinders the effectiveness of the agreement. Another challenge is the perpetual dependence on fossil fuels; many countries still rely on coal, oil and natural gas for energy and economical usages. This creates political resistance to speedy decarbonization, thus slowing the movement towards renewable energy systems. Financial inequality amongst developed and underdeveloped countries also brings up a challenge. In conclusion, even though the Paris Agreement offers a solid framework for international cooperation, its success ultimately rests on political will, economic change, technological advancement, financial solidarity, and ongoing public support, all of which are still uneven and contentious globally.

10.1 Accountability gaps

The short answer is that there's not much formal accountability. Instead, says Michael Mehling, Deputy Director of the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, the focus is on accurate reporting. "Every country has to send annualreports on what they're doing," says Mehling, "in the form of national emissions inventories and progress towards succeeding their NDCs.".

So the main reason for countries to make strong NDCs isn't fear of being "punished" under the Paris Agreement; it's because their citizens and allies want them to cooperate on fighting climate change. "It's not so different from what's driving more and more companies to take on voluntary emission targets," says Mehling. "They know shareholders and customers expect it, and it's partly becoming a matter of saving face." And as more countries make strong pledges of climate action, governments also see economic opportunities in taking the lead on the low-carbon technologies of the future. "There is something of a virtuous circle at play here," Mehling adds. "The question is only whether it will all add up to sufficient climate efforts and do so fast enough. But it's the best we have."

Developing countries also need funding and aid to meet their NDCs. The second major feature of the Paris Agreement is a commitment from wealthier countries to provide financial and technological assistance to the developing world—including countries with very large but still developing economies like China.

As with the NDCs, the Paris Agreement does not set hard standards for this aid, so it is largely up to members to decide how their funds can be used and track the results. "The process [of transferring funds] is very heterogeneous—many countries do many different

things, so it can be difficult to keep tabs on what was contributed where and when," says Mehling.

Most donor countries transfer funds through existing channels, like UN programs or their own foreign aid offices. The United Nations has also set up a few central channels for giving out aid. The Green Climate Fund is the official UN entity for climate financing though it only channels a small fraction of the aid the Paris Agreement and previous decisions call for. The UN has also approved the Global Environment Facility, a large international aid mechanism, to provide its own grants to countries, setting aside special funds for key priorities like helping developing countries adapt to climate disasters. Both these institutions have their own accounting mechanisms to track and audit funding.

10.2 Enforcement and transparency issues

The aim of the framework for transparency of support is to provide clarity on support provided and received by relevant individual parties in the context of climate change actions and to provide a full overview of aggregate financial support provided to inform the global stocktake under Article 14.

Under the enhanced transparency framework for support, developed country Parties shall, and other Parties that provide support are ought to provide information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided to developing country Parties. This information shall undergo a technical expert review. Furthermore, each Party is to participate in a facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), by decision it is mandated to develop recommendations for modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, for consideration by COP 24, with a view to forwarding them to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement for consideration and adoption at its first session (CMA 1). It was decided that the modalities, procedures, and guidelines of this transparency framework shall build upon and eventually supersede the existing measurement, reporting and verification system.

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11. Articles To Be Assessed

Article 2 (aka Temperature Goals)

1. Some countries support a strong focus on the 1.5°C goal, while others argue it is unrealistic.

Should countries with high emissions be expected to commit clearly to 1.5°C, or is the current wording already fair?

Many developing countries argue that poverty reduction must come before strict climate targets, while developed countries push for higher ambition.
Should Article 2 better protect development needs, or does this weaken global climate action?

Articles 3 & 4 (aka Climate Action and NDCs)

3. Some countries submit climate plans that do not match the urgency of the climate crisis.

Should the Agreement allow countries to continue setting their own targets, or should weak NDCs face stronger pressure?

4. High-emitting countries often argue that everyone must act, while low-emitting developing countries argue they are not responsible for the crisis.

Should Article 4 be revised to reflect current emissions rather than historical responsibility?

5. Many NDCs include long-term goals but limited short-term action.

Should the article require clearer timelines and real implementation plans?

Article 6 (aka Carbon Markets)

6. Some countries rely heavily on carbon markets instead of cutting emissions at home.

Should Article 6 limit how much countries can depend on carbon trading?

7. If carbon markets allow double counting or low-quality credits, all countries are affected.

Are the current safeguards strong enough, or are some states benefiting unfairly?

Article 9 (aka Climate Finance)

8. Developed countries often promise climate finance but fail to deliver fully, while developing countries depend on this support.
Should Article 9 include clearer rules on how much and how fast finance must be provided?

Article 13 (aka Transparency)

9. Some countries argue that flexibility in reporting is necessary, while others claim it allows states to hide poor performance.
Should Article 13 reduce flexibility to improve trust?

12. Bibliography and further research

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13. Further notes from the committee secretariat

The primary goal for all of the delegates participating in this committee should be to comprehensively understand the purpose of this agreement, thereby enabling you to come up with well-grounded proposals considering the imperative need for evaluation.

The secondary goal is to thoroughly make research on the ***7th Article*** since the UNFCCC operates in a significantly different manner from other General Assembly committees. To simply put it into one sentence, the UNFCCC is a global legal framework that creates binding rules, whereas most UN committees are political forums that debate issues and pass ***non-binding resolutions.***

Namely, if we compare it to other committees like the World Health Organization,

The UNFCCC is formed of only the governments that signed the convention, whereas the WHO consists of all UN member states automatically. Another example is the UNFCCC only monitors and integrates reporting mechanisms, while the WHO mostly pressures on political matters.