



Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations
29th Annual Conference
“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”



Topic Synopsis
UNEP, Renewable Energy

I. Background of Topic

Depletion of fossil fuels, such as petroleum, coal, and natural gas, is an inevitable phenomenon that will occur sometime in the future. At the current rate of fuel consumption, researchers suggest that oil wells around the world will be completely dried up in a century or two. Nearly every industrial nations heavily rely on non-renewable energy to operate and survive. Currently, only about 5-10% of the world's total energy consumption comes from renewable resources; the rest mainly comes from fossil fuels. Many developed countries have begun taking measures to gradually undermine the chains that leash them to non-renewable sources.

Many factions impede on nations' progress toward "green-washing" their energy sources. Countries face oppositions from industrial companies that rely on cheap, consistent sources of energy that would maximize their profits. Tax payers are worried that new energy reform programs would encumber them even more. Environmentalists and various UN organizations advocate expansion of renewable energy. They seek to decrease pollution and strains on the environment. Investors and entrepreneurs lustfully eye possible opportunities in striking rich by taking advantage of trends toward renewable energy. Governments in wealthy nations wish to decrease pollution and environmental hazards by ousting traditional sources of energy. Countries, such as those in the Middle East, that are dependent on the oil industry oppose any UN interference with topics about energy: particularly, petroleum.

Dependence on non-renewable energy sources threaten the ecosystem of numerous areas in the world. Fossil fuels are known to emit harmful substances, such as carbonic acid, nitric



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acid, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals into the air. This threatens health of nearby human inhabitants as well as wildlife and plants. Others are more concerned about sustainability of natural resources. Global energy consumption rate is increasing, and non-renewable resources are slowly becoming more scarce. Suddenly facing fossil fuel shortage or depletion would cripple countries' economies and industries. Some developing countries that are struggling to stabilize their industrial economy are bound to crude consumption of fossil fuels. Some African nations face lack of capacity and knowledge for fostering policies that will assist incorporation of both economically and environmentally sustainable methods of energy supply and utilization.

II. UN Involvement

The topic of renewable energy won the United Nation's attention only recently. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg attracted global attention to this topic. Several organizations and branches have been formed since the Global Warming hype in the 2000s. Some of the NGOs affiliated with this topic include, DESA, UNEP, UNDP, GA, NREL, IEA, REEP, GAP, GEF, SELCO, SEWA, and UNIDO. United Nation's actions include Nairobi Programme of Action, REEP, A/RES/36/193, A/56/561/Add.7, IBSI, World Solar Programme, Commission on Sustainable Development, World Solar Commission.

III. Possible Solutions



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Some actions or operatives to combat this problem include formation of new organizations to promote and finance technological research for renewable energy, offering incentives to expanding utilization of renewables, forming new organizations to guide and offer financial supports to developing countries' industries for better knowledge and capacity for use of renewables, regulating international fossil fuel trade via contracts, treaties, and other agreements, promoting entrepreneurs and investors of renewable energy industries/technologies/companies/etc, distribution of equipments and tools to developing countries to support foundation of renewable-energy-based economy, offering incentives and special privileges to clean energy tech. manufacturers, and financing projects and programs to build clean energy plants.

IV. Bloc Positions

A majority of the countries would support taking steps to become clean energy nations. Africa and Southern Asia would seek foreign help to finance reforms for renewable energy industries. Middle East would strongly oppose movements toward clean energy because its economy relies on oil trade. It would lose business and profit.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What is their countries' preferred solutions to this problem? Economically? Politically? Socially?
2. How would you finance your solution?
3. What are some environmental effects of excessive consumption of fossil fuels?
4. What are some economical effects of excessive consumption of fossil fuels?
5. Are there any other ways to solve some problems of non-renewable energy other than promoting renewable energy?



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VI. Sources

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