Forum:	The Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Finding means in globally financing sustainable development in order to eliminate the further increase in global temperature
Student Officer:	Jason Chang
Position:	Deputy Chair

Introduction

Global warming is a broad term use to describe the increase in average temperature around the globe in both in the atmosphere and the sea. Temperature today are 0.74°C higher than 150 years ago. As the Earth's surface temperature becomes hotter the sea level becomes higher. If a nation does not take the time to organize a clear plan, the entire country could easily wind up in a very dangerous situation jeopardizing every part of society as well as every nation surrounding it or associating with it. Glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lake is breaking up earlier, plant and animal ranges have shifted and trees are flowering sooner.

Definition of Key Terms

Sustainable development - economic development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources.

Increasing Global Temperature - Averaged globally, the January–June 2016 global land surface temperature was 1.76°C (3.17°F) above the 20th century average—the highest temperature departure from average for January–June in the 1880–2016 record.

Key Issues

The sun warms the earth and the atmosphere holds in the heat to keep the earth warm. This is called the greenhouse effect. During the past 250 years we have been burning more and more fossil fuel such as coal, oil and natural gas. This is releasing extra carbon dioxide in to the atmosphere. Around the world we have been cutting down many of the rainforests and other forest that absorb carbon dioxide. This means that extra carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, like methane are continually being added to the atmosphere. These extra greenhouse gases are holding back more and more of the sun's heat in the atmosphere and causing global warming.

Higher Temperature

Earth's Temperature in 2015 were the hottest ever recorded. Why does this matter? Deuces a change of even 1 degree Fahrenheit - which may sound small - can upset the delicate balance of ecosystem, and affect plants and animals that inhabit them.

Rising seas

As Oceans water warm, they expand, causing sea-levels to rise. Melting glaciers compound the problem by dumping even more fresh water into the oceans. Rising seas threaten to inundate low-lying areas and islands, threaten dene coastal populations, erode shorelines, damage purport and destroy ecosystems sic has mangroves and wetlands that protect coasts against storms

Increased Risk of Storms, Droughts, and Floods

Climate changes is increasing, drought, storms, and floods around the world. Nature has been destroyed by development, communities are at risk from these intensifies climate patterns. Scientists around the world are studying how nature can buffer for these intensifies weather patterns, and TNC (The Nature Conservancy) is working with leaders and communities to implement solutions that makes a difference for nature and people.

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Major Parties Involved

Greenpeace

Greenpeace is a non-governmental environmental organization with offices in over 40 countries and an international coordinating body in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Greenpeace's goal is to "ensure the ability of them Earth to nature life in all it's diversity" and focuses it's campaigning on worldwide issues such as climate change, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic research and ecotage to achieve it's goals.

UCSUSA(Union of Concerned Scientist)

The Union of Concerned Scientists was founded during the height of the Vietnam war during a teach-in at MIT to protest the US government's militarization of science. Initially, the group has concerns with nuclear proliferation and energy issues, but over time has shifted it's focus to sustainability. Today, the majority of UCS's areas of advocacy focus on climate change.

350.org

350.org was founded with the goal of uniting climate activist in to a movement, with a strategy of bottom-up organizing around the world. Activists in 189 countries have organized 350's local climate-focused campaigns, project and actions.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of Event
1992	At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, governments agree the United Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its key objective is "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". Developed countries agree to return their emissions to 1990 levels.
1995	IPCC Second Assessment Report concludes that the balance of evidence suggests "a discernible human influence" on the Earth's climate. This has been called the first definitive statement that humans are responsible for climate change.

1997	Kyoto Protocol agreed. Developed nations pledge to reduce emissions by an average of 5% by the period 2008-12, with wide variations on targets for individual countries. US Senate immediately declares it will not ratify the treaty.
1998	Strong El Nino conditions combine with global warming to produce the warmest year on record. The average global temperature reached 0.52C above the mean for the period 1961-90 (a commonly used baseline).
1999	Human population reaches six billion.
2005	UK Prime Minister Tony Blair selects climate change as a priority for his terms as chair of the G8 and president of the EU.
2006	Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach eight billion tonnes per year.
2007	The IPCC and former US vice-president Al Gore receive the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".
2008	Two months before taking office, incoming US president Barack Obama pledges to "engage vigorously" with the rest of the world on climate change.
2009	China overtakes the US as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter - although the US remains well ahead on a per-capita basis.
2010	Developed countries begin contributing to a $30bn, three-year deal on "Fast Start Finance" to help them "green" their economies and adapt to climate impacts
2011	Data shows concentrations of greenhouse gases are rising faster than in previous years.
2012	Arctic sea ice reaches a minimum extent of 3.41 million sq. km (1.32 million sq. mi), a record for the lowest summer cover since satellite measurements began in 1979.

2013	The first part of the IPCC's fifth assessment report says scientists are 95% certain that humans are the "dominant cause" of global warming since the 1950s.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow.

People are experiencing the significant impacts of climate change, which include changing weather patterns, rising sea level, and more extreme weather events. The greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving climate change and continue to rise. They are now at their highest levels in history. Without action, the world's average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century and is likely to surpass 3 degrees Celsius this century—with some areas of the world expected to warm even more. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.

Affordable, scalable solutions are now available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. The pace of change is quickening as more people are turning to renewable energy and a range of other measures that will reduce emissions and increase adaptation efforts.

But climate change is a global challenge that does not respect national borders. Emissions anywhere affect people everywhere. It is an issue that requires solutions that need to be coordinated at the international level and it requires international cooperation to help developing countries move toward a low-carbon economy.

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. You can learn more about the agreement here.
Implementation of the Paris Agreement is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

On 21 September, countries will come to the United Nations Headquarters to deposit their instruments of ratification. The Agreement enters into force “on the thirtieth day after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.”

Possible Solution

Boosting energy efficiency

The energy used to power, heat, and cool our homes, business, and industries is the single largest contributor to global warming. Energy efficiency technologies allow us to use less energy to get the same or higher level of production, service and comfort. This approach has vast potential to save both energy and money, and can be deployed quickly.

Greening transportation

The transportation sector’s emissions have increase at a faster rate than other energy-using sector over the past decade. A variety of solutions are at hand, including improving efficiency (miles per gallon) in all modes of transport, switching to low- carbon fuels, and reducing vehicle miles traveled through star growth and more efficient mass transportation systems.

Phasing out fossil fuel electricity

Dramatically reducing our use of fuels- especially carbon- intensive coal is essential to tackle climate change. There are many ways to begin this process. Key actions step include: not building any new coal-burning power plants, igniting a phased shutdown of coal plates starting with the oldest and dirtiest, and capturing and storing carbo emissions underground. The technology has not been deployed on a large scale or proven to be safe and permanent, but, but it has been demonstrated in other contexts such as oil and natural gas recovery. Demonstration projects to test the viability and costs of this technology for power plant emissions are worth pursuing.

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