



**United Nations Environmental Programme
(UNEP)**

Topic:

**Addressing youth engagement, governance, and
Environmental Education**

Chairs:

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Delegations

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Brazil
4. Canada
5. China
6. France
7. Germany
8. India
9. Italy
10. Japan
11. Mexico
12. Monaco
13. Netherlands
14. Pakistan
15. Russia
16. Saudi Arabia
17. Singapore
18. South Africa
19. Spain
20. Sweden
21. Switzerland
22. Thailand
23. United Kingdom
24. United States
25. Uruguay



Committee Background:

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), established in June 1972, is the leading global organization addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development through international collaboration, scientific research, and policy guidance. UNEP's work focuses on tackling issues such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, ensuring a sustainable future for all. Its efforts in engagement, governance, and environmental education are critical for empowering future leaders to address global environmental crises. For more than 60 years, UNEP has worked with the governments of the world and non-governmental entities to address humanity's most important environmental challenges around the world, from restoring the ozone layer to protecting the world's seas and promoting new ways to resolve climate change.

- UNEP's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
The main purpose right now of the UNEP is to find solutions to the triple planetary crisis

Background information:

Environmental challenges today demand innovative, inclusive, and forward-thinking solutions. Engaging youth in environmental governance and education is essential to building a sustainable future. As the generation inheriting the planet, young people possess the energy, creativity, and passion needed to drive meaningful changes. However, their voices often remain underrepresented in global decision-making. Addressing this gap through enhanced youth engagement and comprehensive environmental education is a crucial step toward empowering future leaders and ensuring long-term environmental resilience.

That's why schools from all over the world should promote this type of environmental education and make more campaigns about how to treat our world with respect and good actions towards the natural environment, in places with low levels of education this type of topic is not usual to talk about, and the young people are not educated in



this issue, therefore it's not a big concern for those countries since they have other things to worry about.

According to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), 1,1 billion children are already at extremely high risk of suffering from the impacts of climate change. Children living in poor conditions are among the most vulnerable to health, economic, and social complications caused by climate change, that's why the UN needs to prioritize their safety in national climate strategies.

However, children and youth are still viewed as if they don't have a voice for change regarding climate-related issues, a study carried out by UNICEF India aimed to give a comprehensive understanding of how young people in India view climate change. It investigated their knowledge about climate change, how empowered they feel to make a difference, and how involved they are in climate-related matters. The research also explored their thoughts on possible solutions and their feelings of responsibility in putting those solutions into action. Furthermore, the study sought to collect information on current policies and systems that promote behavior change related to climate change, especially those that target youth, to create practical recommendations.

Position of nations:

United States:

United States is one of the first countries that founded the UN and thanks to the economy of the country it provides help in many ways such as economic support, psychological support, environmental support, humanitarian aid, and because of that United States is considered the largest donor to the UN.

UK:

The United Kingdom is a key global leader in climate policy, environmental innovation, and international sustainability. As a highly developed nation, the UK plays a significant role in reducing carbon emissions, protecting biodiversity, and supporting global climate initiatives. As a Mediterranean country, Italy faces significant environmental challenges, including coastal



erosion, **rising** sea levels, and extreme weather events, which shape its commitment to global environmental policies. The country has a strong record of environmental diplomacy.

Italy:

Italy is actively contributing to climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Italy is also a strong advocate for circular economies and green energy innovation, helping drive sustainability efforts in Europe and beyond.

Spain:

Spain is important in global environmental governance, actively contributing to climate change mitigation, water conservation, and sustainable development. Spain is a leader in renewable energy with a strong focus on wind and solar energy, supports the Paris Agreement, and advocates for stricter environmental policies to combat global warming. Spain faces unique environmental challenges, including desertification, rising temperatures, and biodiversity loss, which shape its strong commitment to environmental policies.

France:

France is a major global leader in environmental diplomacy, sustainable development, and climate action. As a founding member of key international environmental agreements, France plays a crucial role in shaping climate policies, promoting biodiversity conservation, and financing global sustainability projects.

Germany:

Germany is a key leader in environmental policy, renewable energy, and climate action within UNEP. It plays a major role in shaping global sustainability efforts, advancing green technology, and supporting international climate agreements. The country is recognized for its commitments to reducing carbon



emissions, promoting circular economies, and financing climate adaptation projects.

Japan

Japan contributes UNEP with their vast production of technology and new ways to reduce pollution in Asia, Japan has supported environmental projects and has participated in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- India:

India is working together with UNEP on various projects, more focused on ecosystem disaster risk reduction, in regions like Odisha, Bihar, and Gujarat, UNEP's Eco-DRR efforts are focused on restoring and safeguarding wetlands, revitalizing village ponds, and preserving water bodies. India has also made significant progress in renewable energy, especially in solar power.

China:

China collaborates with UNEP on various environmental projects. After the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, UNEP teamed up with Chinese authorities to prevent environmental issues, especially in areas like waste management and pollution control. This partnership persisted, emphasizing the need for sustainable rebuilding methods.

Russia:

Russia plays an important role in funding the United Nations, contributing 1.602% to the regular budget, which places it 14th among all member countries. Back in 2011, Russia's financial support to different UN budgets was around \$232 million.



Key terms:

Sustainability: The practice of meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, balancing environmental, social, and economic factors.

Environmental Governance: The legal, political, and institutional frameworks that regulate how resources are managed and environmental policies through rules.

Multilateral Cooperation: The collaboration between multiple countries or international organizations to address global issues, such as pollution and climate change.

Climate Change: Long-term shifts in weather patterns and temperature. These shifts can be natural, but human activities (such as deforestation or burning fossil fuels) have been the main driver since the 1800s.

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs): Atmospheric gases that cause global warming and climate change. GHGs trap heat in the atmosphere, which is why they are called greenhouse gases. This can be such as carbon dioxide (CO₂)

Carbon Footprint: The amount of greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere due to human activity. This includes emissions from individuals, organizations, products, and events.

Mitigation: The process of reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, such as using renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, or reforestation.

Environmental Degradation: The deterioration of natural ecosystems due to human activities.



Biodiversity: The variety of living organisms, ecosystems, and genetic diversity.

Ecosystem Restoration: Revitalizing degraded environments, such as replanting forests or cleaning trash from public places.

Guiding questions:

1. How can UNEP support climate adaptation efforts in vulnerable regions?
2. How can UNEP collaborate with financial institutions to promote environmental investments?
3. What are the biggest environmental challenges UNEP is currently addressing?
4. How can UNEP improve international cooperation on environmental issues?
5. How can developing countries transition to sustainable energy while maintaining economic growth?
6. How can UNEP help nations improve waste management and recycling systems?
7. How can UNEP promote circular economy models to minimize waste production?

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