



Study Guide - COP29 - GCMUN 2024

Agenda

Equity and Accountability in global warming: Should developing countries be held to the same environmental standards as developed countries, despite their different stages of industrialisation and economic needs?

Index

Letter from the Executive Board

Introduction to the Committee

Key Terms

Introduction to the Agenda

History of the Agenda

Mandate of the COP

Current Affairs

Bloc Positions

Past Paperwork

Suggested Caucus Topics

Suggested Readings

QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

Formatting Guidelines for Paperwork

Important Points to Note

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

We, the Executive Board of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) welcome all of you to this special committee at GCMUN 2024.

However extensive your experience with MUNs may have been in the past, know that COP29 promises to be an exceptional experience for first-timers and seasoned professionals alike. And as exceptional it may be, it'll be just as demanding of a challenge. In the modern world, environmental concerns are one of, if not the most, pervasive conflicts faced by humanity and tackling them requires both knowledge and resilience. Before stepping into COP29, it is paramount that you recognise the sheer gravity of the climate crisis in question.

The agenda, ofcourse, is of a highly technical nature; it requires delegates to know the ins-and-outs of international treaties and the liabilities, responsibilities, and accountability they levy upon different countries. Among the diverse range of nations, developed and developing, it is more than a question of equity or parity. You must conceptualise the exact capabilities of governments to undertake climate protection efforts, analyse their effectiveness and efficiency, and then come to a consensus as to what extent different countries are bound by international agreements.

Another important part of this committee is to devise new policies and keep track of existing ones. To ensure compliance with global environmental standards is crucial. Furthermore, delegates should consider reforms to treaties and the UNFCCC (COP's parent body) itself.

In order to productively debate on the topics above, we encourage you to read through this study guide in detail that the Executive Board has curated with utmost precision and accuracy. Additionally, we expect you to conduct independent research on the particular policies and views of your country on the agenda and make your mark. Remember: you represent your country and so the perspectives you present to the committee must reflect the same. More importantly, your goal is to persuade the committee why your country's stance should be adopted so you must be well-researched, confident, and respectful at all times.

We really look forward to meeting all of you at COP29 this year at GCMUN so you better bring your A-game. Good luck and we'll see you then!

Sincerely,

Arnav Singh (Chair) & Neev Ramani (Vice-Chair),

The Executive Board of COP29 at GCMUN.

Introduction to the Committee

What is the COP?

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the chief decision-making body of the UNFCCC which is an organisation aimed at supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. The UNFCCC has near universal membership, hosting delegates from 198 countries as of June, 2024. These countries are called Parties to the Convention and the COP, then, is an annual conference where these 'parties' come together to prevent 'dangerous' human interference with the climate system. They 'review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.'

The first COP session was held in Berlin in 1995. Since then, a COP meeting has been held almost every year in different regions of the world dependent on which country presides over the Convention for the session in question; the 29th session - COP29 - is scheduled in Baku later this year. COP29 at GCMUN aims to model this future conference.

What is the UNFCCC?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international body instituted on 21 March 1994 in Rio. The primary aim of the Convention is to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system." It also states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

The UNFCCC is the parent-Convention to the monumental Paris Agreement (2015) and Kyoto Protocol (1997) along with others like the Bali Action Plan (2007), the Copenhagen Accord (2009), the Cancún agreements (2010), and the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (2012). It allows for a platform where nations can form synergistic alliances and take combined action to mitigate climate change.

Important UNFCCC Clauses

Article 2

- 1. The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.*

2. *The specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration.*

Article 4

1. *All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:*

f. Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimising adverse effects on the economy, on public health and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

7. *The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties.*
-

Key Terms

1. **Adverse effects of climate change** - Changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.
2. **Climate change** - A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
3. **Climate system** - The totality of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and geosphere and their interactions.
4. **Emissions** - The release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.
5. **Greenhouse gases** - Those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation.
6. **Regional economic integration organisation** - An organisation constituted by sovereign States of a given region which has competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention or its protocols and has been duly authorised, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the instruments concerned.
7. **Reservoir** - A component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored.
8. **Sink** - Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol, or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.
9. **Source** - Any process or activity which releases a greenhouse gas, an aerosol, or a precursor of a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.
10. **Global Warming** - The Earth's temperature is increasing because of human activities like burning fossil fuels.
11. **Equity** - Fairness in how responsibilities and benefits are shared, especially regarding climate change.
12. **Accountability** - Being responsible and answerable for one's actions and policies on climate change.
13. **Environmental Standards** - Rules to control pollution and protect the environment.

14. **Developing Countries** - Nations with less industrial activity and lower living standards.
 15. **Developed Countries** - Highly industrialised nations with high living standards.
 16. **Industrialisation** - The process of developing industries and manufacturing in a country.
 17. **Economic Needs** - The essentials required for a country to grow its economy and improve living standards.
 18. **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)** - The principle that all countries should fight climate change, but not all in the same way, because they have different capabilities.
 19. **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** - Climate action plans submitted by each country under the Paris Agreement, outlining their efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate change.
 20. **Carbon Trading** - A market-based system where countries or companies can buy and sell carbon credits to meet their emission reduction targets.
 21. **Carbon Credits** - Permits that allow a country or organisation to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide, which can be traded in carbon markets.
 22. **Adaptation Fund** - A financial mechanism under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol that supports projects and programs in developing countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.
 23. **Climate Finance** - Funding from developed countries to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.
 24. **Loss and Damage** - The concept addressing the impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided through mitigation or adaptation, often affecting vulnerable countries the most.
 25. **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** - A fund established to help developing countries finance climate-friendly projects and programs.
 26. **Technology Transfer** - The process of sharing technology and knowledge between countries to help them address climate change.
-

Introduction to the Agenda

The COP29 agenda at GCMUN is:

Equity and Accountability in global warming: Should developing countries be held to the same environmental standards as developed countries, despite their different stages of industrialisation and economic needs?

This topic is centred around the topics of equity and accountability, as the wording of the agenda suggests. It's a multifaceted subject, especially given the polarised nature of views on it. With the world divided on the standards to which different countries should be binded to environmental responsibility, there's a dichotomy of perspectives on the agenda.

Some argue that there should be equality in environmental standards set for developed and developing countries alike. This not only creates a just parity in global actions but reduces opportunities for nations to defect from their responsibilities. Placing a certain burden on countries assures sustenance of efforts through time which is maintained via international competitiveness. When frameworks apply to all parties, breach of treaties levies direct effects on trade, diplomatic relations, foreign policy, and external economic growth - all of which deeply affect a country's standing on the global stage which in turn engenders a cyclical effect on the aforementioned determinants. Thus, equality gives rise to a causal and very significant relationship between adherence to international norms and transnational commerce. In addition, ofcourse, one cannot disregard the direct benefit of imposing equal standards across the landscape: greater efficiency. With a standardised framework, implementation becomes exponentially easier due to lack of ambiguity in terms of individual national responsibility and fewer individual concessions with respect to the same.

Nevertheless, one cannot ignore the argument against this notion. In the world, there exists a large disparity in terms of different nations' economic development, population, demographics, and governance. After considering these disparities, there is a question of whether imposing the same environmental standards on all countries seems too big of a generalisation which doesn't account for differing capabilities. Some nations indeed perceive this as ignorance towards their individual standings which deters them from accepting the imposed environmental standards. This particular understanding makes sense for a number of reasons. Firstly, it directly addresses individual countries by either classifying them per their capabilities and this consideration not only helps set tangible, attainable goals but moreover ensures more productive efforts due to said attainability. Furthermore, it is equitable (in a sense). Though this seems contradictory, it is indubitably equitable when a policy requires a country to contribute what it can de facto contribute. With different responsibilities tailored to countries' specific circumstances, setting specific, achievable goals for all countries based on what they can actually achieve proves to be equitable in a sense. In addition, it places the onus of environmental protection right where it belongs. Low-income countries consume six times less materials and generate 10 times less

climate impacts than those living in high-income countries as of March, 2024 according to UNEP. Then, if richer economies are liable for more environmental disruption than poorer economies, shouldn't they be held to stricter environmental standards? This is precisely the cornerstone of this argument.

Regardless of which of these views prevails over committee, delegates must all call for purposive reforms to the UNFCCC and its subsidiary agreements. The need for greater environmental protection is greater now than it was ever before and so, to not only safeguard this protection for the foreseeable future but to also call for greater concerted action which sees full global involvement. In order to accomplish this level of involvement, however, policies need to be made more stringent in terms of what duties they levy upon nations and moreover, their implementation must be reinforced.

At present, the primary requirement for parties is to communicate information about:

- “[their] national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties”;
- “A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention; and [any] other information that the Party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculations of global emission trends”;
- “A detailed description of the policies and measures that it has adopted to implement its commitment [and a] specific estimate of the effects that the policies and measures will have on anthropogenic emissions by its sources and removals by its sinks of greenhouse gases”

as is required by Article 12 of the UNFCCC. Setting specific targets based on analysis of previous reports submitted by parties must be carried out to ensure countries actively make progress towards broader environmental objectives. To hold parties bound by this would of course require reforms within the UNFCCC.

History of the Agenda

Understanding the context: Equity and Accountability in Combating Global Warming

Global Warming and Climate change is one of the most significant crisis in recent times, commanding comprehensive attention from all nations. The increasing complexities that are involved in this combat makes it even more technically strained. While the entire world is facing climate change, the root of the agenda lies in whether the same environmental standards apply to all nations, regardless of their economic positions, development standards, and most importantly, their historical contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. This debate is pivoted at balancing environmental sustainability with economic development, and careful review of the effectiveness of sustainability measures.

The establishment of the UNFCCC in 1994 led to the ratification and realisation of numerous monumental agreements, and provided for a foundation of a concrete platform for nations to diminish climate change on a united, global level.

Key events in chronological order

1992: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- The UNFCCC was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It established the foundational principles for international climate action, including the principle of CBDR-RC. This principle acknowledges that while all countries are responsible for addressing climate change, developed countries have historically contributed more to global emissions and possess greater financial and technological capacities to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.

1995: COP1 in Berlin

- The first Conference of the Parties (COP1) in Berlin established the Berlin Mandate.

Key Postulates of the Berlin Mandate:

1. Introduction of CBDR: The principle of CBDR acknowledges the common responsibility of all nations to mitigate climate change, but recognizes the economic priority for developing nations and the higher historical contribution to emissions by developed nations, highlighting their respective capabilities (CBDR-RC)
2. Binding Targets for Developed Countries: Negotiations for binding emission reduction targets for developed countries were established, laying the foundation for future legally binding commitments.

3. Flexibility for Developing Countries: Developing countries were not bound to any commitments towards sustainability, but were urged to take action with the help of developed nations, including financial assistance and technology.
4. Transparency and Accountability: The mandate established provisions for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of reduction in emissions by participating countries, to ensure transparency and accountability in meeting their emissions.

The Berlin mandate set the foundation for numerous agreements and protocols in the future as a significant reference point for improvisation, touching upon the importance to differentiate between nations on the basis of their contribution to emissions as well as their economic capabilities.

1997: Kyoto Protocol (COP3)

- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP3 in Kyoto, Japan. It marked a significant step forward by setting legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries (Annex I countries), while developing countries (non-Annex I countries) were not required to undertake such commitments. This distinction was based on the CBDR-RC principle, acknowledging the historical emissions of developed nations and their greater capability to reduce emissions.

2001: COP7 in Marrakesh

- The Marrakesh Accords finalised the rules for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including mechanisms for compliance and flexibility in how countries could meet their targets. These accords emphasised the need for developed countries to take the lead in emission reductions and support developing countries through financial and technological assistance.

2007: Bali Action Plan (COP13)

- COP13 in Bali, Indonesia, launched the Bali Action Plan, which initiated a two-year negotiating process aimed at creating a new climate agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. The Bali Action Plan highlighted the need for "enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change" by both developed and developing countries, reinforcing the principle of CBDR-RC while acknowledging the need for broader participation.

2009: Copenhagen Accord (COP15)

- The Copenhagen Accord introduced the concept of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), where both developed and developing countries would voluntarily pledge climate actions. This marked a shift towards a more inclusive approach, though it highlighted ongoing debates over equity and responsibility. The accord also recognized the need for significant financial support to developing countries, emphasising the importance of climate finance.

2010: Cancun Agreements (COP16)

- The Cancun Agreements, established at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico, included the creation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to assist developing countries in mitigation and adaptation efforts. The agreements reiterated the importance of keeping global temperature rise below 2°C and emphasised the need for developed countries to provide financial and technological support to developing nations.

2011: Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (COP17)

- COP17 in Durban, South Africa, launched negotiations for a new global climate agreement to be adopted by 2015 and implemented from 2020. This platform aimed to create a universal, legally binding agreement that would include commitments from both developed and developing countries, while still recognizing the principle of CBDR-RC.

2013: Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (COP19)

- COP19 in Warsaw, Poland, established the Warsaw International Mechanism to address loss and damage associated with climate impacts, recognizing the particular vulnerability of developing countries. This mechanism aimed to enhance understanding, coordination, and support for addressing loss and damage.

2015: Paris Agreement (COP21)

- The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21 in Paris, France, represented a significant milestone in international climate policy. This universal and legally binding agreement required all countries to submit NDCs and aimed to limit global warming to well below 2°C, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement balanced universality with flexibility, allowing countries to determine their contributions based on national circumstances, capabilities, and development priorities.

2016: Paris Agreement Enters into Force

- The Paris Agreement became legally binding following widespread ratification, emphasising the need for developed countries to take the lead in mitigation and support developing countries through finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. This

milestone marked a significant shift towards a more inclusive and equitable global climate regime.

2018: Katowice Rulebook (COP24)

- COP24 in Katowice, Poland, focused on developing the Katowice Rulebook, which provided detailed guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement. These guidelines covered transparency frameworks, reporting requirements, and the global stocktake process, ensuring that all countries, regardless of their stage of development, could effectively participate in climate action while considering equity.

2019: Santiago Climate Change Conference (COP25)

- COP25 in Madrid, Spain (hosted by Chile), sought to increase ambition and finalise outstanding details of the Paris Rulebook, particularly regarding carbon markets and mechanisms. This conference underscored the need for greater climate ambition and support for developing countries.

2021: Glasgow Climate Pact (COP26)

- COP26 in Glasgow, UK, aimed to enhance ambition and address gaps in NDCs and long-term strategies. The Glasgow Climate Pact emphasised the need for accelerated efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts, along with increasing climate finance for developing nations. It reaffirmed the importance of support for developing countries to achieve equitable climate action.

2022: Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Summit (COP27)

- COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, highlighted practical steps for implementing the Paris Agreement. Key issues included scaling up climate finance, enhancing adaptation measures, and addressing loss and damage. The summit underscored the urgency of equitable climate action and the need for substantial support to developing countries to meet their climate goals.
-

Mandate of the COP

The COP is more than a suggestive body; it plays an important role in enforcement of international climate agreements. The UNFCCC relies on its members' transparency and compliance to mutually agreed-upon standards set and ratified by the parties in question.

In order to further enforcement, the COP looks over a number of functions which act as direct determinants to enforcement:

- Establishment of guidelines to frameworks;
- Sharing and pooling knowledge and resources;
- Running facilitative committees to monitor compliance and provide assistance;
- Governing individual party privileges and punitive measures

Punitive measures to non-compliance do not necessarily constitute fine payments but more reformations to privileges enjoyed by parties under the UNFCCC and its subsidiary agreements.

Paris Agreement

- Provisions of regular reporting and submitting nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are legally binding
- Maintaining specific NDCs and emission levels isn't legally binding

Kyoto Protocol

- Emission reduction targets are legally binding for developed countries with the following punitive measures:
 1. Make-Up Emissions: Non-compliant Parties are required to make up the shortfall in the subsequent commitment period, with an additional 30% penalty;
 2. Compliance Action Plan (CAP): Non-compliant Parties must legally develop and implement a CAP;
 3. Suspension of Eligibility: Non-compliance can result in suspension from participating in emissions trading mechanisms like pollution-permits under the Protocol.

COP's role as an intermediary

COP determines allocation of key funds like the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, thereby aiding developing countries in matching the environmental standards prescribed for developed countries. The provision of these funds from developed countries is of course completely voluntary but encouraged as stipulated by the UNFCCC article 4 sub-section 3.

Current Affairs

1. *UN Climate Warning*

“The latest forecast from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) indicates that there is an 80 percent likelihood that the world will see the annual average global temperature temporarily exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the next five years.”

“WMO is sounding the alarm that we will be exceeding the 1.5°C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency. We have already temporarily surpassed this level for individual months and indeed as averaged over the most recent 12-month period,” said World Meteorological Organisation’s (WMO) Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett

“She underscored, however, that temporary breaches do not mean that the 1.5 °C goal set in the Paris Agreement is permanently lost because it refers to long-term warming over decades.”

-United Nations & World Meteorological Organisation

2. *Revaluation of Climate Equity in accordance to the Paris Agreement*

“Hence, equity enjoys a specific content in the context of international climate change law. Equity is made up of four principles: the principle of corrective justice, the principle of distributive justice, the principle of procedural equity, and last but not least the principle of intergenerational equity.”

“One could picture climate equity as a prism with the issues of distributive justice, inter-generational equity, corrective justice, and procedural equity making up its faces. This brings us to the hypothesis that equity in climate change should work as an operational principle, rather than being just a desirable outcome. In this way equity requires to be implemented through the interpretation of the international climate change regime by means of the lenses of the Equity Prism.”

“So far the NDCs submitted by Parties to the Paris Agreement have shown a very shallow and vague implementation of the equity requirement.”

-International Union for Conservation of Nature

3. *Changes in Global Reporting Initiative’s (GRI) proposed reporting policy for organisations*

“The climate change exposure draft introduces a new disclosure on the social aspect of climate change and the concept of just transition with regard to impacts on workers and local communities. This would involve reporting of multiple metrics on transition plans, such as what it means for jobs and training, and details on agreements reached with local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The draft also covers the social impacts in disclosures on adaptation plans, carbon credits and GHG removals.”

-Global Reporting Initiative

4. ***Publishing of the ‘Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions to Protect Health’ post COP28***

“Key pillars of the Guiding Principles include:

- Accelerating transformative climate and health solutions to save and improve lives now and in the future;
- Creating equitable, inclusive, accessible, and holistic approaches to climate and health financing and solutions;
- Building the core policymaking and implementation capacities of countries, communities, and financing institutions to deliver climate and health solutions.”

“Climate change is increasing health risks in every region of the world, including millions more people at risk of heat-related illness, food insecurity, infectious diseases, and poverty. A significant mobilisation of financing is needed to combat these impacts, which to date have been under-recognized and under-funded,” said Adnan Amin, CEO of COP28. “The COP28 Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions is the critical first step to address this, bringing new funders to the table in recognition of the urgent need. We are grateful for our partners stepping up to deliver finance where it is needed most.”

-The Global Fund

5. ***Possible establishment of a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate funding - Bonn Climate Conference***

At the 60th Session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies, significant attention was given to setting a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate funding, a critical topic for the upcoming COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Developing countries, led by the G77 and China, have stressed the need for substantial public funding from developed nations to address climate change effectively. In contrast, developed countries, particularly the

European Union, have advocated for a more diversified approach to funding, incorporating both public and private sources.

-United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Updated input paper for the second meeting under the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance - <https://unfccc.int/documents/639570>

6. ***Finalisation of the ‘Rulebook for the Paris Agreement’ (older development)***

The finalised rulebook at the Katowice climate conference has raised concerns among developing nations. While developed countries were allowed voluntary commitments to climate mitigation, the uniform reporting, monitoring, and evaluation standards have been challenging for larger developing nations. This uniformity in standards, despite some flexibility offered to developing countries, is seen as pressuring them towards full compliance.

-World Resources Institute

7. ***Paris Agreement’s New Article 6 Rules***

“Carbon markets have been exuberant lately. Anticipating the final agreement from the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, carbon offset markets for airlines have grown by 900% and corporate carbon offsets by 170% so far this year. With the Article 6 “rulebook” negotiations of the Paris Agreement finally completed in Glasgow, the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) with the University of Maryland forecast that additional financing from carbon markets could exceed USD 1 trillion by 2050.”

-International Institute for Sustainable Development

Background of Article 6 -

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/article-64-mechanism>

Bloc Positions

United States of America

The United States maintains a policy stance in favour of establishing universal standards applicable to all nations. Domestically, it has implemented rigorous emissions standards as part of its commitment to environmental stewardship. Internationally, the U.S. advocates for binding emissions targets within global agreements, emphasising collective responsibility and accountability across all parties

European Union

The European Union holds a steadfast policy position advocating for uniform global environmental standards. This commitment is evidenced through its ambitious emissions reduction targets set forth under the Paris Agreement. Additionally, the EU actively supports technology transfer and provides financial aid to developing countries, aiming to facilitate their compliance with international environmental norms.

Japan

Japan upholds a policy stance favouring uniform global standards to achieve emissions reduction. To support this goal, Japan has invested significantly in clean energy technologies and plays an active role in international climate finance mechanisms. Additionally, Japan advocates for capacity building in developing countries, aiming to enhance their ability to meet environmental goals effectively.

Dominion of Canada

Canada maintains a policy position that supports the adoption of common environmental standards globally. Domestically, Canada has implemented carbon pricing mechanisms as a key strategy to reduce emissions and promote sustainable practices. Furthermore, Canada actively provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries to support their efforts in climate adaptation and mitigation.

People's Republic of China

China's policy position advocates for differentiated responsibilities, taking into account historical emissions and current development stages. Internally, China has implemented policies aimed at curbing emissions while balancing economic growth priorities. Moreover, China has made substantial investments in renewable energy infrastructure both within the country and globally.

Republic of India

India's policy position supports differentiated responsibilities, recognizing the developmental needs of different nations. Domestically, India has committed to ambitious renewable energy targets as part of its strategy to reduce carbon emissions. It also emphasises sustainable development and climate resilience measures to address environmental challenges effectively. Additionally, India actively seeks technology transfer and financial support from developed countries to bolster its adaptation efforts and achieve its climate goals.

Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil's policy position favours differentiated responsibilities, taking into account economic development and historical emissions. Domestically, Brazil has implemented significant measures to reduce deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, aiming to curb carbon emissions and preserve biodiversity. The country also promotes the use of biofuels and renewable energy sources as part of its energy mix strategy. Additionally, Brazil engages in South-South cooperation initiatives focused on climate change, collaborating with other developing nations to share knowledge and resources.

African Union

The African Union, representing numerous African countries, advocates for differentiated responsibilities based on economic development levels and adaptation needs. To advance this stance, the African Union collaborates on regional climate action plans aimed at mitigating the continent's vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. Additionally, it actively seeks international support for adaptation measures and capacity building initiatives tailored to African nations' specific challenges.

The Commonwealth of Australia

Australia generally supports the establishment of uniform environmental standards globally. Domestically, Australia has implemented carbon pricing mechanisms and actively promotes investments in renewable energy as part of its strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Republic of Korea (South Korea)

South Korea advocates for the establishment of common environmental standards across all countries. The country has set ambitious emissions reduction targets domestically and actively promotes innovation in green technologies to support sustainable development. Furthermore, South Korea plays a significant role in providing climate finance to developing countries, aiming to assist them in addressing climate change challenges and transitioning towards low-carbon economies.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom stands as a staunch advocate for uniform global environmental standards. In pursuit of this goal, the UK has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, demonstrating its proactive approach to mitigating climate change. Additionally, the UK actively supports international climate finance initiatives and technology transfers to assist developing nations in their efforts to combat and adapt to climate impacts.

United Mexican States (Mexico)

Mexico supports differentiated responsibilities based on development needs in its climate policy stance. The country has implemented comprehensive climate change laws and policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable practices in agriculture and forestry. Mexico also engages actively in international climate negotiations, advocating for equitable solutions that address the diverse challenges faced by nations at different stages of development.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia favours differentiated responsibilities based on economic conditions and historical context in its climate policy position. The country has begun investing in renewable energy projects as part of its strategy to diversify its energy mix and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Additionally, Saudi Arabia is focusing on enhancing energy efficiency across various sectors to optimise resource use and reduce emissions.

The Russian Federation

Russia supports differentiated responsibilities based on economic and developmental needs in its climate policy stance. The country has prioritised energy efficiency improvements and the modernization of infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resource efficiency.

The French Republic (France)

France maintains a strong policy stance advocating for uniform global environmental standards. Domestically, they have implemented ambitious climate policies, focusing on substantial investments in renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency across various sectors. Additionally, France plays a proactive role in providing climate finance to support developing nations in their sustainability efforts.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands adopts a firm stance in supporting common global environmental standards. Domestically, it has set ambitious targets for increasing renewable energy adoption and reducing

emissions. The country also implements policies aimed at bolstering climate resilience within its borders, alongside actively participating in international climate negotiations.

Kingdom of Sweden

Sweden maintains a robust advocacy for uniform environmental standards globally. Domestically, Sweden has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, setting a clear and ambitious goal for sustainable development. The country actively promotes innovation in green technologies and implements policies to foster sustainable practices across various sectors. Internationally

Kingdom of Norway

Norway maintains a steadfast support for uniform global environmental standards. Domestically, the country has implemented stringent emissions regulations and made significant investments in renewable energy sources such as hydropower and wind, as well as carbon capture technologies. These efforts underscore Norway's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable energy practices.

Argentine Republic (Argentina)

Argentina supports differentiated responsibilities in climate action, considering economic development and historical emissions. The country has implemented policies aimed at promoting renewable energy adoption and sustainable land use practices to mitigate environmental impact. Argentina actively engages in international climate negotiations, advocating for fair and effective global agreements. Additionally, the nation seeks technology transfer and financial support to enhance its capacity for sustainable development and climate resilience.

Group of 77 (G77)

The Group of 77 (G77) represents developing countries and advocates for differentiated responsibilities and financial support from developed nations in global climate policy discussions. The group engages collectively in negotiations to address the specific needs of developing countries, focusing on adaptation strategies, technology transfer to enhance sustainable development, and capacity building initiatives.

Past Paperwork

For a committee like COP29, having knowledge of the very text that imposes climate responsibilities upon countries is crucial for a delegate. It is recommended to go through the important articles from the agreements listed below in detail while preparing for the MUN. A delegate can greatly benefit in committee even with a cursory understanding of the agreements below.

<i>Paperwork Title</i>	<i>Link to Text</i>
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/convening.pdf
Paris Agreement	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf
Kyoto Protocol	https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf
Bali Action Plan	https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_13/application/pdf/cop_bali_action.pdf
Cancun Agreements	https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/107.pdf
Berlin Mandate	https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop1/07a01.pdf
Durban Platform for Enhanced Action	https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/adp2/eng/12drafttext.pdf
Katowice climate package	https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-katowice-climate-package/katowice-climate-package
Glasgow Climate Pact	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf
Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27_auv_2_cover%20decision.pdf

Suggested Caucus Topics

1. Improving enforceability through compensatory payments to non-compliance with environmental standards per the UNFCCC mandate
 2. Setting specific, tangible, and quantifiable standards for countries with a bracketing system taking into account economic development
 3. Establishing new channels of funds and resources transfer from developed countries to developing countries under a more stringent mandate
 4. Determining the exact implications of imposing a unified, equal environmental standard across the world and evaluating its efficiency in triggering greater effort by countries
 5. Analysing the limitations of differentiated standards for countries at different levels of development
 6. Discussing reforms to the current UNFCCC structure to increase efficiency of environmental efforts
-

Suggested Readings

The websites below will help delegates better understand not only the workings of the UNFCCC but also its efficiency in terms of the division of responsibilities amongst countries. These pieces will undoubtedly help form a foundation for debate on the agenda.

1. <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>
 2. <https://www.wri.org/paris-rulebook>
 3. <https://www.iisd.org/articles/paris-agreement-article-6-rules>
 4. <https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol/mechanisms/emissions-trading>
-

QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

1. How should the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities be applied to ensure both equity and accountability in climate action?
 2. Should developing countries be held to the same environmental standards as developed countries? If not, what criteria should determine different standards?
 3. What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure adequate financial support from developed countries to developing countries for climate mitigation and adaptation?
 4. How can climate policies be integrated into national development plans to ensure sustainable growth without compromising economic development for developing countries?
 5. How can the allocation of climate finance and running of the carbon market be made more equitable to address the skewed economic dynamics between developed and developing countries?
 6. Should there be differentiated timelines for developing and developed countries to achieve specific environmental standards as opposed to the Paris Agreement's unified goal?
 7. Could factoring historical emissions into current responsibilities and climate action commitments of developed countries prove to be beneficial in increasing efficiency of efforts?
-

Formatting Guidelines for Paperwork

General Rules

- Times New Roman, font-size 12, line-spacing 1.0, and justified alignment to be used for all paperwork
- No paperwork to exceed 4 pages (for convenience)
- British English language, spelling, and grammar to be used for all paperwork
- Third-person pronouns to be used exclusively (no first-person pronouns)
- Diplomatic language to be used everywhere

Draft Resolution Format

Title: _____ (Memorable Title in all caps; can be quirky/serious)

Committee: _____ (Name of your Committee)

Agenda: _____ (Agenda of your Committee)

Authors: _____ (Portfolios of 2 Authors who drafted the Resolution)

Co-Authors: _____ (Portfolios of 2 Co-Authors who helped draft the Resolution)

Signatories: _____ (All Portfolios who signed the Resolution to discuss it)

The body of a Resolution is written in the format of one long sentence. Every Committee must start off the body with their Committee name. For instance, the United Nations General Assembly should begin their introductory line with “The United Nations General Assembly,”

The _____ (Name of your Committee),

Apart from the introductory line, the resolution is split up into two sets of clauses. The first set is referred to as the ‘Preambulatory Clauses.’ These describe the problem that is to be addressed; they also recall past actions taken by the Committee. Preambulatory Clauses explain or define the purpose of a Resolution and offer support for the second set of Clauses. Each clause in the Preamble begins with an italicised word or phrase and is followed by a comma.

Preambulatory Phrases					
Acknowledging	Affirming	Alarmed by	Approving	Aware of	Believing
Bearing in mind	Congratulating	Contemplating	Convinced	Declaring	Deploring
Desiring	Emphasising	Expecting	Fulfilling	Fully alarmed	Fully aware
Further recalling	Guided by	Having adopted	Having heard	Keeping in mind	Noting further
Observing	Pointing out	Reaffirming	Realising	Recalling	Recognising
Referring	Seeking	Stressing	Taking note	Underlining	Welcoming

The second set in the Resolution is called ‘Operative Clauses.’ These are numbered and state the particular actions to be taken by the body. Operative Clauses begin with present tense active verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used to begin the first set of Clauses. These particular powerful verbs are italicised in the document. All Operative Clauses are followed by a semicolon, except the last clause which will be accompanied by a period.

Operative Phrases					
Accepts	Affirms	Approves	Asks	Authorises	Calls for
Calls upon	Congratulates	Confirms	Deplores	Designates	Encourages
Endorses	Further invites	Further requests	Hopes	Proclaims	Proposes
Recommends	Regrets	Requests	Resolves	Seeks	Strongly affirms
Strongly urges	Strongly advises	Stresses	Supports	Suggests	Transmits
Takes note of	Trusts	Underlines	Underscores	Urges	Welcomes

Important Points to Note

1. COP29 at GCMUN 2024 shall follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure.
2. Delegates are not permitted to use personal pronouns like I, you, he, she, etc; instead they must refer to individuals and themselves by addressing their portfolio. Example: the delegate of _____ (portfolio) proposes the following...
3. The types of paperwork under the COP29 mandate shall include working papers and draft resolutions only.
4. The motions of informal debate permitted shall include moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, and round-robins only.

—End of Guide—