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FACULTAD DE
DERECHO



UNMUN
UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

**STUDY GUIDE
2024**

Dear delegate,

Greetings!

It is with immense pleasure and anticipation that we extend our warmest welcome to you as delegates of the Economic and Social Council Committee (ECOSOC) at the University of Navarra Model United Nations (UNMUN) 2024. As we embark on this journey of diplomacy, dialogue, and collaboration, we are excited to have you join us in addressing some of the most pressing and prevalent global issues of our time. The ECOSOC Committee is composed of the following: President Patricia Eunice Marie de Guzman from International Relations (3rd year), Vice President Nicolás Estévez Barco from International Relations with a specialization in Geopolitics and Diplomacy (2nd year), and Secretary Luciana Alejandra Rodriguez La Barrera from International Relations (2nd year).

The Dais is eager to share with you the official topics for discussion within the ECOSOC Committee, namely: exploring the question of solidarity and interventionism in China's international economic growth; and energy security strategies in a green-transitioning world. The topics set before you are not only crucial but also demand innovative thinking and collaborative efforts for the aspects of the economy and society. To assist you in your endeavors, the Dais has meticulously crafted a study guide that will aid you in structuring your country's position towards the issues at hand. This guide is intended to serve as a roadmap for your discussions and will provide valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of the topics.

We hold steadfast in our elevated expectations that the UNMUN 2024 will transcend the boundaries of traditional learning, offering you an unparalleled opportunity to not only expand your knowledge and understanding of international relations and affairs, but also to forge lasting connections and friendships. As the Dais, we earnestly anticipate that each of you, as delegates, will contribute wholeheartedly to the diverse atmosphere of this committee by fostering not just debates, but meaningful exchanges of ideas and thoughtful deliberations. We encourage you to engage in these discussions with an open mind and an unwavering commitment, allowing yourself to be challenged and inspired by the diverse viewpoints that will surround you.

Undoubtedly, our expectation is rooted in the belief that you, as youthful leaders and thinkers, will rise to the occasion with unwavering dedication and creativity. Your contributions, be they in the form of thought-provoking arguments, innovative solutions, or empathetic engagement, will lay the foundation for positive change on a global scale. We are very confident that your active participation and intellectual curiosity will set an exemplary standard, paving the way for a conference that not only meets our hopes but exceeds them.

Hence, should you have any questions, concerns, or require guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, the Dais. Your success and satisfaction are of paramount importance, and we are here to support you in every way possible.

Once again, welcome to the ECOSOC Committee of the University of Navarra Model United Nations 2024. We eagerly await the dynamic discussions, innovative solutions, and meaningful interactions that are sure to characterize this conference.

Best regards,

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THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, which was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. It has the responsibility of promoting international cooperation and development in economic and social grounds globally. With the organ being made up of 54 member states that are elected by the General Assembly for a rotating period of three years, the ECOSOC was a pivotal platform to address multifaceted challenges in the global scale, with the aim of achieving world peace and stability.

In order to successfully fulfill their mission of working for economic and social development, the ECOSOC works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to maintain a deep connection and knowledge of the reality and perspective of civil society. Furthermore, the Council initiates an annual meeting in which high level officials and ministers participate in discussing major socio-economic challenges worldwide, and develop mechanisms to tackle them.

Some of the priorities of the ECOSOC can be established as follows:

- Achieve sustainable development: by ensuring that economic growth is inclusive, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable.
- Address financial and trade issues: through the promotion through the coordination of international economic policies that enhance global economic stability and resilience.
- Eradicate poverty: by creating strategies that ensure everyone has access to resources, basic services and equal opportunities for all, regardless of religion, race, social status.

Hence, the essence of the ECOSOC cannot be exaggerated. It is the anchor of the United Nations' development structure, fostering the involvement of various specialized agencies, programs, and funding mechanisms in developing policies for the socio-economic challenges being addressed, and the monitoring of the advancement of member nations towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which covers the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in marginalized and economically-challenged communities.

On the other hand, the ECOSOC serves as a platform for fostering dialogues among states, providing a space for transparent discussions and debates on global economic, social, and environmental matters. Moreover, the ECOSOC plays a relevant role in advocating for international cooperation, underscoring the significance of collaborative efforts between countries and international organizations.

Through these multifaceted functions, the ECOSOC embodies the commitment of the United Nations to foster a more equitable, prosperous, and interconnected world for everyone. In the global pursuit of prosperity and sustainability, the ECOSOC stands tall as a glimmer of hope and a foundation for international cooperation.



TOPIC A: EXPLORING THE QUESTION OF SOLIDARITY AND INTERVENTIONISM IN CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Introduction

The growth of China and its surge as one of the most influential nations in the international market is something that started no longer than 45 years ago, as China faced some reforms over their system and implemented a limited version of capitalism with a regulated economy system. Before 1978, "China maintained policies that kept the economy very poor, stagnant, centrally- controlled, vastly inefficient, and relatively isolated from the global economy" (Morrison, 2012, p. 2).

As stated by the World Bank (2023), China's GDP has kept an average of nine percent growth annually during the past decade, being 2010 one of their best years, even though the world was still recovering from the 2008 crisis. This has allowed the poverty levels of the country to diminish as more than 800 million people have overcome poverty in China thanks to the measures implemented.

To be more exact, in words of Amadeo (2020), "China fueled its former spectacular growth with massive government spending", and they did so as the government, through the hybrid economical system they manage, is the owner of important companies and sectors, like energy production (Amadeo, 2020). Moreover, they have focused on maintaining an exchange rate close in between the Yuan (China's national currency) and the dollar, this causing their products to be quite more competitive inside the market as their prices can be kept lower than the dollar-priced stuff.

The labor force is also a strategic concept to keep into account when analyzing how China has constructed the economy, as they have access to the second biggest population of the world. This advantage over the United States, gives them the opportunity of producing much more at a higher speed and level than other countries, but keeping low prices as the labor is cheap and accessible. Now, all is not going as good as it used to, because it seems that the economy from the "Asian giant" has reached their limit of growth and they would need of new reforms and opening in order to keep gaining terrain in the international trade context as they have been doing so (Cerdeiro & Jain-Chandra, 2023).

If it is the solidarity of the Chinese economy, it is supposedly intended by the government to regulate their market in order to assure a good development of the economy of the country, and by doing so, making sure that poverty levels and underdevelopment of certain regions of the country is transformed.

Scope of the problem

Solidarity on China's economic growth

China's economic progress during the last few decades has been exceptional, and it has been the topic of intense debate and criticism in the international community. According to Knight and Ding (2012), the world's notable rate of economic development during the last three decades has contributed to global trade and finance. This has established China as a global economic powerhouse, emphasizing its significance in the international system.

Ever since China began to open up to the international sphere and reform its economy in 1978, the gross domestic product (GDP) of China has averaged more than nine percent annually, positioning itself as a key player in the global economy. According to the World Bank (n.d.), over 800 million people have uplifted themselves out of poverty, and been provided access to improved healthcare and education. China has shared through their joint study at the World Bank in 2022, named Four Decades of Poverty Reduction in China: Drivers, Insights for the World, and the Way Ahead, that China focuses on "...achieving endogenous development in areas that have been lifted out of poverty and introduce vigorous measures to support rural revitalization...through industry development, human capital, culture, ecological environment and local governance." Moreover, the approach of China towards poverty reduction is focused on two pedestals: broad-based economic transformation for more economic opportunities, and the recognition of the essence of targeted support for the alleviation of poverty.

China's rise to upper-middle-income status demonstrates the persistent dedication of the country to economic stability and progress. Even in the face of global economic uncertainties, China has demonstrated impressive endurance, serving as a stabilizing power far beyond its boundaries. The national commitment to conservative fiscal policies, excellent financial management, and smart economic planning has not only secured its own stability, but has also cooled the global economic environment. During periods of external instability, China's consistent economic performance has instilled trust in international markets and investors, serving as a dependable anchor in a volatile global economy.

In fact, according to the International Trade Administration (2023), the economy of China is bigger than those of the next four economies—namely Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and India—combined. Likewise, McPhillips (2015) stated that the imports of China have doubled ever since 2007, and tripled since 2004, making it a rate that is more than twice as rapid as the global imports. Consequently, this role as a stable haven emphasizes China's expanding prominence on the global arena, as well as its critical contribution to the overall well-being of the world.

From poverty reduction, to economic stability and development, it can be analyzed that multiple countries across the world refer to unity and cooperation for mutual benefit and common goals, which is the main definition of solidarity. The commitment of China to infrastructure development through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is their massive infrastructure and economic development project that aims to improve global connectivity by building a network of infrastructure, has fostered economic cooperation and trade with countries across regions, facilitating trade and investment flows. The country's prudent fiscal policies, effective management of financial institutions, and judicious handling of economic challenges have instilled confidence in global markets. An example of this would be Pakistan because of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is the flagship of the BRI. By creating modern transportation networks, many energy projects, and special economic zones, the CPEC intends to rapidly modernize Pakistan's essential infrastructure, consequently bolstering its economy to some extent (Khan, 2015). With China investing in Pakistan for 62 million USD, the governments of China and Pakistan strongly and zealously aim to drive the narrative of the CPEC and its success.

Another example would be Kenya, as China believes in the massive potential that Africa carries through its frontier full of natural resources and future trade possibilities (Munene, 2022). Even if Africa is always perceived as a “hopeless continent,” China took this as a chance to be a friend and partner especially on aspects of infrastructure, policy, and trade. Thus, 52 out of 55 member states of the African Union are now part of the BRI. Likewise, 149 countries and 32 international organizations have made an agreement on more than 200 documents with the Chinese government to participate in the BRI.

Moreover, the international community has presented their intentions of solidarity with China in more aspects. For example, China conserves bilateral investment agreements with more than a hundred countries, as well as 16 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with its international trading partners, including the ASEAN, Singapore, Peru, and Taiwan (Privacy Shield Framework, n.d.).

These agreements have granted many businesses with entrance to the markets of their trading partners, which increases exports and sales. On the other hand, such trade deals open doors to more investment opportunities to increase employment and technological transfer. According to the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics (2015), China has been effectively valuable in the economy of the United Kingdom (UK) when their trading partnership rose in 2004, making the country the second biggest import partner in the UK, taking into account 7% of 2014 imports in contrast to 3.3% in 2004. At the same time, the growth of the economies in the BRIC, namely Brazil, Russia, India, and China, have become revolutionary in the global economy, which was mainly influenced by China. In fact, China was the only country to have had an outstanding footprint on the movement of goods within the UK, followed by the United States.

Consequently, China has a noteworthy importance as a member state in the World Trade Organization (WTO). With China possessing the largest population in the world, the country is perceived as a significant figure in international trade, which carries implications for the trading system in the global market. According to Boden (2013), the accession of China to the WTO assisted both the Chinese community and the global economy through the increase in exports, decrease in tariff fees on Chinese imports and products, exponential growth in the export market, and flexible investment limitations for higher national capital.

With this said, in the case of solidarity in the Chinese economy, the intention of the government is to regulate their market in order to assure economic development in the country, making sure that poverty levels and underdevelopment of certain regions of the country is transformed. Likewise, the impact of solidarity has been a vital and transforming force in China's incredible economic growth journey. This attitude of togetherness and communal endeavor, even in the international system, has propelled China through decades of changes and challenges. As the country continues to evolve and adapt in an ever-changing global scene, the timeless value of solidarity remains a guiding principle, a nation can accomplish tremendous economic progress while also developing a more prosperous and peaceful society for all of its residents.

Interventionism on China's economic growth

The economy of China is a hybrid system in between capitalism and a regulated market and is one of the biggest worldwide economies. Consequently, this economy protects itself from outside influences as they do not abide completely and thoroughly by international organizations and treaties, but rather adapt them to their needs and decisions, meaning their economy is guided by and for the state needs and rules.

Ever since the rise of Richard Nixon as the President of the United States, when he decided to recognize the sovereignty of China and started implementing by "One-China Policy" demand of Mao Zedong, intervention has no longer been done inside this country's economy. Seeing this topic from the point of view of interventionism, it is more than clear that the Chinese government keeps intervening for the sake of their economy by being owners of the biggest energy companies of the country and other institutions that produce good revenues for the country. Moreover, they guide and do the regulations inside their economy as well as most of the investment has been historically done by the government in the company, or at least, regulated by them.

With such a connotation, the means employed in the path towards China's economic growth have raised multiple concerns, which contribute to the perception that it may not be economically beneficial on a global scale. One of the foremost issues casting a shadow over the economic practices of China involves allegations of unfair trade practices. Silver (2021) shared that the United States has accused China of "skewing the playing field" by the utilization of "unfair trade practices," including but not limited to privileged treatment for state enterprises and data limitations. Likewise, Australia argued that there is inconsistency with China's conduct, taking into account their commitment to the WTO. On the other hand, accusations of currency manipulation and the proliferation of intellectual property theft, often brought up by the United States, have fueled apprehensions about the equitable nature of the global economic landscape, as these practices can create imbalances and distort competition. Based on Silver (2022), China has accepted its currency value to be inferior to the 7:1 Chinese yuan to United States dollar peg that it has remained consistent with since 2015, leading to the 2.9% fall of the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) stocks, which was the worst daily depreciation of 2019 to. Because of this situation, the Trump administration perceived this movement of China as "artificial manipulation of its currency."

Furthermore, the human rights record of China has caused international condemnation. Recognizing China's actions of mass detentions to freedom restrictions, interventionists from many states and organizations have prompted action to stop them. According to Maizland (2022), the Chinese government has imprisoned over a million people, and subjected its people who are not imprisoned to various abuses, such as but not limited to extreme monitoring, religious restrictions, and forced sterilizations since 2017. Most of those affected are the Uyghurs, which are a predominantly Turkic-speaking minority in Xinjiang. The United Nations Human Rights Office has stated that the violations caused by China can constitute crimes against humanity, yet the Chinese government defends their position, saying that the rights of the Uyghurs are not subject to infringement.

Moreover, publicly available information on rape, torture, forced drug ingestion, and other abuses have been emphasized in many non-governmental organizations that advocate for the rights of this minority, such as the Amnesty International. These efforts not only draw attention to human rights concerns, but also highlight the complicated relationship between economic growth and ethical considerations on a worldwide scale.

Consequently, the extensive presence of state-owned companies (SOEs) is another problematic facet of China's economic environment. These SOEs wield considerable power in numerous areas of the economy, raising concerns about market distortions and the lack of a level playing field. In fact, as China started catching up with big industrialized countries, its productivity increases slowed. Likewise, Zhao (2019) quantitatively researched that Beijing's support for SOEs is one of the primary causes of chronic resource misallocation, keeping China from attaining high-income status. SOEs, as products of a centrally planned economy, demonstrate an ongoing battle to change into efficient profit-making machinery. This is a problem that China must closely take into account and reform for China to attain better market forces in the global economy. If China were to continue acquiring this type of competitive edge towards private businesses, then it may violate the principles that the WTO aims to uphold, especially on the aspects of subsidies, state aid, and fair trade.

Thus, the concerns that the international system carries about China's economic growth strategy go beyond purely economic considerations. They include concerns about trade fairness, human rights violations, and the role of state-controlled entities in improving the dynamics of the global economy. These reasons, taken together, contribute to the multifaceted critique that the economic progress of China may not be consistent with broader global norms of justice, transparency, and ethical behavior.

Taking these arguments into account, it can be understood that interventionism has involved external factors, such as state governments and international organizations, with the intention to interfere in the internal affairs of China's sovereignty in the aspects of politics, economics, and humanitarianism. These are all executed based on the perceived challenges and threats brought about by the actions of China within and outside their sovereignty.

For instance, the United States has been a very vocal critic of the economic actions of China, especially with how they impose tariffs on Chinese goods. According to York (2023), the United States is imposing a 25% tariff on around 250 billion United States dollars (USD) worth of imports coming from China, as well as a 7.5 percent tariff on more or less 112 billion USD worth of such. On the other hand, Downs, Wong, and So (2023) share that the European Union and China have evolved into being an international rivalry, as there are extensive hindrances within the core institutions of the Union and member states towards their relationships with China.

The European Union seems to be more parallel to the principles of the United States as an action towards the geopolitical aggressiveness of China and its treatment towards the Indo-Pacific region through the adoption of a “de-risking” strategy.

Without any doubt, the economic growth of China remains a source of significant international discussion, with supporters emphasizing solidarity and cooperation, and detractors invoking interventionism in response to a variety of concerns. Striking conversation regarding these viewpoints is critical for the international community as it navigates its engagement with China, ensuring that economic progress benefits all parties while addressing valid concerns about fair practices and human rights. Finally, the way forward is to discover common ground and cultivate cooperation in order to achieve global prosperity and stability.

The Impact of China's Influence

United States of America

The United States of America were originally supporting the government of Chiang Kai-Shek after the Chinese civil war, and they expected him and his massive support to gain back the control of continental China. After years of fighting and unfolding issues internally, the United States commenced talks with Chinese leaders and government officials. Although it was not an easy work to do, especially considering they before did not recognize them, their internal development and organization was proven more effective and stable than the others. Likewise, after long talks and negotiations, President Nixon recognized Mao Zedong's government and country as the official China, with some special treaties and agreements to keep supporting the government of Taipei in certain aspects.

This led other countries to recognize this new China, and for them to take the spot of Taiwan as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Recent issues have been presented after China's economic growth threatened the superiority of the United States in the international market and order, as well as its dollar hegemony. The United States' government has also approached more than they used to and have promised to protect that territory as it has a geopolitical value for them and the Indo-pacific, making tensions with China soar considerably more. Some custom tariffs were raised in order to keep competition with Chinese products during the Trump administration, and some Chinese companies were banned or limited, like the case of Huawei.

Forwardly, the United States has directly criticized the BRI of China as a trap for developing countries. This intervention from the project on countries and their economical or infrastructure programs has been commented on by the United States as a threat to their supremacy on international trade.

Russia

Russia and China relationship has been more of a complex situation than a cooperative one. Nevertheless, during the past few years they have come closer and strengthened their cooperation and mutual understanding. Russia has had to adapt inside the relationship as the roles of both on the international order have changed and China has displaced them as one of the most important economies. But Moscow has adapted effectively to this, especially because of the importance for them of maintaining good relationships with Moscow and abiding by their decisions as during the war with Ukraine, Russia has been considerably isolated and sanctioned by the occidental countries, so they have to rely on the solidarity of China with them.

Belize

The positive diplomatic relationship of Belize with Taiwan has been a subject of interest due to its potential implications for China's foreign policy and global influence.

Belize has maintained diplomatic ties with Taiwan ever since winning independence from the United Kingdom in 1981 as a result of Taiwan's assistance during the independence struggle of Belize. This connection has been strengthened by economic cooperation, with Taiwan contributing financial and technical support in a number of different fields. The support of Belize for Taiwan demonstrates its sovereignty and freedom to choose its foreign policy in accordance with its interests and principles.

This stance, however, presents China with diplomatic difficulties because it goes against the "One-China" policy and encourages other countries to recognize Taiwan. China may respond by applying diplomatic pressure and even limiting economic relations with Belize. Furthermore, China closely observes Belize's connections with other nations in the Caribbean and Latin America, which may have an impact on the regional balance of power. This has ramifications for geopolitics in the area.

Eswatini

Since 1968, Eswatini and Taiwan have maintained diplomatic relations, and this support for Taiwan underlines its sovereign right to pursue a foreign policy based on shared ideals and interests. This strategy, however, poses a diplomatic challenge for China because it contradicts the "One-China" policy and may persuade other nations to recognize Taiwan. China routinely exerts diplomatic pressure on countries that recognize Taiwan, which might have an influence on Eswatini's relations with China. Furthermore, economic cooperation between Eswatini and Taiwan has strengthened bilateral ties, particularly in sectors such as healthcare and education.

Eswatini's support for Taiwan reflects its autonomous foreign policy decisions, but also has ramifications for China in terms of diplomacy, political pressure, economic relations, and African regional geopolitics. The changing dynamics of this partnership continue to impact China's diplomatic contacts on the world stage.

□ Implemented solutions and policy actions towards solidarity and interventionism

Pro-solidarity

Brazil

Brazil and China's relationship has greatly deepened, especially in the areas of agriculture and commodities. Strong economic ties have been established between the two countries, with China being a significant purchaser of Brazilian agricultural exports. By supporting Chinese global economic projects like the BRI, and highlighting the significance of international collaboration on topics like climate change and sustainable development, Brazil has shown that it is in favor of solidarity. Brazil's attitude has still provoked discussions inside its own borders, notably in relation to the degree of its economic dependence on China and issues with environmental protection in light of rising commerce. Brazil faces a policy dilemma in balancing these objectives while preserving unity.

Germany

Germany has developed a strong economic cooperation with China. This is demonstrated by its strong support for the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI), a major agreement aimed at encouraging mutual investment between Europe and China. Germany's persistent adherence to this agreement demonstrates its commitment to strengthening solidaristic global commercial partnerships. Furthermore, Germany has taken a balanced stance by expressing concerns about human rights breaches, notably in Hong Kong and China's treatment of the Uighur community. Germany's policy complexities highlight the difficult balance it attempts to strike between robust economic involvement and persistent support for human rights.

South Korea

South Korea's policy for China's worldwide economic growth is notable for its diversified approach. Recognizing China's importance as a key trading partner, South Korea has taken strong steps to develop economic ties with its neighbor. South Korea has taken a diplomatic stance on delicate issues such as North Korea's disarmament, avoiding direct disagreement. Furthermore, South Korea and China have partnered on a number of regional economic initiatives, indicating South Korea's support for unification. This policy highlights the delicate balancing act that South Korea must do in order to combine its economic objectives with its diplomatic duties.

Pro-interventionism

Australia

Concerning the expansion of China's global economy, Australia has shifted more and more in favor of intervention. Concerns over economic dependence and worries about China's expanding influence in the Indo-Pacific have driven Australia to take a more forceful attitude. The Australian government has put policies in place to examine foreign investments more carefully, especially those from China, and has voiced worries about things like violations of human rights. To lessen dependency on the Chinese market, the nation has aggressively worked to diversify its trading links. Australia's interventionist strategy represents a reaction to both strategic and economic factors.

India

In reaction to China's economic growth, India has taken an interventionist stance. India is closely examining its economic ties with China as a result of border issues and geopolitical concerns between the two countries. Due to national security concerns, India has placed limitations on Chinese purchases, notably in the technology sector. India has meanwhile worked to deepen its ties with other Asian nations in an effort to balance off China's dominance in the area. India's interventionism is motivated by both geopolitical and economic factors.

United States

The United States has actively interfered with China's expansion of its foreign economy. A number of interventions have been spurred by worries about trade imbalances, infringements on intellectual property rights, and breaches of human rights. Due to alleged economic threats, the United States started a trade war with China by placing taxes on Chinese goods. The United States government has also taken action to prevent the transfer of several essential technologies to China, reinforcing its interventionist stance. Geopolitical factors, such as rivalry for technical dominance and power in Asia, have also contributed to the ferocious interventionism of the United States.

Intergovernmental responses

United Nations

In response to China's global economic rise, the United Nations has adopted a number of tangible interventionist and solidarity initiatives. One of these methods is to promote fair and transparent trading practices, especially through organizations such as the World trading Organization (WTO).

The World Commerce Organization (WTO) is a critical component of the United Nations' efforts to build a rules-based system of international commerce. As a member of the WTO, China is governed by its rules and dispute-resolution systems. The UN, through the WTO, wants to participate in discussions and settle trade disputes with China on trade-related issues such as market access, tariffs, and subsidies, eventually ensuring that China conforms to equitable trading practices and international trade norms.

Likewise, the UN has also promoted the alignment of China's BRI. The UN has actively engaged with China regarding its ambitious BRI. While the BRI aims to promote economic connectivity and infrastructure development, it has raised concerns about debt sustainability, transparency, and environmental impacts. The UN has encouraged China to align the BRI projects with sustainable development goals and international standards. This engagement demonstrates the UN's role in encouraging responsible international economic growth.

The UN promotes openness in global trade practices and urges states, particularly China, to abide by established laws and standards by monitoring trade protectionist measures through programs like Global Trade Alert. These coordinated actions demonstrate the UN's dedication to promoting global economic cooperation while stepping in where required to uphold fairness and established norms.

International Laws

In order to foster economic growth while preserving sustainability standards, the UN also highlights the importance of trade in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), like the SDG 8, which stands for "Decent Work and Economic Growth", aiming to ensure that economic growth benefits all members of society, promote decent work, and create opportunities for personal and professional development while safeguarding the environment and promoting global cooperation.

In the same way, the UN, for instance, promotes the reduction of trade barriers and the simplification of trade procedures, which can benefit China and other nations in promoting economic growth while adhering to sustainable development principles.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, known as the UNCTAD assumes a pivotal position in dealing with worldwide trade and developmental concerns. It extends its support to developing nations, China included, as they endeavor to become an integral part of the global economy. Simultaneously, UNCTAD actively promotes equitable trade principles. The organization offers invaluable policy advice and technical aid to empower countries in strengthening their trade capabilities and ensuring that their economic growth aligns with established international norms and standards.

TOPIC B: ENERGY SECURITY STRATEGIES IN A GREEN-TRANSITIONING WORLD

Introduction

According to the United Nations (n.d.), climate change is defined as the “long term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns,” both regionally and globally. Undoubtedly, climate change has received a lot of attention in recent years because of its profound and far-reaching repercussions. Rising global temperatures have resulted in a chain reaction of environmental changes, which are mostly driven by the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as a result of human activities such as the use of fossil fuels and deforestation. These disruptions include more frequent and intense heat waves, melting polar ice caps, increasing sea levels, and the amplification of extreme weather events like hurricanes and droughts (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, n.d.). As climate change continues to affect the world as we know it, it is critical to comprehend both its causes and consequences.

That being said, energy security has emerged as a critical issue in the context of climate change. Based on the International Energy Agency (2023), energy security is defined as “the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price.” It entails ensuring an uninterrupted and long-term supply of energy to meet the economic, social, and environmental functions of a community. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (2021) has shared that energy security is one of the four pillars in the Energy Cooperation in Achieving Sustainable Development that must be acknowledged. Additionally, energy security has several facets, including the availability of a varied range of energy sources, the durability of energy infrastructure, and the ability to respond to energy emergencies. Hence, it ensures that energy will be available and reliable, reducing vulnerabilities to supply disruptions and price changes, and understanding energy security is critical in the context of reducing the effects of climate change because it overlaps directly with the transition to cleaner and more sustainable energy systems.

As the international world recognizes the critical need to tackle climate change, a shift to cleaner, renewable energy sources has been one of the most urgent goals of most nations. This shift, often known as the “green transition,” aims to cut carbon emissions while also minimizing environmental deterioration.

To provide consistent energy access during the transition from traditional fossil fuels like coal and oil to renewable sources like wind, solar, and hydroelectric power, careful planning and infrastructure development are required, which is examined by the Net Zero by 2050 report of the International Energy Agency (2021). Furthermore, the intermittent and decentralized character of renewable energy sources brings both benefits and challenges in terms of energy security. As a result, comprehending the relationship between energy security and the green transition is critical for guiding the world toward a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

Scope of the Problem

In this quickly changing global environment, understanding energy security is essential. For economic stability, national security, and overall quality of life, an area or country must be able to provide a sustainable, inexpensive, and stable supply of energy resources. It includes a number of aspects, such as the diversity of energy sources, the robustness of the infrastructure, the geopolitical stability, and environmental sustainability.

To fully grasp energy security, we must first understand how energy, technology, politics, and the environment are all interconnected. This is especially crucial as the world consumes more energy and we need to shift to cleaner sources. When we understand this, it allows politicians, corporations, and ordinary citizens to make more informed energy decisions, become less susceptible, and strive toward a greener future.

Energy security is a multifaceted concept that holds great importance in today's world. Essentially, it ensures a nation's or region's cost-effective energy supply. Among the different facets of energy security are:

- **Resource Availability:** This entails guaranteeing a steady and diversified supply of energy sources, which can include nuclear power, renewable energies, fossil fuels, and other options.
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** It means making sure that the things like power plants, the wires that carry electricity, and how electricity is spread around can stay working even if there are big problems like natural disasters, cyberattacks, or other dangers.
- **Geopolitical Stability:** Using less energy from places where there's trouble like political issues, and being careful about the problems that can come from depending too much on those places for energy.
- **Economic Affordability:** Maintaining competitive energy pricing for both consumers and companies, which helps to economic growth and stability.

Additionally, green energy is generated or extracted from natural resources and whose processes have a low impact on the environment. Some of these sources include solar power, which harnesses the energy of the sun through a forward-facing process.

A key aspect of green energy is its renewable capacity and sustainability. This means that this type of energy will not deplete a resource from Earth and that the resources needed for it will continue to reproduce naturally. Green energy has also become more implemented in recent times as it is crucial to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that traditional energy sources imply by relying on fossil fuels. Some of the new green energies are considered to be milestones in the fight against climate change.

Some of the types of green energy include the following:

Solar Power

This type of renewable energy is produced by using photovoltaic cells that capture the sunlight and turn it into electricity. When sunlight is directed to the solar cells it causes "...electrons to be released from semi-conductive materials such as silicon. These electrons are then directed by an electric field surrounding the wafer, producing an electrical current" (Mathews, 2023).

The advantages of solar energy, as all of the following green energies, is that it is an alternative against fossil fuels. As stated by Jhonston (2015), the sun presents statistics and data that assure that it will keep functioning in the solar system for the following billion years, with no tendency or indication that it will suffer any stop or alter to the current system, so producing energy from this source will still be sustainable and viable. At last, the solar panels have a low environmental impact as solar cells do not require any water while generating electricity (Jhonston, 2015).

Some of the disadvantages are starting to be seen as the lifespan of a solar panel is 25- 30 years (Glover & Tynan, 2023). The lifespan mentioned before is not referring to their production of energy, but it implies that their efficiency and quality will be affected. When they are finally decomposed or damaged, the recycling process is more expensive. "It costs less than one USD to dump a panel in a landfill and between 12 to 25 USD to recycle it, but only three USD is paid out for recovered aluminum, copper, and glass" (Lewis, 2020). Having said this, people in cases will not be doing the proper recycling of these panels and they would be more e-waste for the planet.

Wind Power

With turbines particularly suited to offshore and higher altitude sites, wind energy uses the power of the flow of air around the world to push those turbines that then generate the electricity. To clarify how these turbines work, it can be said it is the opposite functioning of a vent. A vent needs electricity that allows it to move the engine and generate some wind, while the turbines for wind power need wind to move them in order for them to move and generate electricity.

The advantages of wind power may be cataloged by being a clean and renewable source of energy that results in no greenhouse gas emissions. It has low costs for its operation, and the maintenance is low. The land occupied by wind turbines, can be used for other purposes, and needs with no inconvenience for the generation of this type of energy. And in the social aspect, the implementation of this technology has helped to develop more jobs in the United States (Pros and cons of wind energy, 2022) as well as in other countries.

The disadvantages of this technology is that it is too dependent on climate variables, so when weather conditions are not appropriate, it cannot generate energy (Pros and cons of wind energy, 2022). Moreover, the ideal locations for these turbines are usually remote from cities for which the energy is mostly needed.

Hydropower

Also known as hydroelectric power, hydropower is a type of green energy source that uses the flow of water in rivers, streams, dams or elsewhere to produce electricity. It relies on the constant flow of water through the places.

Some of the advantages of this source of energy is that they do use the water in the process, but unlike those of fossil fuels, this water is not contaminated or eliminated during the energy creation process. Hydropower is one of the most efficient green energies and gets to meet the peaks of energy needs, or in cases, even allow a country to sell energy produced by their hydropower. Although building and installing hydropower is an expensive process, it is cost-effective in the long run (Carrasco, 2020). Some also have developed technologies to use the same source of the hydropower for irrigating crops near the area.

Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy is a form of energy that comes from heat stored under the surface of the earth on its hot water reservoirs (Energy Information Administration, 2022). It is a growing industry for green energies.

One of its most important advantages that differentiates it from solar, hydro, and wind energy production, is that it is not dependent on weather conditions, making it more reliable. Different from the previous three types of green energy, this one has a minimum land occupation or footprint. At last, the infrastructure implemented for geothermal energy is long-lasting,

Nevertheless, it has some disadvantages and issues over its implementation. Firstly, it can only be built in locations that have the appropriate underground characteristics and reservoirs, it is expensive to build, and can cause instability on the surface of where it is being implemented.

At last, it generates solid wastes throughout the process and some scale, even releasing some amounts of sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide (Energy Information Administration, 2022), but it has no greenhouse gas emissions.

Biomass

Biomass energy is generated from organic material, such as plants or animals. Some of the most used materials for biomass are wood and waste (Turgeon & Morse, 2023).

Some of the advantages rely on how it helps for waste reduction and after installing, it has low operation costs. Although we use some of the organic material available, it is something that can be regenerated quickly, making it mostly renewable energy. It is possible to have biomass producing energy the whole day with no inconvenience in comparison to other green energies weather-dependent. It is carbon neutral, as the emission from biomass is neutral with the carbon cycle this organic material being used emitted during their lifecycle (Lane, 2019).

Moving forward, disadvantages from biomass start by the expense it turns out to install a biomass energy plant and the costs of transporting the organic materials to the location of the plant. Different from other green energy sources, this still has some carbon dioxide, methane gas, and nitrogen oxides emissions, that although they correspond to the levels the organic material would be emitting, they don't get to be carbon zero alternatives (Lane, 2019).

Biofuels

Biofuels are a fuel produced from living organisms or from metabolic by-products, like organic and food waste products.

As for the advantages, it is a renewable energy source as are organic materials such as plants, algae, or agricultural products that are all sustainable. As it can be converted into fuels it can help reduce the dependence on them. It carries carbon-neutral emissions, and helps reduce wastes accumulation, so in a future it would allow reducing landfill spaces.

Regarding disadvantages from biofuels, the efficiency of its production is yet to be strengthened. It needs a lot of raw materials for the process, and the process before producing a biofuel implies the emissions of greenhouse gasses, "the production of biofuels is not as green as one might think" (Andreas, 2020).

Historical perspective of energy security

On the other hand, energy security reveals a dynamic and developing idea that is intricately entwined with the political, technological, and economic dynamics of each age. In the 20th century, obtaining access to plentiful fossil fuels, particularly oil, to drive industrialization and modernization, was the main concern. The Cold War that followed the two world wars and increased the geopolitical importance of access to oil-rich regions led to an increase in the geopolitical implications of energy security. The 1970s oil crisis, which were characterized by supply interruptions and price shocks, highlighted the susceptibility of countries that depended significantly on a single energy source.

With that said, energy security began to include sustainability and diversity into its framework as environmental concerns expanded in the late 20th century, which increased the focus on nuclear and renewable energy sources. The shift to green energy sources in the twenty-first century has fundamentally altered the landscape of energy security, placing an emphasis on resilience, efficiency, and the necessity of addressing climate change. In order to develop successful energy security plans for the present and the future, it is crucial to comprehend this historical progression.

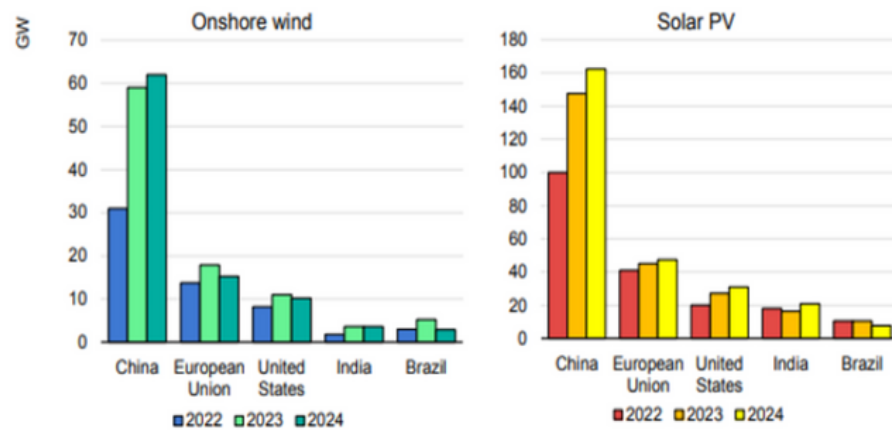
In the contemporary context, the interaction of many different elements is what determines a nation's energy security. Multiple energy sources lessen the risk of supply interruptions. Infrastructure that is resilient can survive risks like natural catastrophes and cyberattacks. Access to resources is influenced by geopolitical stability and energy diplomacy, but affordability is influenced by economic variables. Environmental sustainability is becoming more important as the globe adopts greener energy. The energy security landscape of a country is shaped further by energy efficiency, supplier diversification, and strong legislation, demonstrating its complexity.

Global trends in the renewable energy

According to the new version of the renewable energy market from the International Energy Agency, these are the following highlights stated by Galeazzi (2023):

- In 2023, there was considerable growth in renewable energy power capacity as there were added 107 gigawatts of energy following the green sources.
- Solar energy is still the one mostly implemented with an ownership of two-thirds of the green energy projected increase production for 2023.
- If the trends keep growing as they are doing currently, for 2024, there will be 8BCM (Billion cubic meters) of gas displaced from consumption.
- As the prices tend to lower on the implementation of solar panels and there is policy support for big projects, it is expected for this market to keep a considerable growth and implementation throughout 2024.

Net renewable electricity capacity additions by country/region, main case



IEA. CC BY 4.0.

Source: International Energy Agency (2023)

Nevertheless, this is not a generalized global tendency in any of the aspects, but rather it changes per region, having some with more investment in wind power and others with solar energy. It is important to notice, just as the International Energy Agency (IEA) does, that the economic capacities, the taxation, and the prices per country that this implementation of technology imply, make it harder for some countries to tend to grow faster, constantly, and effectively in these areas.

Strategies considered in transitioning to green

Diversification of energy sources

For increased sustainability and security of supply, energy sources must be more diverse. If an energy source is scarce or politically unpredictable, relying heavily on it increases the risk of supply interruptions and price swings. Diversification lowers these risks and improves capacity to react to shifting circumstances. For instance, combining diverse renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy may assist environmental sustainability by lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the volatility of the price of fossil fuels.

Additionally, diversity encourages technological advancement in the energy industry. Investments in a range of energy technologies encourage competition, drive down prices, and improve access to energy. Greater flexibility is provided by a variety of energy sources, enabling nations to adjust to changing energy requirements and environmental objectives.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Energy affordability: By increasing competition in the energy market and perhaps decreasing energy prices for both consumers and companies, diversification may foster economic stability and growth. ● Environmental Sustainability: Using renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower helps to maintain long-term environmental sustainability by lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the effects of climate change. ● Technological Innovation: Promoting diversity encourages competition amongst energy technologies, fostering innovation and technological improvement, which can result in more effective and affordable energy solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrastructure costs: Building and maintaining a diverse energy infrastructure may entail hefty up-front investments, which might put pressure on government budgets or drive-up energy prices for consumers. ● Challenges of Intermittency: Some renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, are intermittent and may not offer a steady supply of electricity, necessitating backup plans or energy storage, which can increase complexity and cost. ● Grid Integration Challenges: It can be difficult to integrate different energy sources into current systems, and grid modifications could be required to successfully use renewable sources.

With this said, there are some case studies that could be analyzed in response to the diversification:

- United States: The US has been working hard to diversify its energy sources. One notable instance is the expansion of the shale gas sector, which has raised the proportion of natural gas in the nation's energy mix. The U.S. has concurrently experienced a considerable growth in renewable energy, notably wind and solar power. This diversification has been aided by technical improvements, federal and state laws, and both.
- Portugal: Portugal is a European energy diversification success story. The nation has made great strides in decreasing its reliance on fossil fuels by investing extensively in renewable energy sources, notably wind and solar energy. Portugal has boosted the proportion of renewable energy in its energy mix through a mixture of subsidies, auctions, and legislative efforts, helping to create a more sustainable and reliable energy future.

Energy efficiency measures

Energy efficiency methods are vital across sectors, aiming to maximize output while minimizing energy waste. These strategies cut costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance energy security. Technologies like efficient appliances and LED lighting create a cleaner, sustainable energy environment, spurring economic growth and innovation while supporting a shift towards greener practices.

The importance of energy efficiency lies in its potential to address a range of critical challenges and provide numerous benefits, such as:

- **Cutting Emissions:** Reducing energy consumption through efficiency helps combat climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Enhances Security:** It boosts energy security by reducing dependence on foreign energy sources and supply disruptions.
- **Saves Money:** Energy-efficient measures lower bills for individuals and businesses, improving economic competitiveness.
- **Drives Innovation:** It encourages innovation in energy-efficient technologies, fostering economic growth.

With this said, a few case studies that could be researched regarding energy efficiency measures include:

- **South Korea:** Through a number of programs and legislation, South Korea has put considerable emphasis on energy efficiency. The nation has encouraged the use of LED lighting, enacted energy efficiency labels for appliances, and developed strategies for enterprises to save energy. The amount of energy saved as a result of these efforts is substantial.
- **France:** Both the household and industrial sectors in France have adopted energy-saving techniques. The nation has strict construction energy rules in place as well as financial incentives for energy-efficient house upgrades. In addition, France's energy efficiency initiatives target specific industries through the implementation of energy management systems and energy audits.
- **Canada:** Through initiatives like Energy Star Canada and the EcoEnergy program, Canada has been aggressively encouraging energy efficiency. These programs support the adoption of energy-efficient technology, appliance standards, and energy-efficient building design. Additionally, provinces and territories have their own energy-efficiency initiatives, which support national efforts.

Greenwashing

According to Hayes (2023), greenwashing is defined as the “process of conveying a false impression or misleading information about how a company’s products are environmentally sound.” Greenwashing has been a marketing tactic used by various businesses and governments to express capitalistic intentions. For example, according to TerraChoice (2010), 95 percent of so-called “green” products were advertised falsely. Likewise, the European Commission (2021) reported that 42 percent of the websites they researched contained exaggerated and deceptive green claims, and 59 percent of which did not have evidence to support their claims.

On the other hand, nations and governments are increasingly understanding the value of environmental stewardship in today's global setting. Countries seeking worldwide influence and economic advantage are eager to position themselves as sustainability champions, utilizing their green credentials to garner diplomatic favor and commercial prospects.

This approach has triggered a complex interaction of soft power dynamics, in which perceptions of environmental commitment can affect diplomatic alliances and global negotiations, transforming power dynamics in international relations.



Source: Villains Wiki (n.d.)

In the entertainment industry, a famous media franchise known as Disney has made an impression of greenwashing in the character of Sir Miles Axlerod, who is depicted as a manipulative, so-called energy efficient vehicle powered by a solar panel, and a promoter of an altered bioethanol fuel for cars, in the movie *Cars 2*. Nevertheless, this fuel he promotes as an alternative to fossil fuels is just not as good as it sounds, as he alters it with a component that causes motors to explode when exposed to high levels of radiation, making it to seem dangerous and hazardous. Moreover, his supposed transition to green energy is labeled as greenwashing, as Axlerod still maintained an old motor that requires fossil fuel to function and the solar panels were just decoration and not functional for his car. Hence, his entire strategy was intended to make green activists and biofuels to be manipulative, and seem as a failure for people to discard the idea of transitioning.

Impact of climate change on various nations

France

The proactive stance of France on green policies does not shield it from the far-reaching impacts of climate change. The country has witnessed more frequent and severe heat waves, storms, and rainfall variability, affecting its agriculture sector, particularly wine production, and increasing coastal erosion and flood risks in cities like Marseille and Nice. These challenges emphasize the need for accelerated climate mitigation and adaptation measures as France continues its transition to renewable energy sources and carbon reduction policies.

In France's coastal regions, such as Marseille and Nice, rising sea levels brought on by climate change are contributing to issues including erosion, more frequent flooding, and infrastructure damage.

The importance of France's commitment to climate action underscores the need to speed up these efforts and build resilience in order to keep France at the forefront of sustainability across the world. Transitioning to renewable energy and lowering carbon emissions are already under way.

Russia

Climate change is having a big and complicated influence on Russia, a country known for its pro-oil position and limited commitment to green measures. Due to its size and diversified topography, the nation is particularly vulnerable to a variety of climate-related problems. One of the most obvious effects is the permafrost thawing in Siberia, which threatens the stability of the nation's infrastructure, including its buildings, roads, and pipelines. In addition to having negative economic effects, these thawing increases greenhouse gas emissions by releasing methane, a strong greenhouse gas, that has been stored.

The health, agriculture, and ecosystems of Russia are being impacted by the increased regular occurrence of extreme weather events like heat waves and wildfires. Oil and gas development is made possible by the melting of the Arctic Sea ice, supporting the pro-oil position while causing environmental worries.

India

Climate change is having a big influence on India, a country with a high reliance on fossil fuels and a rising energy demand. More frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, and irregular monsoon rains have been brought on by warming temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns. These climatic issues have an impact on India's agricultural sector, which provides for a sizable amount of the country's population, resulting in crop failures, food poverty, and economic instability. The energy infrastructure, which mainly depends on coal and fossil fuels, is under extra stress as a result of rising energy needs for cooling as well as rising temperatures.

Given the enormous air pollution from energy production and transportation, India's pro-oil position and reliance on fossil fuels pose questions regarding public health and air quality. Premature deaths and respiratory diseases are caused by this pollution. India confronts a formidable task in tackling the effects of climate change and making the transition to a greener and more sustainable energy future, despite attempts to diversify the energy mix with renewables.

Implemented solutions and policy actions on the topic of green transition

Regional

Asia

The ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) is a regional collaborative project established within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address climate change issues (Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 2021). It was formally established in response to the ASEAN region's growing realization of the critical need to address climate change.

With that said, enhancing regional cooperation and coordination among ASEAN countries to more effectively combat climate change, increasing capacity-building efforts to assist member states in implementing climate mitigation and adaptation measures, and fostering stronger collaboration with international partners and organizations to access resources and expertise necessary to address climate challenges effectively could be points for improvement for the AWGCC. Furthermore, ensuring that climate action is linked into broader ASEAN development goals is critical to the group's future success.

Europe

The European Green Deal, launched by the European Commission in December 2019, is a revolutionary and ambitious policy aimed at delivering on the commitments that were expressed in the Paris Agreement, and making the European Union climate-neutral by 2050 (European Council, n.d.). It comprises a wide range of policy measures and investments aimed at addressing the grave concerns of climate change, environmental sustainability, and economic growth, and is spearheaded by the Commission under President Ursula von der Leyen. Some of the recent actions done by the Green Deal included the adoption of the energy efficiency directive and the FuelEU maritime initiative, both on July 25, 2023.

However, there are still areas for improvement, such as ensuring a more equitable allocation of transition costs, increasing support for regions highly reliant on fossil fuels, and improving collaboration and coordination across member states in order to meet the Green Deal's goals. Likewise, debates have been sparked in the convening of the Nature Restoration Law, which has been the target of an extreme opposition campaign, and has pit a union between conservatives, farmers, anti-left fishers, and unexpectedly, the private sector (Liboreiro, 2023).

United Arab Emirates

The Hassyen Clean Coal Project, based in the United Arab Emirates, intends to minimize emissions from coal-fired power stations by implementing more efficient and modern technologies.

While the project is marketed as a greener alternative to traditional coal plants, it is important to remember that coal is still a fossil fuel and a source of carbon dioxide emissions.

Coal-fired power generation, even with sophisticated technologies, is not aligned with the aims of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a more sustainable and low- carbon energy future from an environmental standpoint and in the context of fostering a green transition. In many situations, a full green transition entails abandoning coal entirely in favor of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric power, as well as energy efficiency measures and, where applicable, carbon capture and storage technology for fossil fuels.

So, while the Hassyran Clean Coal Project aims to cut emissions compared to regular coal plants, it does not constitute a true green transition because it continues to rely on a fossil fuel with major environmental and climate implications. A genuine green transition will promote renewable and greener energy sources as key sources of electricity generation.

Intergovernmental

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a historic international convention addressing climate change and its consequences. It was adopted by 196 Parties on December 12, 2015, during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, France. The Agreement entered into force on November 4, 2016, after being ratified by a sufficient number of nations.

The Paris Agreement is crucial because it reflects a global commitment to combating climate change and its possibly disastrous consequences. Likewise, the Paris Agreement provides a framework for climate action by bringing governments together to promise their efforts to limit global warming to far below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with a goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius. It underlines the importance of governments assessing and strengthening their efforts on a regular basis, promotes openness and accountability, and mobilizes financial and technological assistance for vulnerable states. In an era of increasing climate-related difficulties, the Paris Agreement serves as a light of international cooperation, promising a more resilient future by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable global economy.

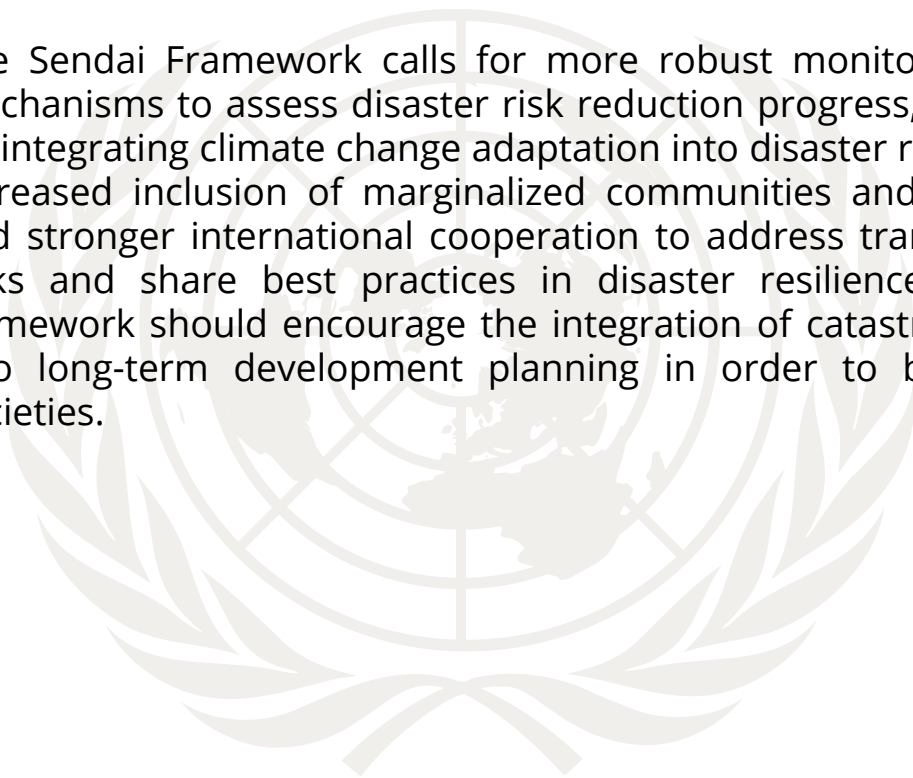
The Paris Agreement can have a greater impact by first pressing countries to considerably increase their emission reduction promises in order to meet the more ambitious 1.5-degree Celsius target, thus fostering a race to the top in climate action.

Furthermore, it is critical to improve finance systems to guarantee that capable countries provide appropriate help to developing countries for both mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Improving transparency and accountability, boosting technology transfer and capacity-building for vulnerable countries, addressing loss and damage more completely, and emphasizing a just transition for affected people are all critical areas for progress. Furthermore, encouraging international collaboration to address transboundary climate concerns and incorporating the most recent scientific findings into the Agreement can improve its effectiveness in tackling climate change.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is a widely recognized and comprehensive disaster risk reduction plan aiming at lowering disaster risks and increasing disaster resilience. It was adopted on March 18, 2015, during the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. The framework is being implemented by United Nations member states as well as a variety of stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Sendai Framework calls for more robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess disaster risk reduction progress, a greater emphasis on integrating climate change adaptation into disaster risk reduction efforts, increased inclusion of marginalized communities and vulnerable groups, and stronger international cooperation to address transboundary disaster risks and share best practices in disaster resilience. Furthermore, the framework should encourage the integration of catastrophe risk reduction into long-term development planning in order to build more resilient societies.



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