

Links:

<https://www.aosis.org/issues/>

Examples of Small Island States

- Tuvalu
- Micronesia
- Fiji
- Solomon Islands

PARTS A, B, C, and D (if possible)

Scroll down

Small Islands - Climate Change

B. Key Issues for the Small Island States

C. Background of Country/Group

- Geographical stuff - small islands surrounded by water and rising sea levels
- - all over the place
- Oceans have the biggest impact on them
- socioeconomic infrastructure
- Small physical size, surrounded by bodies of water
- very impacted by natural disasters
- relatively isolated must rely on themselves
- some have high growth rates

Part A Intro:

Good evening, we are the Small Island States Delegation. As you might already know, we are one of the main places on the direct frontline of Climate Change. At this moment, it is clear that climate change isn't just a problem that is pressing for the Small Island States around the world, but yet all the countries and places around the world. Although our Delegation only

contributes to roughly a little under 1% of all global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we find climate change the same as many of you here find it; one of the most pressing issues out there.

Which is due to its effects on the sea levels, the ecosystems, storms, and the temperature.

Climate change and global warming have had many devastating effects with some primary examples being an increase in power and occurrence for superstorms, rising ocean temperatures, melting polar ice; and rapidly changing ecosystems. “In 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) noted that the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration—with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding, and agricultural disruption. Since then various analysts have tried to put numbers on future flows of climate migrants (sometimes called “climate refugees”)—the most widely repeated prediction being 200 million by 2050.” Climate change has already altered the way our international system functions; its negative impacts will only become exacerbated in the future.

We are a delegation advocating for the small island states because with the limited resources we have, research and common sense says that with the rising sea levels and changing climate, we will face significant challenges when trying to defend against the urgent rapidly increasing threat. Hopefully, other delegations here, big and small, will be willing to help to find ways to combat the opposing threat of climate change and global warming.

For the Small Island States delegation, we ask for help with two solutions. The first of the two being a temporary solution which would be infrastructure such as building sea walls, using natural resources such as beaches, reefs or mangroves as a natural barrier for the rising sea levels, and also increase the storm water pumps. The second solution wouldn't directly involve us: we implore that some of the bigger places such as China, United States, India, Russia, and many others, including even the rest of the world as a whole, draw back on the amount of

pollution and emissions they put out. To fight back against climate change, we will need to work together as a whole so that we stop its devastating effects.

## Part B:

1. Rising Sea Levels
  - a. Island and low-lying countries were among the first to grapple with global warming nearly 30 years ago, as they began to experience its alarming impacts firsthand. Living at and below sea level, they faced worsening storms and floods, the loss of vibrant fisheries, and the intrusion of saltwater into land used to grow food.
2. Ecosystems being affected
  - a. At the rate of pollution, the effects of rising sea levels, and habitat loss, it is projected that nearly 40% of critically endangered animals or endemic species will become extinct. It's due to their vulnerable small populations, and no population outside of the islands.
3. Limited economic resources
  - a. Due to their exceptionally small size and remoteness, it is hard for them to continue expanding economically. Small Island States heavily rely on foreign aid as much as possible.
4. Limited capital capacities
  - a. The economy and the government will be struggling if there isn't enough money flowing. And because Small Island States cannot go beyond what is given to them by developed countries, this will leave them in distress.
5. Outsourced pollution
  - a. The Global North has produced a profound amount of toxic waste, and chemicals pollution not only the waters but the air we breathe. Like secondhand smoking in a group of people, these are developed countries causing harm to other vulnerable populations from these chemicals that, in fact, travel.
6. Not having enough geopolitical power
  - a. Due to their small sizes in comparison to powerful developed and emerging nations, the interests of these States were often marginalized in major international geopolitical fora. In addition, due to their location in the Global South (An area most made up of developing countries) developed countries are less likely to understand their struggles.
7. Food Shortages
  - a. With food shortages the island will not be able to feed the growing population
  - b. High import bills outweigh export earnings
  - c. Fish leaving the oceans and rising ocean level acidifying soil
8. Rising Population
  - a. Brings mass deforestation and forces a mass of exotic animals found nowhere else to go extinct
  - b. The average mortality rate for Small Island States remains high at 32.5 deaths per 1,000 births.
    - i. There is a need for more children for a bigger workforce.
    - ii. Women do not have the right to deny a man for a child, and this plays into social issues.
9. Animal Extinction
  - a. With rising sea levels, deforestation, and air/water pollution increasing, it's no doubt that this will challenge the many species that live on this Earth. The K-selected species will not have their suitable habitat if it is

destroyed, there will be fragmented habitats that decrease populations, and there will be health issues especially for citizens on Small Island States if we continue the way we are going.

#### 10. High Population

- a. The average population density for countries is 61 people per  $km^2$ . Although in lots of Caribbean Small Island Developing States it reaches 193  $km^2$
- b. Over population has increased animal extinction in the small islands massively because as the population increases,
- c. The amount of food needed to feed its citizens is too high to fulfill the need of its citizens
- d. Food shortages are being caused by the issue of climate change constantly affecting local ecosystems

### Part C:

The whole idea of "global awareness and the disappearance of small island states in face of sea-level rise" was brought into the spotlight in "October 17[th], 1987" when the President of Maldives had a "dramatic address to the UN". In 1992 the Small Island Developing States were finally recognized as a special case due to the environment and development. The SIDS got recognized through the course of "12 major conferences" which were designed to have many countries around the world meet to discuss pressing matters.

As of 1990 that SIDS have been a well trusted alliance known as the Alliance of Small Island States(AOSIS). AOSIS was created so that all the small individual island states could cooperate and work together so they could confront larger issues. In particular, the issue of climate change has been one of there most pressing matter in the last few decades.

After the formation of AOISIS, the document entitled *The Barbados Programme of Action* was published in 1994, and gave SIDS the permission to work toward sustainable development which could escalate to the national, regional, and international levels. 1994, a document called the *Barbados Programme of Action* gave SIDS the permission to work towards sustainable development which could escalate to the national, regional, and international levels. The BPOA focused on many main issues including "climate change and sea- level rise, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, freshwater

resources, resources, energy resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources, national institutions and administrative, capacity regional institutions and technical cooperation, transport and communication science, and technology human resource development." Confronting all these issues was a major step towards recognizing the dangers that are significantly affecting the Small Island Developing States and their relative vulnerability. . The BPOA was "further implement[ed]" with the *Mauritius Strategy* which was "adopted in 2005 by 129 countries and territories." In conclusion, the *Mauritius Strategy* was a prime example of the rising recognition of the issues of SIDS. This was primarily due to the constant threats and dangers that were put on the SIDS through external sources such as rising sea-levels and storms progressively getting stronger.

A few years later on September 21st, 2009 at the Climate Change Summit in New York, the AOSIS adopted further action through the Declaration of Climate Change. This document stated,"demands global average surface temperature increases to be limited to well below 1.5°C above pre industrial levels". Then a little bit later in the year at "Copenhagen in December 2009, the AOSIS put up the [1.5°C] temperature limit in their proposal and w[ere] supported by more than half of the members in the UN for the first time." As time went on, the AOSIS started to gain more support from UN countries. Despite the support, if we take into account the progression of global warming when it comes to problems like natural disasters, the support for the SIDS is not rising fast enough. Although support did start to rise, it led to another major document being formed to help out the SIDS.

Above all, the documents and agreements created to help the SIDS in some way; the conference in 2014 was the strongest stepping stone by far. In the year of 2014, "the international community gathered in Samoa for the Third International Conference" where they discussed

plans they could use to create "sustainable development."The document was called the “SAMOA Pathway” and its objective was to "recognize the adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise on SIDS" in order to "achieve economic development, food security, disaster risk reduction and ocean management" to just name a few. The SAMOA Pathway was focused on five particular advances which has ended up helping the SIDS currently and in the past as well(all can be found on the [UN website](#)). The first focus is “Promoting sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation”. The second advance is "Act[ing] to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programs". The third is "Protecting the biodiversity of SIDS and care environmental health by mitigating the impact of invasive plant and animal species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, as well as protecting oceans and seas". The fourth is in “Improving human health and social development through food security and nutrition, improved water and sanitation, reducing the incidence of non-communicable disease and by promoting gender equity and women’s empowerment". The fifth and final one is in the focus of "Fostering partnership among SIDS, UN Agencies, development partners and others to achieve these goals". All these goals and focuses put into place to help the SIDS out have all been shown to be all very true when it comes to what we should be focusing on.

Overall, the SIDS are made up of 38 UN member states and 20 members who are not associated with the UN. We host roughly “65 million” people and make up a little under “1% of the world’s population”. Despite having not a humongous percentage of the world’s population, we suffer through a massive amount of problems. The most pressing problems include rising sea-

levels, ecosystems collapsing, limited economic resources, outsourced pollution, almost no geographical power, food shortages, rising population, animal extinction, stronger storms, and high population. As the issue of climate continues, we are noticing more and more issues start to pop up.

The issues that face the SIDS currently need to be taken care of very urgently because it is drastically affecting the residents of SIDS as well as other countries indirectly through massive migration out of the SIDS. If we are to move forward without the SIDS going through more overwhelming massive crises, we will have to cooperate with each other and fight this oppressing issue as soon as possible!

Part D:

### **Committee Of Migration**

**What is your country's or organization's historical view of migration and its impact? What does your country or group see as the obstacles to and implications of integrating immigrants? Do global policies regarding migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers need to be reformed? If yes, in what ways? If no, why not? What is the current migration flow within your country – in or out? What is creating those flows Describe your expectations and commitment to policies regarding the United Nations' determination that climate refugees should be a classification. Do you agree or disagree that there needs to be a securitization of borders? Animal migration is an increasingly important issue as climate change is affecting ecosystems. Has your country or group been addressing this issue?**

People migrate to overcome poverty, conflict, and economic and environmental crises. Migration, in the words of the UN Secretary-General, is "an manifestation of the human ambition for dignity, safety, and a better future." It is woven into the basics of society, a part of our basic being as a human. "In the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly 74th session and the UN Climate Action Summit, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Permanent Missions of Fiji and Portugal in New York are co-organizing a high-level

event focusing on climate migration.” Climate change and its negative consequences are being felt strongly in all regions of the world, permanently changing migratory patterns. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the world's most vulnerable countries to the negative effects of climate change. Climate change's long-term consequences, such as sea-level rise and unpredictable weather patterns, endanger the livelihoods of citizens on Pacific, Caribbean, and Indian Ocean islands and raise the possibility of forced migration. Small Island States are also among the most prominent members of concentrated efforts. “The small island states have agreed to achieve carbon neutrality and to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030. In all, 77 nations agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050, with 70 pledging to improve their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020.”

To protect small island communities, AOSIS has taken the extraordinary step of developing a package of crucial climate change actions.” The SIDS Package, is a collection of cross-cutting initiatives and collaborations across the Summit's nine action areas. Each effort is SIDS-focused and SIDS-defined, and they are all dynamic, scalable, reproducible, and revolutionary – and desperately required to ensure our countries' long-term viability.” Climate change and natural disasters are, and will continue to be, key components of migration and displacement, and will continue to do so. Climate change disproportionately affects the poor. They are more likely to live in high-risk locations, have fewer resources for preparation, and lack information to plan for and respond to a disaster. They are the individuals who will have the most difficulty migrating. “National adaptation policies must assist persons forced or voluntarily migrating as a result of climate change.” They must educate migrants on the risks they face and help them develop the skills they need to adapt to new environments. “Bilateral agreements and international frameworks must guarantee the rights of persons who are compelled to relocate



globally. Migrants can place additional strain on infrastructure and services in their destination countries.” National strategies, actions, policies and must consider the needs and consequences of new climate-caused migration.

There is no one definition of climate-induced migration. However there are multiple aspects that can be recognized to be part of the definition of Climate change, specifically related to the category of Migration. One, those who are displaced by climate-related disasters, who frequently had to move temporarily; those forced to migrate more permanently due to repeating natural obstacles; people are forced to migrate to avoid worsening the slow deterioration of the environment; and those who 'choose' to move as an adaptation strategy, in response to environmental pressures and other factors. “People have traditionally fled their homes in search of refuge when disaster strikes.

Between 2008 and 2015, catastrophes displaced an average of 25.4 million people each year, both inside and beyond borders. The vast majority of these calamities (85%) were caused by climate change (extreme weather and related events such as flooding). Migration has been high in SIDS, increasing fivefold between 1960 and 2000. Out-migration per capita has increased the most in this group of nations. Future climate change poses a true existential danger to countries like Kiribati and Tuvalu, with 70% of families allegedly considering relocating (UNU-EHS, 2014). The migrant stock data confirms the increased trend in migration flows from V20 nations, LDCs, and SIDS from 1960 to 2000. (the number of migrants in host countries, by place of origin). The number of migrants from these countries increased even more dramatically after 2000.”

Following the tsunami in the Maldives in 2004, the government established a program to relocate residents from smaller islands to larger ones. 20,000 residents were relocated to neighboring islands, and half of them returned to their houses a few weeks later. However, because of the island's destruction, many people remained displaced. For the individuals who were impacted, the government created three sorts of long-term solutions; 1: Rebuilding homes and making it easier for people to return, but in safer areas if possible; 2: Providing housing and encouraging integration on islands where people have been temporarily relocated; 3: On deserted islands, where returning and resettlement are not possible, construction of new settlements and infrastructure.

Climate change response capacities will need to be increased, particularly in LDCs and SIDS. People find it challenging to move due to a variety of circumstances. However, a huge number of individuals are regarded as “stuck,” unable to relocate despite their desire to do so “due to a lack of means (Black and Collyer, 2014).” Due to the sea-level rise, relocation away from coastal regions may be necessary in certain SIDS, and some islands will have to be abandoned in total. Governments in both the origin and destination countries must support this movement, which will most likely include planned relocation. To help individuals with unpredictable seasonal fluctuations, harsh occurrences, and longer-term changing patterns, forced migration will demand globally accepted solutions and institutional frameworks.

Coastal floods, storm surges, and inland flooding can generate major social migration and/or relocation difficulties for SIDS communities who live near the shore, many of them in low-lying locations. People have already been displaced by rising sea levels and swells in a number of SIDS, including Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the

Federated States of Micronesia. As a direct effect of climate change, people are expected to be displaced more in the twenty-first century. Many SIDS' social fabric, traditional culture, and way of life might be severely impacted by this induced or forced migration and resettlement.

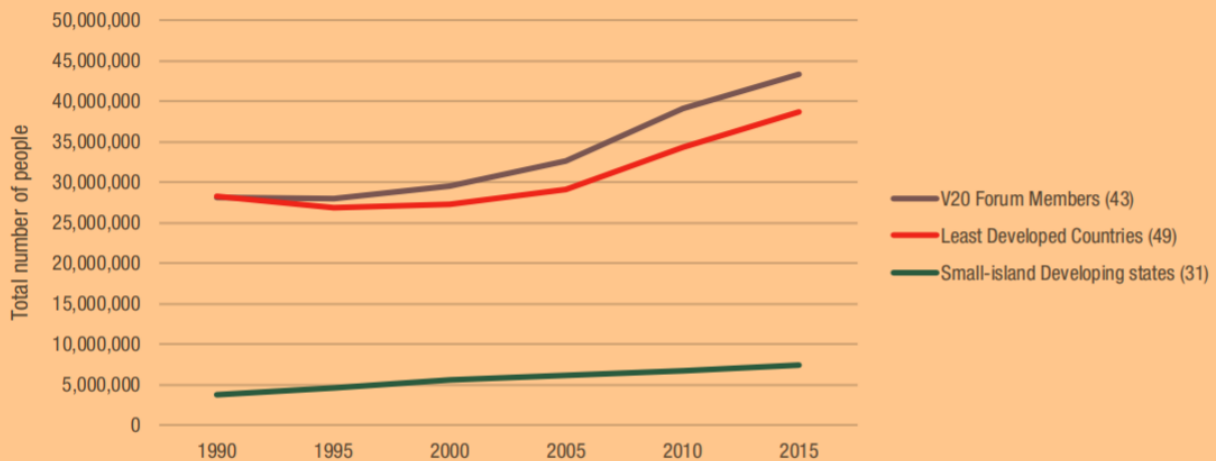
One solution could be to encourage less dangerous ways of earning a living. Ensuring measures to improve resilience, which must go beyond only helping individuals to adapt to their present sources of income. These initiatives must provide for less dangerous livelihood possibilities. It might also involve a shift to mostly “non-agricultural activity and increased market access for those living in rural regions. Adaptation techniques can be used to diversify income into less climate-vulnerable businesses.” Another solution could be to promote mechanisms for building capacity in least developed countries and small island developing states for effective climate change planning and management, with an emphasis on women, youth, local and disadvantaged populations.

Climate plans can't include actions for future migration since the timing of forced migration and displacement is unpredictable. In some areas, solutions are required for their entire populations that have been displaced from their homes. The most severe example is in SIDS, where people of certain islands may be forced to relocate because they will no longer have enough land to live on. Forced migration that is unplanned and for which governments and destinations are unprepared may cause challenges for national and local governments, perhaps leading to “humanitarian disasters”. Significant financial and human expenses/costs might be avoided with more predictions and planning preparations.

Voluntary climate-induced migration can be supported and prepared for as an adaptation strategy. For some people, migration is an adaptation strategy, assisting families in “diversifying

their earnings and reducing their susceptibility to the effects of climate change”. In the setting of certain SIDS balls, the capacity to migrate is crucial, and more assistance is needed to help these people and families' options to transfer safely and properly.

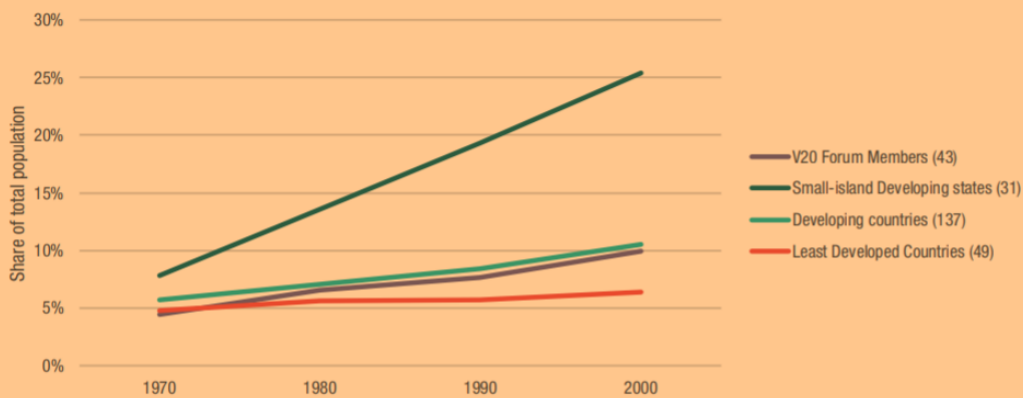
**Figure 1: Migration flows from countries vulnerable to climate change**



Source: Authors' calculation using WDI and Global Bilateral Migration Database (downloaded on 15/11/2016).

Note: The V20 are the 20 countries considered most 'climate vulnerable'. The numbers in brackets are the number of countries considered in

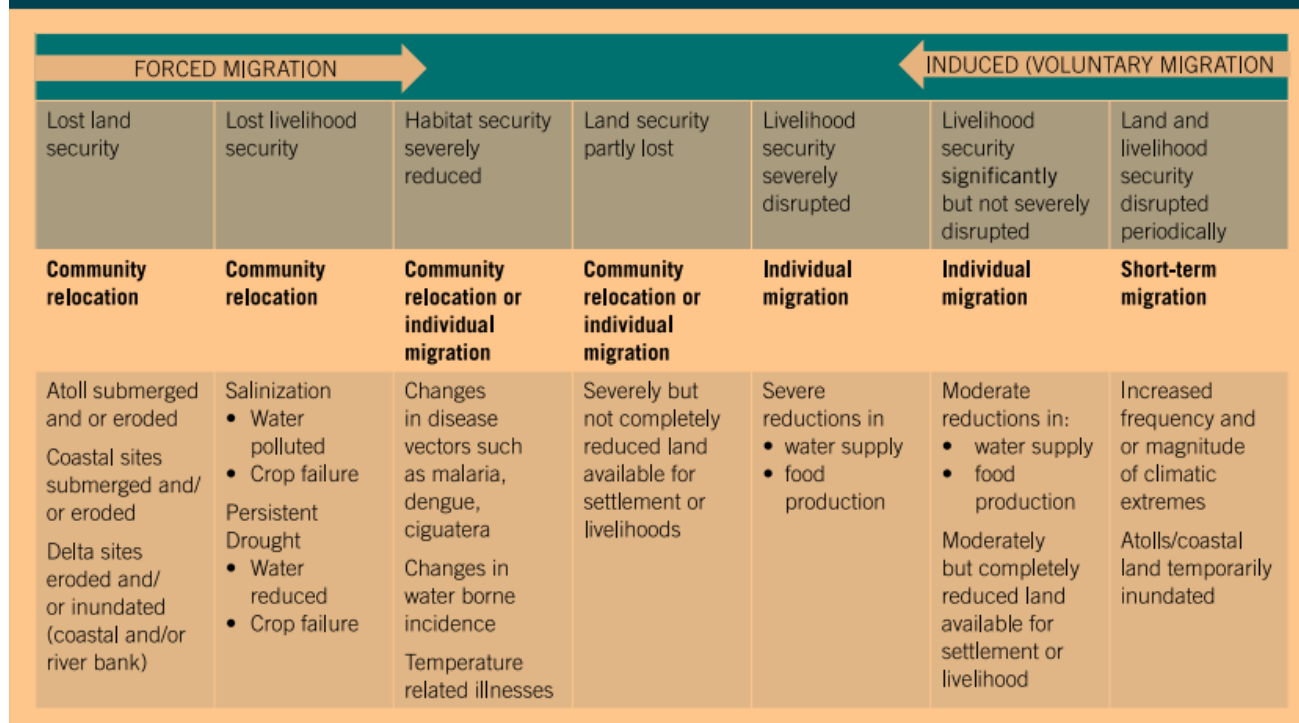
**Figure 2: Migration flows as a share of total population from countries vulnerable to climate change**



Source: Authors' calculation using WDI and Global Bilateral Migration Database (downloaded on 15/11/2016).

Note: The numbers in brackets are the number of countries considered in each category.

Figure 8. Links between loss of land, livelihood and habitat security, and migration



# ISLAND BIODIVERSITY



Islands harbour **20%** of all plant, bird, and reptile species



Islands make up **3%** of Earth's land area

## EXTINCTIONS ON ISLANDS



**1/3** of the world's conservation hotspots are islands

**7** of the **10** coral reef hotspots surround islands

Many island species are endemic

**12** of the **18** centres of marine endemism are around islands

## QUICK FACTS

### CARIBBEAN ISLANDS



**13,000** plant species



**170** amphibian endemic species



**469** endemic reptile species

### CUBA



**18** endemic mammals

### EASTERN MELANESIA



**3,000** endemic plant species



**149** endemic bird species

### MAURITIUS

**50%**

of all plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians



## ARE ENDEMIC

### POLYNESIA & MICRONESIA



**3,074** endemic plant species



**96** freshwater fish species



**292** bird species

## Committee of Security

**What are the major security concerns facing your country, or if you are a group, what are the major security concerns in the regions that you work in? How have recent events climate events affected your perception of security priorities, if at all? What military or security alliances and organizations are you a part of if any, and what is your role within these? Do these have a climate component? Do these have a refugee/migration component? Do you agree or disagree that there needs to be a securitization of borders? How has the pandemic impacted your view on global security? What countries or entities are you dependent upon for either acquiring your energy or buying your energy? Has energy been a source of cooperation or coercion for your country? Is your country or organization in a vulnerable geographic or strategic position regarding climate change or energy?**

At this point in time, the most major concerns facing the Small Island States are most definitely the problems of climate change, natural disasters, and rising sea levels. Climate change poses a big threat for all Small Island States alike because it is the root cause of all the problems we face. With climate change rapidly progressing due to the massive release of emissions, we are expecting a rise in sea levels covering the next three decades to be like no other. We will be expecting the sea levels to rise somewhere between 10-12 inches per century which is a high amount of sea level rise. Considering the past, this is very devastating because the sea level will rise more in 30 years (2020-2050) than it has in 100 years(1920-2020).

As you have just heard, that the sea levels will be rising 10-12 inches within the next 30 years, the thought probably comes across your mind that that is a very small rise of sea level and isn't and shouldn't be the main concern of the world right now. But I can assure you that this is a humongous problem that is gravely impacting our association. Before we face the true severity of this problem,, we should take adequate measures to make sure we are ready to deal with rising sea levels. Although I, as well as many of you here, probably agree that the best course of action would be to stop the problem before it is way too late.

Mainly, climate change is a threat to security for not just us, but the whole world too because of rising temperatures, and a major increase in storms. We in particular are drastically

affected by the increase in major storms. With our islands being small, our surrounding bodies of water unintentionally isolating us, and our high growth rates (among some of our islands), we are affected enormously when a storm comes our way.

These main issues of climate change, rising sea levels, rising temperatures, and an increase in strong storms, are going to come around and hit us all eventually. We ask and beg of the countries to unite nobly to fight these imposing issues upon us.

When it has come to recent climate events, my perception has been largely affected when it comes to the topic of security priorities. In my mind, as well as many of your minds, climate change was not a first-class issue. Although if you take into account recent storms, ecosystems being affected, rising sea levels, changing temperatures, just to name a few of the events we are dealing with from climate change, these are terrible issues. So, the realization of what is happening in the world around us has snapped us back to reality to show me where our focus should be going as a world right now.

The security alliances and organizations we are a part of are the AOSIS(Alliance of Small Islands) and the UN(United Nations). While being a small entity, we don't have a large role within the UN organizations and alliances besides bringing in a different view to the table and representing the people at the Small Island Developing States.

On the other hand, AOSIS is an alliance of all the Small Island Developing States so we work together to raise awareness and help each other out in general on big issues. We address the pressing issues of environmental and socioeconomic issues that we all agree are a big concern. One of the main things AOSIS works on is the projected sea-level rise happening now and in coming years. The alliance of the UN is our support and helps us out financially at times. The UN has another branch of itself called the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on



Climate Change) which targets climate change directly. The SIDS are currently negotiating with UNFCCC and have taken a major lead in implementing the convention.

The SIDS does not have a strong migration and refugee component. The reason is that people mostly migrate out of the SIDS and not into them because of natural disasters and the progressing threat of climate change. So knowing that fact, I take the side that the SIDS do not need more security at the borders, yet they need more protection when it comes to natural disasters and climate change. If we take into account the fact that SIDS (like Cuba, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, and Belize just to name a few) have many locations in the Caribbean. We know that they have a large population density of 193 per Km<sup>2</sup> (more than 3 times the population density of a normal country which is 61 people per km<sup>2</sup>) and so we are putting a large population at risk by not taking action against the imposing threats. Thus, we don't need to secure the borders but yet we need to focus on the issue at hand itself.

Personally, the pandemic has impacted my view on global security because we were shown how important world relations are and how relevant world connections are in this world. When the world shut down, many dependent countries like some of our SIDS were hit extremely hard by the pandemic because of less support for migration and just normal supplies. Although the views on security have changed drastically due to the pandemic. From our view, the world should be able to work as a unit in a pandemic or world affair. Instead of all of us scrambling around and making our policies for each nation very individually from the others, we should work together and make a united security policy so we can quickly and efficiently work our way through world crises. The inefficiency of the world pandemic has largely affected some of our nations. The world saw an average of about 10.7 cases per thousand inhabitants. Although when it came to some of our countries, they had a much higher infection rate. For example, the

Dominican Republic had 15.7, Cabo Verde had 21.3, the Maldives had 25.5 and Belize had 27.1 per thousand inhabitants. If the world worked better together to combat security, wouldn't have had that catastrophe from COVID-19. Not only would working together combat pandemics like COVID, it would also allow us to face the root cause of climate change like emissions.

Since the small islands are all small islands with a small amount of energy, they rely on getting most of their energy from imports. We are dependent on many different countries for the two types of energy we consume which are petroleum products and indigenous biomass fuels. The UN (United Nations) is the main supporter of the SIDS being able to get their energy. The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is currently working on a plan to put us on a renewable energy source so we will be able to be more self-sustainable through a transition to solar and wind energy. Energy has been a source of cooperation for the SIDS. The main reason is that we are uniting over the advancement of slowly converting to renewable energy. Although energy is just one of the many issues SIDS are going through, we are still extremely worried when it comes to climate change.

The SIDS are in an extremely vulnerable geographic position regarding climate change and energy. The reason for this is as each year goes by, climate change keeps progressing, and water levels keep rising. Not only this but as stated earlier, as temperatures get hotter the storms keep getting more and more severe. It is not only us who are being affected by these ravaging storms. For example, the US has been repeatedly hit by strong storms and natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and large-scale forest fires.

The main concern is rising sea levels. In years from now, small islands in developing states will be covered by water. The only way to stop rising sea levels is to lower the amount of emissions. To do that we will need to work together as a unit to oppose the threat of climate

change. Mainly the bigger countries that contribute so much to the full amount of emissions will have to be more regulated such as China(28%), the United States(15%), India(7%), Russia(5%), Japan(3%) and many of the others(21%).

Overall, the security for the Small Island Developing Countries is slowly deteriorating. The issue that's causing this decline is not the direct attack from other countries. But the rapid release of emissions pollutes the air and is responsible for fast-forwarding climate change. Sadly, if not much or nothing at all changes, the SIDS will be swallowed up by the ocean from sea level rise, and many other larger countries will also be strongly hit from the storms, change in temperatures, and sea-level rise as well. To stop this crisis, the world will need to unite as a whole.

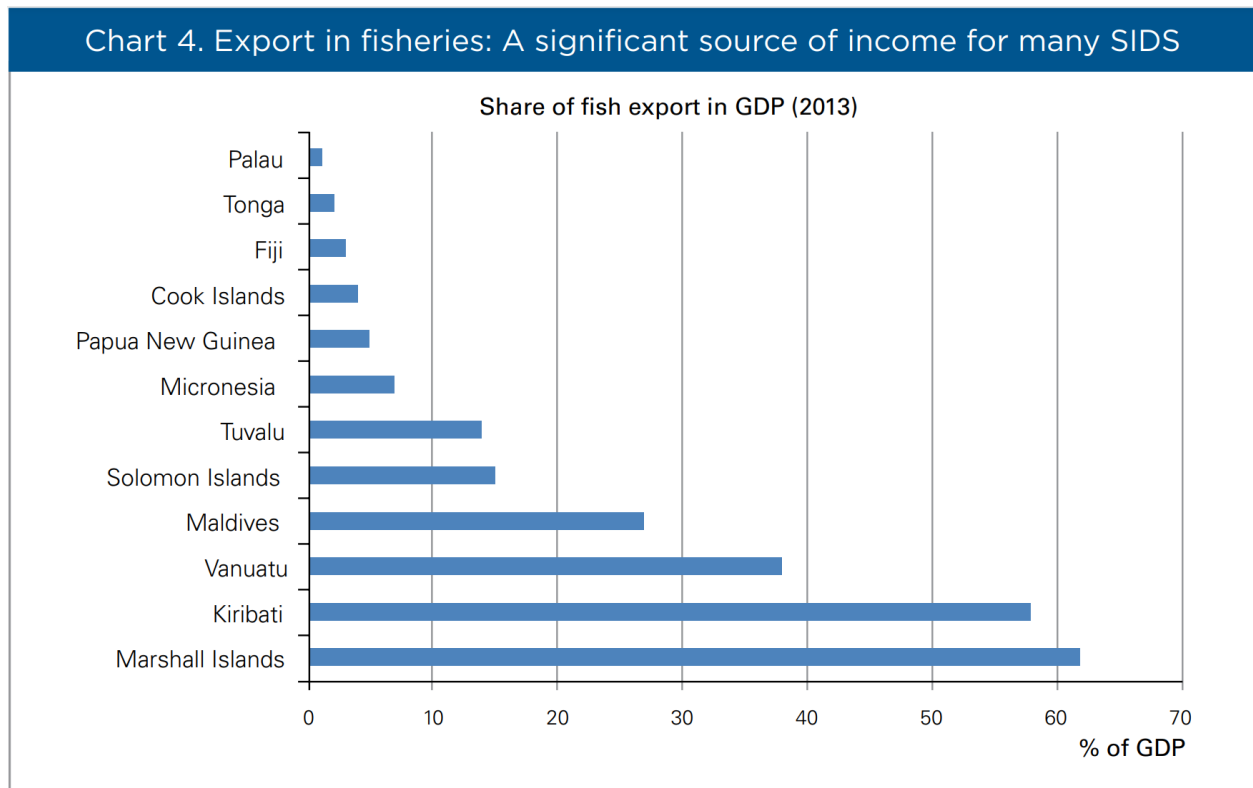
### **Committee of Agriculture and Food Security**

**Is your country a food exporter or food importer or both? What are your major agricultural industries? What percentage of your economy is dependent on the agricultural industry? What percentage of your food usage is domestic? What percentage of your food is exported? What percentage of your country is food secure? What percentage of your country faces food insecurity? Has extreme weather in the last ten years had an impact – positive or negative -- on your agricultural industry? In what way?**

As the global warming discrepancy gradually grows, agriculture and food security in small island states have been destabilizing. Small island states rely heavily on the fishing industry to earn revenue; Climate change causes the oceans to acidify, simultaneous droughts and rising sea levels, and fish turn away from the islands. Farming on these small island states has been severely affected by erratic precipitation. The effects of climate change compel small islands to import food, but the cost to import these foods

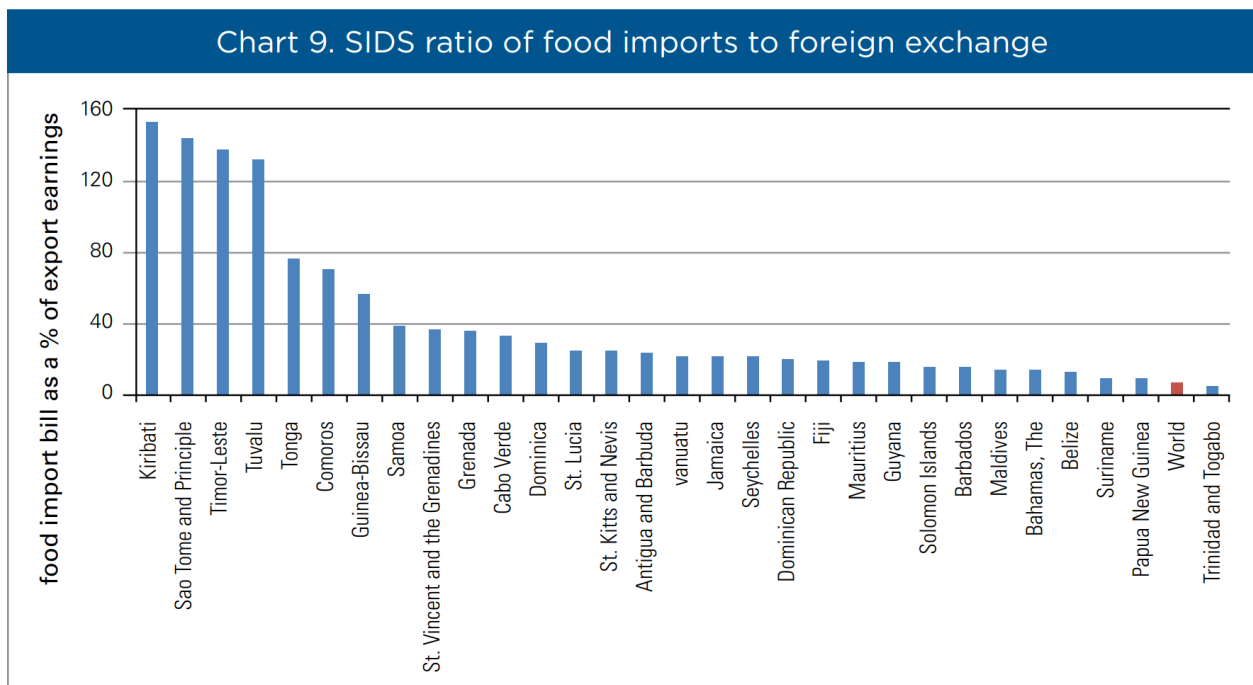
is volatile and excessively high. Global warming harms small islands environmentally and economically.

The fishing industry makes up 10% of the Pacific Small Islands' GDP. Climate change heats the waters, especially around the equator, where most fishing-dependent small islands reside. Fish move away from these waters into a chiller environment, and marine species that live in warmer waters replace them. The switch throws the fishing industries off-balance, throwing off industries with traditional ways of catching specific types of fish native to the islands. Native fish species leaving these islands also result in decreased profits, jobs, and capture rates.



Lesser but still prevalent production of food is agriculture. Most farms are family-owned; The exportation of crops is rare because of a lack of commercial agriculture. Climate change affects sea level and precipitation, endangering crops farmers want to grow. Rising sea levels cause seawater to seep into the ground and salinize the freshwater, damaging crops and preventing further growth. Unpredictable precipitation patterns can occur; Decreased rainfall would decrease the amount of groundwater for soil and fresh drinking water in general. Excessive amounts of rain would reduce soil fertility and degrade it.

Small island states are heavily dependent on food importation. The world food importation average is 7%, whereas small island food imports extend up to 50%. Food security amongst these islands is becoming bleak despite high importation rates; The number of undernourished people living in SIDS climbs over 60% above the global average (10.7% as of 2018). The price of food import bills vastly exceeds export earnings. Some islands such as Kiribati, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu spend over 120% of what they earn from exports.



Small island developing states produce less than 1% of greenhouse gasses, but they receive the worst consequences of climate change. These islands are losing their only source of maintaining a healthy environment as fish leave their waters and the soil becomes sterile. These issues also cause the islands to struggle with food security and import bills. As small islands face difficulties in exporting fish and crops, the price of importing food only rises. Their self-sufficiency has become a heavy dependency on fluctuating, uncertain food prices. Climate change makes small island developing states poorer and further vulnerable to worsening agricultural and food security complications.

### **Committee on Economic Development**

**What is the current state of your economy? Has your economy been affected by the impacts of climate change, positively and/or negatively? If so, how? If not, why not? Has your country been impacted by extreme weather? If you are an organization, how would you describe the impact of climate change on the global economy? Do you perceive climate change as a challenge to the global economy? What policies would be best for your country? What do you think about austerity measures?**

Small island states are a group of small islands in the world. They consist of having small but expanding populations, limited resources, remoteness, natural disaster susceptibility, sensitivity to economic problems, heavy reliance on foreign trade, and fragile habitats. Climate change can economically bring a big toll on small island countries because of their size, remoteness, and general climate.

Small Island States generally have exceptionally smaller economies because of their limited resources. As slightly implied before, small island nations face development challenges and it would be very difficult for them to continue growing economically since they're the most

susceptible to the disruptive effects of climate change. Disasters like extreme winds, flooding, and drought are primary examples of disasters that commonly occur within these small islands.

An intimate relationship with the waters benefits small island developing states in a variety of ways. Singapore, for example, takes use of its geographically advantageous location within the global trading system. The Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, for example, rely on their maritime resources. Tourism is a vital sector for the economies of all small island states. Unfortunately, a couple of small island states, like Tuvalu, are actually in the active process of sinking due to rising sea levels so their economy and foundations will be gone and cannot benefit from Tourism anymore. The same thing could happen to the rest of the other small island states sooner or later. The largest impact of climate change is that it could wipe off up to 18% of GDP off the worldwide economy by 2050 if global temperatures rise by at least 3.2°C by then.

Currently, there are few strongly effective solutions that can be done in order to save small island nations and their economies from the effects of climate change because it's starting to become rampant as time goes by. Their own economies are unable to save them for long. One potential solution is to pursue an active sustainable lifestyle: keeping an eye out for the environment - use renewable energy instead of fossil fuels through solar panels but that is of course, only the bare minimum and won't be highly effective in the long run. Another solution is raising people out of poverty by educating and supporting established environmental programs to improve conditions. This allows poorer nations to develop and when that happens, diet and healthcare improve, child mortality decreases and families are more likely to have fewer children. Other solutions like coastal fortifications and land reclamation have been considered but foreign aid may be costly. Developed nations like the United States, Canada, most of Europe and parts of Asia, or other developed nations are capable of supporting these small islands because of their superior economies.

All in all, small island nations are a group of small islands in the world. They consist of having small but increasing populations, limited resources, remoteness and high susceptibility to disasters, weaker economies, reliance on foreign trade, and fragile habitats. Rising sea levels are becoming a particular issue within these small island states and they are unable to save themselves with their lesser economies and it won't be so easy to save them as climate change is closely approaching them and it'll get worse in the near future.

### **Committee of Energy**

**Is your country energy dependent or independent? Who are you dependent upon for either acquiring your energy or buying your energy? Has energy been a source of cooperation for your country? Why or why not? What types of energy make up the most of your usage? What roles do fossil fuels play in your energy plans today and for ten years from now? What roles do renewables energies play in your energy plans today and for ten years from now? How would you describe the link between your economy and fossil fuels? How would you describe the link between your economy and renewable energy?**

Many small island nations that depend on imported fossil fuels plan to diversify into renewable energy to free up much-needed resources to help them adapt to climate change, reduce poverty, and develop sustainably. The world's 39 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from Africa, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific have met in Barbados to work on improving their energy efficiency. It's through the means of developing clean power sources for transport and electricity generation, including hydro, solar, wind, biomass and coconut oil. The aim is to wean themselves off costly imported fuels like oil. Tonga plans to become fully energy independent by 2020.

Others also are following the trend. "The small island developing states are writing the stories of their future," said Veerle Vandeweerd, director of the environment and energy group at the U.N. Development Programme. "They point towards a time when respiratory illness from cooking over smoky stoves is no longer a primary cause of death for the women and children of poor households; where girls can go to school instead of collecting firewood; and where students



have light to study through the night for exams if they so choose.” Some small island states, described as the most petroleum-dependent countries in the world, could free up to 30 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by switching to hydro, solar, geothermal or other renewable energy sources. The money now spent on importing fuel could be used to boost jobs, healthcare and education, or invested in new farming practices to keep yields up amid climate shifts, or initiatives to cope with rising sea levels.

Oil typically accounts for 95 percent of commercial energy use in the Pacific islands. Oil imports cost up to 29 percent of GDP in the Cook Islands, 15 percent in Tonga, and 9 percent in Samoa. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, UNDP’s resident representative in Barbados, warned that rising oil prices could lead to economic and social instability in energy-importing SIDS. “Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, building local renewable energy sectors, investing in green jobs and strengthening social safety nets for people whose livelihoods depend on imported energy is critical for gaining energy independence and poverty eradication,” she stated.

The “Barbados Declaration” adopted at the end of the gathering, hosted by the Barbados government, the UNDP and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, called for universal access to modern and affordable renewable energy services, while protecting the environment, ending poverty and creating new opportunities for economic growth. It also included an annex with voluntary commitments by 20 SIDS to move towards providing universal access to energy, switching to renewable power sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Host country Barbados announced a plan to increase renewable energy to 29 percent of all electricity consumption by 2029. This is while the Maldives states it aimed to make its energy sector carbon “neutral” by 2020. The Marshall Islands wants to electrify all urban households and “95 percent” of rural outer atoll households by 2015. Mauritius committed to boosting renewable energy, including solar, wind, hydro, bagasse (sugarcane fiber) and landfill gas, to 35 percent or more of its supply by 2025. The Seychelles set a target of 15 percent for the same by 2030.

Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart lamented that high oil prices have damaged the Caribbean region's fragile economies. For example, "Barbados spent \$393,538 million last year on oil imports, or 6 percent of GDP, which has impacted negatively on the overall competitiveness of the Barbadian economy," he states.

Energy is given high priority in the national development agendas of most Small Island Developing States (SIDS), because it's intertwined with social, economic and environmental challenges. Many SIDS are experiencing heavy fiscal burdens associated with imported fuels, having very low electricity access rates, and islands also having a strong interest in the transition to cleaner energy. They are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The paper presents a global mapping of development finance for SIDS' energy sectors. We analyze whether energy aid has increased following international commitments to support developing countries tackle climate change, and whether it's supporting renewable energy. Finance has also been targeted to different recipient countries based on either their income status, their electricity access rates, whether electricity access rates have substantially improved during this time, and if financial commitments are actually being disbursed.

There is an urgent need to improve the quantity, and quality of aid to help SIDS tackle their significant energy challenges. While the trend towards more funding for renewables is positive, low disbursement levels and limited support for strengthening local human and institutional capacities may be limiting its effectiveness. With rising oil prices, fuel import bills now represent up to 20 percent of annual imports of 34 of the 38 small island developing states (SIDS), between 5 percent to 20 percent of their Gross Domestic Product, and even up to 15 percent of the total import bills of many of the European Union's 286 islands.

Largely dependent on imported fuel oil, many island systems must grapple with soaring electricity costs and reliability issues. In part because they are isolated, and they don't benefit from economies of scale. But some nations are seeking alternatives, and it's the same story all over the world. To fuel their economies, and support growing populations, geographically isolated islands big, small procured fuel oil generators, and developed a dependence on diesel delivery barges while crude was relatively stable. But as oil prices soared, hitting a record high in July 2008. Nations like the Marshall Islands, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Mauritius were forced to declare economic emergencies, or admit that their vulnerability to oil price and currency exchange fluctuations could prove economically devastating.

Fuel imports are generally blamed for the exorbitant prices many islanders pay for power, but experts also point to size, which limits economies of scale, of the islands' geographic isolation. Larger islands, which boast high electrification rates, are often plagued by more complex energy needs, as in Puerto Rico's case. The Caribbean relies on imported oil for most of its energy needs. Islands such as Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica are parties to the San Jose Pact, under which Mexico and Venezuela supply crude oil and refined products under favorable terms.

Most islands are well endowed with one or more renewable energy sources, rivers, waterfalls, wind, sunshine, biomass, wave power, and geothermal deposits. Yet virtually all remain heavily or entirely reliant on imported fossil fuels to produce electricity, and power transport.

### **Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

**Climate change poses not only political and economic challenges, but also challenges for what some might call global ethics or morals. Some of the countries most impacted by climate change are countries that have not contributed to its acceleration. Are you a country that has benefitted from the freedom to develop using fossil fuels and other technologies that impact the environment? If so, what is your position on how the world should move forward in the future? Is there a debt owed to the most impacted countries? Are you a country feeling the impact of the development of the Global North without having contributed to it? If so, what do you think your country is owed? Are you an organization that either has an impact on climate change or works to mitigate it? What, if anything, should be done to assist the countries who are likely to bear the burden? Has your country or group implemented any policies or actions to aid the Global South or Small Island States? Do you agree that there will be climate refugees in the future and that they should be recognized as such? Why or why not?**

The topic of climate change is one that is filled with terror, as it contains the potential to disrupt our way of life and the world we know and love. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, human activities have accelerated the earth's climate, raised sea levels, forcibly changed natural ecosystems, as well as greatly muddle vital natural processes. Our human populations, more specifically Small Island States in the Global South and other vulnerable inhabitants, run the massive risk of being affected on a personal level where we must flee in order to survive and leave our beloved homes. Our principal goal as all Small Island countries, and other vulnerable countries is to confront this alarming future to the Global North by not only aiding those developing countries in the Global South, but discuss and consider their usage of fossil fuels as well.

The country of the United States, for example, has greatly benefited from the freedom to develop and use fossil fuels, and even technologies that support our population with the expense that it impacts the environment. They account for "8.4% of the world's total coal consumption" in 2018, as holding the "world's biggest coal reserves." And although the use of coal has declined over the recent years despite being inexpensive, natural gas use "has soared" considerably. They still heavily depend on fossil fuels (81%) to power their vehicles, provide electricity, and heat their homes. It's even been noted that most Americans (77%) have supported

the idea of reverting to “alternative energy sources” in a recent Pew Research Center survey. Their citizens state that using solar and wind energy, compared to producing more coal, oil, and other fossil fuels, can lead us into a better environmentally friendly world. They can start by moving forward in the future by developed countries understanding their destructive power of using and burning fossil fuels, as it leads to increasing greenhouse gasses that will go into our atmosphere, and cause more danger in the succeeding future. By educating the multiple country’s publics and governments about the several implications by utilizing nonrenewable resources consistently, we can come together as a global community to understand how to fight this expanding problem.

In some shape or form, there is a level of debt owed to the most impacted countries and Small Island States, that being the Global South specifically. For instance, the Small Island nation in the gulf of Bengala, Sri Lanka, can lose a substantial part of its population due to future “climate migrations.” Furthermore, weather events in 2018 alone caused 38 deaths, putting 100,000 inhabitants per 0.18 at risk for danger. These unfortunate events have made the country lose over 3,625 million dollars in losses, and a collapse in per capita GDP of 1.24%. Other Small Island nations such as Puerto Rico, Haiti, and the Philippines are suffering from the effects of hurricanes over the years, and other extreme weather events that threaten to break down our economy multiple times. There must be some level of accountability and compensation that developed countries must take into consideration to prevent more losses for the Global South from their dangerous actions.

The Global North comprises developed countries, where massive global powers are located. Yet, in spite of that information, they too are impacted in some shape or form from the consequences of their previous actions contributing to climate change. Major hurricanes and

wildfires have sparked throughout the Global North, which caused massive damage to the ecosystems in the area. The results of a Small Island State being hit is far disastrous compared to a developed nation due to the resources and connections in order to stabilize themselves. Haiti, as an illustration, had the 2021 earthquake on August 14, which caused at least 2,248 people killed, 12,000 injured, 650,000 in need of assistance, and 137,500 buildings destroyed. It's considered to be the deadliest earthquake and natural disaster of 2021, and they have yet to fully recover from its repercussions.

Although we, the Small Island States, are not entirely an organization, the United States having Puerto Rico as a territory contains the government organization called the "United States Environmental Protection Agency," or EPA, in order to tackle the impact of climate change. This organization works to improve society's understanding of climate change, as well as the impacts on human health and the environment. This organization branches even further by providing the data, tools, and resources to other agencies, organizations, states, tribes, and communities in order to combat the climate crisis. The necessary actions in order to address the climate crisis, and countries impacted, is to partner internationally to advance climate change science to monitor the environment, and promote activities that reduce greenhouse gasses emissions further while simultaneously making quality of life adaptable for the people.

Individual developed countries haven't necessarily independently implemented any policies, or actions in order to aid the Global South nor Small Island States, but many have partnered with the United Nations in order to recognize, initiate, and develop the steps in order to support Small Island States facing their unique challenges. UN Programmes such as the "Barbados Programme of Action" in 1994 prescribed specific actions that would enable Small Island States to "achieve sustainable development." What followed as an extension is the

“Mauritius Strategy” in 2005 where it discussed remaining gaps in implementation.

Correspondingly, the most crucial programme implemented is the “SAMOA Pathway” in 2014, which recognizes the adverse impacts of climate change and sea level rise. In solving these trying times, this new pathway plans to “achieve economic development, food security, disaster risk reduction” and “ocean management” among “other challenges.”

The future of our world is unrevealed and undetermined, but at the rate where we are going, we can expect climate refugees in the future tenfold, and we must be expected to recognize them as such. By 2050, it’s reported from the international organization World Economic Forum that about “216 million people” will be pushed out of their homes across 6 world regions due to climate change, unless action measures are taken seriously. Even if we have imposed the most climate-friendly scenario, that being low emissions and sustainable development, we can still see “44 million” people being forced to evacuate their homes. Of course, there have been efforts to prevent more greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible. The Paris Agreement is a legally international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 parties on December 12, 2015 and entered into force on November 4, 2016. The goal was to limit global warming below 2, or 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. On the contrary to these targets, these countries that contributed with this agreement have done little to nothing in order to combat our current climate crisis based on the Climate Action Tracker. So if we must see climate refugees in the near future, we Small Island States must be prepared to tackle this dire crisis in time.

The Global South, or Small Island States are at massive risk for being forcibly relocated due to climate change. If vulnerable populations were to move constantly, we may never adapt to the safe environment we desperately need presently. And we, Small Island States, see that the

Global North has caused enough harm to create this issue, and it's significant for them to take accountability on how to mitigate it from those vulnerable populations from the usage of fossil fuels, and other damaging actions. By regulating their fossil fuel usage, collaborating together, and keeping their promises, will give us the future we can safely say without only believing its solely words. This stems far from our Island nations alone, but the future of all kinds of nations in our world. The generation that will come after us, will bear the problems that we have seen fester for decades. In doing so, we prevent their development of a civilization, more equally as an individual, by staying silent. By taking initiative now to prevent more casualties and destruction for us and those who are potential targets, we can give our children and possibly their children a sustainable, and welcoming future.

## Closing Statement:

In a world that seems to pride itself on the world stage about its progressives, isn't progressive at all when it comes to climate change. World leaders with their empty promises are not paying the price; They are not at risk of losing their entire country/Home land. But most if not all small island states are. And they are paying the biggest price out of anyone and have the smallest carbon foot print. It's time we hold people accountable! Big countries like China and Russia! It's time that the underdogs voice is heard. It's time we do something and if it takes the smallest and weakest to stand up and finally do something rather than talk the talk. Are small islands are truly on the front lines in this war of climate change, the first to die. Places like Fiji and the Solomon Islands have already began to feel the severe effects of climate change. Like flooding erosion and the threat of utter submersion! Its time we do and stop talking about what were going to do. God only knows how much time we left.



