ERCİYES COLLEGE
EK-JMUN
JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS

UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

STUDY GUIDE

Table of Contents

1.1 -Letter from the Secretary General

Distinguished Participants of EKJ-BMUN'26,

It is a very splendid honor to welcome you all to Erciyes College Junior-Beginner Model United Nations Conference. I am Rümeysa Bağçovan, the Secretary General of EKJ-BMUN'26 conference. Within 3 years of efforts and exertions, I am proud to be part of this year's unique event. In our conferences, where we are accustomed to achieving firsts, I am grateful to be organizing the first Beginner Model United Nations conference in Kayseri this year as another first and only.

You can be sure that EKJ-BMUN'26 will be a home, a place to be confident, an exclusive experience, a memory that is unforgettable and an event that will be immense for everyone who attends. You will get a special opportunity and place for debate, collaborate and share your superb ideas in this field. My team is working with a diligence just to delight you and make you feel privileged in here. With my marvelous academic team, you will be treated like you are the future's diplomats who make the world better with your ideas and lights in your brains.

I am so proud of what I have done just for your satisfaction. I have no doubt about my team's endeavors and fervency for make the best conference ever seen. I am keen to see your performance in this endemic conference. Lastly i can say, in my 30 experiences in 3 years, even I have never seen more fabulous conference like EKJ-BMUN'26. So, I think now i encourage you to attend and show your magnificence in here. My pleasure.

Best Regards,

Rümeysa Bağçovan
Secretary General

1.2 Letter from the Under Secretary General

Distinguished delegates,

First and foremost, I would like to welcome all of you to EKJMUN'26. It is a great honor for me serving as the Under Secretary General of UNFCCC. My name is Kıvılcım Öykü KUZU, and I am currently studying at TED Kayseri College Private High School as a sophomore. My interest in MUN conferences started when I was at secondary school like all of you and I had the chance to improve myself in this area when I started to high school. I attended to different conferences both as a delegate and chair board member. I currently have 11 MUN experiences at total and I am still developing myself, know that I have a long way to go.

In this committee, we will take one of the most crucial global issues into consideration, strengthening resilience against climate change regarding disasters and preventing them. Some disasters like earthquakes are a part of nature but others like droughts, heatwaves are the result of global warming and climate change. This issue is not about personal interest-based policies, but it is about all living life and our planet, which we all live together. There are so many nations with different policies but no matter what country we belong, this planet and this environment is all of ours, so it is everyone's responsibility to take care of it.

My prior aim in this committee will be encouraging all of you to understand the importance of our topic, debate, contribute to the committee and teamwork while not forgetting to be respectful to different views. For all of these, it is important for you to read the study guide that I have prepared for you to find more information's about our committee and agenda item.
I am looking forward to meeting you all and spend 2 awesome days full of meaningful debates and perfect solutions.

Kıvılcım Öykü KUZU
Under Secretary General of UNFCCC

2. Introduction to the Committee

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed at 1992 by 154 states at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and entered into force on 21 March 1994.Today, UNFCCC has a universal membership. Currently, there are 198 Parties (197 States and 1 regional economic integration organization) in UNFCCC.

The goal of the convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interventions in the climate system. It is stated that this level should be reached within a sufficient timeframe to allow ecosystems to adapt to climate change, protect food production, and ensure sustainable economic development.

The convention divides states into three main groups according to different commitments. Firstly, Annex I parties are the industrialized countries that were members of the OECD in 1992 and plus countries with economies transition. Because industrialized countries are the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions (one of the main reasons of climate change) Annex I countries are expected to make the greatest effort to reduce emissions within their own borders.

Annex II parties include the OECD members of Annex 1 but not the EIT countries. They are required to financially support the enable developing countries with undertaking emission reduction activities and adaption to the effects of climate change. They should also take effective steps to encourage the development of environmentally friendly technologies to EIT Parties and developing countries.

Non-Annex I countries are mostly the developing ones. The Convention recognizes some groups of developing countries as vulnerable against the threats of climate change due to their geological disadvantages or their high reliance on income from fossil fuel trade. The Convention emphasizes activities such as investment, insurance, and technology transfer that promise to address the specific needs and concerns of these vulnerable countries.

The 49 member states, classified by the United Nations as least developed countries, are considered with the special assessment under the Convention due to their limited ability in adapting to climate change. Member states are encouraged to take the specific circumstances of these countries into account in funding and technology transfer activities.

Throughout its history, the UNFCCC has presented numerous agreements, most notably the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol by aiming to find sustainable solutions to the global climate crisis while all member states protect their national interests. This convention is a UN organization where the future of the humanity is being considered in the view of climate change.

3. Key Definitions

Fossil Fuel: Fossil fuels are a compound formed millions of years ago from the chemical transformation of fossilized plant and animal remains under high pressure and heat. While fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, are the resource of today's energy needs, their negative impact on global warming should not be ignored.

Greenhouse gas emissions: The release of certain gases into the Earth's atmosphere can create a "greenhouse effect", in which heat becomes trapped and global temperatures rise. While emissions can result from natural causes, in majority they are the result of human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation.

Climate change: Climate change refers to long-term changes observed in the average temperatures and weather patterns of the Earth regarding to certain reasons.

Global warming: The long-term heating of Atmosphere that recognized since the pre-industrial period due to human activities is called global warming in nowadays. This situation mainly arises by the fossil fuel burning which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere.

Climate resilience: Climate resilience is the ability to prepare and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Improving climate resilience involves assessing how climate change will create new, or alter current, climate-related risks, and taking steps to better cope with these risks.

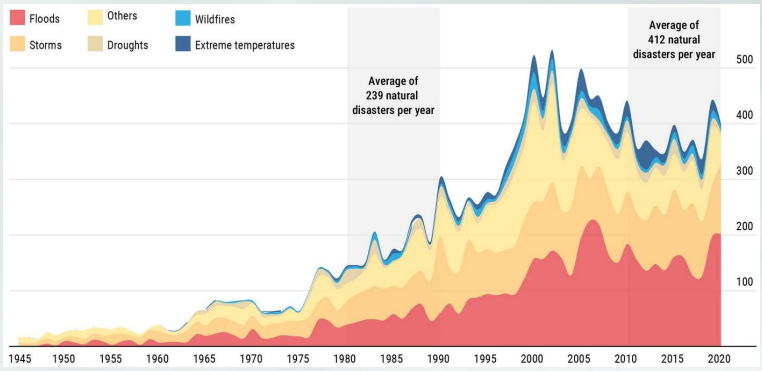
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): Disaster risk reduction aims to prevent potential disasters, mitigate existing risks, and strengthen resilience. Disaster risk management (DRM) includes the processes and actions needed to achieve this goal, manage and transfer remaining risks, and minimize losses and damage.

Early warning systems: Early warning systems are integrated systems designed to provide timely and actionable warnings of impending hazards such as floods, droughts, heat waves, or wildfires. This enables individuals and communities to take measures to mitigate risks and prepare for potential impacts.

4. Introduction to the Agenda Item

4.1 Overview of Climate Change-Based Natural Disasters

Since the industrialization period the world has gone through, the usage of fossil fuels has increased in a noticeable way and this situation caused to the emission of greenhouse gasses. Greenhouse gasses started trapping the heat in the atmosphere, so it caused to a global warming around the planet and this change climate costed for huge damages to humanity and biological environment. This damages followed each other like dominoes overtime and currently, there are various issues the world is facing because of the harmful transition in atmosphere heats. One of the most significant consequences of this change in global temperatures is climate change related natural disasters.



Some natural disasters like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes are the effects of geography itself and can't be reduced, enhanced or prevented by human forces. But there are also so many natural disasters increased by human-based climate changes. Notably, climate-related disasters including heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and hurricanes increasingly cause fatal damages to humanity in varied fields.

4.2 Impacts on Humanity

First and foremost, just like all disasters, climate-related ones can have recognizable impacts in the health of human life directly or indirectly. Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns significantly impact food security, water security, and nutrition. Highly impacted water security leads to an increase in bacterial and water-borne diseases such as Hepatitis A and E, and cholera. Droughts are also a result of climate change, and they have already begun to affect some regions, while others are facing water scarcity, leading to a predictable long-term increase in health problems related to inadequate water access.

Of course, large changes in rainfall patterns result in floods and flood-related deaths. Frequent and intense heat waves lead to heatstroke, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and even death. Since human health is not only physical, but the indirect effects on mental health cannot also be ignored. People who experienced major disasters, or left their homelands due to these disasters, may face serious psychological issues such as PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) or depression.

Climate change-based disasters also have the potential to cause economic damage. The destruction and reconstruction processes of destroying disasters can cost in enormous numbers. Furthermore, the damages caused by natural disasters to agricultural areas are harming the economies of countries that rely on agriculture for economic gain. The climate change is expected to have a harmful economic impact on many countries, with low-income countries especially at risk. Economy policies in these countries will need to be developed for adapting to frequent weather events; this includes creating policy space to respond to shocks. Elsewhere, climate change can pose significant risks to financial stability.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), natural disasters have caused millions of people to migrate globally, and the majority of those forced to escape due to climate-related disasters have been displaced within their own countries. In 2022 alone, there were around 32 million internally displaced people due to weather-related disasters. While it is more difficult to know exactly how many refugees have left their countries due to climate change and natural disasters, it is likely that millions have done. A report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) revealed that climate-related disasters have almost doubled in the last 20 years. This increase is parallel with the recognizable rise in migration caused by natural disasters.

It is also important to remember that humanity is not alone in the world. Humanity shares the world with various living species like animals or plants. Disasters caused by climate change also has an impact in biodiversity, wildlife and nature itself. The increasing climate crisis is causing ice to melt, sea levels to rise, resulting in more frequent extreme disasters events such as hurricanes, and in some cases, disruptive floods that destroy biologic environments, can be a huge threat against biodiversity. Populations which cannot migrate or adapt, such as some plant and insect species, face a risk of extinction. This will reduce the diversity of the species, making it more vulnerable to diseases, and other threats. If this occurs in a food product humanity rely on, it can damage the food system and put millions of people at the danger of food shortages. Forest fires are also getting worse and causing the deforestation. Because of forests are the living place of a huge number of animals and plants, those species are dying uncontrollably and facing with the threat of extinction Also with deforestation, the gasses that harmful to humanity can increase and this can have a huge impact the whole biologic environment.

4.3 Strengthening Resilience

Strengthening resilience to the damages caused by these natural disasters has an importance for all nations. This primarily involves strengthening systemic and institutional capacities at local,

provincial, and national levels for long-term management and adaptation planning of climate change-related disaster risks. These capacities should include developing early warning systems that can provide information about disaster risks and increasing the level of knowledge about climate-related disaster risks within communities. It is essential to strengthen the long-term resilience of all countries -especially developing or vulnerable communities- against climate disaster risks. Examples of ways to build resilience include encouraging communities to build resilient structures, taking precautions against threats to human health and organizing health systems, accordingly, eliminating indirect migration problems caused by disasters and creating sustainable migration policies, taking measures to minimize economic damage, and eliminating threats to biodiversity.

4.4 Reducing Related and Possible Disaster Risks

Reducing climate-related disasters requires a two-sided approach: mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (building resilience). Mitigating disasters can be achieved by reducing emissions. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions can decrease the amount of heat trapped in the atmosphere. Global warming can be mitigated, and in the long term – perhaps even years – this problem can be solved at its root. Of course, reducing greenhouse gas emissions primarily requires efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Significant fundings are needed to create low-carbon infrastructure and improve existing infrastructure. Comprehensive risk considerations must be conducted to ensure these investments are resilient and do not create future risks. Promoting nature-based solutions, restoring oceans, preventing biodiversity loss, and prioritizing sustainable ecosystem management are critical to success.

5. Historical Background

5.1- UN's Recognition in Climate Threat & The Shift from Mitigation to Adaptation 1992

The United Nations is at the forefront of efforts to save our planet. The damage caused by greenhouse gases to the atmosphere following the industrial revolution, global warming, and climate change were immediately recognized; the 1992 "World Summit" established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the first step towards addressing the climate change problem. Today, it has almost universal membership. 197 countries that have ratified the Convention are Parties to it. Emerging because of the increasing impact of the climate problem in the end of the 20th century, the ultimate goal of this convention is to prevent dangerous human intervention in the climate system as it can be recognized in UNFCCC-Article 2

"Article 2 OBJECTIVE: The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

As it is obvious, the prior guideline of the convention was mitigating the climate change in its existence. The UN observed the possible threats and focused on preventing them but adapting to the change was also a important cornerstone for the convention. This also had a part in the framework ,especially in Article 4 both mitigating and adapting to climate change were mentioned:

Article 4 (e) :Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods;

Article 4 (f) : Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on public health and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

Article 4 (i): Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage the widest participation in this process, including that of non-governmental organizations…

5.2 Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was a global roadmap for disaster risk reduction, including a ten-year plan adopted by 168 member states of the United Nations at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005. The prior aim of HFA was increasing the resilience of nations and communities to disasters by achieving a significant reduction in disaster losses (loss of life, social, economic, and environmental assets) by 2015. The HFA presented five priority areas of action, guiding principles, and practical ways to achieve disaster resilience for vulnerable communities within the context of sustainable development.

The Hyogo Framework is an agreement that specifically recognized these issues caused by disasters; it priorly guides governments and encourages resilience and preparedness against disasters, while acknowledging that this cannot be done without civil society support.

HFA-IV. Implementation and follow-up (A. General Considerations [Article 21]) (…) United Nations and international financial institutions, are called upon to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their sustainable development policy, planning and programming at all levels. Civil society, including volunteers and community-based organizations, the scientific community and the private sector are vital stakeholders in supporting the implementation of disaster risk reduction at all levels…

HFA also stated that, when the specific vulnerabilities and insufficient capacities against disasters of less developed countries, supporting them is necessary for the implementation of the Framework for Action. This support should include financial and technical assistance, as well as capacity-building efforts on disaster risk reduction as an effective and sustainable method of disaster prevention and response.

According to the framework, reducing the vulnerability of African populations to hazards is a necessary element of poverty reduction strategies, including efforts to safeguard past development gains. It has been clearly stated that financial and technical assistance is needed to strengthen the capacities of African countries, including early warning systems, prevention, resilience, response, and recovery.

Of course, the importance of raising awareness and educating the public cannot be ignored, and therefore, the need to raise public awareness about disasters was also mentioned. The risks of disasters to construction sites and vulnerable communities are considered necessary, and appropriate

regulations are considered, along with basic preventative measures. Furthermore, resilience for disasters and early warning systems, a crucial factor in this preparation, are considered as essential. HFA's work is not just concerned about climate change; it addresses all types of disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. However, it is one of the most important frameworks to acknowledge that climate change builds up a huge amount of these disasters.

5.3 The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference held in Sendai, Japan, on 18 March 2015. This framework is the result of intergovernmental negotiations conducted at the request of the UN General Assembly and with the support of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Sendai Framework can be called as a successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005–2015.

The scope of disaster risk reduction has been significantly widened to focus on both natural and human-induced disasters, and the related environmental, technological, and biological risks.

It is stated that preventing new disaster risks and mitigating existing ones requires the implementation of economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, and institutional measures that prevent and reduce the vulnerability to disasters and strengthen resilience.

Some goals and expected outcomes of Sendai Framework can be exemplified as.

...(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rates in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005– 2015.

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, (...)

(d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030...

Like HFA, Sendai Framework isn't an agreement just about climate change, but about natural disasters, although it acknowledges the impact of climate on natural disasters. Offering global goals aimed at reducing not only loss of life but also economic damages.

5.4 Paris Agreement 2016

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty on climate change was adopted in 2015 by 195 parties at COP21 agreeing. The agreement was opened for signature at UN Headquarters in New York. It finally entered into force on November 4, 2016. The agreement is aiming to limit global warming to below 2 Celsius, preferably to 1.5 Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels and focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping countries adapt to climate change impacts.

The Paris agreement mentioned concepts such as adaptation, loss-damage relations in some articles of it.

Adaptation (Article 7) – The Paris Agreement sets a global adaptation objective: to increase adaptation capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change within the context of the Agreement's temperature target. This objective aims to significantly strengthen national adaptation efforts, including support and international cooperation. It acknowledges that adaptation is a global challenge facing everyone. All Parties should participate in adaptation efforts, including developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans, and submit and periodically update an adaptation statement outlining their priorities, needs, plans and actions. Adaptation efforts of developing countries should be recognized.

Loss and Damage (Article 8) – The Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of preventing, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events, slow-moving events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage. Parties should increase understanding and support on loss and damage associated with adverse effects of climate change on a cooperative and facilitative way, including through the Warsaw International Mechanism.

6. Questions to be Addressed

1. How actions can member states take against climate-based hazards while considering and following Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework?
2. How can the "adaptation" plan mentioned in Article 7 of the Paris Agreement be implemented?
3. How can Annex I countries support less developed or developing countries to strengthen their resilience in financially, socially, technological areas?
4. How can member states of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change implement sustainable solutions to prevent the increase in climate change-related disasters and how can they address this problem from the roots?
5. How can the society be educated in civil education organizations -or schools for the teen and child population- for adapting, acknowledging of climate-related disasters and how can de communal awareness be raised?
6. How can early warning systems be widely implemented in globally, including less-developed countries?
7. How can health organizations be strengthened for curing both mental and physical health issues people who experienced with climate-based disasters are having?
8. How can UNFCCC act to shape the development plans of member countries so that they can implement mitigation and adaptation at the same time?
9. How can species that are affected by natural disasters caused by global warming be protected, and how can the damage to biodiversity be eliminated?
10. What can the UNFCCC do to help achieve Article 13.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals?
11. How can member states integrate Sustainable Development Goal 11.5 into their legislation to make cities more resilient to climate-related disasters?
12. How can vulnerable parts of society – people with chronic illnesses, disabilities, the elderly, children, and the economically disadvantaged – be adapted and protected from climate-related disasters?
13. How can access to accurate and verified information about climate disasters be ensured equally for all nations without violating security protocols?

7. Bibliography

- https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/metadata/publications/hyogo-framework-for-action-2005-2015-building-the-resilience-of-nations-and-communities-to-disasters
- https://unfccc.int/parties-observers
- https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change
- https://www.undrr.org/media/73374/download
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Framework_Convention_on_Climate_Change
- https://www.icmc.net/2025/11/26/impact-of-natural-disasters-on-migration-patterns/
- https://www.imf.org/en/topics/climate-change/climate-and-the-economy
- https://doh.vi.gov/impacts-of-climate-change-on-human-health/
- https://www.adaptation-undp.org/climate-change-and-health
- https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health
- https://science-nasa-gov/climate-change/what-is-climate-change/
- https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/strengthening-comoros-resilience-against-climate-change-and-variability-related-disaster
- https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2020/04/common-ground-between-the-paris-agreement-and-the-sendai-framework_d525587d/3edc8d09-en.pdf
- https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/climate-change