



# COP 59

## *Background Guide*



**EagleMUNC**  
Model United Nations  
Conference

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[www.EagleMUNC.org](http://www.EagleMUNC.org)  
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**EAGLEMUNC**

## Introduction

### Letter from the Chair:

Welcome to EagleMUNC VIII! My name is Ashley Stauber and I will be your chair for the Cop 59 Committee. I am a senior in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College studying Psychology and Political Science with a particular interest in Forensic Psychology. I am also very interested in International Relations, which began after attending international relations camp my sophomore year of high school. After visiting the Irish Embassy and the State Department on that trip, my desire to be a part of the inner workings of international affairs and how they help other countries was ignited. As a result, I joined Model UN my junior year of high school and was very excited to have the opportunity to compete in a variety of committees including DISEC and Press Corps for the NPR. While in college, I directed the Pirate Republic and Time Capsule Committees. This experience honed my love for committee and debate, and I hope that you all will feel the same way after the conference.

In this committee you will be debating during the year 2050. The world has eroded due to the crippling effects of climate change and as Country Blocs you will face the challenge of collaborating for a better future or continuing to sink in the current present.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have! I am so excited to meet all of you and to journey into the precarious world of Cop 59 together!

All the best,

Ashley Stauber

## Historical Background

### **Catastrophic<sup>1</sup> Climate Change**

#### **Back to the Future of 2050**

Welcome to the year 2050. The demand for water has quadrupled as a result of World War III, which started between India and Pakistan.<sup>2</sup> This war resulted in a general conflict fought between a variety of tentative alliances and resulted in much territory becoming consolidated either through peaceful means or territorial expansion by more aggressive factions. As resources have become squandered, climate change has become an economic, as well as climatic crisis, with only a small population from various countries having the economic means to pay for resources.<sup>3</sup> Thus, low income families have taken the hardest hit and a “climate apartheid” could be on the rise where the wealthiest citizens pay to escape the burden of heat.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, citizens’ health is at risk due to a lack of clean drinking water. This causes citizens to resort to drinking unsafe water to quench their thirst, leading them towards further sickness.<sup>5</sup> Survival is at stake due to the intensity of such heat waves and major parts of the Indian subcontinent, MENA region, and Central America have become unlivable. Even if countries had taken a greater role in cutting carbon emissions India was already past the point of no return in terms of heat.<sup>6</sup> Time is running out for India, for it is predicted that survivability levels

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<sup>1</sup>The Royal Society, “Climate Change: A Summary of the Science.”

<sup>2</sup> Yueng, Gupta, and Guy, “India Has Just Five Years to Solve Its Water Crisis, Experts Fear.” CNN

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> ibid

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup>Chandra, “Are Parts of India Becoming Too Hot for Humans? - CNN.”

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will hit zero by 2100.<sup>7</sup> One hundred and ninety-three other countries listed in the Climate Vulnerability Index face similar obstacles with survival due to climate change and their population overloads.<sup>8</sup> Most of these countries ranked are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the population has doubled to this day. The population of Europe, however, has gone down by 5%.<sup>9</sup> The United States is not immune to such a struggle and its population has gone up by 15%, placing it at 161 of the 193 listed.<sup>10</sup> The population of the Central Africa Republic has increased by 77%.<sup>11</sup> Inter-ethnic conflicts additionally plague the land and the surge in population has only aggravated such tensions.

The Dominican Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and Burundi are subject to constant droughts, soil erosion, devastating heat, and floods along with the stress of their populations having doubled by the year 2050.<sup>12</sup>

The effects of such climate change is evident in the fact that in 2050 London has the climate of Morocco. Due to continued denial of climate change, the world has come to a point where the effects of climate change have come to a breaking point. Cavalier uses of fossil fuels and other sources of pollution have led to an ultimate apocalypse of despair. Globally averaged surface temperatures have risen by 3.5 degrees celsius with the full range of temperatures having increased by 5 degrees celsius.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>8</sup>Nugent, "The 10 Countries Most Vulnerable to Climate Change Will Experience Population Booms in the Coming Decades."

<sup>9</sup> ibid

<sup>10</sup> ibid

<sup>11</sup> ibid

<sup>12</sup> ibid

<sup>13</sup>The Royal Society, "Climate Change: A Summary of the Science."

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A third of Jakarta, Indonesia is now underwater despite efforts to build a sea wall to prevent it.<sup>14</sup> However, since the country is pumping too much groundwater, building a seawall is actually causing it to sink further. It would be very expensive for its economy to implement a seawall as well.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, flooding in Kerala has led to at least two deaths.<sup>16</sup>

Scientists have used Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) to describe the planet's future.<sup>17</sup> The world is on RCP 8.5 in 2050, the worst possible scenario that climate scientists currently believe to be plausible. Global temperatures have risen by 5 degrees.

### **What is Climate Change?**

There have often been misconceptions over the concept of climate change. In order to better understand this phenomenon, it can be helpful to break it up into its basic terms and components.

*The Greenhouse Effect*- 240 watts per square meter of the sun's energy is absorbed by the earth's atmosphere and the surface.<sup>18</sup> As a result, the atmosphere and surface balance this out by emitting the same amount of energy into space by infrared radiation.<sup>19</sup> This warming from infrared radiation is known as the Greenhouse Effect.

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<sup>14</sup> Baker-Whitcomb, Jakarta's Doomed Seawall, Russia takes aim at 2020, and more news, *Wired*, 2019

<sup>15</sup> Baker-Whitcomb, Jakarta's Doomed Seawall, Russia takes aim at 2020, and more news, *Wired*, 2019

<sup>16</sup> TNM Staff, "Kerala Sees Heavy Rains: Many Areas Flooded, Hundreds Shifted to Relief Camps | The News Minute."

<sup>17</sup> Meyer, "Are We Living Through Climate Change's Worst-Case Scenario?"

<sup>18</sup> The Royal Society, "Climate Change: A Summary of the Science."

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*

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*Climate Forcings-* Our climate is known as a chaotic society, which means that it is characterized by complex and unpredictable internal variations even in the absence of climate forcings.<sup>20</sup> Thus, as a result of the Greenhouse Effect, climate change starts with changes in the energy received by the Sun and changes in the reflectivity of the Earth's surface.<sup>21</sup> Scientists concur that the surface of the earth has warmed by 0.8 degrees celsius since 1850 (check year of study).<sup>22</sup> Positive climate forcing causes the earth to warm.<sup>23</sup> The interaction between the ocean and atmosphere also plays a role. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. It may not have been a direct cause of past natural disasters, but that does not mean that it will not influence future natural catastrophes. Water vapor and carbon dioxide have the largest impact on the Greenhouse Effect, so the increased amount of carbon dioxide speeds up such warming.<sup>24</sup> The United States in 2018 had a huge carbon emission leap, the largest year-by-year leap since the Great Recession.<sup>25</sup>

*Feedback Loops-* As the climate warms, the planet experiences various feedback loops. A *positive feedback loop*, such as melting ice sheets exposing darker water underneath, lowering the albedo of the planet and trapping more heat, causes climate change to speed up. These feedback loops occur in a chain reaction so that, for example, as the amount of water vapour increases, the amount of snow decreases and these changes ultimately lead

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<sup>20</sup>ibid

<sup>21</sup>ibid

<sup>22</sup>ibid

<sup>23</sup>ibid

<sup>24</sup>ibid

<sup>25</sup>Meyer, "Are We Living Through Climate Change's Worst-Case Scenario?"

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to the amount of energy trapped by the Earth and atmosphere to be increased and for climate change to be intensified.<sup>26</sup>

*Causes of Climate Change*- The global climate has always changed as a result of various natural processes. However, anthropogenic climate change, or climate change caused by humans, is currently occurring at a rate unseen in the history of Earth. This process is unnatural and harmful for the environment and future generations of humans and other species to come. Human activity has intensified the natural greenhouse effect, causing a positive forcing.<sup>27</sup> An increased number of greenhouse gases has been causing temperatures to increase at an alarming rate that is detrimental to the health of the planet. The continued burning of fossil fuels and rampant deforestation have had a grave impact on the environment including how carbon dioxide concentration levels have increased globally 108 parts per million (ppm) from the mid 19th century to 2009 and are only continuing to elevate.<sup>28</sup> Although forestry often acts as a protectorate against climate change, Guatemala no longer has such a refuge for all of their woodlands have been completely demolished which has led to increased erosion and landslides.<sup>29</sup> The concentration of methane has also more than doubled in the past 50 years and continues to increase.<sup>30</sup> Abuse of natural resources damages the environment and ultimately leads to climate change.<sup>31</sup> June 2019 was the hottest June reported as of yet.<sup>32</sup> Such increased

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<sup>26</sup>The Royal Society, "Climate Change: A Summary of the Science."

<sup>27</sup>ibid

<sup>28</sup>ibid

<sup>29</sup>Lakhani, "'People Are Dying': How the Climate Crisis Has Sparked an Exodus to the US | Global Development | The Guardian."

<sup>30</sup>The Royal Society, "Climate Change: A Summary of the Science."

<sup>31</sup>"Energy & Environment | The Resolution Project."

<sup>32</sup>"The Rising Cost of Natural Hazards."

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temperatures have the potential to intensify storms which would lead to tropical cyclones- one of many potential challenges posed by climate change.

### **What Has Been the Impact of Climate Change on Different Countries Around the World?**

The large, rapidly industrializing populations of countries such as China and India and such overpopulation has caused resources to dwindle and global warming to be exacerbated by the increased carbon footprint of countries that have historically been responsible for fewer emissions, but are now rapidly catching up.<sup>33</sup>

President Obama attempted to tackle climate change with his Executive Order 13677 and urged for climate change to be acknowledged as a “threat multiplier.”<sup>34</sup> This has not remained United States government policy. With developments like President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, it is apparent that climate change has become concerningly overlooked. Even if all country commitments made in the Paris Agreement were met in full, the world is expected to warm by at least 3 C.<sup>35</sup> With feedback loops, such as the release of greenhouse gases from already melted permafrost, the total temperature increase could be substantially greater than 3 C. This is especially likely as the overwhelming majority of countries are failing to meet their commitments, often by massive margins.<sup>36</sup> Because of this, a temperature increase of over 4 C by 2100 is fairly likely, assuming drastic action is not taken immediately. There is no evidence to

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<sup>33</sup>Yueng, Gupta, and Guy, “India Has Just Five Years to Solve Its Water Crisis, Experts Fear.” CNN

<sup>34</sup>Podesta, “The Climate Crisis, Migration, and Refugees.”

<sup>35</sup>Batrawy and Harb, “UN Chief Warns Paris Climate Goals Still Not Enough.”

<sup>36</sup>Erickson, “Analysis | Few Countries Are Meeting the Paris Climate Goals. Here Are the Ones That Are.”

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suggest such action is likely. This committee will assume the world continues on the path it is currently on. Additionally, if other currently non-industrialized countries undergo a fossil-fuel based industrialization, the end result may be far worse than any current projections- a scenario this committee will take into account.

### **Water Scarcity**

The problem does not just stop at fossil fuels, for a crisis involving water is quickly escalating. 100 million people in India currently face a severe crisis over water and specifically the lack of groundwater.<sup>37</sup> Severe heat waves and a lack of monsoon rains have parched civilians and dried up the land. While it has always been a common occurrence for India to have heatwaves, the length and intensity of these heat waves is increasing at an abnormal rate.<sup>38</sup> After the Ministry of Jal Shakti on Water Power was largely ignored despite rising concern over climate change, India has only increased in its climate crisis.<sup>39</sup> 21 major cities have completely run out of water and remaining cities scramble to preserve the little water that they have left.<sup>40</sup>

### **United States Hardships**

This problem has hit the United States as well. During the summer of 2019, four people died in Baltimore when temperatures hit 100 degrees and the humidity made this feel like 122 degrees.<sup>41</sup> Since 1895, the average temperature of New Jersey has risen by a startling 2 degrees celsius.<sup>42</sup> Such a shift of 2 degrees can have disturbing consequences

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<sup>37</sup>Yueng, Gupta, and Guy, "India Has Just Five Years to Solve Its Water Crisis, Experts Fear." CNN

<sup>38</sup>Chandra, "Are Parts of India Becoming Too Hot for Humans? - CNN."

<sup>39</sup>Yueng, Gupta, and Guy, "India Has Just Five Years to Solve Its Water Crisis, Experts Fear." CNN

<sup>40</sup>ibid

<sup>41</sup>"PDB Camp David Edition for July 21, 2019."

<sup>42</sup>Mufson, Mooney, and Muyskens, "Extreme Climate Change in the United States."

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such as the complete demise of all of the coral reefs in the world. Countries in the 2015 Paris Accord once tried to prevent these consequences.<sup>43</sup> Paradoxically, higher winter temperatures have propelled the effects of climate change in states like New Jersey and Rhode Island.<sup>44</sup> Such startling effects include the fact that insects no longer die as quickly in cold temperatures yet snow is melting more rapidly.<sup>45</sup> Due to these warm springs and milder winters, harmful algae have been able to prosper. Blue-green algae bloomed in Lake Hopatcong in New Jersey, causing the lake to be shut down due to the danger presented in swimming in those waters.<sup>46</sup>

Rising sea levels have additionally led to “King Tides” in Miami. “King tide season” takes place during the early fall and winter and leaves residents dealing with constant flooding throughout that time period.<sup>47</sup>

Surprisingly enough, parts of the South in the United States have shown modest cooling since the 1800s, notably Mississippi and Alabama, as opposed to the intense heat amassing elsewhere.<sup>48</sup> This is ironic due to the fact that the Southern part of the United States usually exhibits warmer weather. This may be due to smokestacks, which have their own health detriments pollution-wise but overall may block some of the heat from the sun.<sup>49</sup>

### **Defensive Dilemma**

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<sup>43</sup>ibid

<sup>44</sup>ibid

<sup>45</sup>Ianucci, “Sea Level Rise Is Causing Miami to Flood Regularly from High Tides - The Washington Post.”

<sup>46</sup>ibid

<sup>47</sup>ibid

<sup>48</sup>ibid

<sup>49</sup>ibid

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Climate change is additionally impacting the military due to rising sea levels that could possibly flood military bases near the coast.<sup>50</sup> Mudslides from erosion also are seen as a potential risk. This creates not only an environmental issue, but also a national security issue. Air Force One's Joint Base Andrews experienced a dangerous drought.<sup>51</sup> Former Secretary of Defense Mattis often disagreed with President Trump over matters related to climate change, displaying the divisive nature of this topic as evident in the fact that the National Security Strategy of 2017 did not list climate change as a threat.<sup>52</sup>

Studies show that even if carbon dioxide emissions came to a complete stop, it would take multiple millenia for carbon dioxide levels to return to the levels they were before industrialization.<sup>53</sup> Unfortunately, society never had the chance to react.

**Cyclone Chaos:** Cyclone storms, once a rare disturbance, have prevalently swept countries such as Mozambique with startling intensity. These cyclones have become so common that countries barely have time to recover before the next one hits. The scarcity of resources and the intensity of these storms have caused millions of migrants to flee towards safety, causing increased border tensions in the process, especially between the United States and Central America, who share the same country bloc.<sup>54</sup> The wreckage caused by these storms has caused increased competition between the Middle East and North Africa.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>50</sup>Dlouhy and Natter, "Defense Warns Effects of Climate Change to Armed Forces | Time."

<sup>51</sup>ibid

<sup>52</sup>ibid

<sup>53</sup>The Royal Society, "Climate Change: A Summary of the Science."

<sup>54</sup>Podesta, "The Climate Crisis, Migration, and Refugees."

<sup>55</sup>ibid

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Saudi Arabia has completely run out of ground water, which holds 98% of its fresh water, since most of the water is sourced from aquifers.<sup>56</sup> A nation that previously consumed 263 liters of water per capita, Saudi Arabia, is now becoming increasingly desperate due to this lack of water.<sup>57</sup> While in March of 2019 it had launched a Qatrah programme aimed at reducing water usage, they failed to reach their goals with this initiative.<sup>58</sup> Saudi Arabia tried to instill a Saudi Arabian National Transformation Plan to move production away from oil, but unfortunately these goals were not enough to stop the hurtling impact of current climate disaster in 2050.<sup>59</sup>

### **Mass Migration**

The issue of migration has worsened due to increasing global temperatures. 140 million new migrants have flooded into sub-Saharan Africa by 2050.<sup>60</sup> With the explosion of migration, countries are at risk for a climate apartheid and overpopulation.

Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia have gained 143 million “climate migrants” respectively by 2050.<sup>61</sup> Such “climate migrants” were forced to leave their home countries due to sudden weather disasters like flooding and forest fires that have been caused by the impact of climate change through the rising of sea-levels, air pollution, a lack of biodiversity, and others.<sup>62</sup> By 2050, 24 of the Pacific Islands have become completely submerged due to rising sea-levels, leaving many previous

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<sup>56</sup>Michaelson, “Oil Built Saudi Arabia – Will a Lack of Water Destroy It?”

<sup>57</sup>ibid

<sup>58</sup>ibid

<sup>59</sup>ibid

<sup>60</sup>Nugent, “The 10 Countries Most Vulnerable to Climate Change Will Experience Population Booms in the Coming Decades.”

<sup>61</sup>Podesta, “The Climate Crisis, Migration, and Refugees.”

<sup>62</sup>ibid

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inhabitants no choice but to flee to other countries.<sup>63</sup> The Federated States of Micronesia, additionally, no longer have any fresh water that has not been contaminated, leading many former residents to leave.<sup>64</sup> Climate change has disrupted migration patterns in Southeast Asia due to increasing temperatures, sea levels, and cyclones.<sup>65</sup>

Famine and drought have caused a mass exodus from Central America to the United States.<sup>66</sup> Violent El Niños caused by increasing Pacific Surface temperatures have led to violent droughts and have disrupted the dry season of canicula throughout Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.<sup>67</sup> People living in the dry corridor are starving and in search of food and other resources.

Humans are not the only one turning to migration. With the loss of their ecosystems due to climate change, many species not must adapt to new ecosystems or die off.<sup>68</sup> The balance of interconnection between species species has been distorted due to the extinction of certain species. Some species that once relied on certain prey have gone extinct or are struggling to adapt in the absence of those species. For example over the past 37 years the amount of Northern Rockhopper Penguins on the island of Tristan da Cunha has decreased by 57% possibly due to the warming of the oceans.<sup>69</sup>

Studies have reported that on average vertebrate populations have decreased by 60% from 1970-2014.<sup>70</sup> The total number of animals has gone down by a much less

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<sup>63</sup>ibid

<sup>64</sup>ibid

<sup>65</sup>ibid

<sup>66</sup>Lakhani, "‘People Are Dying’: How the Climate Crisis Has Sparked an Exodus to the US | Global Development | The Guardian."

<sup>67</sup>ibid

<sup>68</sup>"Climate Change | Fauna & Flora International."

<sup>69</sup> Natgeotravel insta

<sup>70</sup>Yong, "Have We Really Killed 60 Percent of Animals Since 1970? - The Atlantic."

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staggering 17%, but this is still incredibly impactful.<sup>71</sup> Bears especially are concerningly close to becoming extinct.<sup>72</sup> A third of amphibians are also at risk of completely becoming extinct thanks to the domino effect of climate change.<sup>73</sup>

### **Economic Woes:**

The collective economy of South Asia has lost 1.8 percent of its annual Gross Domestic Product due to climate change.<sup>74</sup> Miami Beach has additionally lost \$337 million dollars in real estate value from 2005 to 2017 due to flooding.<sup>75</sup> The economic impacts of climate change are expected to be both severe and unpredictable. How will you cope with this problem?

### **Committee Economy**

Your country has a starting point of x tons of food, water, and dollars. Food and water will have two sets of bars, denoting available resources and required resources. The larger resource deficits are, the more damaging the effects will be on your country. Wealth will have only one bar, denoting available resources for research and adaptation projects, or war. There will also be a set of global bars, representing the aggregate resources and requirements of all nations together. These bars will be displayed on the screen at all times, along with a map.

### **Society Rules**

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<sup>71</sup>ibid

<sup>72</sup>ibid

<sup>73</sup>ibid

<sup>74</sup>Podesta, "The Climate Crisis, Migration, and Refugees."

<sup>75</sup>Ianucci, "Sea Level Rise Is Causing Miami to Flood Regularly from High Tides - The Washington Post."

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In this new society climate models are simplified. This means that there are certain things that are impossible to quantify without more data- for example, we know that melting permafrost will release a lot of methane and CO2. However, it is not known exactly how much will be released. Because of this, most climate models considering human-cause climate change just pretend this will not happen, for the sake of simplicity. It cannot be quantified exactly how much worse the actual worst-case scenario is for climate change. It can be said that it is probably worse than the worst-case models predict, because of all the feedback loops scientific models leave out for the sake of simplicity. (As of now, there are no known beneficial externalities left out). Therefore, the scenario is slightly worse than the worst case scenario currently modelled. At a certain point emissions from permafrost and other natural carbon reservoirs will reach, or have reached a point where even if human greenhouse gas emissions stopped dead in their tracks, climate change would continue unabated. In our committee's starting point, this has been reached, and extensive climate change has been locked in for the rest of the committee.

### **Fight Heat and Hate**

While the human effects of climate change are clear, some people have tried to deflect the blame of climate change onto subsets of the population as evident by the recent shooting that killed 21 people in El Paso Texas on August 3rd, 2019.<sup>76</sup> Others have reacted with increased xenophobia, tribalism, and nativism. This has only heightened tensions between nations and groups and has acted as a distraction from finding ways to solve the problem of climate change. The advent of mass migration in the face of climate

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<sup>76</sup>Beinart, "White Nationalists Discover the Environment - The Atlantic."

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change has caused some anti-immigrant sentiment to intensify and some to blame overpopulation on non-white immigrants.<sup>77</sup> Such hate cannot be tolerated in the face of tackling global warming, as scientists have shown no link between immigration and the degradation of the ecological environment.<sup>78</sup> The supposed link between climate change and immigration has been acknowledged in the political sphere by European leaders such as Marine Le Pen who said that people are “nomadic...don’t care about the environment,” clearly exemplifying her stance on the issue.<sup>79</sup> Many emerging populist movements, such as Italy’s Five Star Movement, are both decidedly environmentalist and nativist.<sup>80</sup> Despite these approaches, the world is in need of global solidarity.<sup>81</sup> Climate change has affected all humans and species, regardless of who they are, and as humans we need to understand this and not blame each other in the heat of our own distress, but instead focus on the future in terms of repair.

### **Sparks of Hope**

Despite the depressing developments, there have been glimmers of a brighter future evident by the ambition of young people like Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist determined to take a sailboat across the ocean to the United Nations Summit Meeting on global warming.<sup>82</sup> She refused to fly in order to decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that it would take for her to get to the conference.<sup>83</sup> Despite her optimism, these conferences often fail to accomplish anything that really makes a

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<sup>77</sup>ibid

<sup>78</sup>ibid

<sup>79</sup>ibid

<sup>80</sup>ibid

<sup>81</sup>ibid

<sup>82</sup>Friedman, “Greta Thunberg to Attend New York Climate Talks. She’ll Take a Sailboat. - The New York Times.”

<sup>83</sup>ibid

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difference in regulating the escalation of climate change. However, despite despair there is still a future that lies ahead and youth is power. You, as delegates, like Greta, now have the power now to strive for change even in the midst of a rapidly deteriorating world.

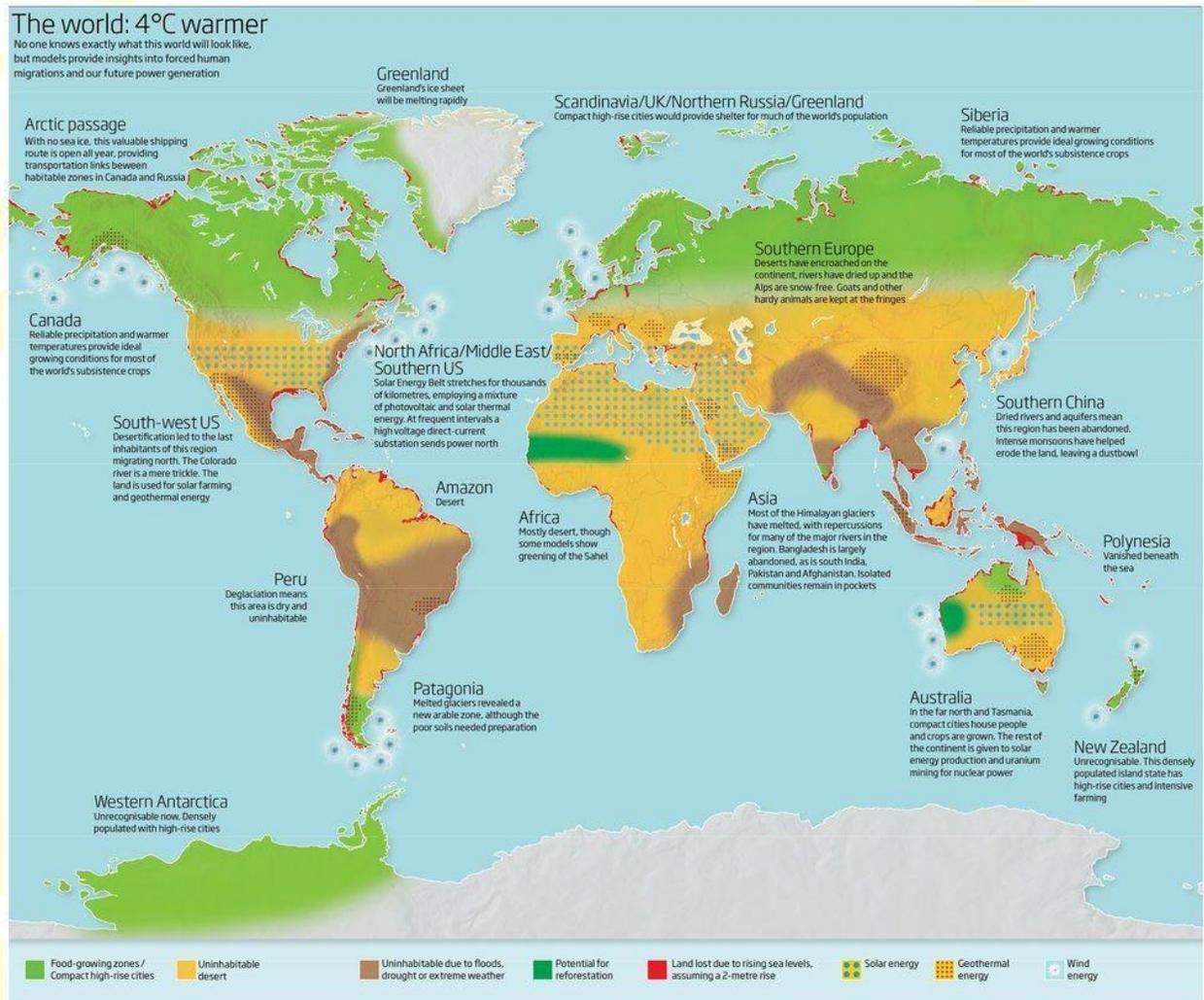


Figure 1. A potential future?

**Wealth system:** Wealth in dollars can be invested in three ways: individual projects within the nation that benefit only the country (no benefit for the globe, but benefits are

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concentrated within the country), shared projects (global benefit, and much more effective if all available money is spent on these types of projects), and war.

**War system:** No troops can be moved around in this system. Countries (and sides of the war if multiple countries are involved) can put wealth towards the war effort. The side that spends more money has a higher chance of winning, weighted with the amount spent. War is fought over territory and resources. A winning side can benefit, but at the cost of only redistributing resources, creating less overall new value for the next session as their money was not invested in the creation of new wealth. All money spent on a war is wasted in terms of creating new resources.

### **New Territory**

As the committee goes on, significant parts of Antarctica will likely become valuable, productive territory. This territory is not currently owned by any nation state. Distribution of such territory will have to be hashed out by the committee. Alternatively, countries may attempt to unilaterally claim large swathes of it, but will likely face repercussions from the other delegates.

**The map:** By 2050, the world is divided into approximately twenty competing power blocs. These nations, empires, and federations are held together by varying degrees of force and national unity. Their systems of government vary widely, from totalitarian dictatorships to liberal democracies, and the various nations are often in conflict with each other.

### **National challenges**

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Climate change is expected to cause resource scarcity, crop failures, drought, extreme weather, sea level rise, and other major challenges. As a result of these issues, it is likely that there will be more regional and global instability, likely including more armed combat.<sup>84</sup> These dynamics can already be seen in some current conflicts. For example, drought and crop failure in the period leading up to the Syrian civil war likely exacerbated social unrest, and was one of the indirect causes of the conflict.<sup>85</sup>

**Nuclear weapons:** Your country may start with a nuclear arsenal. If not, you can choose to spend resources to acquire one. Owning, enlarging, and maintaining an arsenal costs wealth, which cannot be spent on other projects or conventional war. Nuclear weapons may be used as a unilateral decision by delegates with nukes (subject to the range limits of delivery systems- cheap ones for your neighbors, more expensive for the same continent, or full ICBM's, as indicated in your portfolio powers if applicable). Nuclear weapons are potentially devastating, but the consequences may be severe.

### **Geoengineering**

Countries, blocs of countries, or the entire committee acting together may attempt to use various geoengineering techniques to try and ease the effects of climate change. These techniques might include using sulfur particles to try to block out sunlight and reduce temperature, giant mirrors in space to attempt to accomplish the same goal, seeding oceans with iron filings to try to encourage algae growth, or any number of alternate proposals.

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<sup>84</sup>Sneed, "The Risk of Conflict Rises as the World Heats Up."

<sup>85</sup>Gleick, "Water, Drought, Climate Change, and Conflict in Syria: Weather, Climate, and Society: Vol 6, No 3."

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### Questions to consider:

How will you address and react to certain disasters?

What will be the consequences of such actions?

Should you work to protect yourself or all of humanity?

If a nation is somehow fully conquered, what will your nation do in response?

When does it make sense to share your resources with a more desperate neighbor? What is the value of humanitarian action?

How has migration added on to the problem of climate change?

How will you address the migration issue that has occurred with increased global temperatures?

How will you prevent climate apartheid?

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