



## ECOSOC

**Chairs:** Bruno Garcia, Natalia Botero

### **Topic 1: Addressing the consequence of extreme weather**

**Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=9&v=oyiNyWQeysI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=oyiNyWQeysI)

**Article:** <https://phys.org/news/2017-11-urgent-long-term-health-effects-extreme.html>

#### **Overview:**

First of all, to understand the issue at hand, extreme weather is a significant weather event that is irregular to the usual weather pattern, such as but not limited to hurricanes, droughts and floods. Climate change refers to the changes in the average temperature of an area over a period of time, thus, human made climate change is the same thing in which the cause of the rapid temperature increase is humans. The topic deals with the right implementation of measures to prohibit actions that feed climate change and to ensure quick resilience when these events happen. This is mainly caused by greenhouse gases which are gases trapped in the Earth's atmosphere that retain and emit radiant energy, increasing Earth's average temperature and causing these extreme weathers. Carbon Dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) is one of the clearest and most notorious examples of a greenhouse gas. Since the Industrial Revolution, most of the industrial production releases  $CO_2$  in the form of burning coal, fossil fuels, and oil. Another important source of increase of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere is deforestation, as trees convert  $CO_2$  into oxygen and the depletion of trees allows for less of this process. This increase in  $CO_2$  leads to an increase in atmospheric and surface temperature, the rise of sea levels, and extreme weathers. These extreme weathers cause three types of damages: psychological, trauma to the individuals, physical, deaths and physical inabilities for humans, and economic, destruction of private and economic property which leads to loss of capital and potentially employment. Countries that contribute the most to climate change are the United States of America (USA), whose president has been responsible for a scandal as President Trump seems to not believe in climate change, China, one of the, if not the, most polluted countries in the world, Russia, India, Brazil and Japan. Out of these countries, the United States seems to be the only country that does not seek to lower its levels of greenhouse gases as the USA has pulled out of the Paris Agreement. This agreement, signed in April of

2016, is a global agreement to decrease countries' greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is also directly regarded in the thirteenth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations. Finally, the measures that should be implemented in order to solve this issue deal with both regulating climate change, and measures of some sort to reduce impacts of extreme weather.

## **Topic 2: Protection of journalists and freedom of the press**

**Video:** <https://cpj.org/about/video.php>

**Article:** <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/press-freedom-new-censorship>

### **Overview:**

Freedom of the press has certainly become repressed in the recent years, with the protection of journalists around the world drastically decreasing. This repression is known as censorship, which prevents journalists in their respective countries to voice opinions that are of great value in shaping the opinions of the people. This issue is of paramount importance, as a great number of journalists are being censored, or even harmed for voicing fundamental opinions that are invaluable to the people. This censorship and attack on journalists had increasingly become a problem during the early 1990s, with 55 journalists being killed in 1992. This number has dramatically increased since then, as according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), five hundred and six journalists were killed internationally, in comparison to three hundred and ninety killed in the previous decade. Members of the press have not only been killed, but also subject to torture, threats, assault and imprisonment. Censorship is the most prominent in countries such as Eritrea and North Korea, where journalists are subject to repressive laws, restricted Internet access, and imprisonment. An NGO that aims to combat this is the CPJ, whose principal objectives are to promote freedom of the press, and defend the rights of journalists. The UN has become involved in this issue previously through the specialized agency of UNESCO, known as the The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who have collaborated closely with professional organizations on several fronts to defend free media, in a widespread number of countries. Additionally, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly declared that May 3 is "World Press Freedom Day", which serves as an opportunity and occasion to raise awareness about press freedom violations, and to draw people's attention to the work of too many journalists who have had to endure going to jail, or even death, just to provide people with the news that influences their daily lives. There are still measures that need to be taken to combat this ongoing issue, which poses a threat to the rights of journalists worldwide. If such measures are not taken, then possible consequences could be the increase in false propaganda, thus the governments of respective growing to have an unprecedented amount of power, as well as the oppression of the people, preventing them from expressing views freely, even furthermore resulting in frequent human rights violations all over the world. A solution needs to be reached in order to prevent consequences, such as these, from occurring.

## **Topic 3: Integrating Sustainable Development into Post-Conflict Reconstruction**

**Article:** <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2017/7/20/Sustainable-development-and-sustaining-peace-Two-sides-of-the-same-coin.html>

<https://pesd.princeton.edu/?q=node/260>

### **Overview:**

Post Conflict Reconstruction relates to the consolidation of peace and security, and the development of the economy within the aftermath of a devastating war in a country. Sustainable development is described as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," by the United Nations. What this issue deals with is implementing a form of balanced resilience to support war-destroyed countries while doing it in a way that will not put at risk any resources that are of extreme scarcity, and regulating them in a way were it is healthy and successful for these countries affected by war. Post conflict reconstruction has been an issue that colonists began studying in the XIX as they interfered with the political affairs of their respective colonies. One of the most impressive post conflict reconstruction act done in history was the reconstruction plan after the Second World War in which the United States invested 13.3 billion dollars for increase of Europe's production, expansion of foreign trade, enhancement of internal financial stability, and the development of economic cooperation among European nations. To this day, post-wars that will need post conflict reconstruction integration are the Syrian Civil War, the conflict in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, and the Mexican Drug War, conflicts involving more than 10,000 casualties in the past year. Countries who have endured conflict, such as but not limited to Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon are directly involved in this issue, as well as organizations such as the IISD, or the International Institute of Sustainable Development, which promotes sustainable development that can benefit future generations. In September 2015, the UN set 17 global goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. These goals are only recently becoming implemented, and they need to be implemented further, in order to facilitate the integration of sustainable development in post-conflict countries. If such measures are not taken to do so, post-conflict countries will experience terrible repercussions, such as the possibility of rapid decline in the economy. Securing this sustainable development will aid in post-conflict reconstruction for such countries in need.