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| SISMUN VI  2019 | Deforestation |

**Description of Committee**

UNEP stands for the United Nations Environmental Programme. It’s an international organization branching from the United Nations, which guides member countries and promotes collaboration on certain environmental issues. UNEP was established in 1972 and has been working on tackling environmental problems such as climate change, air and water/ocean pollution, renewable vs nonrenewable resources, and sustainable production and consumption. In the past years, UNEP has managed to successfully strengthen environmental management institutions. In this committee, delegates will work to come up with effective solutions to the current issue of deforestation in regards to their country and the global environment.

**Problem**

Deforestation is a serious environmental issue that has been affecting the world’s forests for years. This matter specifically refers to the act of clearcutting, or in other words, the removal of trees to clear a lot of land. This land is then typically used for agriculture, animal grazing, ranches, and urban development. About 18 million acres of forest land are lost to deforestation every year. The increasing pressure from deforestation on the world’s forests, especially tropical rainforests, has caused a number of problems for the environment. These include desertification and soil erosion, which can make farmland more susceptible to floods, altogether leading to a decrease in the amount of crops that can be grown. It can also increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, because as trees are cut down, stored carbon is released back into the air. In addition to all of this, deforestation can cause a loss of habitat for many species. This means that deforestation is contributing to climate change and the destruction of ecosystems.

**History of Issue/Past UN Action**

Deforestation began becoming an environmental concern in the 1950s, when the slash and burn technique started to reach the tropical rain forests. This was a growing issue because these tropical regions supply a significant amount of the world’s resources and are home to millions of species. In response to the situation, the United Nations has launched programs in an attempt to reduce the problem. The UN-REDD Programme, which focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, was put into effect in 2008. The United Nations partnered with 64 countries around the world to support and implement national programmes and techniques that’ll help manage forests in a sustainable manner. Through these REDD+ programmes, the United Nations has been allocating funds and resources to national and sub-national committees in participating countries to put actions into effect. The UN-REDD is still ongoing, and has managed to successfully increase awareness and establish a forest monitoring system. Despite these efforts, deforestation continues to be a problem.

**Possible Solutions**

* Going paperless in certain activities (such as printing receipts, bills, paychecks, etc.) to decrease the stress and demand for paper
* Decreasing the production and consumption of meat (also consider that there has been an overproduction and consumption of meat in the past years)
* Implementing education on the issue in order to increase awareness
* Making an effort to plant more trees in place of those lost to help replenish some of the resource. (Maybe creating jobs based around this or providing incentives to encourage a greater outcome)
* Implementing stricter laws on forest use

**Questions to consider**

* Where is deforestation concentrated the most? Why?
* What impact does animal agriculture have on forests?
* How is deforestation harming the environment around the world?
* Have the past actions of the UN been effective? Why/Why not?
* How has deforestation affected your country/region? What efforts have you made to reduce it?
* What can your country reasonably contribute to helping decrease deforestation?
* Has your country partnered with any UN programmes concerning deforestation? If so, how did that affect forests in your region?

Countries

1. Brazil
2. Peru
3. Bolivia
4. Indonesia
5. Russia
6. Mexico
7. Papua New Guinea
8. Sudan
9. Nigeria
10. Paraguay
11. Argentina
12. The Philippines
13. Ghana
14. Thailand
15. Bangladesh
16. Malaysia
17. Madagascar
18. Bolivia
19. Columbia
20. China
21. Congo
22. France
23. Norway
24. United States
25. Canada
26. Australia
27. Ethiopia
28. Iceland
29. Cambodia
30. Haiti

**Helpful Links**

What Countries Are Most Affected By Deforestation?

<https://thriveglobal.com/stories/which-countries-are-most-affected-by-deforestation/>

Global Deforestation Rates By Country

<https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation_country.html>

Deforestation- Causes, Effects, And Solutions

<https://vocal.media/futurism/deforestation-causes-effects-and-solutions>

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