Environmental Commission

Topic 1: Balancing state sovereignty with the protection of Earth's biodiversity

General Overview:

According to the intergovernmental science policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services, approximately 1 million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction due to nations' lack of sustainable and environmentally friendly development plans, which are eroding the environmental stability of some nations. Brazil, home to nearly 10% of the world's animal species and the Amazon—the world's largest carbon sink—is failing to address the ongoing risks that industrialization and development pose to its ecosystems. The drive to expand in response to urbanization and population growth is destroying habitats once occupied by animals and plants, and increasing greenhouse gas emissions has led to more frequent forest fires each year. Despite attempted solutions such as the Paris Agreement and the Rio watershed movement, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions and protect biodiversity, countries often seek loopholes to prioritize economic growth over environmental sustainability. The Convention on Biological Diversity intended to lower emissions and curb environmental destruction, but nations tend to exploit its provisions for economic gain. While the convention emphasizes the importance of biodiversity, it permits countries to freely share and extract materials, resulting in many nations neglecting environmental concerns in favour of continued urbanization and development. Ultimately, despite these agreements, countries must further prioritize ecosystems and habitats over unchecked economic growth and expansion.

Subtopic 1: Nature's right to self-govern

Nature's right to self-govern is built on the common principle, which is the no-interference rule, where countries are forced to provide space and to allow ecosystems to thrive without the interference of human activity. This will allow ecosystems to not only rebuild the damage caused but also expand and thrive, limiting the possible organisms at risk of extinction. However, countries have still not found the fair line between identifying lands as no-interference zones or areas rich with minerals and materials for industrialization, which could cause some disagreement.

Subtopic 2: Balancing sovereignty With Fair supervision

Effectively balancing protecting land and leaving ecosystems to thrive is crucial, but it's important to make use of fertile and developable land to tackle the increasing population and keep up with urbanization. As nature increasing isn't always a good thing, the increased numbers of organisms, especially animals like herbivores, can severely impact agriculture, a vessel many countries, which depend on it for food security. As well as carnivores threatening livestock, these sacrifices for environmental stability are strongly affecting humans' ways of living.

Subtopic 3: Selecting And Vetting Caretakers for These Lands

Despite the importance of following specific guidelines on protecting natural reserves and lands native to many species and ecosystems, what are the outcomes of living in a world where wildlife is fully thriving. Human-wildlife conflict poses risks to local communities. Furthermore, threats like wildfires also must be considered, as without supervision, consequences could be costly. However, selecting guardians could be tricky as delegates need to discuss ways to regulate supervision while also making sure that supervisors or countries aren't trying to exploit these privileges for personal gain.

Topic 2: Regulating Deep Sea Mining Activity and Weighing Its Effect on Marine Biodiversity:

General Overview:

As of today, many countries are valuing the switch to more environmentally friendly communities and systems and are looking towards circular economies, focusing on recycling and reusing materials, while all of this is making a significant positive impact on our society. Innovations like solar panels, electric cars, and many more environmentally friendly innovations require an abundancy in material, more importantly, materials that are usually extracted through underwater expeditions. Materials like lithium and cobalt show high relevance in tackling global warming with their help in creating these innovations, but the increase in these mining expeditions is starting to create irreversible damage, as corals are being destroyed and ecosystems which survived millions of years and have evolved throughout decades. Furthermore, island countries are the most affected countries, as with their limited resources, safeguarding these areas is difficult. And with the weakening of the International Seabed Authority, there is no way to protect ocean wildlife from exploitation. Island countries have seen huge impacts on their food security, as fish abundance is decreasing, as well as a decrease in tourism. Usually, their main reliance is on economic growth, while more developed countries justify their actions as necessary to keep up with global warming. As these materials are used in the process of creating environmentally friendly innovations, and those studies still haven't found all the risks of underwater mining. And whether they are even significant, making the argument that countries should prioritize early development instead of waiting for facts and statistics in a situation where time is against them, as the ozone continues to deteriorate, solutions are in high demand.

Subtopic 1: Addressing The Precautionary Principle with Mineral Security

Countries now assess their principles, which are usually built on their needs and wants, whether they rely on underwater mining to provide these innovations or if they're being heavily affected by underwater mining. Because as of today the risks of underwater mining are still not properly researched and so it isn't fair to assess all the harms and risks to underwater mining to the need of extracting certain materials, however the argument on whether or not countries should wait until they have 100% of all the dangers these expeditions hold towards our ecosystems which could take years to uncover or should they continue with mining to avoid putting a halt on their progression to becoming environmentally sustainable is still up for discussion.

Subtopic 2: Strengthening The International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The ISA is responsible for gatekeeping international waters, protecting ecosystems from human harm or illegal expeditions harming wildlife; however, it is widely regarded as too slow or influenced heavily by corporate interests, and so delegates must discuss ways to improve this organization for safeguarding international waters. And so, with this pivotal organization being weak and without sufficient resources, less developed countries have no way to ensure protection over their oceans.

Subtopic 3: Evaluating The Need for Deep Sea Mining Against Different Sustainable Alternatives

Some parties argue that deep-sea mining is unnecessary and is only diverting nations from their path to fully sustainable communities. Methods like the circular economy enable countries to acquire the materials needed through methods like recycling, so we can fully avoid deep-sea mining and protect our oceans. However, although there is an abundance of these resources available outside of ocean mining, there are still many implications and potential drawbacks environmentally and socially, meaning countries will have to weigh the importance of saving oceans in exchange for destroying biomes like tundra or rainforests to ensure these resources are obtained.

Topic 3: Addressing Future Challenges in Atmospheric Protection Through Strengthening the Montreal Protocol

General Overview:

The Montreal Protocol of 1987 is one of the world's largely regarded and successful environmental agreements there is. It has helped address the production of ozone-depleting substances. Which are the main causes for the thinning of the ozone layer. By achieving ratification, this protocol has ruled out the use of 99% of ozone depleting substance, and while this protocol has seen major success in recent years, as of 2026, new challenges have erupted, as new substances are being used like potent greenhouse gases. Furthermore, challenges like illegal trade and the need to support developing countries in their industrial transitions. Moreover, countries have found new ways to use the already banned ozone depleting substances by combining them together through chemical process in order to make a new substance which is deemed as environmentally friendly and without any harmful emissions however it is clear that these estimates of how dangerous these chemicals are to the environment were undermined, as despite the agreement countries especially less developed countries are finding it hard to provide fast refrigerating as well as sufficient and easy to provide cooling, and despite enhancements like the Kigali amendment suggested by small island nations in the conference which took place in Rwanda, requires balancing hydrofluorocarbons with essential energy efficient standards putting a much needed fast decrease on the use of these hydrofluorocarbons the treaty other than that still poses weakness and is clearly showcasing how outdated it's become.

Subtopic 1: Addressing The Kigali Amendment

After the elimination of most ozone depleting substances potent greenhouse gases started to emerge for fast refrigeration, this amendment sought to end their use and to reduce 80% of their consumption and production by 2040 due to their significant environmental impacts on global warming, however, despite the achievements this amendment was able to achieve countries especially less developed countries relied on those fast refrigerating mechanisms and so this amendment while eliminating a root cause, never planned on creating an alternative.

Subtopic 2: Strengthening Compliance and Enhancing Monitoring

Despite the agreements huge success in decreasing the production and consumption of these harmful substance illegal trading and spikes within these substances have been detected meaning that there is still lots of room for countries to cooperate and create everlasting solutions and mechanisms to monitor these trades and improving compliance however this requires total

cooperation from all nations to ensure that less developed nations are included and don't lack any of the required mechanisms for tackling illegal trade operations.

Subtopic 3: Addressing And Closing Chemical Feedstock Loopholes

Despite the agreement banning many harmful substances harming our atmosphere, new chemical loopholes, including using otherwise banned substances as building blocks to create what is deemed as a less harmful substance, which won't leak into the atmosphere; however, studies show that the leaks from these feedstocks are increasing heavily, making them a huge risk in maintaining the atmosphere. And without proper action, solutions become scarce, and new laws and actions are necessary in addressing these loopholes, making sure that any exploitation of the regulations set out by the agreement isn't negatively affecting the environment.