

YUNMUN XXX

UNEP

Topic 2: Green New Deal

As climate change becomes an ever more pressing issue, politicians around the world are fighting for their countries to take aggressive action against climate change. These politicians believe that we are running out of time to reverse the effects of climate change. The newly elected U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has been an outspoken advocate for the “Green New Deal” which has been referenced by many environmental activists and caused a stir on the national stage. The goal of the Green New Deal is to transition the U.S. economy to become greenhouse gas emission neutral, which will lead to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and oceans, and promotes economic and environmental justice and equality.<sup>1</sup> However, the Green New Deal has not been established as policy in the US, and is merely a subject of debate amongst the Democratic party. Promoters of this new deal believe that it will bring both greatness to the economy and a surge in economic opportunity as well.

This concept is not new, and has been brought up by former President Barack Obama,<sup>2</sup> the South Korean government<sup>3</sup> and other climate activists. In 2008, the Green New Deal Group from Britain published the report, “A Green New Deal,” that offered global ideas to reverse climate change by reducing dependencies on fossil fuels.<sup>4</sup> The United Nations discussed similar ideas at the same time, which suggested that the financial crisis of 2008 was a good time to push for more environmentally friendly economic policies.<sup>5</sup> A statement was released in a 2009 report expressing that: “It is necessary to reduce carbon dependency and ecological scarcity not just because of environmental concerns but because this is the correct and only way to revitalize the economy on a more sustained basis.”

Some questions to consider:

- How has your country’s environmental policies changed over time? Have they become more progressive or have they regressed?
- Has your country taken any steps to commit to revolutionary goals like those in the Green New Deal (such as working to become carbon neutral)?
- How can developed countries help developing ones?
- Does your country accept the need for aggressive action to be taken against climate change or does it not prioritize environmental concerns?

Looking at the links footnoted here will be useful in gaining a further understanding of the development of newer environmental policies, including the Green New Deal and how they relate to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out. Good luck, and I look forward to seeing you soon,

Shira Pertou  
Chair, UNEP  
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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gp.org/green\\_new\\_deal](https://www.gp.org/green_new_deal)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thebalance.com/what-was-obama-s-stimulus-package-3305625>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.asiaecon.org/special\\_articles/read\\_sp/12538](http://www.asiaecon.org/special_articles/read_sp/12538)

<sup>4</sup> <https://greennewdealgroup.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=46&menu=1515>

