

CLEIMUN20

“Diplomacy in a Challenging Global Environment”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Ecology and Environment Committee (ECOE)

QUESTION OF: Economically Sustainable Green Growth

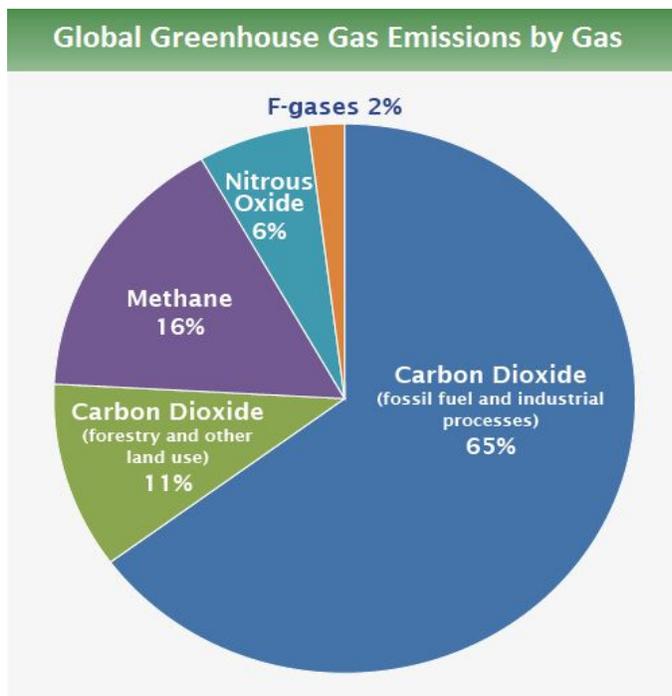
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Introduction & Background

Sustainable development is a policy that has been debated very frequently in recent global politics. It emphasizes the enhancement of environmental, social and economic resources. Sustainability continues to be the essential long-term goal, but a Green Economy is characterizing a pathway to sustainable development. Green growth entails facilitating economic growth and development, while maintaining that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which the human race relies upon. It is often not considered economically sustainable for some nations, because it is difficult for less economically developed countries to apply and fund the technology and infrastructure. The concept of Green Growth may have the ability to halt climate change and global warming as well. Additionally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supports countries in their development of Green Economy Policy Assessments and continues to assist them in their efforts if assistance is needed.

What Benefits are Posed by The Continuation of Green Growth?

Though thoughts and opinions regarding green growth vary amongst different United Nations member states, green growth is known to have many benefits. Studies have shown that the use of green growth can decrease greenhouse gas emissions and subside many forms of pollution. Green growth may also halt man-made global warming, as it utilises sustainable, clean, and



renewable energy that does not emit harmful gas. 65% of global greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the burning of fossil fuels and industrial processes. Gas emissions caused by nonrenewable and non sustainable energy sources have resulted in a hole in the ozone layer, as well as an increase in the greenhouse gas effect, making global temperatures rise each year. Furthermore, green growth

would create more jobs, boosting the economy of all participating nations. People would be needed to create the necessary infrastructure to carry out green growth policies, which would, in turn, create more jobs, lower unemployment rates, and improve national economies.

What are the Downsides to the Use of Green Growth?

Many nations do not feel the need to adopt green growth policies because of the possible detriment they may pose. Nations whose economies rely heavily on the coal and oil industries

might see an economic detriment within their nation once green growth policies are adopted. Additionally, mediums that must be attained in order for green growth policies to be carried out may be costly for some developing nations that currently do not have enough funding, or may need some assistance in carrying out such policies. In fact, a UN report concluded that green growth policies must be completely developed to ensure maximised benefits and minimised costs to the poor and most vulnerable, and policies and actions with irreversible negative impacts must be avoided.

How Does Inclusive Green Growth Relate to the Green Economy?

Green growth policies strive to create a green economy, which UNEP defines as an economy “that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environment risks and ecological scarcities.” Both policies contribute to sustainable development, the highest goal of growth, development, and environmental policies. Additionally, both policies aim to be developed further through the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), a joint initiative of the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, UNEP, and the World Bank.

Why Should Developing Nations Focus on Green Growth?

Green growth should be the focal point of many developing nations as it would solve many of their other problems. Many of these problems have to do with national economies and access to basic human needs, like food, water, and clean air. Green growth would enable clean air and water to become much more attainable, solid waste management would be more accessible, and

a greater resilience to natural disasters would occur. Additionally, many nations believe that environmental performance will improve with an improved economy or national income, but that is simply not the case, as steps need to be taken over time to improve aspects such as air quality and water potability. Furthermore, once the environment reaches a certain point, it becomes too expensive for any nation to fix, and can even get to a point of irreversibility. It is best if nations, developed, developing, and undeveloped begin the process of adopting green growth policies and green infrastructure.

Past Efforts to Solve the Problem

Over the years, few courses of action have been taken to further green growth policies. Some UN member nations have independently adopted their own green growth policies, however none were too drastic. Many countries have implemented their own national sustainable development strategies. National sustainable development strategies are documents and plans of how a country will go about reducing emissions and their carbon footprint. These can be defined as “a coordinated, participatory and iterative process of thoughts and actions to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives in a balanced and integrative manner.” The World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNEP have all shown appreciation for all efforts to adopt green growth policies and have urged other United Nations member states to adopt such policies. Organizations such as the Center for Sustainable Economy (CSE) have also made efforts to further green growth by collaborating with other organizations and NGOs to carry out actions such as but not limited to forest restoration, spreading awareness, and building green infrastructure. Recent initiatives on green economy or green growth by the UN Department

of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have also seen some success on raising awareness for the urgency of the issue. Additionally, in November of 2016 the Paris Agreement on climate change was signed in an effort to keep global warming below a 2°C increase by the end of the 21st century and pursue efforts to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C. Countries agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which requires the expansion of renewable energies. Some actions have been taken to solve the issue, but if the issue is to be solved, more must be taken.

Possible Solutions

As of late, there have been very little solidified solutions that posed a means for undeveloped and/or developing nations to be able to afford green growth policies and green infrastructure. A solution for allowing green growth to be more prominent and economically sustainable globally is to form joint organizations between less economically developed countries or developing nations and more economically developed countries. By implementing this, developing nations can be supported in the funding it takes to provide greener technologies to replace harmful ones and reduce carbon emissions. Keeping in mind that oil companies and coal companies have a great impact on the economy of many nations across the United Nations, it would be looked favorably upon by the dais if delegates could form a balance between the needs of their nation's economy and the needs of the global environment. The delegates may also consider creating policies that recommend working with organizations and other subcommittees of the un to create green growth policies and green infrastructure. The creation of campaigns that spread awareness

of the issue would also be in order. Additionally, the financial gap that constrains green growth policies and green infrastructure between United Nations member states must be closed. Although it is expensive and requires technology and infrastructure many countries lack, green growth and green infrastructure are economically efficient. Solar and wind energy are great substitutes for fossil fuels because they last longer, however, they can be quite costly and require a stable framework before their implementation. A combination of long-term and short-term solutions would be most effective in solving this issue, however this combination does not need to be completely balanced for specific goals to be achieved.

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