

## **Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme**

The French Republic is very concerned about the topic of climate change. France wants to make sure that every economic sector follows the emission reduction targets. To ensure more actions against climate change France encourage all member states to close the “knowledge-action gap”. Developing nations need assistance to grow economically in a sustainable manner.

### **Measures to enforce all economic sectors to follow Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets**

The current plan of every country to reduce greenhouse gases leads to a global warming of 3°C by 2100. The current situation is that global emissions must drop 55% by 2030 to meet climate goals. (Anzilotti 2018) First steps in climate policy started with the Kyoto agreement that France ratified in 2002. (UNFCCC 2020) There are already solutions that France is participating as part of the European Union and part of the Kyoto Agreement. One solution is the EU Emissions Trading System, that regulates around 45% of total EU greenhouse gas emission. The European Commission expects to cut their emission until 2030 by 43% compared to 2005. (European Commission 2020)

The next relevant agreement is the Paris Agreement, that has its origin in the French Republic. Relevant Points of this agreement are a limitation of greenhouse gas emissions to prevent global temperatures from increasing more than 2 °C above the temperature Industrial Revolution. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica 2019) France believes that is a really important climate agreement and cannot support countries that wants to leave this agreement. France want to follow the climate targets that they set during as part of the Paris Agreement. (Milbank 2017)

Another solution to cover a lot of economic sectors is to increase carbon taxes on goods that produce a lot of emissions. That should lead to more demand for environmentally friendly products. France will introduce an eco-tax on flights in 2020 to finance daily transport in France. (Bock 2019)

Other possibilities to enforce all economic sectors to reduce the GHG emission reduction targets is the implementation of carbon-neutral target into the national law. France suggests this, because this solution sets concrete reduction targets are more effective than only targets that do not change the behavior of the people. (Bate 2019)

**The question of decreasing the “knowledge-action gap” relating to climate change.**

France believes the gap between knowledge and action keeps affecting progress towards sustainable development. Big problems are that people tend to have a partial, incomplete and often poorly formed understanding of climate change. This complex topic makes it difficult for everyone to comprehend its severity, or to recognize their role in contributing to, or relief it. (Bryan 2015)

Furthermore in schools there are missing time and space in the curriculum to teach this important topic. (Stevenson 2017) This is not according to the article 6 of the UNFCCC that consider education, training and public awareness as integral responses to climate change. (Bryan 2015) The education about climate change should start at a very young age to build up awareness for our environment and that this problem can only be solved if everyone works together.

The French Republic fully supports the program “Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development” from UNESCO to help the public and the following generations to understand what the problem climate change is. The goals of this program are to provide quality climate change education for sustainable development at primary and secondary school level by improving such as but not limited to education policy, teacher education, training on curriculum review/reform. Another part of the program supports the implementation of non-formal education through media such as but not limited to television, social media and radio to reach the other people. (UNESCO 2020)

France supports rooftops and vertical wall gardens for big cities that should help to lower temperatures on hot days, provide isolation in winter and improve air quality. Other alternatives are the installation of bike sharing systems that could attract tourists in big cities to move faster and to discover the buildings and parks in their own speed. (Kheny 2019)

### **Encouraging and helping developing nations grow economically in a sustainable manner.**

Developing nations need sustainable growth to be repeatable, ethical and responsible to, and for, current and future communities. Over 65 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa are living without electricity.

Energy is one important factor for the growth of an economy. A solution for energy for sustainable growth in the developing nations is Conergy. That produces both heat and power

using one fuel. The cogeneration plant has an efficiency of about 75 – 80%. Current systems have an efficiency of about 45 %. (RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS 2018)

Another important factor for the sustainable growth for countries is to have a solid knowledge base. Education is still a problem in developing countries. Especially basic education is not available in every country to children. (UNESCO 2016) France is helping in especially French-speaking sub-Saharan African countries with aid such as but not limited to teacher training to improve teaching quality and post-primary education.

The French Republic would suggest implementing in the economy of the developing nations to a circular economy. In this economy type products and materials are recycled, repaired and reused rather than thrown away. The waste from one industrial process becomes a valued input into another. Creating and optimizing resource circles along value chains could meet the material needs of a growing developing nation. This would also create more jobs in developing nations. (Rizos 2019)

In the past years the urbanization rate grew rapidly. In the year 2050 the estimated number of people living in urban areas will be two third. (Ritchie und Roser 2018) In the same time the number of people living in slums might triple. That is why building up sustainable cities is getting more important. Therefore France suggests to invest more into the infrastructure such as but not limited to roads, water, sewers, electricity and services to build up a sustainable economy. (Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2013)

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