**FORUM:** The Environment Committee

**QUESTION OF:** Strengthening the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC)

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,

*Taking note* that “Territorial” is defined as ‘the ownership of an area of land or sea’, where the states are in control of this process,

*Bearing in mind* that the seventh UN Millennium Development Goal is to "ensure environmental sustainability,”

*Taking into consideration* that TACC is the partnership between the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Environment Program, formed in October 2008, that aims to help sub-national governmental action to address the adverse impacts of climate change,

*Keeping in mind* the goals of the TACC of ensuring access of up-to-date climate change information, putting in place government partnerships and frameworks, and developing action plans to ensure a programmatic approach to climate change,

*Further recognising* the positive outcomes of the TACC projects in Colombia, Senegal, Uganda, Uruguay and Peru,

*Realising* that 50-80% of GHG emissions reductions and the bulk of adaptation efforts will depend on decisions taken at the sub-national level,

*Bearing in mind* the information put forward by the ‘*Down to Earth: Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) 2012 Update’*,

*Aware that* when strengthening the territorial approach to climate change, a state’s own economic and social interests must be accounted for,

*Noting the importance* of international support for the TACC and full cooperation throughout the member states,

*Acknowledging* the difficulties identifying and measuring the sources of greenhouse gas emissions,

*Recognising* the difficulties of ensuring a short-run and long-run balance between economic growth and public and private investment in low carbon emissions,

*Fully aware of* the goals presented by the United Nations Environment Program of adaptation and mitigation towards low carbon societies,

*Alarmed by* the unprecedented increase of carbon emissions in the last 50 years from 318 to 395 CO2 parts per million,

*Noting with approval* the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the continuation of their Climate Change Conferences, the last of which happened on the 11th of November 2013,

1. Calls upon the TACC to provide financial subsidies to automobile and fuel manufactures in order to:
   1. Reduce the cost of electric vehicles and vehicles that run on renewable fuels in the hopes of making them more affordable and thus more widespread,
   2. Aid research and development of environmentally friendly vehicles,
   3. Aid research and development of alternative fuels to be used by consumers and commercially, for example, Algae-based bio-fuels,
   4. Make all research information freely accessible online to help aid the development of renewable energy sources in LEDC’s where they may not possess necessary labor or funds;
2. Develop concrete and realistic projects at regional scales in order to support and strengthen step-by-step regional mechanisms for the management of resources by the TACC, especially in agriculture, and ensure that such mechanisms are adaptable to changing situations:
   1. By finding concrete projects that can be set up quickly in particular in agriculture:
      1. The elaboration of “green walls” to protect some areas from desertification or the creation of “bocages” in order to protect the fields (from erosion or landslides for example) and increase crops at the same time,
      2. The development of a new kind of agriculture: indeed a rational agriculture that can be used to reduce the pollution and the drying of the soils,
   2. By seeing further in the future with, moreover, taking into account social progresses:
      1. The creation of more “Protected Areas” in order to save ecosystems (and also in order to create green jobs),
      2. The creation of regional organizations that are acting far from the tensions and wars that are happening in some regions of the world,
      3. And, in educational programs, the integration of specialized classes that could put the emphasis on territorial approaches;
3. Encourages all UN member nations and their respective municipalities to collaborate with and strengthen the TACC by:
   1. Hiring local workers, especially jobless ones, for jobs that fulfil the TACC requirements, specifically jobs developing, accessing, and effectively using up-to-date climate change science, information, tools and good practices, and developing a climate profile and draft a climate change strategy and action plan to ensure a programmatic approach to climate change,
   2. Providing appropriate complementary education and training for the jobs mentioned in sub-clause a;
4. Reinforce the TACC program by constantly reevaluating the number and type of relocation companies in the world and therefore penalizing them if they do not respect the local environment, by:
   1. Bearing in mind the fact that businesses will go wherever there are the fewest regulations; therefore to continue establishing regularly new lists of emerging countries that might attract external businesses by its tax advantages,
   2. Controlling the good respect of local wildlife, by sending periodically U.N. reporters in those countries to evaluate the current actions the companies are making, considering or not environmental sustainability, and therefore taxing the ones which do not,
   3. Reinvesting the money provided by the taxes to improve TACC efficiency in the development and the financing of new renewable and eco-friendly technologies;
5. Calls for the creation of a TACC subsidiary body whose sole purpose is to finance long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction mechanisms, renewable energy research and development; Working in collaboration with national and international, public, and private investors to help finance long-term TACC projects in exchange for financial incentives such as tax breaks.

**FORUM:** The Environment Committee

**QUESTION OF:** Balancing environmental sustainability and economic growth

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,

*Taking note* that ‘sustainable development’ is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", while ‘economic growth’ encompasses a sustained upward trend in the total output of goods and services in a nation,

*Bearing in mind* that the seventh UN Millennium Development Goal is to "ensure environmental sustainability,”

*Observing* the significance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenges posed by climate change,

*Noting with satisfaction* that at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, $513 billion was designated towards global sustainable development initiatives,

Taking into consideration that for some nations, resources that contribute to global warming comprise a large percentage of the country's revenue; taking away the ability to use these resources can have dire consequences on poverty, unemployment, and inequality rates,

*Expressing its* *appreciation* towards the effectiveness of tradable emission permits in reducing a nation's carbon footprint, as discussed in the European Union Emission Trading Scheme,

*Keeping in mind* the social and environmental consequences that climate change can have on the health and wellbeing of citizens, where urban air pollution is currently causing 1.2 million deaths per year,

*Alarmed by* the fact that global gas emissions have increased by more than 46% since 1990,

*Deeply concerned* that human activity has increased the natural species extinction rate by 100 times,

*Convinced of* the importance of the Poverty-Environment Initiative of the United Nations Environment Program that assists government decision-makers and other stakeholders to manage the environment in a way that “improves livelihoods and leads to sustainable growth”,

*Noting with approval* the value of the Kyoto Protocol, as adopted by 37 nations, in its global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 18%,

*Affirming* the success of the United Nations REDD+ program that processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international efforts to reduce global emissions and deforestation,

*Fully aware of* the efforts of existing environmental organizations including the Earth System Governance Project, the Global Environment Facility, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Nature Organization, and the World Wide Fund for Nature,

1. Urges other member nations to support the UN- REDD (United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions and Deforestation and forest Degradation) in LEDCs in its efforts to:
   1. Support countries’ efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by actively integrate relevant stakeholders, such as indigenous people, that rely directly on the forests for their livelihoods,
   2. Receive, manage and redistribute performance payments in a transparent, equitable and accountable manner in an effort to gain the confidence of MEDCs and the international community;
2. Encourages the assistance of developing nations to adopt suitable environmental policies for reducing environmental degradation and striving towards economic growth while sustaining the environment, which will be achieved by:
   1. Raising public awareness and educating those country’s citizens on environmental protection and the consequences of environmental degradation of any kind through:
      1. Events organized by NGOs such as Greenpeace with the support of local governments,
      2. Sending either instructors or, if the required funds aren’t available, volunteers with adequate knowledge on environmental protection that are going to educate local teachers about everything they need to know about the environment and ways to protect it as an individual; those teachers are then going to pass on their knowledge to the young population of the country,
      3. Speeches organized on global scale about environmental issues and sustainability held by speakers from agencies like APB Speakers International;
3. Encourages the governments of global core areas to gradually implement taxes on industries relative to their CO2 emission to provide money for the future of carbon – rapture technologies and to potentially reduce the countries’ carbon footprints whilst encouraging and protecting economic growth in ways such as:
   1. Imposing taxes over the next ten years, increasing by 2% yearly to provide time for the industries to adapt to the reforms,
   2. Calling for more regular and systematic accounts of CO2 emission per capita in order to control and evaluate the progress in changes in emissions,
   3. Using the net profits from the taxes for investments, creation and refurbishing of carbon – capture technologies;
4. Calls for a meeting between all member states, the section general and the relevant members of ECOSOC to:
   1. Understand the dangers of unsustainable economic growth on the environment,
   2. Create 5, 10, and 15 year objectives related to environmental stability and economic,
   3. Publish a report to act as a general guide for developing countries, every 2 years to be analyzed by the Environmental Statistics Section of UN Statistics Division,
   4. For greater efficiency, such programs should include:
      1. Political engagement/commitment,
      2. Active participation and collaboration of statistical departments, environmental offices and other relevant constitutions.