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## **PAMUN XVII RESEARCH REPORT— (Measures to aid developing countries in moving towards green production methods)**

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### **Introduction of Topic**

Throughout history, the nations of the world grow their societies, governments, and economies in order to provide the best for their citizens. In the pursuit of industrial cities and materialistic goods, humans have threatened life itself through unsustainable methods. A century worth of industrialization has introduced production methods that are damaging to the environment and humanity by intensifying problems like deforestation, pollution of our oceans and drinking water, and climate change. These damages to our environment may not recover for hundreds of years and it is important to minimize humanities ecological footprint as we step into the future.

The nations of the world have recognized these problems and convened in the Earth Summit of 2012 to establish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 17 goals aimed at producing a “Future we want”. Goal 12 is notably relevant being titled “Responsible consumption and production”. Many developed nations have already taken action to reduce their unsustainable production methods. Meanwhile, another problem that must be addressed discusses how developing countries are racing towards industrialization with no regard for the environment’s vitality. The phenomena we face shows developing countries sacrificing sustainability and green production methods for a strong economy.

Unfortunately, many developing countries are struggling to correct their actions as they lack the proper resources and technology. Environmentally sustainable technology still remains expensive and discourages many governments from adopting new green policies. In order to achieve progress in making the world more sustainable, international nations and organisations must devise a method of aiding developing nations to go green must be established so humanity does not repeat the mistakes of its past.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

#### **Developing countries**

This term is not universally defined by any large organization. Generally it is used to describe a nation that lacks industrial strength, ranks low on the Human development Index (HDI), and has a relatively low gross national product (GDP). Alternative terms used to classify nations in statistics include: Least developed countries – countries showing the least socioeconomic development and

lowest HDI and the WESP's classification of countries under developed economies, transitional economies, and developing economies. A common index used to classify environmental sustainability would be the Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

## **Green technologies**

Green technologies are a group of methods, materials, and instruments that are meant to minimize environmental impacts compared to their non-green counterparts. Green technology has been developed to improve energy, buildings, chemistry, nanotechnology, and government mandates for green products. Some green technologies are designed to create green methods of production. Renewable energy technology is an example with solar panels, wind turbines, and other similar technologies using rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Other relevant technologies are listed in the possible solutions section.

## **Renewable energy**

Renewable energy or “green energy” are terms used to describe methods of producing energy that are from resources that naturally replenish. Examples of renewable energy can be found in solar, wind, rain, tidal, wave, and geothermal technology. 2015 has seen the highest growth in renewable energy and the transition from non-renewable to renewable is steadily increasing. As of 2014, the Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN21) reports that renewable energy makes up 19 percent of energy consumed and 22 percent of energy generated.

## **Sustainable development**

Sustainable development is most commonly defined by “Our Common Future”, written by the Brundtland Commission: “Sustainable development is the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

## **Background Information**

### **Why developing countries must develop green growth**

The “mobile phone revolution” in Africa refers to a time when mobile phone technology dropped in price and spread all over the African continent. The interesting realization of this revolution is that the continent skipped past fixed phone lines and other developments prior to the mobile phone. Developing countries around the world are now finding themselves in the same position with sustainable development. Today's developed countries are still trying to cease the use of fossil fuels and deal with the subsequent pollution. If the issue of green production in developing countries is tackled efficiently, the world will see many nations skipping fossil fuels and moving forward to new and green technologies,

effectively skipping the phase that today's developed nations are still going through, as well as a steady advancement towards the sustainable development goals established in 2012's Earth Summit.

### *Economic and social impacts*

Changes in weather patterns due to environmental degradation can start to cause irreversible impacts. Nation's infrastructure will become susceptible to extreme weather events, humans are more vulnerable to air pollution, outdoor tourism and recreation are impacted by changing weather, and agriculture is set back by changes in temperature, rain patterns, and water quality. These impacts are examples of how environmental degradation affects multiple areas within the economy and society. Unlike developed nations, developing nations lack the stability in their industry to withstand such impacts. These environmental impacts are more important to developing nations because many of them severely exploit and depend on unsustainable natural resources. It is estimated that globally, environmental hazards make up 25% of the world's death and diseases while regions like Sub-Saharan Africa approach numbers up to 33%. These environmental issues will stretch out and affect multiple facets of a nation if they are not dealt with.

### *Increased Growth*

The economic and social impacts now are clear and dangerous. What is even more concerning is that environmental degradation is only expected to increase. An example is found in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, gasses responsible for altering Earth's natural systems like climate change. It is clear that developing nations do not contribute to GHG emissions as much as developed nations. What is true is that at the rate that developing nations are growing, many major emerging economies and developing economies will increase their GHG emission at faster rates compared to China, the United States, or the European Union. Additionally, demographic growth in some developing nations are experiencing exponential increases. The 47 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) experience relatively high birth rates and combined, are expected to reach 1.9 billion people by 2050. An example can be found in Nigeria who is projected to rise from its current 7<sup>th</sup> ranking in population to 3<sup>rd</sup>, surpassing the U.S. by 2050. An increase in demand for resources because of a higher population will put a strain on our current methods of generation. It is estimated that we will require a 70% increase in our world food supply to meet the demands of the 9 billion population in 2050. Non-renewable resources will be depleted and the demand will not be met unless a shift from non-renewable resources to renewable resources is accomplished. The OECD predicts these developing countries will grow substantially over the next 40 years on many other facets.

## **The Three Dimensions of Green Production**

The issues mentioned above must be tackled in a manner that does not interfere with a developing nation's capability to grow, reduce poverty, and other goals. For this, the concept of green growth has been developed as a new approach to this problem. The OECD defines green growth as a means of fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. If implemented effectively, the green growth model proves beneficial in the following three sectors: economic, environmental, and social. The implementation in green production methods can have effects on three intertwined sectors.

### ***Economic Dimension***

The economic sector of this problem involves the economy's dependence on natural resources, the market for green technologies, and the skepticism around sustainable production. These issues can be solved through the integration of ecological values into economics, what is known as a "bio-economy". Such a change in system would require a balance between sustainability and economic growth. If bio-economic policies are implemented, the issues of the economic sector can transition into renewable methods while maintaining a growth in jobs and industries. Examples of the possible outcomes of such a development include: The production and conventional goods and services (GDP) become equally distributed amongst regions. The model helps the economy diversify and expand its outcomes allowing nations to not depend on a single depleting natural resource. Ecosystem services are produced more and are cheaper thanks to the regular innovation in green technologies.

### ***Environmental Dimension***

The environmental dimension withholds all the environmental impacts that non-green production could withhold. One of the primary objectives that green production accomplishes is minimizing these environmental impacts. Examples of the possible outcomes of such a development include: improving the efficiency of natural resource use so that it sustains longer, water and air quality is improved due to promoting the natural capital of the environment through ecological preservation, and the previously mentioned environmental impacts like climate change and pollution are less likely to come to fruition.

### ***Social Dimension***

Developing a green production strategy can have changes on the society of a developing nation. Green production's reduction in air and water pollution will help reduced the number of premature deaths which allows for an increase in quality of life, notably for the poor in developing countries. The growth in the environmental market brings sustainable and future-proof jobs to citizens. The society is more conscious of their environmental impacts and prefers green products. Lastly, infrastructure become better equipped to handle extreme weather bringing a sense of security to

citizens.

## **Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

### **The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

The OECD is an organization set to promote the socioeconomic well-being of people around the world. The organization has taken multiple steps to aiding the environment and has focused in the past on emerging and transitional economies in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

### **Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (REN21)**

REN21 is a policy network that promotes the transition to renewable energy. One of their goals include uniting governments, NGOs, research and academic institutions, and industry to collaborate in the development and implementation of renewable energy. REN21 also frequently devises international reports on renewable energy, policies, industries, and market developments

### **World Economic Forum (WEF)**

The World Economic Forum, is an international body who is “committed to improving the state of the world”. The body has made initiatives entitled “Accelerating Sustainable Production”, “Shaping the future of Environment and Natural resource Security”, and “Shaping the Future of Production” in efforts to produce goods and services that are green, economically viable, and socially beneficial.

### **UNEP (United Nations Environment Program)**

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), founded on 5 June 1972, is the UN’s premier agency that deals with environmental policies and practices. They are responsible for all other branches of UN environmental programs. The UNEP is relevant in their developments in Sustainable consumption and production (SCP), where they work towards improving resource efficiency and promote sustainable lifestyles.

### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, with the aid of UNEP established the concept of cleaner production in the Rio Summit. One of the areas they work in the safeguarding the environment by implementing resource-efficient cleaner production (RECP). UNIDO cooperates with the Government of Switzerland and UNEP under the RECP program to bring RECP services to over 60 developing and transitional economies.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
September 10 <sup>th</sup> 1987	Commission on Environment and Development is written to discuss the environment and its development.
20 June 2012	United nations Conference on Sustainable Development hosted
12 December 2015	United Nations COP21 Climate Change Conference hosted
9 November 2016	COP22 “Enabling policies for green investment and development” session

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Convention on Biological Diversity signed, 5 June 1992
- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 20 June 2012
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 21 October 2015, A/RES/10/1

## Main Issues

### Strengthening of Governance

A strong governance is the basis of working towards our goals. The first issue that our current methods face is seeking stakeholders from governments, corporations, NGOs and others to take interest in green production. Another issue is understanding the complexity and balance within nature. When dealing with this issue, we must be aware that difficult choices and trade-offs will be made. For example, if priorities are set right, the addressing of climate change can have positive effects in energy security, health, biodiversity, and oceans. However, a nation could also find themselves in a difficult trade-off where a transition to sustainable development causes short term damages to their nation. Such a situation is very possible due to the current green technologies being too expensive for developing nation's economies. Lastly, responsibility and accountability must be ensured throughout the whole

process. This can mean many things: creating feedback loops to ensure that nations use funds and tools for sustainable development, fair distribution on contribution towards the issue,

### **Skepticism from developing countries**

Of course, many developing countries have already allocated their resources in their countries, and foreign powers demanding they invest in environmental technology isn't very convincing. These nations will need to be introduced to the environmental issues of our time and share clarity and experience on the matter. Awareness should be spread of the reality that the green technology market is increasing and is a stable investment. Nations should become aware of the many benefits of such a development through informative media. The green technology market still needs the support from the international forum to continue its research and development.

### **Lack of tools and technical assistance**

As the issue is to aiding developing countries. Many countries can simply not afford green production methods. In the instance that a country is able to afford some green technology, many non-efficient implementation methods or lack of specialized environmentalists leads to a defunding of environmental programs. Research and development programs are very primitive in their environmental efforts while the European Union holds about 40% of all environmental technology patents. The EU's commitment to environmental technology patents can be attributed to the 4 billion euros they invest in the market every year. On a grander scale, the OECD, an organization made up mostly of nations with strong economies, owns about 85% of the environmental management, water-related adaptation, and climate change mitigation technologies. Clearly, many developing nations don't have the research and development programs for these technologies and thus rely on aid and investment from MEDCs. Fortunately, the prices for these green technologies are dropping and will continue to drop. Nonetheless, research and cooperation between governments must be maintained and can be improved.

## **Previous Attempts to solve the Issue**

### **“Buying” the right to pollute**

Some institutions in developing countries have created an “emissions trading market” for pollution. This system is meant to incentivize businesses to move towards green production methods. An example would be the European Climate Exchange in 2005. However this market model initially led to too many companies being able to purchase carbon emissions and didn't really incentivize cutting carbon emissions. Another example would be in California who developed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 which predicts the pollution market will account for 21% of the reduced GHG emissions. The current trends of modern Cap-and-Trade systems seem to show a substantial improvement in air quality and improvements on the regional scale. From 2013 to 2015, California's emission from sources under

the cap fell 4 percent. The European Union's Emissions Trading System has seen a 15 percent reduction from 2005 to 2015. However, the system is not alone the solution to air pollution problems and is part of a grander solution. This system has been mostly in the developed world but the OECD encourages that the emissions trading system could provide capital inflows that promote economic growth, aid countries in achieving their Kyoto Protocol commitments at a low price, encourage global participation and collaboration on the issue, and set up infrastructure sustainable for the long-term.

### **PES program in Costa Rica**

Costa Rica is well known for its environmental sustainability and rich biodiversity. Many nations take inspiration from its policies in minimizing ecological footprint. Relative to the topic, Costa Rica's Payments for Environmental Services program has efficiently dissuaded land owners from the deforestation of their forests. PES's schemes introduce a subsidy program, a green technology that encourages governments to mandate green production methods. This was further developed by the Forest Credit Certificate which continued to support conservation while expanding timber production.

### **Business model in Ghana**

As the largest per capita charcoal consumer in West Africa, many families in West Africa rely on charcoal and subsequently spend a large portion of their income on it. Traditional stoves were inefficient and unsustainable. Toyola is Ghana's first stove social enterprise that manufactures and sells green stoves that saves 26,000 tons of charcoal and 150,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year. This specific business model for Ghana has not only reduced the large amount of carbon dioxide emissions that are harmful to the environment but created jobs and helped families across West Africa. Toyola exemplifies the environmental and economic balance that is possible in many developing nations.

### **Social enterprise in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh's Waste Concern focuses on waste recycling, environmental improvement, renewable energy, sustainable development, and poverty reduction through job creation. Their main business model is a composting technology that reduced GHG emissions from rotting garbage. The development has also attracted World Wide Recycling to invest \$8 million towards composting facilities. The company now assists 20 different Asian and African cities in creating sustainable infrastructure, attracting investment, and reducing environmental degradation.

### **High standards in Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka's largest clothing manufacturer Brandix is recognized for its high environmental standards because of their eco-friendly factories that brought an 80% reduction on carbon emissions, 46% energy savings, and 58% reduced water consumption. The company's effects are further amplified because they opened their green factories towards British retailer Marks and Spencer, effectively expanding the green garment market. Marks and Spencer's has also provided financial sponsorships

and technical assistance to Brandix. These developments are partially responsible for a growing awareness about the environmental impacts of production in the UK, Bangladesh, and many other countries.

## Possible Solutions

### Reformation of governance

In order to facilitate the transformation into green growth, nations should build upon existing legislation to orient themselves towards green growth. The OECD's publication entitled "Green Growth and Developing Countries" lists six conditions that must be met in each developing country to facilitate a transition to green production.

- Government expenditures on activities that waste, overuse, or degrade environmental assets should be reallocated.
- A more effective method of enforcing legislation will promote investment and business growth in the environmental sector.
- Developing nations' science departments should aim to support a green economy in order to create the nation's own set of knowledgeable and skilled environmentalists.
- In a scenario with a group of people dependent on a specific resource or land, regimes that control such environmental interests through wealth and technicalities should be tackled or reproached.
- Nations must instill a behavior or cultural change to citizens to make more sustainable decisions.
- Developing nations should find means to integrate their businesses into sustainability and equity issues without compromising their economic capabilities.

### Green Growth Mechanisms

The OECD's publication entitled "Green Growth and Developing Countries" recommends the following mechanisms to stimulate green production. As many developing nations are diverse, it is ideal that each nation establishes these green methods with accordance to their own environment.

#### *Public Environmental Expenditure Review*

(PEER) would be an institution that monitors the distribution, efficiency, and effectiveness of resources for environmental cause. Such data would be checked upon regularly to ensure steady growth and be referred to before implementing new investment projects and legislation reform to

know what methods work, and what methods do not work. Such institutions would also be able to share their growth with larger international organizations such as the OECD to compare improvement and share methods of action.

### ***Strategic Environmental Assessment***

Abbreviated to SEA, Strategic Environmental Assessment is an approach to the integration of environmental policies without compromising social and economic objectives. Such a narrative should always be considered to ensure a balance in assets. This method of thinking is a strategy encouraged by the OECD and used, although differently, in many developed nations like the UK, New Zealand, and the EU.

### ***Councils for Sustainable Development***

(CSD) Councils for Sustainable development represents the rights of future generations through the promotion of sustainability. The 1992 Rio Earth Summit already prompted the creation of these structure to which many have already been created. As of 2008, 100 National CSDs have been established and it is highly encouraged that any developing nation not yet involved in this project establish a CSD to provide coordination between businesses, social, government, and international efforts to sustainability.

## **Green Growth Policy Instruments**

### ***Sustainable Production and Trade***

A “green growing” economy will bring many changes to the markets of a country. For example, if society and culture changes to promote green growth, the value of green goods will have more market value which will encourage non-green producers to go green. This issue calls for a green production certification to be established if not already present so that society can develop a preference towards certified green products. This also means introducing tracing mechanisms to allow the consumer to know if the product comes from sustainable source. Some examples of green production certification include: ISO14001 certification, Energy Star, EPEAT, and many others.

### ***Subsidy Reform***

Subsidy reform can encourage greater efficiency in production to provide a transition in the economy towards green growth. While subsidies are reoriented to better support green growth capacity, social protection measures that protect the poor from increased prices must be ensured so that green growth policies stay within a government’s legislation and maintains public support. The reallocation of resources and subsidies to green technologies should be balanced with public support.

### ***Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)***

This is a system in which farmers and land managers are given incentives like payments to strive transform their ecological footprint. If done correctly, a surge in new investments in environmental technologies can even boost the GDP of a developing country. Although it is difficult to balance so previous mechanism to monitor such changes should be in place so that progress is made without too rapidly expanding. The system should also provide options for farmers or land managers that are less wealthy or recommend methods of overcoming the obstacle. This system was successful in Costa Rica in conserving trees and discouraging deforestation, all while maintaining timber production. Costa Rica can possible help set up the framework of this technology in other developing nations.

### ***Environmental Fiscal Reform***

Environmental taxes are an option to allow an increase in efficiency in management of natural resources. These fiscal reforms can be supported through the goals of reinvesting the tax money on environmental impacts that directly benefit the citizen like developing production methods that don't pollute the air and water quality. Like any tax reform, a level of transparency is required to kick-start it and the promise of reinvestment must be met with delivery to continue the reform.

### ***Green Energy Investment Frameworks and Incentives***

Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) data on clean energy investment shows that overall investment in the sector fell 18 percent but the equipment costs are reducing and can produce more energy for the same price. Thus developing nations will need further investment in their green sectors, most notably, the clean energy sector. This can be established through several methods: Legislation could be reformed to better allow for foreign investors to draw support on a nation's projects, developing nations could also build stronger competition and respect in environmental jobs, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) may be improved, and finance regulation by the government will be a factor that affects the outcomes of investment projects.

### ***Sustainable Public Procurement***

Sustainable public procurement is a technology that allows governments to focus public spending (GDP) towards sustainable policies. As Public procurement can represent up to 30% of GDP in developing nations, Sustainable public procurement (SPP) can support products that are certified green and sustainable. Many developing countries have tried to implement SPP into their governments but have failed due to lacking the proper supplies and knowledge. Measures must be taken to cradle these programs out of infancy and into effect.

### ***Green Innovation***

Fostering green innovation in our communities is where it all accumulates. To make this process the best it can, emerging innovations should be fitted to each unique situation by providing predictable outcomes of green innovations to persuade investors. This should also call for collaboration among nations' research and development efforts to map out the environmental needs of local communities, then refitting foreign technologies to suit local needs, and finally optimizing public procurement opportunities for the "green" market. Through research and development, international aid, and growth of the green technology market, developing nations should work towards transitioning to technologies that are environmentally sustainable.

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