

The delegation from the People's Republic of China
Position Paper for climate change impacts on human health

According to the UN, climate change has a considerable effect on human health. It can go from natural phenomenon's that can kill people to increasing the risk of spreading infectious diseases. Climate change is a global problem, mentioned in Goal 13 in the Sustainable Development Goals, from the 2030 agenda. The countries in Asia have very different views on this topic, China considering that a significant change can affect their progress and development.

During the UN General assembly in 2021, Mr Xi said that before 2060 China will achieve carbon neutrality. However, the emissions from 2020 increased by 1,5% compared to 2019. The government agreed to the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol and is trying to reduce emissions. In 2020, the MEE announced a 5-year program to reduce pollution. The goal is to enforce lake chief and river chiefs responsible for the waste in that specific region. During the meeting of the UN on 23 September, China is going to bring attention and come up with solution to combat global warming.

China is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, being responsible for approx. 28% of all the gas emissions. From 2016 up to now, the carbon dioxide emissions were consisting of 9,893.04 megatons. The emissions can increase the risk for respiratory diseases and many more. The environmental challenge for the Chinese citizens is air pollution, which has a significant impact on the health, causing approx. 300.000 premature mortality.

Another huge problem is the water shortages in the Northern part of the country and the water pollution. The cause of the problem is industrial pollution, which has grown between 2000 and 2015 by 50%. Drinking contaminated water can lead to ingesting microplastics and other health problems such as diarrhoea, hepatitis A, polio and many more. The UN stated that approximately 277.000 children die from unsanitary conditions and unsafe drinking water. Another effect on the body long term can increase the risk of cancer, altered brain function and cardiovascular and kidney problems.

Due to the population is prone to mental health issues, eye infections, rashes, and damage to vital organs because of soil pollution. China has the most polluted soil approx. 19% of the agricultural soils are polluted. The cause of this mass pollution is the chemical one, heavy metals such as chromium, lead, and arsenic accounted for 54% of the total pollutants. Since 2016, the government has been doing various programs to remove the chemicals from the soil.

The best suited solutions for China are the „natural based solutions“. To prevent a drop in economical growth, Li Shuo is suggesting a massive planting campaign to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide, this way we are also rebuilding the natural biodiversity. During 2005-2018 China has planted 4.54 billion meters of forests. Now forests are 23% of the land and this number is going to increase in the next years. China is willing to plant bamboo forests, because of its growing rates and the possibility of using it as biofuel and construction material. Also, the bamboo forest help to recover the soil pollution. China is committed to using more renewable energy in oppose to using fossil fuels. Already, we are the number one user and investor in solar and wind energy. Now 23% of our energy is renewable and these numbers are increasing. The reforestation and renewable energy are solutions that almost any country can use. Also these solutions have been very effective and have not impacted the countries economy.

China is doing its best to reduce the health effects by providing good quality medical care and reduce pollutants. Some of China's goals consist in expanding the use of renewable energy and improving the energy use in the industries.

The People's Republic of China has a long way to prevent and combat climate change and its effects and is trying to do one thing at a time.

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