

POSITION PAPER – CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH IN BRAZIL

Topic: Climate Change Impacts on Human Health

Country: Brazil

School: “Grigore Moisil” National College

Climate change has become one of the main problems that we are facing, and this concerns all the countries. And year by year it gets more pressuring. One of the most known causes is the rising sea levels. Due to the hotter environment, the ice in the poles melts more than it used to, fact that affects a lot of cities and threatens to flood lots of islands and famous beach resorts. Also, the lesser snow accumulation affects the parts of the world where the snowpack stores water for later use. It is predicted that in 100 years snow would have become a rare phenomenon. Furthermore, air pollution is another serious problem the world is facing right now. It is a mix of chemicals, biological materials, and particulate matter, which react with each other and form hazardous particles. It can cause breathing problems, chronic diseases, increased hospitalization, and premature mortality. Moreover, people don't acknowledge the multiple effects lack of recycling has on us: it doesn't only cause the increase of pollution, but the overflow of landfills too, which also makes them toxic, and the destruction of natural habitats which will make us eventually run out of resources. Because of the drier conditions, the food security is decreasing as well. Even if the new technologies are able to adapt to this, it still represents a big challenge for the farmers, fact that will lead in time to less production.¹

On the international scene, those problems were addressed in different many ways. One of the most coherent action to reduce all kinds of global issues is UN 17 sustainable development goals. This agenda seeks to end global warming and pollution, end poverty and inequality of any kind. Most of the countries on the globe are faced with the problem of air pollution. However, countries like Finland have one of the best air quality indicators². This is mainly due to the usage of renewable energy sources, strict legislation regarding car emissions and good control of waste deposits. Furthermore, there is a strict correlation between low pollution rates and high recirculation rates. One of two units of waste, in countries like Germany, is recycled³. This impressive proportion has been achieved by a joint waste collection from households and offices combined with high taxes for garbage that has not been recycled.

¹ <https://www.iamat.org/country/brazil/risk/air-pollution#>
<https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts>
https://warmheartworldwide.org/climate-change/?gclid=CjwKCAjw7J6EBhBDEiwA5UUM2vAciLntuKWIRt4Rpw0x1CNJz6h1WIDMKvoucyMFDzHNF9b8d8Tg7BoCw9cQAvD_BwE

² <https://www.greenmatch.co.uk/blog/2018/11/mapped-europes-most-and-least-polluted-countries>

³ <https://www.nspackaging.com/analysis/best-recycling-countries/>

Our country, Brazil, is located in Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean and it is a federal presidential republic. Even though Brazil is the eighth-largest economy in the world, it is still recovering from a recession in 2015 and 2016 that is known as the worst in the country's history. It is a developing country because of low living standards, high infant mortality rate and other factors. The main environmental issue is deforestation in Amazon Basin, which destroys the habitat and endangers a multitude of plant and animal species indigenous to the area. It is estimated that 100,000 species become extinct in tropical forests yearly. The loss of one species in an ecosystem can affect others who rely on it. The more biodiversity in a system the healthier and more resilient the system. The trees in the Amazon make their own rainfall as weather patterns move from East to West. On a normal day the Amazon releases 20 billion tons of moisture into the atmosphere seeding the clouds with rain. Deforestation causes the forest to dry out and can cause drought and wildfires.⁴ Water pollution is a very serious problem in Brazil, too. Many crimes and human right violations are made in Brazil.⁵ In order to help the air pollution decrease, in 1988, the Brazilian Constitution declared that each citizen had the right to a safe environment. Furthermore, this declaration found that the Brazilian government was primarily responsible for preserving this nation's ecological environment, so that the citizens would have a safe environment to live in. As an example. Brazil introduced the National Air Quality Program, in 1989, as an effort to establish national standards for air quality that must be met throughout the country. After several specialists around the nation condemned the archaic legislation that was extremely harmful for public health, Brazil's Ministry of the Environment finally drafted Resolution 03/90 in April of 2012. Under this document, new air quality standards would be adopted over the course of four distinct phases. Each phase is scheduled to be reassessed and adopted every 5 years by "Conama", which is the National Council on the Environment in Brazil. Furthermore, several amendments demanded by Conama's⁸⁹¹⁰

Brazil recommends prohibiting deforestation in the Amazon Forest, unless necessary. Not only is the Amazon Forest unique on the planet, but by cutting its trees, our country becomes more polluted as the trees cannot absorb carbon dioxide. It is essential for the world and therefore, stricter laws should be

⁴ <https://amazonaid.org/resources/about-the-amazon/effects-of-deforestation-on-the-amazon/>

⁵ <https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/publication/brazil-perspectives-air-pollution>

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_Brazil

⁷ <https://www.treehugger.com/traffic-pollution-kills-more-people-traffic-accidents-sao-paulo-brazil-4857995>

¹⁰ <https://www.azocleantech.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=953>

implemented regarding its protection. Moreover, Brazil requires a better waste management program and for more funds to be invested in it. Brazil produces 240 thousand tons of waste every day and only 2% is recycled.¹¹ Therefore, recycling should be considered a priority and the people should be instructed how to recycle properly. Brazil also suggests moving to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and hydropower, instead of coal and gas. More green spaces should be built in cities, as more trees can help remove pollutants from the air, making it cleaner. Another suggestion would be to replace open fires and traditional stoves with improved, well-maintained cookstoves with chimneys that vent to the outside. This would help the air pollution decrease, especially in the rural communities.

¹¹ [Environmental issues in Brazil - Wikipedia](#)