

Welcome to THSMUN delegates!

At THSMUN, the formula to win is:

1. Participate enthusiastically and actively in ALL aspects of the committee.
2. Work collaboratively with other delegates - collaborate over dominate!
3. Offer creative, on-policy solutions and describe how they will be implemented in the real world.

Position papers must be submitted through our [Google Form](#) by

11:59 PM, November 2nd, 2025.

You must use a Gmail account in order to complete this form. If you do not have a Gmail account, please email your position paper to thsmunoperations@gmail.com.

Please also note that any papers sent to this email with a Gmail address will not be considered/graded. Please use the Google Form instead. Thank you.

***note that if you are submitting via google docs, YOU MUST ensure that the sharing settings are set to “anyone with the link can view”**

Late papers will be ineligible for research awards. Delegates without papers submitted or late papers are also ineligible for Best Delegate awards.

Information about Papers

- Single spaced
- 2 pgs max **not including works cited**
- 12 Font Times New Roman
- 1 inch borders

Committee Description

At THSMUN, we focus on substantive debate. We want to hear your proposed solutions from the start of the committee! Creativity and collaboration is also what helps delegates truly strive while at THSMUN.

UNEP or United Nations Environmental Programme works towards building a more eco-friendly world while also implementing long lasting sustainable policies and practices. Throughout this committee the themes of sustainability and practicality, will lay the foundation for new ideas in the preservation of the world's natural ecosystems and environments.

At THSMUN we focus on not only current world issues but also fulfilling the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Specifically related to this committee is SDG 13, which focuses directly on lowering the rapidly accelerating global temperatures, reducing CO₂ emissions, and preventing natural disasters.

Background:

While the Earth temperature has been growing warmer since its creation, the climate has been changing drastically in the last few decades. At first, scientists argued that human activity such as the greenhouse gases were to blame, however others argued that the rise of temperature was being caused by volcanism and solar variation. Now with our new satellites and technological advances, scientists have uncovered the deeper truth to climate change. Due to the different types of information that has been collected over the years, scientists can conclude that there is a 95% percent probability that human activity is to blame for the rise in temperature in our atmosphere. The main cause of climate change is the high amounts of carbon dioxide that is being exposed to our atmosphere. Over the last 100 years, the ozone layer has been in a barbarous and merciless battle against greenhouse gases, incapable of keeping up with the amounts of carbon dioxide that emitted. With a powerless and debilitated ozone layer more sunlight is being trapped in our atmosphere causing a rise in our global temperature. Evidence has shown that global warming is happening ten times faster than the average rate of ice age recovery. Many parts of the earth have already felt this ruthless change in weather such as the iceland drawn from greenland, Antarctica, and tropical martina glaciers. Consequently, the average sea level is expected to rise up to 6 feet before the end of this century. Half of all plants and animals at risk of extinction, and sensitive ecosystems, like coral reefs, are deteriorating. The increase in natural disasters, like flooding, drought, and fires, have created a new issue of climate refugees, an average of 21.5 million people since 2008.

UN Involvement:

Over the past few years, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been working with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in order to create The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a program to provide reliable sources of scientific information regarding climate change. For example, in 2013, the WMO provided more clear information about human generated climate change than ever before. In 1992, the UN's " Earth Summit" was its first action in addressing this issue. In 1995, countries around the globe launched negotiations in order to strengthen the global response to climate change. In 2015, 196 countries signed the Paris Climate Accord to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 °C annually by 2020, which has now been extended to 2025.

Regional Groups of Member States:

Eastern European Group: Almost all of Europe is taking on the fight against climate change. Since climate change is such a prevalent issue, the European Union (EU) has created the European Climate Change Programme. It is a group to help set policies and guidelines on energy consumption and greenhouse gases. Also, all European countries have signed the Paris Climate Agreement.

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC): Climate change is affecting Latin America drastically. It is causing severe droughts, rising sea levels, and increased ocean acidity. Latin America needs to ensure the safety of its citizens and its future. The FAO suggests that Latin American nations implement sustainable resource management systems, transition to bioenergy, and implement disaster management systems.

Asia-Pacific Group: Asia suffers from one of the worst cases of climate change. Greenhouse gases fill most of the urban areas and cause harm to the local population. Additionally, flooding destroys livelihoods in South and Southeast Asia. Currently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is aiding communities to defend against the changing weather, to conserving natural resources, and to support sustainable lives.

Western European and Others Group (WEOG): Canada and the United States play some role in combating climate change. Canada is part of the Paris Climate Agreement, but in a daring move by President Trump, the US is no longer a part of it. Nonetheless, many individual cities and groups are continuing the fight against climate change by reducing the amount of electricity used to using alternatives to fossil fuels. Like mentioned in the Eastern European group, all European countries have signed the Paris Climate Agreement.

African Group: African nations have been looking into biotechnologies as well as agricultural alternatives that can withstand changing weather conditions (climate smart agriculture). In highly industrialized areas, air and water pollution is a problem, but rural areas are most affected by natural disasters, like drought.

Solutions:

When creating solutions you want to get as creative and detailed as possible. You want to make sure that not only your country benefits from your solutions, but rather make sure that all nations benefit in some way. One great example is the Paris Climate agreement. Almost all member nations have joined the Paris Climate Agreement. It offers a clear goal to reduce carbon emissions and lower the average temperature while getting member nations to cooperate peacefully and diplomatically. Another solution is bioenergies. Bioenergies are renewable sources from living organisms. They provide 10% of today's primary energy supply. This clean energy helps improve the standard of living, agriculture, health, and access to energy. If nations make the switch, clean, sustainable energy will be available to all by as early as 2030. This concept goes along with the idea of sustainable energy. One such form is thorium. It is a cleaner

source than nuclear energy and provides all the same benefits. You will have to consider the sustainability and effectiveness of switching energies sources in developing areas. Additionally, fossil fuel companies will need incentives to lower production. There are many options and alternatives to helping control climate change. It is up to you to decide what that option is. Also, remember to utilize resources and connections by nongovernmental organizations and corporations with a common goal, as encouraged by the 17th Sustainable Development Goal.

Questions to Consider:

1. There is already carbon dioxide in our atmosphere naturally. How do we know that our emissions are the cause of the problem when patterns show changes like this have occurred throughout history?
2. Why do many companies refuse to go green?
 - How can we make going green more profitable?
3. Are there any laws in your country that force companies to decrease the amount of fossil fuel that they use?
4. Why do individuals find it so difficult to make the switch to green?
5. Are companies becoming too powerful?
 - Do they have too much control over the government and their products to allow the government to make these necessary switches?
6. How can we provide cleaner sources of energy in areas that have little resources for it?

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Position Paper Rubric

	Topic Background	UN/International Involvement	Country Policy	Possible Solutions
5 (Advanced)	Demonstrates advanced understanding of topic background through analysis of substantial/relevant information.	Advanced synthesis and analysis of UN/international Involvement demonstrated through excellent use of relevant evidence.	Advanced synthesis and analysis of country policy demonstrated through excellent use of relevant evidence.	Comprehensive plan presented. Insightful, practical and probable solutions are explained in-depth.
4 (Above Average)	Demonstrates clear understanding of topic background through use of substantial/relevant information.	Some key facts are missing. Might be too lengthy or too short. Could use more analysis.	Some key facts are missing. Might be too lengthy or too short. Could use more analysis.	Insightful, practical and probable solutions are provided.
3 (Average)	Demonstrates understanding of topic background through use of some substantial/relevant information. Mostly descriptive in nature.	Information is evident but not enough provided. Mostly descriptive.	Information is evident but not enough provided. Mostly descriptive.	Practical and probable solutions are provided, but may be lacking in quantity or quality.

Committee: UNEP B**Topic: Reducing Climate Change**

2 (Below Average)	Much of the background is unreliable and does not assist the delegate very much. The section is too brief and does not demonstrate understanding.	Only few facts provided; some may be false.	Only few facts provided; some may be false.	Solutions lack depth and are impractical. May be minimal in amount.
1 (Needs much more Improvement)	The background is way too short (one to two sentences) and information is invalid.	All facts are incorrect and the section is only about a sentence or two.	All facts are incorrect and the section is only about a sentence or two.	The solutions section is only a sentence or two and severely lacks quality/clarity.
0 (Section cannot be found)	No Background present	No UN Involvement present	No Country Policy present	No Solutions present
Totals	_____/5	_____/5	_____/10	_____/15