

Model International Labor Organization Conference
Government Representative of **Kenya**
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“Just Transition: From Fossil Fuels to Green Energy”

Kenya has been a leader in addressing climate change through national and subnational policy despite contributing < 0.1% of global greenhouse gas emissions annually. A majority of our country's economy is contingent upon climate conditions. Higher temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, increased incidence of droughts and floods, and rising sea levels have negatively affected the Kenyan economy, and as a net effect, these global greenhouse gas emissions threaten Kenya's sustainable development goals. The success of our country's sustainable energy efforts are reliant upon countries with high carbon emissions and industrial developed nations. Thus, in the global transition toward green energy, there must be consideration for countries who are significantly socio-economically impacted by changing climate and rising sea levels.

We are an active participant in international efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Our Nationally Determined Contribution sets out actions to contribute to achieving the global goal set out in the Paris Agreement, and includes mitigation and adaptation contributions. We have committed to the abatement of greenhouse gasses by 32% by 2030. We have also enacted policy and regulatory environmental efforts through the Climate Change Act (2016) and have developed the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010), first NCCAP (2013-2017), National Adaptation Plan (2015-2030), Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (2017- 2026), Climate Risk Management Framework (2017), National Climate Change Policy (2018), and National Climate Finance Policy (2018), among other sector plans and policies that address aspects of climate change. We have already begun the process of transitioning to sustainable fuel sources; we have developed infrastructure with the electric capacity of 2.7GW—93% of which is generated by renewables such as geothermal, hydropower, wind and solar energies. However, while we believe in the sustained effort to transition to green energy resources, our growing population and increased volatility in climate-sensitive economic activities has limited our ability to implement low carbon emission fuels in our newly industrializing country.

The transition to renewable energy has displaced local communities; and with the already increasing strain of extreme climate conditions vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized and minority communities have been disproportionately negatively affected. Therefore, we have a responsibility to recognize these sociocultural and economic disparities and provide safety for citizens who are disadvantaged. The ILO should recognize the influence more developed countries have on climate change mitigation efforts and should instruct said countries to aid in the development of sustainable fueling for developing countries that are increasing in population and are industrially evolving. Providing marketing methods, technology, and technical advice toward developing industries may allow for increased productivity and implementation of sustainable energy resourcing. By developing support systems for market development, the ILO may help negate the adverse effects of extreme weather conditions on the economy and environment.