

King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

UNEP (Tutorial)



Chair: _____

Co-chair: _____

A letter from your Secretary General

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to welcome you to the sixth annual King's MUN conference. Since our debut in 2013, King's MUN has provided an environment to foster and nurture aspiring Model UN enthusiasts. From our tutorial to our advanced committees, delegates of all levels of experience will be able to participate and grow in their MUN abilities.

Model United Nations is an internationally recognized forum for debate that invites students from thousands of schools around the world to participate in conferences. Delegates are encouraged to debate on and attempt to resolve pressing issues that affect the global community. Through these simulations, students are able to develop and refine their skills in diplomacy, negotiation, compromise, research, public speaking, critical thinking, and writing amongst other practical skills that will be extremely useful in all facets of their education and life in general.

At King's Christian Collegiate, I have come to recognize the significant positive impact that Model UN has had on our students, so I have dedicated myself to growing our own club and spreading my knowledge and passion to surrounding schools and communities. Through developing my awareness regarding international and geo-political relations, I have been able to deepen my insight into some of the world's most compelling issues and encourage mature and fruitful discussion around these topics.

I am so proud of how inclusive, supportive and dedicated our group has become and cannot wait to see King's MUN continue to grow exponentially in years to come. I love sharing my experiences regarding Model UN with others and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can and hearing your individual stories.

I am once again immensely excited to welcome Grades 7-12 at the fifth annual King's MUN conference. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020.

Sincerely,
Alice Gales
Secretary General, 2019/2020
King's MUN

Topic 1: Rainforest Destruction in the Amazon

The Amazon Rainforest covers approximately 5.5 million square km and is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It canvases much of northwestern Brazil and extending into Columbia, Peru, Venezuela, and other South American countries. Famed for its vast biodiversity, the Amazon Rainforest is home to 10 million species of animals, plants, and insects known to man.

Also referred to 'Lungs of the Planet', the Amazon produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen. The turning point was when colonists, who used the slash-and-burn farming method, began to establish farms within the Rainforest. But the route of the destruction stems from why the farmers want the land. Since the late 1960's, the Brazilian government has been encouraging farmers to burn down the Amazon Rainforest in order to make room for cattle as well as crops such as soybeans. For the past many decades, the Amazon has been used by farmers to greatly profit off of the resources it's able to grow. Cattle ranching is the largest driver of deforestation in the Amazon, accounting for 80% of current deforestation rates.

Unsurprisingly so, Brazil is now the world's biggest exporter of beef and soya.

In January of 2019, Brazilian President Mr. Jair Bolsonaro, made an executive order to allow the Brazilian Agriculture Ministry to oversee some of the Amazonian land. The issue with this, is that the Agriculture Ministry wants to see the land used in order to gain the most profit. For example, shortly after President Bolsonaro made the order, Agriculture Minister Tereza Cristina Dias publicly voiced that Brazil should open indigenous land up to commercial farming. While Mrs. Dias acknowledges that the land would be farmed by the indigenous people living there, the bigger picture of how it would environmentally impact the world is being pushed aside.

The executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Cristiana Paşca Palmer, acknowledged that the ongoing destruction of the Amazon is a grim reminder that a fresh approach was needed to stabilize the climate and prevent ecosystems from declining to a point of no return, with dire consequences for humanity.

Overall, if the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest continues at the rate at which it is at, the consequences will be dire. While the Amazon continues to deteriorate and die, it stops producing the bountiful amounts of oxygen it has in the past. Instead, the Rainforest it will give off carbon, and as of now, it has a natural stockpile of carbon reserves, known to be anywhere from 90 to 140 billion tons. Meaning that if the Amazon as a whole were to be destroyed, specifically by the cause of fire, billions of tons of carbon would be floating through our ecosystems.



Useful Resources/Videos

- Video #1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAZAKPUQMw0>
- Video #2:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLZdXRHYAVxTJgv2LQSHuUNteymhLQSLVv&time_continue=1&v=pRZKGLIc9DA&feature=emb_logo

Questions to Help Get You Started

- How can the UN work with existing international organizations to mitigate negative environmental effects of deforestation?
- How can the United Nations ensure the success of forest-conservation efforts while balancing financial dependencies on cattle and crops that would be grown on that land?
- Who is Brazil exporting the mass amounts of beef and soya to? How will they be affected if cuts to the production of these resources would be made?

References

- http://www.softschools.com/facts/wonders_of_the_world/amazon_rainforest_facts/98/
- <https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/amazon/land-use/cattle-ranching>
- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-agriculture-indigenous/brazil-agriculture-minister-wants-to-open-indigenous-land-to-commercial-farming-idUSKCN1PC25P>
- <https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/amazon/land-use/cattle-ranching>
- <https://insh.world/science/what-if-we-lost-the-amazon-rainforest/>

Position Paper

Committee:

Population:

Nation:

Location:

Delegate:

Ethnic groups:

School:

Government type:

Topic:

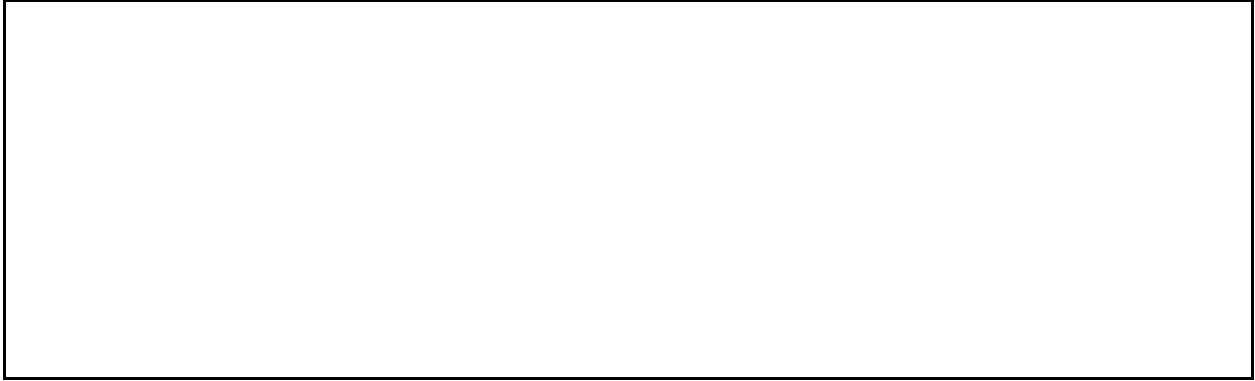
President/Prime Minister

National languages:

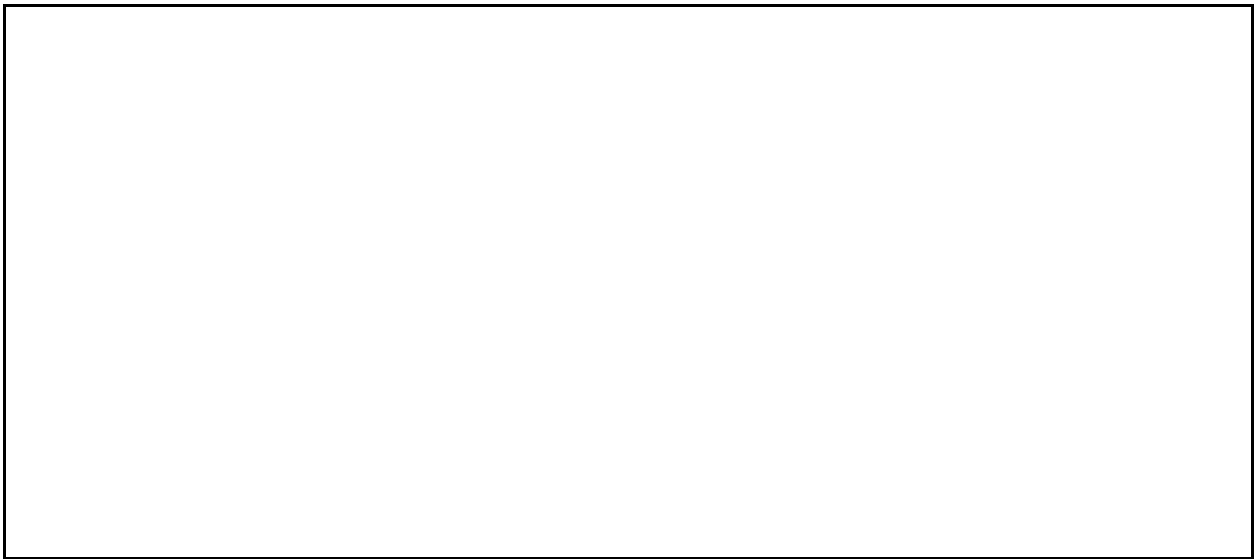
Religions:

Give a brief description of the topic of debate to show the chair that you have a full understanding of the topic. (this description is not related to your country.)

Previously, what was your country's point of view, how was it affected and how did it contribute to the topic? (ex. Constitutions, legal matters etc.)



What is your country's point of view, how is it affected and how does it contribute to the topic?



Propose a possible resolution that your country wishes to have for the given topic.



Countries that have aligned values with your country. (point of view, resolution etc.)

