

22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written statement by UNISC International

Agenda item 5: Institutional mechanisms for providing economic, financial, and structural support to address climate change

Hereby, UNISC International writes a proposal regarding agenda item 5 of the agenda of the 22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration as approved by the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Institutional mechanisms for providing economic, financial, and structural support to address climate change”.

It will be a positive and effective action to encourage learning about climate change for the young generation through conversations between students of industrial countries and the Small Island Developing States.

The young generation, including students, are and will be receiving the largest impact of climate change. This is why they argue to learn correctly about this matter, act against it, and what this organization supports for them. Furthermore, the United Nations also encourages them to learn about this issue and express their opinions. However, the limited resources for students make it difficult for them to get enough knowledge, information, and political power to manage climate change. Then it can be an effective way for achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals to connect students with the governments or institutes which are acting against climate change on the front line. Actions by governments or institutes for climate change should be explained and reviewed fairly by also the young generation because positive actions for the future need reliable information.

In addition, the Small Island Developing States are especially facing the material impact of climate change, such as their land decreasing because of sea level rise, although they do not have material responsibility for this matter. They also face the destruction of their unique biodiversity caused by climate change. The climate change problems need international cooperation which includes both developed countries and developing countries because industries in each country owe on emissions of greenhouse gas. However, the Small Island Developing States have only limited political and economic influence on other industrial countries because of their small population and geographical distance, then the market principle hardly works in this matter. Then it is important to connect international cooperation schemes with the Small Island Developing States.

As seen above, each of them has a similar situation. Although both of them need enough knowledge, reliable data, and actual methods to manage their problem regarding SDGs, they are in difficult situations to reach such resources and opportunities to discuss with their counterparts.

Therefore, it is exceptionally important to connect the consciousness of industrial countries with the reality of the Small Island Developing States. In addition, governments and

global institutions should share their problem awareness and attempts to climate change with the young generation. Actually, we have a lot of choices to realize this purpose.

One proposal for this matter is to hold a conference tentatively named “World Students Conference for Sustainable Development Goals in the Small Island Developing States” for students in both industrial countries and the Small Island Developing States, make them discuss climate change, and visit each other's countries. Students in industrial countries learn about the attempt to reduce greenhouse gas in their countries from their governments or public institutions before the conference in order to explain it fairly and correctly. On the other hand, students in the Small Island Developing States share the effect of sea level and temperature rise on their countries’ environments, and they may also learn about the real opinions and problems from their governments or public institutions. In addition, both of them may require official support, then governments, NGOs, and the United Nations also attend this conference to discuss and improve their actions. Through such dialogue, students will know the fact of climate change, recognize the relationship between climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals, consider what they will be able to do in the future, and how they can reach necessary resources and realize effective policies in their countries. Since remote communication technology has been rapidly improved during the COVID-19 pandemic, this conference can be held in a hybrid style, both in-person and remote.

In conclusion, giving students the opportunity to have conversations and dialogues regarding climate change with the people and governments of the Small Island Developing States is a very effective policy. Our organization hopes that the United Nations and other related institutions will support the young generation to create their own futures by encouraging their learning of the Sustainable Development Goals.