

Climate Change Adaptation Plan

For the Spring 2010 Global Debates, we're asking you to submit a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for one of the 5 developing countries judged most vulnerable to certain effects of climate change. These five countries can't afford to wait: climate change threatens drought, flooding, severe storms, sea level rise, and agricultural uncertainty. Your job is to come up with creative ways for one of these countries to plan ahead and adapt to a specific threat.

Step 1: Choose your country.

Select one of the options below. Each country is linked to the specific threat that's listed: create a plan to address that threat, in that country!

1. **Country:** Ethiopia
Threat: Drought
2. **Country:** Bangladesh
Threat: Flooding
3. **Country:** Philippines
Threat: Storms (more frequent, more intense)
4. **Country:** Maldives
Threat: Sea level rise
5. **Country:** Malawi
Threat: Uncertainty in agriculture, food deficits

Step 2: Research your country.

You might want to start by answering some basic questions:

- What percentage of the population is poor?
- What industries and natural resources are important?
- What's the physical landscape like?
- How much food do local farmers produce, and what kinds of crops are most important to the economy?
- What does the country import and export?

For more tips about conducting research, check out Section II, Research, on pages 3-4 of the [Debate Toolkit](#).

Step 3: Brainstorm and think ahead.

As you gather basic information about the country, think ahead about how its economy, geography, and people might be vulnerable to climate change. For example, if a country exports coffee and climate change decreased coffee yields, how would that impact families, farmers, and the economy? How could you help that country avoid those negative impacts? Discuss your initial ideas with your teammates.

Step 4: Assess the threat.

After you've learned the basics about the country and thought through possible negative effects, get specific: research how the threat identified for that country could impact it. If you've chosen topic #3, for example, how do storms affect people in the

Philippines today? What problems would result from more intense, more frequent storms? Look for **original, primary research** about the magnitude of the threat and the possible impacts in the country you've chosen.

Step 5: Choose a focus for your plan.

This is a key step: it separates great plans from good ones. Your team can probably think of many ways a country might adapt to its greatest climate change threat. You'll need to choose one strategy or set of actions for your plan. Research possible ways to protect your country from the impacts of climate change. How do different experts propose to address food deficits in Malawi? What are some of the options for mitigating the effects of floods in Bangladesh?

Tip: Don't be afraid to go out on a limb with a creative plan! Some of the best solutions to the world's problems start as crazy ideas.

Step 6: Create your plan.

Every plan needs at least two elements: an actor and an action.

Name and describe the actor. Your plan to provide aid for climate change adaptation must include an "actor," the individual, group, government, or other organization you think should enact your plan. If you're proposing that the country itself implement the plan, specify which group should lead the effort. Should the actor be the government? A group of local NGOs? Businesses in a particular sector?

The country you've chosen may not have the resources to implement your plan. If so, specify who should help. Will the country need money,

expertise, equipment, or some other resource? Which foreign governments, multinational organizations, or NGOs should provide the necessary resources?

Describe the action. This is the central point of your plan: What policy should the actor adopt? What action should the individual or group take? Describe the action as specifically as you can. If you're proposing that the actor help farmers adapt to drought, specify what that actor will provide. Will it be seeds for new crop varieties? More efficient irrigation equipment? If you're proposing that the actor provide financial assistance, establish the amounts. Consider the timeline: How long will the actor have to enact your plan? Will it happen gradually, over 10 years, or immediately?

Step 7: Support your plan.

Tell us why and how your plan will help the country you've chosen adapt to the most pressing climate change threat it faces. For guidance, refer to the "Support your plan" section on page 6 of the Debate Toolkit.

Tip: Use the Climate Change Adaptation Plan Form as a worksheet to help you think through each step and write a compelling essay.

Step 8. Submit your plan!

Use the online form on the UN Foundation website to submit your Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Want to know how we chose the list of countries and threats? Take a look at the report released by the World Bank about the countries most vulnerable to climate change.