

## **The General Assemblies: Topic C Primary Sources**

### **Mitigating the Impacts of the Energy Crisis and Achieving Net Zero**

*Here are primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.*

#### **Source #1: Global Impact of War in Ukraine: Energy Crisis**

This brief, written by the United Nations Global Crisis Response Group on Food Energy and Finance, thoroughly explains the Global Impact of the War in Ukraine as it pertains to the globe's current energy crisis. This is the third and most recent brief regarding this issue. It discusses the development of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis highlighting increased food insecurity, extreme poverty, and commodity prices. Then, deeply examines the current extremely high and volatile prices of energy resources, especially of fossil fuels. However, the brief also notes that energy companies, despite increased inflation, have been reporting higher profits than ever before. Rising energy prices may price out many developing countries, with a high level of impact on the most vulnerable citizens. In the short term, countries, especially developed countries, must seek to manage energy demand

<https://unctad.org/publication/global-impact-war-ukraine-energy-crisis>

#### **Source #2: Remarks by U.S President at the 2023 Major Economies Forum on Energy & Climate**

Remarks by President Joe Biden at the 2023 major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate focused on the United States's recommitment to action regarding climate change by limiting global warming to 1.5°C. He discussed the United States's Inflation Reduction Act which he claims will reduce annual carbon emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030. The investments involved with the Inflation Reduction Act will be used to build clean power, and construct a ½ million electric vehicles and charging stations. In his speech, he also mentions that all nations aligned with the Paris Accord goals need to create 2030 targets and actions in order to mitigate the current energy crisis and work towards achieving net zero. This speech is important to U.S. policies and its allies as the U.S. expects them all to have action plans regarding climate change.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/04/20/remarks-by-president-biden-at-the-2023-major-economies-forum-on-energy-and-climate/>

#### **Source #3: The Kigali Amendment**

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which as of June 9, 2023, 151 nations have ratified, is an international agreement to gradually reduce the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The Montreal Protocol was originally created to preserve and restore the ozone layer. Countries agreed to reduce carbon emissions and other gases causing ozone depletion. Nations continue to ratify the amendment since its adoption in 2016, with the most recent being Georgia which ratified on July 11, 2023. While the Kigali Amendment sets different standards for developing versus developed countries, there is still much debate surrounding whether developed countries in particular are being held to a high enough standard. The original Montreal Protocol was created in the 1980s and continues to be amended to better evaluate climate change in today's world.

[https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2016/10/20161015%2003-23%20PM/Ch\\_XXVII-2.f-English%20and%20French.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2016/10/20161015%2003-23%20PM/Ch_XXVII-2.f-English%20and%20French.pdf) English – pg. 26

#### **Source #4: EU Action to Address the Energy Crisis**

The European Union's (EU) website outlines what the EU has done to address the energy crisis, especially since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The website addresses solutions involving diversifying the energy supply, reducing demand, and creating new gas storage rules. The Commission and Member states have also established an EU Platform for the common purchase of gas. The Commission believes by pooling EU demand and joint purchase of gas this will allow the EU to use its collective purchasing power to negotiate better prices and reduce the risk of Member States outbidding each other on the already tight market. The main goals of these actions are to reduce bills for European households and businesses as well as strengthening EU solidarity. Not only does the website outline the actions taken by the EU but also displays a timeline of all actions taken giving a comprehensive and simple way to understand EU policies regarding the current energy crisis.

[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/eu-action-address-energy-crisis\\_en#reducing-bills-for-european-households-and-businesses](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/eu-action-address-energy-crisis_en#reducing-bills-for-european-households-and-businesses)

#### **Source #5: Speech by the President of the Government of Spain at the General Debate of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

This Speech, given by Pedro Sanchez, the President of Spain, opens with "Rarely have the foundations of this institution shaken as strongly as in the early hours of 24 February, when several Ukrainian cities felt the terror of Russian shelling." After remarking on the direct horrors of the invasion, President Sanchez turns to how the invasion has heightened an Energy Crisis in Europe. He claims the energy crisis has been "provoked by an autocrat willing to use any instrument as a weapon of war to keep himself in power". Turning away from the invasion. Sanchez recognizes that the globe needs to make a decisive commitment to more sustainable energy models, reducing dependency. He gives two reasons for why diversifying the source of energy is essential. First, to prevent countries from using their energy resources as a weapon of war, and second, in order to respond to the fundamental challenge of climate change, the globe needs to redouble their commitment to the energy transition.

[https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/presidente/intervenciones/Paginas/2022/20220922\\_un-speech.aspx](https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/presidente/intervenciones/Paginas/2022/20220922_un-speech.aspx)

#### **Source #6: UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2022**

The UNEP 2022 Emissions Gap Report finds that the international community is falling short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to 1.5°C. It further states only an urgent system-wide transformation can avoid the climate disaster. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> edition in an annual series of reports that provides an overview of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avert the worst impacts of climate change. Policies currently in place point to a 2.8°C temperature increase by the end of the century. The report finds that the world must cut emissions by 45% to avoid global catastrophe. The report also provides an extensive overview including key figures and charts that show different kinds of emissions by country.

<https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022>