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CLIMATE CHANGE: EVERYONE'S STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

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It's time to put an end to the pollution caused by the use of fossil fuels and accelerate the transition to renewable energy before we burn down our only home. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General,
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In the fight against climate change, everyone has a role to play. The United Nations calls on people all over the world to work together to solve the problems caused by climate change and fulfill the commitments set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement, as well as in other special international instruments on climate change.[1]

The Earth is our planet, and although we know that it is going through a crisis, we also know that existing problems can be solved. Activities to achieve the set goals — starting with increasing the amount of clean energy and ending with improving the reliability of food supplies — are already in full swing. The benefits associated with it, such as creating eco-friendly jobs, clean air and improving the economy, are also obvious. The goal of a more sustainable and prosperous world is achievable.

According to scientists, in order to preserve livable climatic conditions, greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050. Governments of States and the business community need to take decisive, prompt and large-scale measures. However, the transition to a low-carbon world also requires the participation of citizens, especially in economically developed countries. Our way of life has a serious impact on our planet. A lot depends on our choice. Almost two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide are associated with private households. The energy, food and transport sectors each account for 20 percent of lifestyle-related emissions. Consequently, the UN has launched a campaign called "Act Now", which promotes everyone's participation in the conservation and rational use of natural resources.

Each of us can help limit global warming and take care of our planet. By making a choice that has a less harmful impact on the environment, we will not stand aside and will be able to influence the course of transformation. The "Act Now" campaign is a United Nations campaign for individual action on climate change and sustainability.[2]

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We can make changes for the better in a variety of areas, from the electricity we consume to the food we eat and our trips. According to the campaign, in order to resolve the climate crisis, everyone should start implementing ten actions.



Save energy at home

Most of our electricity and heat is generated from coal, oil and gas. Use less energy by reducing heating and cooling, switching to LED light bulbs and energy-saving electrical appliances, washing clothes in cold water or hanging things to dry instead of using a dryer.



Walk, ride a bike or use public transport

The roads of the world are clogged with cars, most of which run on diesel or gasoline fuel. Walking or cycling instead of driving will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help your health and fitness. For longer distances, consider traveling by train or bus. And a carpool whenever possible.



Eat more vegetables

Eating large amounts of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds and less meat and dairy products can significantly reduce the environmental impact. The production of plant-based products usually leads to fewer greenhouse gas emissions and requires less energy, land and water.



Think about your journey

Airplanes burn large amounts of fossil fuels, producing significant greenhouse gas emissions. This makes fewer flights one of the fastest ways to reduce the

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environmental impact. Whenever possible, meet virtually, take a train, or skip a long trip altogether.



Throw away less food

When you throw away food, you are also wasting the resources and energy that were used to grow, produce, package, and transport it. And when food rots in a landfill, methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, is formed. So use what you buy and compost the leftovers.



Reduction, reuse, repair and recycling

Electronics, clothing and other items that we buy cause carbon emissions at every stage of production, from the extraction of raw materials to the production and transportation of goods to market. To protect our climate, buy fewer things, buy used things, repair what you can, and recycle.



Change the energy source of your home

Ask the utility company if the energy source for your home is oil, coal or gas. If possible, see if you can switch to renewable sources such as wind or solar power. Or install solar panels on the roof to generate energy for your home.



Switch to an electric car

If you are planning to buy a car, consider switching to an electric car, as there will be more and cheaper models on the market. Even if they still run on electricity generated from fossil fuels, electric vehicles help reduce air pollution and cause

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significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than vehicles powered by gas or diesel.



Choose environmentally friendly products

Everything we spend money on affects the planet. You have the right to choose which products and services you support. To reduce the environmental impact, buy local and seasonal products and choose products from companies that use resources responsibly and strive to reduce gas emissions and waste.



Speak out

Speak out and ask others to join the action. This is one of the fastest and most effective ways to change the situation. Talk to your neighbors, colleagues, friends and family. Let business owners know that you support bold changes. We call on local and world leaders to act now.

Climate change is understood as long-term temperature changes and changes in weather conditions. Although these changes may be natural, such as cyclical fluctuations in solar activity, since the 1800s anthropogenic activity has been the main driver of climate change, mainly due to the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.[3]

As a result of burning fossil fuels, greenhouse gas emissions are generated, which, like a blanket, envelop the Earth, holding the solar body and raising the temperature.

Year after year, atmospheric air emissions continue to grow. As a result, the Earth is now 1.1°C warmer than in the late 1800s. The past decade (2011-2020) was the warmest in history. Currently, the effects of climate change include, among others, severe droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, sea level rise, floods, melting of polar ice, catastrophic storms and a reduction in biodiversity.

In a 2018 United Nations report, thousands of scientists and government experts agreed that limiting global temperature growth to no more than 1.5°C would help us avoid the worst climate impacts and preserve a climate fit for life. However,

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according to current national climate plans, global warming is expected to reach 2.7°C by the end of the century.

Although emissions causing climate change are generated in all regions of the world and affect everyone, some countries produce them in much larger volumes than others. While the 100 countries that produce the least emissions account for 3 percent of total emissions, the share of the ten countries that are the largest producers of emissions is 68 percent. Although taking action to combat climate change is everyone's business, the peoples and countries that create more problems should take greater responsibility and act first.

To this end, the Kyoto Protocol, an additional document to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was adopted in 1992. This Protocol was signed in Kyoto (Japan) in December 1997 by 159 States. It entered into force on February 16, 2005 after it was ratified by countries whose total quota for greenhouse gas emissions exceeds 55% (as of 1990). The document stipulated that in the period from 2008 to 2012, the total amount of emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other industrial gases into the atmosphere should be reduced by 5.2% compared to the 1990 level. Each State has received certain quotas for the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere. If any country does not fully use its limits, then it had the right to sell them. According to UN experts, such a mechanism was supposed to facilitate the flow of significant resources to developing countries, which they could use to combat negative trends caused by climate change. [4]

According to the Protocol, the European Union should reduce emissions by 8%, Japan and Canada – by 6%, the countries of Eastern Europe and the Baltic States – by an average of 8%, Russia and Ukraine – to keep the average annual emissions in 2008-2012 at the level of 1990. The EU countries have unilaterally pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020.

Developing countries, as well as China and India, have not committed themselves. The United States of America declared non-participation in the protocol until 2013. In December 2015, following the results of the 21st Conference of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Climate Agreement was adopted, which replaced the Kyoto Protocol. The Paris climate agreement has united the efforts of all world powers to curb climate change for the first time in history.

The Paris Agreement is aimed at combating climate change and its consequences. To achieve this goal, each country has developed individual climate commitments, known as nationally determined contributions. They reflect the efforts of specific countries to reduce emissions at the national level and to adapt to the effects of climate change. In addition, there are other provisions in the Paris Agreement that relate to mitigating the effects of climate change and regulating adaptation to climate change in the country. At the global level, it is agreed to

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assist developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change by creating a framework for transparent monitoring, reporting and early achievement of countries' climate goals.

By signing the document, Uzbekistan, along with other countries, pledged to keep the increase in the average global temperature in the world to a level well below 2 degrees Celsius. Uzbekistan officially signed the Paris Agreement on April 19, 2017, and ratified it in November 2018. Uzbekistan's nationally determined contribution sets goals to reduce specific greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 10% by 2030 compared to the level of 2010 and to continue efforts to build adaptive capacity and reduce the risks of adverse effects of climate change on various sectors of the economy, social sector and the Aral Sea region [5].

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