

## COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE: GLOBAL WARMING

### ACTIVITY CARD

Most governments of the world have come to agree that global warming is a serious problem and that something should be done about it. The environment is a divisive issue, and nations have great difficulty agreeing on what actions to take to address environmental problems. Countries often try to shift the blame, the responsibility, and the costs to other countries. Environmental issues pit developing nations against developed nations, poor nations against rich nations, rich nations against other rich nations, and businesses against environmental groups. The debate over whether or not global warming is serious is important because it shapes the policies that a country adopts to try to deal with the issue. Such policies also shape the kinds of negotiations and agreements in which a country engages in the international community.

**Directions:** As a group, discuss the questions below so that you become knowledgeable about your country's position on global warming. Use your *World Problems Scenario* as a resource. In addition, investigate the websites from the Scenario (at the beginning of the Country Profiles section, and the Global Warming section under Environment), and the ICONS research library – linked to *Delegate Central* at [www.cwhp.info/delegates.html](http://www.cwhp.info/delegates.html). **In your investigations, you should come to learn where your country stands on international agreements being negotiated at recent climate change summits, and whether or not your country supported the *Kyoto Protocol*.**

1. What is the present environmental context for the country you represent regarding the issue of global warming? Is global warming a major concern for your nation? Why or why not?
2. What kinds of alternative energy sources has your country explored? Does the fact that your country is either a developing or developed country make a difference in the types of energy available? How? Why?
3. Identify key global warming problems and challenges that do or do not exist in your country. Prioritize these problems and challenges in terms of seriousness and immediacy regarding the need for attention.
4. Define the goals your country has in dealing with the key global warming problems and challenges that you have prioritized. Then prioritize this list of goals for dealing with your country's global warming issues.
5. Identify strategies for achieving these goals. Identify the strategies that your country could implement at both the national and international levels to address these global warming issues. Remember, your strategies must realistically reflect and address the way you have prioritized your goals.

**Task:** Design a visual that has four distinct sections: 1) A summary of the environmental situation in your country; 2) A prioritized list of the key global warming problems and challenges for your country and worldwide; 3) A prioritized list of the goals your country has for dealing with the impact of global warming on itself, including your country's response to the Kyoto Protocol; and 4) The plans and strategies you have for achieving your goals for reducing the effects of global warming and achieving environmental sustainability. Present your visual to the class with the kind of depth and breadth that will thoroughly teach the global warming issue to your fellow delegates.

## **TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- **Visual includes four distinct sections and makes use of color, symbols, maps, timelines, charts, graphs, or other visual techniques that help to convey information.**
- **Visual includes a summary of key points on the current global warming situation in your country and summarizes the policy approaches your country has used in dealing with global warming.**
- **Visual includes a prioritized list of the key global warming problems and challenges your country faces.**
- **Visual includes a prioritized list of the goals your country has for dealing with global warming.**
- **Visual includes the national and international plans your group has for achieving your country's global warming goals.**
- **Presentation teaches the class about the issue of global warming in your country.**