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UNEP

GUIDE

PRESIDENT

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TOPIC: WATER PRIVATIZATION

GUIDE:

With two thirds of the earth's surface covered by water and the human body consisting of 75 percent of it, it is clear that water is one of the prime elements responsible for life on earth. Water has been known to be the slave and master of people. Contrary to the past, water has become a source of international conflict between nations. The world's most accessible fresh water supplies are located within basins and aquifers that cross international borders: many countries depend on water sources originating outside their borders.<sup>1</sup>

The *1998 World Development Indicators* from the World Bank predicted that, by 2025, the rise in population would have increased water demands by a 650%, resulting in 3 billion people suffering water shortages.<sup>2</sup>

This statistics have stimulated countries around the world to take control upon the natural heritage (rivers, seas and oceans) to prevent scarcity in the future.

Although every nation understands the importance of water in the present, they all seek for personal welfare. Solutions to current problems have not progressed as expected, and tensions are increasing. Scarcity and inefficient use of water endanger the possibility of a sustainable environmental quality and equilibrium of many regions, especially the Middle East and North Africa, which already live under precarious situations.

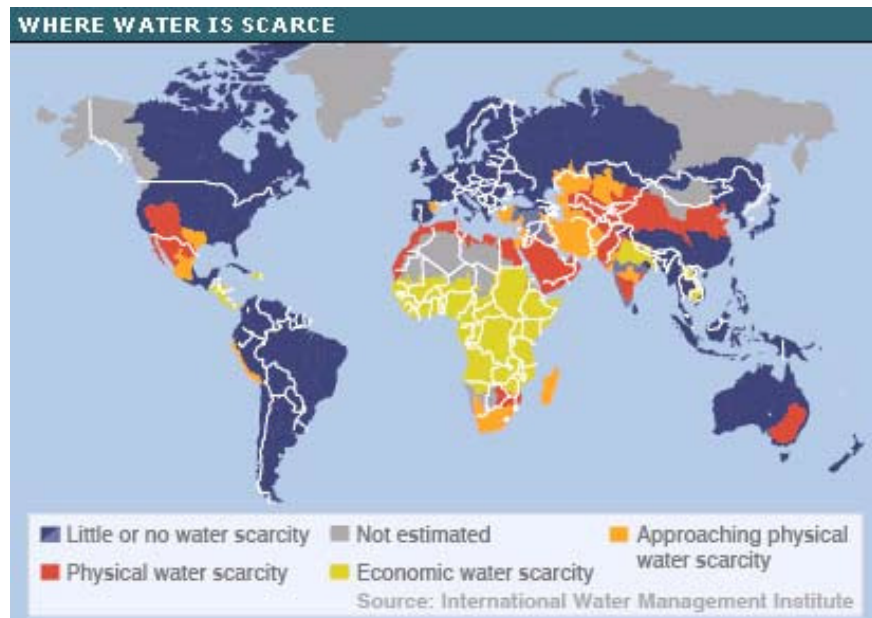
On a global scale, however, water problems are not about rational distribution and quality rather, but about quantity.<sup>3</sup> It appears to be that treacherous water has a common use among the citizens of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/Publications/INSIGHT/Jun-98/7.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> according to the *1997 UNEP Global Environment Outlook*



Treacherous water has a negative impact on human health and in the ecosystem. According to the humanitarian organization Intermón Oxfam, 50% of the population living on developing countries are supplied with contaminated water, and 20% of the deaths caused by infectious diseases are due to the consumption of contaminated water.<sup>5</sup> Scarcity of safe water also affects fertile lands and food production. In the long run, every living organism on earth will suffer the consequences of water scarcity and contamination.

In order to tackle the growing problems for water demand around the world, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) has promoted the water privatization in developing countries to guarantee the proper supply of safe water. In general, African countries, and the smallest, poorest and most debt-ridden countries are those who are being subjected to IMF conditions on water privatization and full cost recovery.

Ironically, the majority of these loans were negotiated under the IMF's new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), a reform announced with great fanfare in 1999 when IMF officials claimed that the new loan facility would re-focus the IMF's controversial structural measures on activities that borrowing government's would identify as leading to poverty reduction. More than contributing to poverty reduction, water privatization and greater costs of recovery make water less accessible and less

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.elparanaense.com.ar/img/mapaagua2006.jpg>

<sup>5</sup> <http://actualidad.terra.es/articulo/html/av2795161.htm>

affordable for the low income communities that make up the majority of the population in developing countries.<sup>6</sup>

The impact of reducing the accessibility and affordability on clean water affects especially women and children. This happens because they are the ones that have to bear with most of the household chores, so they must travel further and work even harder to collect water.

The significance of finding such a high number of conditions relating to water privatization and water cost recovery in IMF loans is twofold. First, in the hierarchy of international financial institutions, the IMF is at the top. Compliance with IMF conditions enables governments to receive the "seal of approval" that permits access to other international creditors and investors. Thus IMF conditions weigh especially heavily upon borrowing governments. Second, it is quite common that World Bank loans have, as their first condition, compliance with certain IMF conditions. This is known as "cross conditionality." In the division of labor between the two institutions, it is the World Bank that has primary responsibility for "structural" issues such as the privatization of state-owned companies.

Therefore, it can be presumed that in every country where IMF loan conditions include water privatization or full cost recovery, there are corresponding World Bank loan conditions and water projects that are implementing the financial, managerial, and engineering details required for such "restructurings."<sup>7</sup>

Through the following table, the 12 countries with IMF-imposed water privatization and cost recovery policies.

### Countries with IMF-imposed water privatization and cost recovery policies

Country	IMF Program	Loan Condition	Summary of Policy
ANGOLA	Staff-monitored program	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> Adjust electricity and water tariffs in accordance with formulas agreed with the World Bank. Reduce accounts receivables of the water and electricity companies to one month of sales revenue	Adjust water tariffs periodically to recover costs, including a reasonable return on capital.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ratical.org/co-globalize/waterIMF.html>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

BENIN	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility	<u>Other measure:</u> After the revision of regulatory framework, the government expects to complete the privatization before the end of the third quarter of 2001	Privatize the water and electric power distribution company (SBEE)
GUINEA-BISSAU	Post-Conflict policy	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> Transfer of electricity and water management to private company	Transfer of electricity and water management to private company
HONDURAS	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Other measure:</u> Approve framework law for the water and sewage sector by December 2000	To facilitate private concessions in the provision of water and sewage services, approve the framework law by December 2000.
NICARAGUA	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> Continue adjusting water and sewage tariffs by 1.5% a month. Offer concession for private management of regional water and sewage subsystems in Leon, Chinandega, Matagalpa, and Jinotega.	Adjust water and sewage tariffs to achieve cost recovery and offer concession for private management in key regions.
NIGER	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Other measure:</u> Divestment of key public enterprises, including the water company, SNE.	Privatization of the four largest government enterprises (water, telecommunication, electricity & petroleum) have been agreed with the World Bank with the proceeds going directly to pay Niger's debt.
PANAMA	Stand-By Arrangement	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> Complete plan to overhaul IDAAN's (state-owned water company) billing and accounting systems, allow to contract with private sector operators, determine need for tariff increase and	Overhaul the water company's billing and accounting systems, allow it to contract with private sector operators, review the tariff structure.

		<u>possible</u> rate differentiation among clients.	
RWANDA	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> Put the water and electricity company (Electrogaz) under private management by June 2001.	The water and electricity company (Electrogaz) will be put under private management as a prelude to its privatization.
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> The new adjustment mechanism for public water and electricity rates will be brought into operation by decree. The price structure will cover all production and distribution costs as well as the margin of the water and electricity company. The accounts will balance consumption and resources without recourse to government subsidies.	In May 2000, the government conducted a study of alternatives for the future of the water and electricity company (restructuring, leasing, concession or full privatization), with assistance from the World Bank. By December 2000, it will select one of the options and adopt a financial restructuring plan, and strengthen the revenue collection procedures.
SENEGAL	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Other measure:</u> Regulatory agency for the urban water sector will be created by end-2000. Transfer the recurrent costs of water pumping and distribution equipment to the communities. Increase the involvement of private sector operators.	Encourage the involvement of private sector operators in the water sector. Assess the possibility of private sector operation and financing of the infrastructure required to meet Dakar's long-term water needs.
TANZANIA	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Condition for HIPC debt relief:</u> Assign the assets of Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority (DAWASA)	Assign the assets of Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority (DAWASA) to private management companies.

		to private management companies.	
YEMEN	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)	<u>Structural benchmark:</u> Implement adjustments in water, wastewater, and electricity tariffs to provide for full cost recovery.	Implement formulas for automatic adjustments in tariff rates to ensure full pass through of product prices and full cost recovery; establish regional water authorities with private sector participation and independence to set regional tariff structures.

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**Having studied the inefficiency of the water privatization in these countries, it is necessary to formulate agreements that can help to improve their situation.**

*“There is a sufficiency in the world for man’s need but not for man’s greed.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

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**TOPIC: NUCLEAR ENERGY Vs. RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**GUIDE:**

Before any further investigation, the presidents suggest that all of the delegates should carry out the Ecological Footprint Quiz. [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org) In this way, you will all be aware of the impact we all make on the environment every day, and the true need of looking for alternative ways that can reduce the impact we make on the environment.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

### **-What is Nuclear Energy?**

Nuclear Energy or Atomic Energy is the energy released from an atomic nucleus. It is harnessed by controlling nuclear reactions, which as a result, liberate energy to generate electricity. It is released from atoms in two ways: nuclear fusion and nuclear fission. Nuclear fusion and radioactive decay are the two most common methods of using nuclear energy to do significant work. On the other hand, in nuclear fission, atoms are split apart to form smaller atoms, releasing energy.<sup>9</sup>

Nuclear power plants use fission to produce the electricity that is needed to perform the every day activities. Usually, Uranium (a non-renewable element) is used to perform this task, because the atoms that compose the element are easily split. In 2005 this type of energy provided the 7% of the world's energy and 17% of the world's electricity. The United States of America is the greatest nuclear energy producer, since 66 power plants are spread around the country. However, industrialized countries are rapidly adapting this system to grant energy.<sup>10</sup>

### **-Advantages**

- 1) The Earth has limited supplies of coal and oil. Predictions tell us that soon, these resources will become scarce. Nuclear power plants could still produce electricity after this.
- 2) Nuclear power plants need less fuel than ones which burn fossil fuels. One ton of uranium produces more energy than what is produced by several million tons of coal or several million barrels of oil.
- 3) Coal and oil burning plants pollute the air. Well-operated nuclear power plants do not release contaminants into the environment.<sup>11</sup>

### **- Disadvantages**

- 1) Nuclear Energy is said to become one of the main ways to obtain energy in the future, when sources like coal and oil become scarce. However, it has been found, that nuclear energy, if handled inappropriately, can be used to obtain nuclear weapons. The nations in the world now have more than enough to kill all of the citizens in the world. The two most powerful nations: Russia and United States have about 50,000 nuclear weapons between them.

- What if there was a nuclear war?

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<sup>9</sup> [http://www.energyrefuge.com/nuclear\\_energy.htm](http://www.energyrefuge.com/nuclear_energy.htm)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> [http://library.thinkquest.org/3471/nuclear\\_energy.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/3471/nuclear_energy.html)

- What if terrorists got their hands on nuclear weapons?
- What if nuclear weapons were launched by accident?

2) Through the process of Nuclear energy production, radiation is produced. This is harmful to the cells of the human body, and cancer can develop as a consequence. Illness can strike people years after their exposure to nuclear radiation.

3) Nuclear reactors also have waste disposal problems. Reactors produce nuclear waste products which emit dangerous radiation. Because they could kill people who touch them, they cannot be thrown away like ordinary garbage. Currently, many nuclear wastes are stored in special cooling pools at the nuclear reactors.

4) Nuclear reactors only last for about forty to fifty years.<sup>12</sup>

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

### -What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is a type of energy that is derived from inexhaustible sources. The five renewable sources used more often are Biomass, Wave/ Hydrothermal, Geothermal, Wind and Solar energy.

#### **1) Biomass:**

Biomass energy, or bio energy, is the energy stored in non-fossil organic materials such as wood, straw, vegetable oils and wastes from the forest, agricultural and industrial sectors. Like the energy in fossil fuels, bio energy is derived from solar energy that has been stored in plants through the process of photosynthesis.<sup>13</sup>

#### -Advantages:

- Theoretically inexhaustible fuel source.
- When direct combustion of plant mass is not used to generate energy (i.e. fermentation, pyrolysis, etc. are used instead), there is minimal environmental impact.
- Alcohols and other fuels produced by biomass are efficient, viable, and relatively clean-burning.
- Available throughout the world.

#### -Disadvantages:

- Could contribute a great deal to global warming and particulate pollution if directly burned
- Still an expensive source, both in terms of producing the biomass and converting it to alcohols

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<sup>12</sup> [http://library.thinkquest.org/3471/nuclear\\_energy.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/3471/nuclear_energy.html)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=a1ARTA0000758>

- On a small scale there is most likely a net loss of energy--energy must be put in to grow the plant mass

## **2) Wave/ Hydrothermal:**

Refers to the use of water contained in rivers and oceans to generate electricity. (Water is the most common renewable source of energy in the United States today.)<sup>14</sup>

### -Advantages:

- Waves are free and will not run out so the cost is in building the power station.
- Wave power does not produce greenhouse gases.
- There are very few safety risks with wave power generation

### -Disadvantages:

- Waves can be big or small so you may not always be able to generate electricity.
- You need to find a way of transporting the electricity from the sea onto the land.
- Not many people have tried to generate electricity this way yet so the equipment is expensive.

## **3) Geothermal:**

Geothermal power uses the natural sources of heat inside the Earth to produce heat or electricity. Currently, most geothermal power is generated using steam or hot water from underground. Geothermal power generation produces few emissions and the power source is continuously available.<sup>15</sup>

### -Advantages:

- Geothermal energy does not produce greenhouse gases.
- The energy source is free and will not run out.

### -Disadvantages:

- There are not many places where we can build geothermal power stations.
- Harmful gases and minerals may occasionally come up from the ground below. These can be difficult to control.

## **4) Wind:**

For hundreds of years, humans have used wind to pump water or grind grain, usually with small windmills. Large, modern wind turbines are used to generate electricity, either for individual use or for

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<sup>14</sup> [http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/people/a\\_energy.html](http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/people/a_energy.html)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

contribution to a utility power grid. Wind turbines usually have two or three blades and, because winds above the ground tend to be faster and less turbulent than those near the surface, the turbines are mounted on tall towers to capture the most energy. As the blades turn, the central shaft spins a generator to make electricity.<sup>16</sup>

-Advantages:

- Wind is free and will not run out so the cost is in building the wind turbine.
- Wind power generation does not create greenhouse gases.
- There are very few safety risks with wind turbines.

-Disadvantages:

- We can only use windmills in areas where there is a lot of wind. Sometimes there may be days where there is little wind.
- We need a lot of turbines to make a lot of electricity.
- Some people don't like the way wind turbines look, they think they affect the sightseeing.

**5) Solar:**

Solar energy is energy derived from the sun. Used synonymously with solar power, it is the capability of converting sunlight into electricity.<sup>17</sup>

-Advantages:

- There is, theoretically, an unlimited supply of solar energy for us to use and it is renewable.
- Solar energy is an excellent alternative energy source because there is no pollution generated while it is being utilized so therefore each time we use solar energy we reduce pollution.
- There is no cost involved with using solar power other than the cost of manufacturing the components, purchasing and installation. After your initial investment there is no further cost associated with its use.

-Disadvantages:

- Potentially large areas of land are required for large-scale solar energy projects.
  - Not many places in the world have enough constant and intense sunshine to make commercial use of solar energy practical.
  - If you live in a region where there are limited amounts of sunshine it may be difficult to maintain a constant supply of solar energy.
- Kyoto Protocol

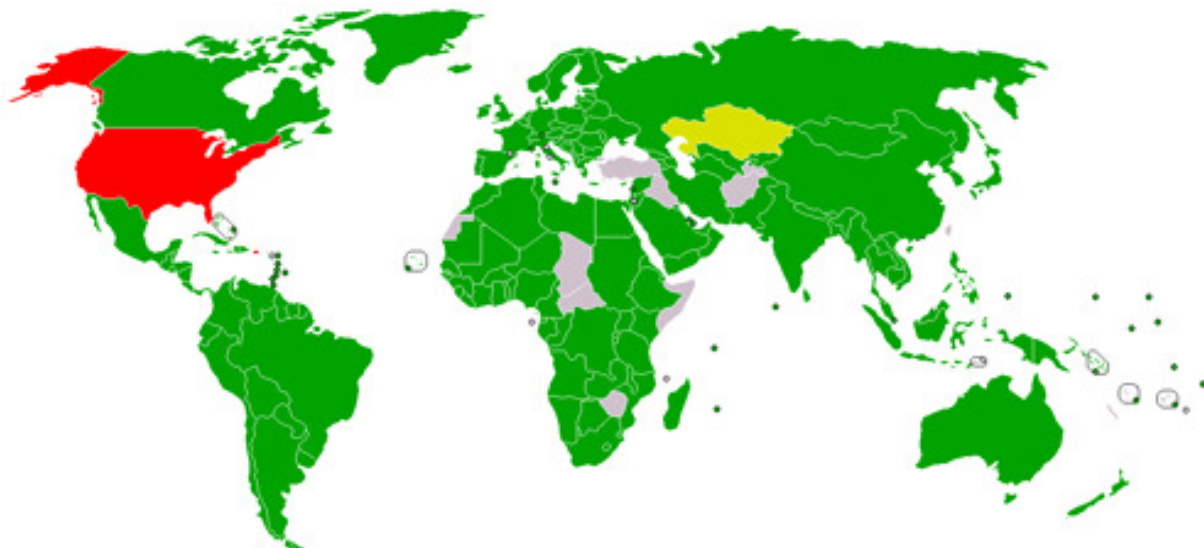
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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

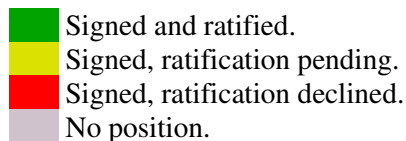
<sup>17</sup> <http://www.greenstudentu.com/encyclopedia/energy/solar>

Environmental care is a topic of concern for all the countries around the globe. The international community is taking actions and “many who were once skeptical about the issue have begun to act”.<sup>18</sup> As anticipated, the world will experience environmental changes which can’t be stopped, but that can be reduced with the cooperation of each and every one of us. In order to encourage nations to ratify the commitment to the environment, the Kyoto Protocol was established.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement between countries around the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The treaty was signed in 1997 in the Japanese city of Kyoto. Initially, it is not meant to be signed by developing countries due to their low emissions per capita; it is meant for industrialized countries that hold 20% of the total population and account for more than 60% of the current emissions and virtually all historical emissions. However, the growing concern for future generations has increased, so many countries signed in. In spite of this, targets for developed countries (only) have been established. The year 1990 was chosen as a baseline because that was the year when the UN first launched negotiations on climate change. These total cuts in emissions would have to be accomplished by the target period of 2008-2012. Until 2009, 183 Nations had ratified the protocol.<sup>19</sup>



*Countries involved with the Kyoto Protocol*<sup>20</sup>



#### - **Points of Controversy**

- In spite of the growing efforts of the United Nations, very little action has been taken around the world.<sup>21</sup> India and China were not required to commit to reductions of GHG because their low

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.clean.ns.ca/default.asp?mn=1.377.389.391.393.515>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.erenovable.net/blog/la-gran-aportacion-de-el-protocolo-de-kioto/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.clean.ns.ca/default.asp?mn=1.377.389.391.393.515>

emission per capita, when compared to those of developed countries. However, they are the two most populated countries in the world. This decision also took into account the fact that lower resource economies of developing countries would be unable to pay the cost of switching into cleaner fuels. Yet, less developed countries use older and dirtier technologies.<sup>22</sup>

- The fact that the United States which produces 36.1% of the total carbon dioxide, decided to not ratify the Kyoto Protocol, meant an unbalance.<sup>23</sup>
- The great supporters of the Kyoto Protocol, Japan and The European Union, have been working hard to maintain the Kyoto Protocol in place. However, “both are relatively small, densely populated, developed countries that do not have access to their own low-cost sources of fossil fuel or hydro power.”<sup>24</sup> Eliminating the positive environmental impact, they are obtaining economic advantages from the Protocol itself.
- There are no penalties that countries that have signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol have to face if it fails to meet the targets. Penalties have failed to be discussed due to the difficulty in negotiations. Added to that, countries can withdraw from the treaty by only giving a one-year’s notice.<sup>25</sup>
- Countries agreed to reduce the amount of GHG. However, no real method exists to calculate the benefits made. All of the parties involved claim that they have not been credited enough.<sup>26</sup>
- Under the Kyoto Protocol, there are three Mechanisms that allow countries to buy, generate, or trade “emissions credits.” The logic behind this is that the planet as a whole does not care where the reductions in emissions are achieved, simply that they are achieved somewhere. Controversy surrounds on the fact a new global market would emerge surrounding energy credits, and they would be traded much in the same way as other commodities such as oil or coffee. Prices would fluctuate with supply and demand, and there would certainly be ample opportunities for profits and losses.<sup>27</sup>

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2009, “at this rate, we will not make it...Negotiations needed to move much faster to deliver strong outcomes on areas such as adaptation, technology and building skills in developing nations... Governments needed to buckle down and concretely identify how to achieve this.”<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Environment Canada. *A Discussion Paper on Canada's Contribution to Addressing Climate Change*. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2001.

<sup>22</sup> Jaimet, Kate. "A primer on Kyoto." *The Ottawa Citizen* 30 August 2002: A4.

<sup>23</sup> [http://climatechange.sea.ca/kyoto\\_protocol.html](http://climatechange.sea.ca/kyoto_protocol.html)

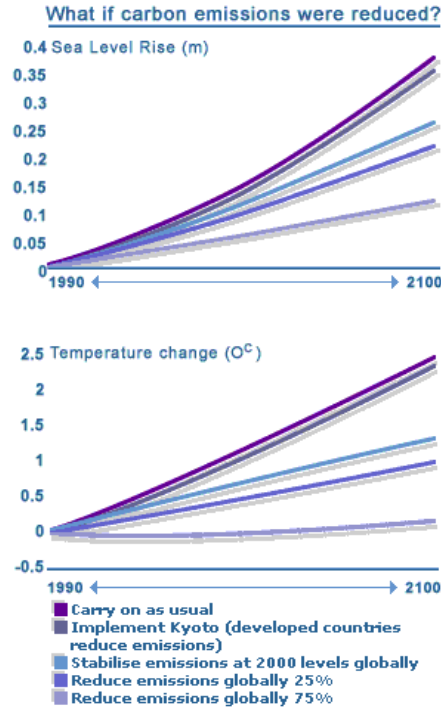
<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>



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**What do you think we should do? After reviewing the pros and cons, it is up to you to formulate your own opinion. Taking into account the following:**

- The importance of developing new and renewable sources of energy in order to contribute to meeting requirements for continued economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries.
- The transition from the present international economy based primarily on hydrocarbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy.
- The different programme of action for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources that have been established in different countries.
- The value of international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol, which raises the awareness about climate change.

*“The earth, the air, the land and the water are not an inheritance from our fathers but a loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it was handed over to us.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

<sup>29</sup>[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/sci\\_tech/2000/climate\\_change/evidence/reduced.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/sci_tech/2000/climate_change/evidence/reduced.stm)

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