

Boston Latin School

Tufts IGL Inquiry 2022

Conference on Climate Change:

“Code Red” for Humanity

Saudi Arabia

Briefing Paper

Introduction:

As the delegation from Saudi Arabia, we recognize the importance of climate change in the modern world and the importance of making the transition to renewable energy. We hope this conference will be an opportunity to lead other nations into a brighter future in which we can all live in harmony with the planet. As an economic and political leader in the Middle East, we have power to aid others in the fight against climate change, and want to push other countries to follow us in the goals we have made for 2030 and the future. We have made efforts and goals to use half renewable energy sources in ten years, and urge others to follow in our example. We have also invested \$100 billion into renewable energy. We even generously pledged to plant 50 billion trees in the Middle East to offset carbon emissions. We want a more balanced economy and build a stronger future for all our citizens and for all nations. We are eager to accomplish these goals with our fellow esteemed delegates. It is our collective duty to combat climate change and preserve the world our children will inherit.

Key Points:

- I. We want to further the fight against climate change in the Middle East. We feel our leadership in this arena would benefit not only Middle Eastern states but the entire world. We are uniquely positioned to lead our region into a greener future, and seek opportunities to do so.
- II. We seek to preserve the quality of life of our citizens, from taking increased security measures to developing our economy in a sustainable manner.

- III. We strongly believe in the right of a state to have sovereignty over their own populations. It is our belief that a nation makes the right choice for its own people, even while others might not agree with the decisions they make.
- IV. We seek opportunities to develop our sustainable energy sectors. We will not, however, do so to the detriment of our own people.

Background:

Arabia saw its first humans hundreds of thousands of years ago, but the rich history of this peninsula expanded far past the original Hominids wanderers in "Green Arabia." Its first settled civilizations included the Dilmun in the East, the Thamud in the North, the Kingdom of Kinda in the center, and the Al-Magar civilization in the Southwest. Everything changed, though, when Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, was born in Mecca in 570. He migrated to Medina in 622 where he united the tribes of the peninsula under Islam. After his death in 632, the peninsula came under the control of Abu Bakr, the first Caliph. He proceeded to put down a rebellion from the Arab tribes and attack the Byzantine empire. The next three caliphs formed the Rashidun caliphate, which was then flooded by Umayyad. The Umayyad rapidly expanded out of Arabia, and spread the influence of Islam across Afro-Eurasia. Mecca and Medina, however, remained some of the most important spiritual places in the world, and became the sites of the required Hajj. Saudi Arabia soon reverted back to traditional tribal rule after the fall of the Umayyad in 750 CE. Mecca soon fell under Abbasid control for the next 500 years. The Arabian Peninsula was next controlled by the Ottomans, who extended their influence in the 16th century. Their control varied over the next 400 years, with the fluctuating levels of strength within the central government.

The Saudi dynasty began in 1744 in central Arabia. Muhammad ibn Saud joined forces with Muhammad ibn Abd-al-Wahhab, the founder of the Wahhabi movement. This alliance remains the basis for Saudi Arabian dynastic rule today. The Saudi rule grew and decreased over 150 years as we faced the Ottomans, Egypt, and other Arabian families. This original Saudi state was formed in the Riyadh region, and expanded to control most of the land in current Saudi Arabia. The Ottomans took over the land once again in the early 19th century, concerned with its growing power. When they did regain control, their power was extremely limited. The Al Saud were conclusively defeated in 1891. The sharif of Mecca, Hussein bin Ali led an Arab revolt against the Ottomans with the goal of creating a unified Arab state. In 1902, Abdul-Aziz Al Saud returned from exile in Kuwait and seized Riyadh, starting the process of creating the Third Saudi State.

On 23 September 1932, the two kingdoms of the Hejaz and Nejd were united as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Oil was first struck in Saudi Arabia in March 1938 but was capitalized on during World War II when it was sold to the Allies. This provided us with a great economic export. Our kings have ruled over us as we have accepted immigrants from neighboring countries and expanded our cultural presence. There have been many terrors in our region such as the Yemen crisis and Iraq situation. Our neighboring countries and fellow members of OPEC have supported us along with assistance from Western countries. We hope to have their continued support and business. Many of our people are non-natives, with roughly a third of our population being refugees and immigrants.

I. Committee on Global Governance

Our kingdom operates using a monarchical system, under the rule of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. King Salman also operates as the Saudi Arabian prime minister, under the advice of the cabinet. The cabinet consists of twenty two different ministry heads, all with a different ministry. Ministries handle certain aspects of governance more directly, for example the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

We take on a leadership role in situations of global governance. As an economic power, we find our involvement in circumstances that warrant intervention often can be a force for good. More specifically to climate change, Saudi Arabia prides itself on being the champion and leader of the Middle East Green Initiative. The Initiative is a first-of-its-kind regional alliance to combat climate change, with Saudi Arabia leading the charge.

Our kingdom believes in the importance of sovereignty, with an emphasis on intervention where it is found to be necessary. We work to aid nations under attack by insurgents, such as in Yemen, where the quality of life of the population was under siege. In a situation such as the global climate crisis, it is imperative that nations work together to find solutions. While each nation is of course entitled to its own ways to fight climate change, we encourage other countries to aid in this global effort in whatever ways they can.

We have been making strides towards expanding upon the rights of its citizens. Under the initiatives of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the rights of Saudi Arabian women have increased dramatically in recent years. Many of these initiatives aim to increase the number of women in the workforce, as well as integrating women into new social spheres that were once less accessible. Saudi Arabia also believes strongly in the importance of law and order. We want

to ensure that the rights of our citizens are preserved and protected under the crown, and we work hard to mitigate any threats to those rights.

Within our borders, support for His Majesty King Salman is widespread. Our citizens know that the crown works in their best interest, both in domestic and international issues. Unfortunately, members of the international community do not always agree with what is best for Saudi Arabia, which is why we believe so strongly in a nation's sovereignty.

The United Nations has been a fundamental partner with Saudi Arabia in our efforts to further the development of our country. Specifically, we partner with them on Vision 2030 and the National Transformation Program. While these programs are specifically focused on the needs of Saudi Arabia, it is mutually beneficial for our government to ensure we are following United Nations-established guidelines, such as the 17 sustainable development goals. We are proud to say this partnership has helped enable domestic development in Saudi Arabia, in order to increase our ability to engage in global issues.

Our government has signed on to the Paris Accords, pledging fifty percent renewable energy by 2030. This aligns with our national interests, as is always at the heart of Saudi Arabian action. We have also agreed to further the United Nations 17 sustainable development goals in alignment with our Vision 2030 programs. While we are eager to support international climate change initiatives, these pledges cannot come at the expense of the Saudi Arabian populace. Saudi Arabia is interested in improving quality of life for our citizens as well as citizens of the globe through climate change programs like the ones described above. We hope to continue our support to these initiatives and ones like it into the future.

Saudi Arabia has made a distinct effort to contribute to the fight against climate change under several development programs. As mentioned before, Vision 2030 is one of the major

programs under way in Saudi Arabia at this time. A brain-child of Crown Prince Mohammed, it focuses on three pillars: a vibrant society, thriving economy, and ambitious nation. The economic reforms addressed in the program most directly relate to climate change. We hope to maximize our energy use, aid non-oil energy sectors, and grow our non-oil exports in the larger effort to minimize Saudi Arabian economic dependence on oil. Another initiative that combats climate change is the National Transformation Program. By improving infrastructure, enabling diversification of the economy and ensuring sustainable development, Saudi Arabia will be able to provide a more sustainable form of living to its citizens. The Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) is another major part of our nation's contribution to the fight against climate change. Led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed, the SGI is intended to help Saudi Arabia become a leader of sustainable energy production. Most notably, the SGI has pledged to achieve net zero emissions by 2060, an ambitious and commendable goal. All three of these major initiatives combine to form Saudi Arabia's effort to lessen the global effects of climate change.

II. Committee on Migration

Our forefathers have believed that migration could positively affect the development of our kingdom. In Saudi Arabia, we have Mecca, which serves as a gathering place for Islamic believers all over the world. We encourage Muslims to return to the birthplace of Islam and practice our faith.

We believe that immigrants to our kingdom must adhere to Islamic social norms. As the birthplace of Islam, we pride ourselves in upholding the Islamic faith and being a mecca for Islamic believers all around the world. We do not permit non-Muslim organizations to coexist in

our communities. Pork is non-existent throughout our kingdom and we don't plan on changing our standards to cater towards migrants.

Saudi Arabia has let in 500,000 Syrian refugees since 2011 as well as 2,300 asylum seekers. Although we haven't signed the UN Refugee Convention, we have been treating asylum seekers and refugees with immense hospitality. It still would reform the ways Saudi Arabia deals with asylum seekers and create an effective procedure, as Saudi Arabia has yet to create an asylum system.

Migration in our kingdom is flowing in more than ever. 38.4% of our population comprises immigrants. Many of our Saudi families employ maids and servants from African and South/Southeast Asian countries who come through labor pacts (agreements that we have made with international countries to foster economic growth). These laborers mitigate the stress of our people and boost both our economy and the hardships of their families back home. Our kingdom is booming, the economy is growing, and people are happier than ever. For this, we are forever grateful for our immigrants.

We have partnered with the UNHCR which seeks to protect and ensure the safe resettlement of refugees all over the world. Many of their programs include aiding climate refugees as well. We will commit to the UN's policies as part of our strengthening relationship with the UNHCR and we expect to open our borders to these refugees if necessary.

We agree that there needs to be securitization of the borders, in the recent years, there have been increasing threats that have been intensifying. The main threat for Saudi Arabia is Iran. Both countries have been at conflict with each other for several arenas. There are also threats of missile and drone attacks on civilian facilities. To make sure that Saudi Arabia is safe, there should be more securitization in the frontier. .

More than 500 million birds representing 500 species migrate across Saudi Arabia every year through the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia is threatened by climate change, and has decided to partner with hunters, as well as contributing financially and scientifically to protect migratory birds in Saudi Arabia.

III. Committee on Security

The major security concerns facing us are the Yemen Border. We and Yemen have been in conflict with one another since 2014 after a brief peace following their conflicts in the 20th century. The majority of the conflict has been caused by the terrorists in Yemen when Houthi took control of Yemen. Ever since we have been fighting them.

We are an oil dependent country and the worsening climate change has put us in a difficult situation. We want to protect our oil business and ensure that they remain stable while the general population grows worried about the impacts that our exports are making on the climate.

We are part of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and are supporters of Western interests. As we are a founder of OPEC, we are responsible for helping to make decisions made by the organization. Since the 1930s we have been helping the United States and selling petroleum products so we have close allies. There have been many recent wars in the Middle East however we are hopeful that peace remains.

A securitization of borders helps to prevent other countries or groups from creating division amongst each other. We would like our borders to be secure and because of recent conflict we will continue to protect ourselves and our interests.

The pandemic has affected us but currently we have very low current covid rates. We are doing very well with less than a hundred new cases per day. Over the pandemic we have begun our plan to help with infrastructure in the Middle East. However this doesn't mean we tolerate the terrorists in Yemen.

We need industrial products and machinery and it makes up the majority of our imports from other countries. The countries that provide us with these resources are China, Japan, Germany, UAE, and the USA who provide us with America. We, being the main oil exporter, sell our petroleum products all over the world. Overall we feel very positive about continuing this and OPEC hopes to continue this pattern.

Our country is in a vulnerable position regarding climate change but energy. As the world continues to warm up due to climate change. However, we plan to invest 15 Billion USD in green spaces which should help to reduce the carbon footprint of our country. On the other hand, we are in a strategic position regarding energy. Considering we are one of the largest exporters of oil given the sanctions on Russia.

IV. Committee on Energy

We are an energy independent country, possessing nearly 15% of the world's oil reserves and are a member and founder of OPEC. Most of our oil is sent to Asian countries, and the rest to the United States, European Countries, South Africa, and Brazil.

Energy has been a source of cooperation for our kingdom, especially after our aid in the formation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Country (OPEC). In this, we have coordination policies with twelve other nations to keep ourselves in charge of the oil we have

and help the members of OPEC financially. Alongside Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Venezuela we found this great organization in the 1960s, and now have thirteen members.

Our kingdom is one of the world's leading oil producers, but the official Saudi Arabian Oil Company, Saudi Aramco, has constructive gas systems for transporting natural gasses as well. We have also used other mineral resources. We rely on natural gas and diesel fuel for our electricity, which has been growing since the 1970s, due to our expansion as a kingdom.

We own the organization ACWA Power, an indigenous developer in twelve countries to deliver electricity and desalinated water to part of the countries it serves. With them, we want to generate 50% of our electricity from renewable resources and 50% from gas by the year 2030. We want to be a world green leader and oil leader simultaneously and help export more energy sources to Asian countries. By 2030 we want to eliminate 130 million tons of carbon emissions, further helping the war on our climate. All of these goals are lined out in our initiative called the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP), which would help us to increase renewable energy production and reduce carbon emissions.

Our economy has been relying on oil for most of our exports, since we are one of the world's leading producers, it has generated about 75% of our government revenue. We have heavily relied on oil for economic growth and stability, but, in the future we want to even out our use of renewable energies.

With ACWA Power at the center of our Vision 2030 goal we want renewable to provide 70% of our regenerated power needs and source half our of electricity. In addition, other countries use our oil to build renewable energy related facilities for us. Right now our government relies on oil exports for economic growth, and with an influx of renewable energy

sources in the next ten years, we will be using renewable energy as a bigger source of income for our growing kingdom.

V. Committee on Agriculture and Food Security

We both export and import food. However, as 95% of our land is desert, and only 1.5% of our land is deemed as arable, we have to import much of our food. Our biggest desert is the Rub' Al Khali followed by the An-Nafud Desert. Therefore, we import about 80% of our food needs from countries such as Germany, the USA, China, Italy, Spain or the Netherlands. We import around \$4.3 billion USD in cereals, \$1.5 billion USD in meat, \$1.88 billion USD in dairy, and \$226.31 million USD in fruits and vegetables.

We also export food to countries in the Middle East & North Africa (\$1,297,440,098), United Arab Emirates (\$273,643,002), Jordan (\$208,743,520), Kuwait (\$195,219,610), and Yemen (\$183,262,850). The top five countries from which we import are the United Arab Emirates (\$620,053,074), Turkey (\$523,301,001), The US (\$439,723,000), Brazil (\$413,546,010), and Ireland (\$377,816,069).

Saudi Arabia exports wheat, dates, dairy products, eggs, fish, poultry, fruits, vegetables and flowers. We also export dates for global humanitarian aid. Although our kingdom is dominated by deserts, we were able to increase food production due to recent agricultural improvements including farmer responsive plans, feasible credit scheme, free land distribution and effective extension programs. The Ministry of Agriculture primarily controls agricultural policy. There is also the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, SAAB, which grants interest-free loans and gives subsidies, Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organization, which purchases and stores wheat, constructs flour mills, and produces animal feed.

Agriculture makes up 2.6% of our GDP, with Industry making up 44.2% and services making up 53.2%. As a desert country, extreme temperature makes food production difficult. Less than 2 percent of the total land area is used for crops. The oil industry makes up about 87% of Saudi budget revenues, 90% of export earnings, and 42% of the GDP.

Gross domestic product of the agricultural sector in Saudi Arabia from 2011 to 2020

Because of our desert dominated land, only around 20% of our food is domestically sourced. The other 80% is imported from other countries around the world.

In 2019, we exported approximately US\$3.5 billion worth of food products, which increased almost 3% since 2018. The main products were dairy products, snack foods, processed foods, processed dates, processed fruit and vegetables, sugar and sweeteners, and poultry meat.

According to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), food security is when "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." Our ancestors suffered through unbearable starvation in the Year of Hunger in 1909. Now, a century later, our country is facing the opposite problem: obesity and food-waste. We waste around \$18.6 million worth of food every day, which is around 8 million meals. Obesity rates are also increasing. In 2015, over 66% of Saudi adults and up to 40% of children were either overweight or obese.

Although Saudi Arabia is currently a food-secure country, it is facing growing challenges and risks to its overall food security situation. Its self-sufficiency rate for dates exceeded 125%, but the self-sufficiency rate for vegetables and poultry reached 60%, eggs 116%, fresh milk and its derivatives 109%, and fish 55 %, raising its rank in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) to 30th out of 113 countries in 2019.

According to the FAO, around 8.1% of our population was experiencing severe food insecurity between 2015 and 2017. A later study found that 6.8% was insecure according to the FIES study.

According to the 2019 global hunger index, we rank 34th out of 177 countries. With a score of 8.5, Saudi Arabia has a low level of hunger. In 2019, the percentage of the Saudi Arabian population that was malnourished was 7.1%, only a 0.1 increase from 2010.

Climate change constitutes a major threat to agricultural production, food security, and natural resource management. Saudi Arabia is at danger from high temperature draughts and arid weather. As we import many goods from other countries, the extreme weather conditions they undergo also indirectly hurt us.

VI. Committee on Economic Development

We have an oil-based economy, meaning that a large majority of our income stems from exports of petroleum. Around 87% of budget revenues, 42% of GDP, and 90% of export earnings are accounted for by petroleum. However, we are working to improve private sectors so that we can diversify our economy and also lessen our unemployment rates. These private sectors are mainly focused in the health care, education, and tourism industries. As one of the world's top 20 economies, rising demand and an undersupply of oil has caused oil prices to surge this year. Even with other major oil companies easing production, in the next few years, Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company will increase barrel production by 8%. We need the world to see that as important as having more reliable energy sources are, they cannot possibly take the place of any other form of energy at this time.

Saudi Arabia is threatened by the rise in temperature caused by climate change. As a desert nation, it becomes dangerous when already hot temperatures become extreme. Beyond that, major increases in rainfall can also cause flash floods. These events have become more frequent in recent decades, with potential major impacts for the citizens of our nation.

As with any major change, global warming poses a challenge to the status quo. Many major powers are turning to sustainable forms of fuel, Saudi Arabia included. We hope to take this challenge and make it an opportunity by becoming a leader of sustainable energy development and exports. It is our hope that the global community will support us in this goal, as climate change threatens us all. Extreme weather events may make trading with certain regions difficult.

Since more than a third of the country is desert land, scarcity of water and increasing desertification will greatly affect our country in the coming years. Given that oil revenue accounts for more than half of the government's budget, any shifts in energy sources, in power and revenue, must provide as well as what it replaces. At the current rate of production, the only way Saudi Arabia will be able to afford to eventually move away from oil as a primary source of energy is to continue to produce it as we are now. The alternative green energy that the rest of the world proposes will not be sufficient to sustain our economy. Saudi Arabia has set a realistic goal of having net-zero emissions by 2060, which is an amount of time that gives the most opportunity for Saudi Arabia's and the world's benefit. Being forced to rely upon technologies that are, at this time, widely inefficient would be an economic tragedy, not only for Saudi Arabia, but for almost all nations of the world.

We believe in the importance of a government's right to take measures for the benefit of a nation. In times of economic peril, it can become necessary for a country to take austerity

measures for the greater good. Although some measures may seem severe, it is better than simply letting the national economy freefall into a worse state. Saudi Arabia has used austerity measures in the past to mitigate economic damage. We do so conservatively, but will not hesitate to use these measures when necessary.

VII. Committee on Justice and Human Rights

The Saudi government has benefited from the freedom to develop using fossil fuels. Saudi Arabia continues to help the world move forward toward a newer more renewable future. This renewable future, however, cannot be achieved without oil. However the Saudi government has made huge strides in moving towards renewable energy.

No debt owed to any country because all countries are impacted by climate change. We are working very hard and investing large sums of money into renewable energy. But as for any debt the Saudi government does not owe any country anything and we are not to blame for any of their issues.

We are happy that we have been able to industrialize like the countries of the Global North and join them as world powers. Our country is owed nothing and we have earned our right on the global stage.

The Saudi Arabian government has implemented many policies and actions to aid the world in reducing climate change. Simply turning off the oil mines is ridiculous and would be a bad decision since oil is necessary for the switch to renewables in the future. We have also put \$100 billion dollars into renewable energy. This is an investment that is yet to be matched by some western nations. We have pledged that we will reach net zero emissions by 2060. Some of our other highly ambitious goals include planting 50 billion trees in the Middle East. Our goal is

to create a “circular carbon economy” where we can use newly innovated technologies to use those emissions.

Saudi Arabia has done much to contribute to the global economy which helps the various nations of the world. We have also made great contributions to health initiatives from the World Health Organization that have aided countries such as Bangladesh, Iraq, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. The Saudi government has also provided concessional loans to aid other countries.

Saudi Arabia is not beholden to the United Nations Refugee Convention. If the world decides to name any people as climate refugees that is their decision but we are not obligated to take in any refugees. We also doubt there will be any people that will need to flee their home countries due to climate change because of the great measures we have taken to mitigate it.