

ORGANIZATION

OF THE



AMERICAN STATES

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WELCOME LETTER FROM OUR SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear King'sMUN 2023 delegates,

I am truly honoured as this year's Secretary General of King'sMUN to welcome you to our 9th annual conference and our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. The secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible conference with a variety of unique committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

MUN is a reenactment of United Nations conferences at the high school and university level, where representatives from all over come together to discuss the most pressing issues that plague our world today. Students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures in order to create resolutions for both real and fictional issues and crises.

Throughout my time participating in Model United Nations, I have developed many valuable skills that I will take with me throughout my life. It has improved my confidence when public speaking as well as my ability to problem solve. Furthermore, MUN is valuable to me as it promotes lifelong connections with new people as you meet many other delegates who share your passions while in committee sessions. I truly believe that skills that you will learn through your participation inMUN will help you throughout your high school journey, in everyday life, and beyond.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN is truly for everyone. At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something that everyone will enjoy debating about. From the world's most pressing issues discussed in UNSC and UN Women to Indigenous affairs and from the gods on Mount Olympus to the prohibition in the 1920s, we strive to ensure that we can appeal to the passions of a variety of delegates. Everyone is welcome at King'sMUN, whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place for you here.

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back in person toKing'sMUN. I, as well as the rest of the secretariat, are looking very forward to seeing you onSaturday, February 25. Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you are able toengage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2023.

Sincerely,
Athena Ponte
Secretary General
King's MUN 2023

WHAT IS THE OAS?

Founded in 1948, the Organization of American States is the oldest regional organization in the world.

It is built on four pillars:

democracy, human rights, security and development.



The Organization of American States (OAS) is **the premier multilateral organization of the Americas**. It seeks to achieve among its member states an order of **peace and justice, promote their solidarity, strengthen their collaboration and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence**. After 28 years as an observer, **Canada became a member of the OAS on January 8, 1990**.



Organization of American States

THE TOPIC AT HAND

A BRIEF HISTORY:

DEFORESTATION AND LANDS RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE AMAZON

- 1964: The government offers subsidized credit and tax incentives for both small-holder settlers and large-scale farmers and ranchers to clear land. The government rules the following year that 50 percent of rural land should be maintained as forest, but the regulation is rarely enforced.
- 1970s-1980s: The pace of deforestation escalates in the 1970s and 1980s as agriculture subsidies and infrastructure projects, such as highways, dams, and mines, draw workers and industry into the rain forest.
- 1988: Satellite imagery reveals that the Amazon has lost more than 10 percent of its original cover as climate research warns of rising global temperatures.
- 1988: Brazil's new constitution ensures Indigenous groups rights to their traditional lands.
- 1989: Brazil creates the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, or IBAMA, a federal environmental law enforcement agency.
- 1992: World leaders convene in Rio de Janeiro to address environmental concerns, including climate change and deforestation. The conference produces the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international treaty in which signatories agree to cooperate to combat climate change.
- 1995: More than eleven thousand square miles are cleared in a single year in Brazil's Amazon, the highest annual rate on record.
- 2006: Global commodities traders agree not to purchase soy farmed on land that was cleared after 2006. The move comes after environmental watchdog group Greenpeace reports that large companies had soy from illegally deforested land in their supply chains.
- 2014: Thirty-six countries sign a voluntary pledge to "at least halve the rate of loss of natural forests globally by 2020 and strive to end natural forest loss by 2030." Brazil does not sign, as officials say they were not consulted when the agreement was drafted.
- 2015: The Paris Agreement reached at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference encourages "sustainable management of forests" and urges countries to implement and support REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries).
- 2019: President Jair Bolsonaro takes office promising to bring development to the Amazon and his first steps include deregulating land and pesticide use.

CONNECTION TO SDG'S

What is an SDG? What do they provide?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



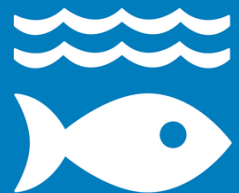
12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS





PHOTO'S



SINCE 1998 AN AVERAGE OF 10,000 ACRES OF RAINFOREST
COVER HAS BEEN DESTROYED EVERY DAY!



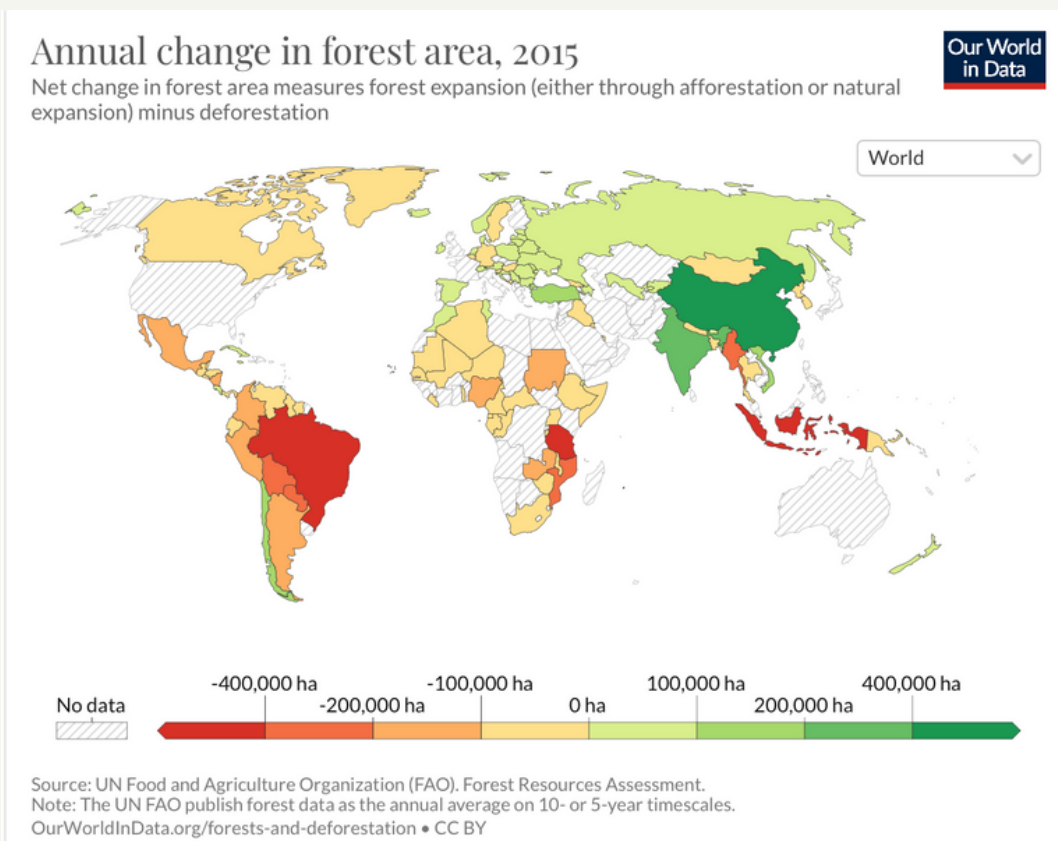
GRAPHS AND STATISTICS

From Our World in Data

"Poverty, disease, hunger, climate change, war, existential risks, and inequality: The world faces many great and terrifying problems. It is these large problems that our work at Our World in Data focuses on."

"Thanks to the work of thousands of researchers around the world who dedicate their lives to it, we often have a good understanding of how it is possible to make progress against the large problems we are facing. The world has the resources to do much better and reduce the suffering in the world."

For more information about Our World in Data:
<https://ourworldindata.org>



A hectare is about two-and-a-half times the size of an average football field.

Humanity destroyed one third of the world forests by expanding agricultural land.

The world has lost 1.5 billion hectares of forest in the past 300 years.

Statistics:

- **Forests account for a little over one-third (38%) of habitable land area.** This is around one-quarter (26%) of *total* (both habitable and uninhabitable) land area.
- Russia – which has the largest forest area – is home to one-fifth of global forest area. **Brazil is the only other country with more than 10% of global forest cover.**
- (Connecting to the graph above) Countries with a positive change (shown in green) are regrowing forest faster than they're losing it. Countries with a negative change (shown in red) are **losing more than they're able to restore.** *Note what colour Brazil is, among most South American countries!
- Over the decade since 2010, the net loss in forests globally was **4.7 million hectares per year.**

FURTHER QUESTIONS

- 1) WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP FROM A FAR?
- 2) HOW DID DEFORESTATION GET SO BAD, SO QUICKLY? HOW DID WE LET IT HAPPEN LIKE THIS?
- 3) HOW CAN WE REBUILD THE AMAZON? WILL IT EVER BE THE SAME? IS IT TOO LATE?
- 4) WHO'S BEHIND THIS?
- 5) WILL THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EVER GET THEIR HOMES BACK?

WEBSITES USED AND HELPFUL RESOURCES:

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