

Committee: United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

Issue: Addressing the sustainability of big scale international events

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Marilia Giannakaki, and it is my utmost honor to serve as your Deputy President in the United Nations Environmental Programme of this year's Arsakeia-Tositseia Schools Model United Nations Conference. I currently am an IB1 student at Pierce-The American College of Greece. October 2022 marks one year since my entrance in this wonderful community; I was in my school's MUN Club and now I am proud to say that I am a part of the Organizing Team of the 6th ACGMUN Conference.

MUN has shifted my view on the world radically and has helped me develop an interest on political affairs, as well. It is a wonderful experience for students to expand their knowledge on issues that affect the modern society, improve their public speaking and, at the same time, have fun and make unforgettable memories. I hope I can pass on to all of you the love and fondness I have for this beloved hobby of mine and make memories together that we cherish for the rest of our lives.

In this year's agenda for the Environmental Programme, we are faced with two very important issues, "Addressing the sustainability of big scale international events" being one of them. This guide aims to provide you with all the information you will need for the conference, including the causes, past attempts to resolve the issue, important UN Treaties and Conventions, as well as possible solutions, which will be very helpful regarding the construction of your resolutions. Of course, I would recommend that you conduct your own personal research on the topic, regarding the policy of your country on it, and to not rely solely on this guide. If you have any questions regarding the Rules of Procedure or the topic itself, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at mariliageannakakes@outlook.com; I will reply as soon as I read your mail!

Looking forward to meeting you all in November!

Yours truly,

Marilia Giannakaki

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Large-scale international events have become rather frequent in modern humanity, with at least one of them taking place every year. With the phenomenon of climate change coming into spotlight in the 21st century, global concerns have been raised, questioning international events' sustainability.

Sustainability is based on the idea that resources are fixed and, therefore, should be used responsibly, taking, at the same time, into consideration the consequences of the use of these resources in the long run. It can also refer to energy transformation, in order to reduce global warming and ameliorate the effects of climate change.

Event and event-planning, as well, and especially big ones, are known to generate carbon emissions and, also, contribute significantly to food and other material waste. These actions are an addition to the burden that is put on our planet and, thus, result in climate change, whose detrimental effects are becoming more apparent everyday; the temperature has risen about 1.1 degrees (Celsius), sea levels have and will continue to rise and obscure weather patterns have been detected¹.

Sustainability has been proposed as a way to ameliorate all of the aforementioned phenomena that put at risk the environment. For this reason, it is crucial, in order to be able to take action against climate change and, at the same time, create a more sustainable environment, to determine whether or not such events are, even on a small scale, sustainable and, in this way, promote an eco-friendlier lifestyle. The importance of showing particular care for our environment can be reflected from the fact that the United Nations has dedicated a significant amount of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals to taking climate action, as well as protecting life on land and under water.

¹ "World of Change: Global Temperatures." NASA, NASA, <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/world-of-change/global-temperatures>.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were proposed by the United Nations in 2015 and constitute the Sustainable Development Agenda, the result of decade-long and hard work of the United Nations (UN) and its members. All the Goals are a plea of the UN to all nations, in order to take action towards sustainable development. The Agenda does not only tackle the environmental field, but humanitarian, social and economic as well. The reason why this is a really important part of this issue is because all attempts that were made in the past or are going to be made in the future are based on and inspired significantly by this document.

Sustainability

The concept of this term was defined in 1987 by the Brundtland Commission Report as the “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”² In simpler words, it means taking action in order to ensure general development and also a livable environment for the generations to come. This is the main idea this issue is based upon, since we have to address and evaluate how sustainable, in this case meaning eco-friendly all aspects, such as organization, execution, etc. of a large scale event are.

Fair Trade

“Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers.”³ This term is related more to the aspect of development, rather than environmental sustainability, but when applying and putting in action the method of Fair Trade, development, Goal 8 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

² “Sustainable Development.” *EUR*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/sustainable-development.html>.

³ “Definition of Fair Trade.” *Fairtrade*, 16 Sept. 2021, <https://fairtrade-advocacy.org/definition-of-fair-trade/>.

(UNSDGs), which is decent work and economic growth, for example, could be better and more easily achieved.

Compost

“A mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land.”⁴ In this instance, composting is proposed as an alternative to throwing away and wasting leftover food, since, most times, it could be used to fertilize land and grow out vegetables, for example.

Green Energy/Power Plant

“an electric utility generating station”⁵, but since we are talking about “Green” Energy, the energy that is generated comes from natural resources (sunlight-wind-water). In today’s society, in which constant technological progress is made, instead of using coal-powered energy generators, which have detrimental effects on the environment when being widely used, green energy plants could be taken advantage of, that use natural resources, such as sunlight, wind, and water, to produce energy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Climate Change and Global Warming Effects

Even though Climate Change and Global Warming are not directly correlated with the issue of large-scale international events and their sustainability, mentioning them and their effects is crucial to enhance one’s understanding on the threat they pose to our natural habitat, as well as to stress the importance of ensuring the sustainable execution of such events.

⁴ “Compost Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/compost>.

⁵ “Power Plant Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/power%20plant>.

Air pollution is one of the most harmful phenomena for all people who are exposed to heavily polluted air, as well as their respiratory system. It is mostly reproduced by the carbon emissions that vehicles and factories generate. As a result, an estimated 9 million people die annually, with the cause being air pollution.

Global Warming has made itself evident, as well, with the one of the most concerning effects for humanity and animals being the melting of the arctic ice and glaciers. In total, 1.2 trillion tons of ice melt each year, which means that numerous species, such as polar bears, lose their natural habitat and are in more danger to go extinct. The fact that ice is melting at such a rapid pace means that, gradually, ancient viruses and bacteria that were previously were trapped in ice will begin to spread again.

Moreover, CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) levels have risen from 280 parts per million (ppm) to 420 ppm. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Carbon Dioxide levels have endured more than a 50% rise, compared to the pre-industrial levels. The following graph represents the rise of these levels from the year 1960, until 2020.

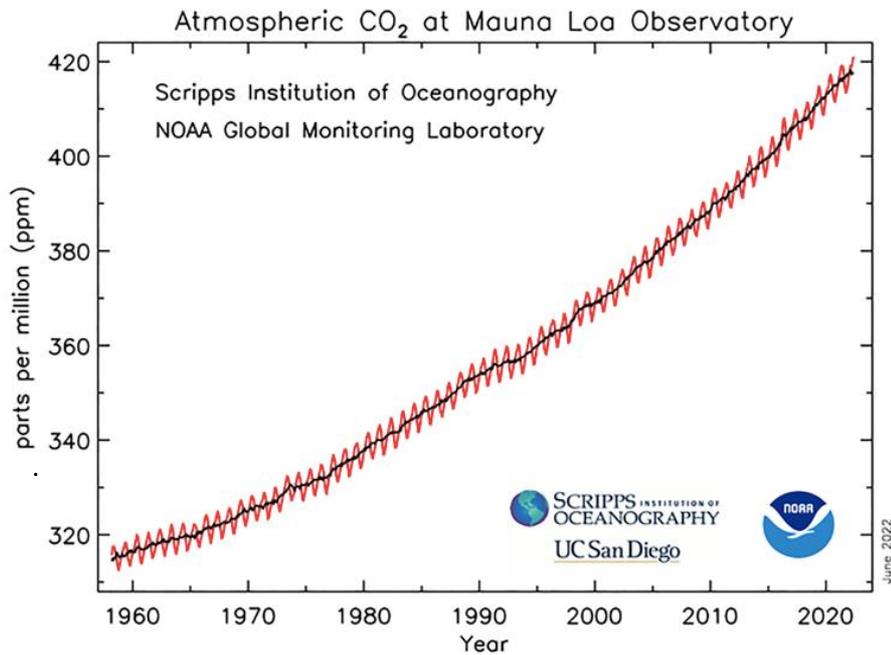


Figure 1⁶: Rise of Atmospheric Co2 at Mauna Observarory, 1960-2020.

⁶ “Carbon Dioxide Now More than 50% Higher than Pre-Industrial Levels.” *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/carbon-dioxide-now-more-than-50-higher-than-pre-industrial-levels>.

Another truly concerning issue that was provoked by Global Warming is that, by the end of the century, many regions might become too hot to reside in. This applies mostly to Middle eastern nations, in which the temperatures at the end of the century might not only make the regions practically uninhabitable, if fossil fuel emissions rate remains the same, but can also reach the point where the human body might not be able to cool itself down, even in conditions where the room is well-ventilated.

It is notable to mention, though, that natural disasters, taking heatwaves as an example, are human invoked phenomena, originating from the waste and emissions we generate on a regular basis. This, of course, has a negative effect on many aspects of one's life. Climate change, for example, and specifically excessive heat caused by it, was the reason that 302.4 billion labor hours are lost every year.

Since, as mentioned before, as well, events, especially international ones, have become a common phenomenon for today's world and because, as it will be analyzed further below, their carbon footprint is considered alarming, as well as other effects they have on the environment, it is important that action is taken, in order to make all events more environmentally friendly, so as to ensure a healthy and safe environment not only for our generation, but for future ones as well, since they are the ones who will be facing all the environmental issues we have created.

The Importance of Sustainable Events

The most important factor to consider, though, is, why are sustainable events do important for the environment? First and foremost, it is notable to mention that they satisfy most environmentally-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

The waste that is generated in sustainable events is minimized as much as possible, which results in the appropriate management of waste, Goals 11 and 13 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda of 2030. This minimization can become reality by either composting leftover materials, recycling or repurposing them for future events, or even donating food, for example, to people in need.

Moreover, in such events, the consumption of water and electricity is reduced, which satisfies UNSDG 12. This happens due to the fact that, wherever and whenever possible, the main source of light is natural light. Another priority of sustainable events is ensuring that there is clean air, so anything that may pose a threat to having high air quality is omitted. Therefore, air, noise, light pollution is minimalized (UNSDG 7).

The sustainability of the event does not solely rely on the sustainable execution of it, but also on how participants and viewers get there. Having said that, sustainable and safe means of transportation is promoted, meaning that public, shared transportation is encouraged to be used, instead of personal vehicles, like cars (UNSDG 11).

To conclude, in sustainable events reusable products are prioritized and used, and packaging, which later forms into waste, if not recycled, is avoided. Seasonal and local production, organic or Fair Trade is also promoted, since the products are not made artificially, in the event that they are not in season to be cultivated.

Reason Why “Going Green” was Necessary: The 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics

Until 1992, the need for a sustainable event was overlooked. That was until after the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics; they were the prime reason for the creation of more sustainable Olympic Events but more sustainable gatherings, in general, due to the detrimental effect it had on the natural environment of France, where they took place.

France, being responsible for constructing the venues where each sport competition would take place, left heavily forested areas destroyed, after an attempt to place sports infrastructure. Some of the long-term effects of such actions were already occurring, since France is one of the most visited countries in the winter for skiing, so deforestation was already a phenomenon taking place at the time, whereas other ones were not predicted.

All of the aforementioned events, that, as a result, left France with many environmental problems to tackle in the following years, led the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to change their stance and philosophy on sustainability, and create new policies and environmental procedures for countries to follow, when hosting such events. Their ideology is based on the 1992 Earth Summit, but since the IOC is a self-governing organization, the legitimacy of their policy and claims about sustainability in their events is often questioned.

The First Large-Scale “Green” Event: The 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics

As mentioned before, after the 1992 Winter Olympics, the IOC was determined to make Olympic events more sustainable. Therefore, we could say that the 1994 Winter Olympics paved the path for and was the first sustainable Olympic Event, that also set an example for future large scale sustainable events.

As for the strategy the IOC enforced, 20 Sustainability Projects were implemented; the ice skating arena was relocated for the protection of a sanctuary for rare birds, reduction of energy and stable temperature all year round was ensured by the construction of the ice hockey venue in a mountain hall, Olympic medals and torches were created by natural resources, namely graphite and glass cement, 80% of the time during the games public transport was used, and, lastly, waste management, hygiene, wildfire protection, air and water quality were the main focus of the organizing committee. It is also really important to mention that all, meaning 10, Sporting Venues are still used today.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Australia

Australia is also home to two large, but, at the same time, sustainable events, the Sydney Festival and Byron Bluefest.

Sydney Festival is striving to be the biggest, most sustainable Arts Festival in the country, with an estimated 650,000 visitors annually in more than 30 venues, all spread out across the city. This event encourages walking, cycling, public transport and offset flights for visitors from abroad, in hopes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, waste is considered as a valuable resource and, therefore, recycling, repurposing is promoted, Disposable serving ware is minimalized, appropriate waste management is promoted for venues and water usage is minimalized, as well as the usage of chemicals in water in an attempt to avoid landfill. In addition, only what is necessary is purchased, because goods are reused and local, sustainable suppliers and organic and sustainably sourced products are preferred. The most impressive fact of this festival, though, is that sustainability messages through artists are passed, something that is also done by means such as avoiding printed materials, using digital screens as much as possible and applying no glaze or varnish, that prevents the recycling of products.

Byron Bluesfest has earned 6 international A Greener Festival Awards, since 2007. About its contribution to the environment, meaning how it is sustainable, it mostly aims at reducing carbon emissions, proper waste management and recycling. As a result, a total of 4 ton of organic waste is given to pig farmers for them to use and another 500 liters of cooking oil left is given to local farmers to transform their machinery into bio-oil fueled machines. Moreover, landfill waste is transformed into Methane gas by a green energy plant, in order to power 10,000 homes. Trees are also planted, in order to create a 'corridor' for koalas, an

Australian species that is currently specified as endangered. To sum up, information and data on recycling from all previous events is collected and compared annually, in order to ensure that progress is made gradually.

Germany

Germany also plays a significant role in hosting sustainable events. The two most known ones are: Oktoberfest (The Green Pioneer) and Munich, as a whole (Clean and Green).

Oktoberfest, also known as The Green Pioneer, is a 2-week event that is held from September 17, until October 3 (2022 dates). Its ideology is based on waste reduction policy, which is proven to be successful, since it had won the Environmental Oscar Award in 1997. It has also followed the City of Munich's ban on disposable tableware, imposed in 1991 and, thus, has reduced waste by approximately 90%, by not using disposable supplies. It bases its supplies on organic produce and has been using green energy for all public areas of the event, including lighting and toilets, for the past two decades, meaning from 2000. Moreover, recycling is thought to be really important and water for washing tableware and glasses is, therefore, repurposed for flushing the toilets. Lastly, a green tariff is imposed to all showmen, proprietors and traders in Wiesn, since 2012.

Just like Oktoberfest, the city of Munich, also referred to as Clean and Green, follows earth-friendly infrastructure, and is considered to have a leading role in the field of sustainable events. As for its achievements, disposable tableware is banned since 1991 and the Messe Munich Convention is home to its own geothermal plant, giant solar panels and uses rainwater responsibly. In addition, the terminal at the Munich Airport offers energy sufficient cooling, lighting and heating with the hopes to reduce carbon emissions by 40%. The last innovation that Munich offers is a Zero Energy Hotel, along with many other alternative eco-friendly accommodations.

Greece

Greece held its officially classified first sustainable event in June 2022, which was called Posidonia 2022. The event received the title of the first maritime exhibition to receive the International Organisation on Standardization (ISO) 20121 certification from the Bureau Veritas.

The ISO 20121 is an International Standard that offers guidance and help to organisers, in order to create more sustainable events, taking into account the waste events

generate and always promoting Responsible Consumption, which is a UNSDG on itself, as well. As mentioned, “The ISO 20121 international standard is aligned with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of well-being, equality, clean water, clean energy, economic growth, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate, sustainable industrialization, reducing inequalities, and inclusive societies”⁷.

The United Kingdom (UK)

United Kingdom’s most sustainable large-scale events are mostly Games, namely the 2012 London Olympic Games, as well as the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The 2012 London Olympic Games were the source of inspiration for the establishment of the ISO 20121, which mainly aims to reduce the carbon footprint an event, of any size, can have on the environment. It is important to note that they were the test case of the ISO 20121 Family. The Games had 5 key themes, namely Climate Change, Waste, Biodiversity, Inclusion, and Healthy Living. Previous Venues were used, and new ones were only constructed if it was absolutely necessary. Moreover, instead of buying brand new equipment, hiring them was used as an alternative, wherever possible and refurbished items were preferred, in order for them to be reused. The waste that was generated was composted and destroyed with energy recovery. 99% of the waste, though, was either recycled, reused or recovered. As for the distinction of the waste, it was organized with color-coding, meaning that there were different color recyclable bins for food, packaging, etc. Lastly, sustainable means of transportation was promoted and mostly used, all throughout the duration of the Games.

As for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, they were mostly focused upon the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Used furniture and other equipment was repurposed and used, that were from the 2012 London Olympics. Also, instead of building a whole new Venue, an already existing Stadium was converted, according to the needs of the event, and used. Furthermore, the power was supplied from Green Energy, and the use of Energy Generators was widespread, during the Games. As for the transportation to and from the Games, free public transport was offered to everyone who was attending the event. In addition, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the event, a goal of the ISO 20121 as well, waste removal machines and vehicles were examined and, later on, certified

⁷ “Posidonia 2022 Certified as Greece’s First Sustainable Event.” *GTP Headlines*, 1 June 2022, <https://news.gtp.gr/2022/05/31/posidonia-2022-certified-as-greeces-first-sustainable-event/>.

low emission. Sustainability was also ensured when selecting suppliers for the event. To conclude, knowledge on how to make events successfully sustainable was shared between event planners and organizers and, most importantly, the 2012 Games were the First Commonwealth Games to receive the ISO 20121 title.

European Union Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

The European Union (EU) Eco-Management and Audit Scheme is an instrument that the European Union created in 1993, which is proposed to all organisations that would like to review, report and contribute to the improvement of the environment. All of its measures are tools that can be applied and used from companies all around the world. EMAS stands for Performance, meaning its members improve their environmental performance, Credibility of its legitimacy, and Transparency, since all data of the environmental progress and impact of organisations is published. Moreover, EMAS has proposed a regulation, namely the EMAS Regulation 1836/93, in July 1993, of which the European Commission is responsible. It aims to establish sustainable development, mostly in the industrial sector. It has endured amendments and further extensions over the years, such as the EMAS Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 or “EMAS II”, in 2001, which extended the sectors that the Regulation could be applied, such as the economic field, always basing its tactics and strategy to the EN ISO 14001.

Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an organization and movement that was founded in 1971. It is considered the largest, since it consists of 2.8 million supporters and participants, non-violent environmental and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that takes direct action on issues concerning climate change, oceans, forests, etc., as well as sustainable agriculture. Since it has such a big following and active members who make an attempt to combat environmental issues, it is without a doubt that Greenpeace has taken action for sustainable development. Specifically, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021, it has made public its vision for “Global Greenpeace”, which is focused upon reducing the use of fossil fuels and introducing biodiversity to the public, especially now, after the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

<u>23 February 1947</u>	The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is founded, the guiding tool of all successful sustainable events
<u>1971</u>	Greenpeace, the largest Non-Governmental environmental Organisation (NGO), is founded
<u>5 June 1972</u>	United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is founded
<u>1987</u>	The idea of Sustainability is developed and defined
<u>1988</u>	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is founded
<u>8-23 February 1992</u>	The Albertville Winter Olympics take place, an event that highlighted the need for more sustainable events
<u>4-14 June 1992</u>	The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is signed
<u>July 1993</u>	The EMAS Regulation 1836/93, a tool for companies and organisations to use to make their performance eco-friendly, was introduced
<u>12-27 February 1994</u>	The first “Green” Event takes place (1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics)
<u>11 December 1997</u>	The Kyoto Protocol, which puts into force the UNFCCC, was adopted
<u>16 February 2005</u>	The Kyoto Protocol was entered into force
<u>September 2015</u>	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (17 UNSDGs), the guiding principles for all nations to take action for sustainable development, were adopted
<u>23 September 2019</u>	The 2019 Climate Action Summit takes place
<u>24-25 September 2019</u>	The 2019 Sustainable Development Summit takes place

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, which contains the 17 Goals, was adopted in September of 2015 and was created upon decades of work that the United Nations devoted and inspired by events such as the 1992 Earth Summit, the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and many more. These Goals are considered as a massive “wakeup call” and a plea of the United Nations to all member nations, in order to take coordinated action, working towards sustainability. The reason why this Agenda is related to the question of the sustainability of large scale events is that all of the Goals mentioned in the UNSD Agenda provide event planners and organisers of what aspects they should focus upon and what they should strive for. For example, amongst other goals, there are goals mentioning “Affordable and Clean Energy”, as well as “Sustainable Cities and Communities”.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is focused upon establishing the legal framework and principles for global climate change, in order to ensure a cooperated response to tackle and ameliorate the high rates of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, in order to avoid “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”⁸

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and put into force in 2005. It basically puts into operation the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where the most industrialized countries are committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, taking into consideration the fact that they are the ones who generate the largest amounts of emissions. The Protocol is followed by intense monitoring, such as the reporting system, in which the parties are obliged to submit annual emission reports, as well as the compliance system, to

⁸ “UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC.” *IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, <https://enb.iisd.org/negotiations/un-framework-convention-climate-change-unfccc>.

ensure that the parties are following the commitments they made by accepting this Protocol, but also to provide assistance to meet them, if they face hardships. It is important to mention, since this piece of information is the one that is related to the aforementioned proposed issue, that the Protocol does not mention how they need to reduce such emissions, so, as a solution, one could propose that, since in really industrialized nations large scale events are more frequent, sustainability in the event sector could be a solution and could aid in the significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is responsible for conducting Assessment Reports about all fields affected by climate change, such as the technical and socio-economic field, as well as its consequences and threats that this phenomenon poses and ways to reduce the rate that climate change takes place in the world. Such reports could be helpful to event organisers and planners, in order to see the areas that are higher at risk by climate change, in order to focus on and take them into consideration, when planning their sustainable event.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

European Union (EU)

The European Union is also making efforts to ensure that sustainable development is taking place behind its corridors. Aside from the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, an instrument proposed by the EU itself, new Guidelines have been established for the European Commission Meetings and Events, including the minimum requirements that event planners must meet. There are seven steps for the organization of events, looking into waste generation, energy consumption and promoting sustainable products and food. There are other actions, though, that aid in the forming of sustainable events, specifically for the EU's Brussels buildings, as well as other EC-sites, all of them basing their actions on the policies of the EMAS, such as the Resolution 1836/93, which was first introduced in July of 1993.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

The International Organisation for Standardization, simply known as ISO, is an organization that develops and sets International Standards. The “ISO 1400 Family”, specifically, along with other families, such as the ISO 20121, provides companies with the tools they need to have, in order to take on their environmental responsibilities. The ISO 20121 focuses on providing guidance for making events sustainable, by promoting responsible consumption, since events have a toll on the environment and its resources, due to their significant waste generation, and it refers to all types of events, smaller or larger scale. Seeing as the ISO 20121 is a title given to widely known and well-executed- in an eco-friendly manner- global events, its success in creating more sustainable events is ensured.

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), even though it has little to do with the environment and its protection, prioritizes sustainability, especially after the detrimental effects of the 1992 Winter Olympics. Studies on 16 sessions of winter as well as summer Olympics have shown that “Sustainability in the Olympics has significantly declined over time”, with the 2002 Salt Lake City being the most sustainable, and 2014 Sochi, as well as 2016 Rio de Janeiro being the least sustainable. Taking as an example the latest Games, meaning the Beijing Olympics, it was discovered that artificial snow was used, which contains chemicals, something that had a negative effect on the environment within and surrounding the area where it was used. Moreover, China is a country reliant on coal-powered energy, which goes, once again, against the ideology of a sustainable event. In order to fulfill the requirement of carbon-neutrality, China based its efforts on tree planting, but had, at the same time, in order to create the Skiing Venue, cut down 20,000 trees in a small amount of time, which, even if the statement that 90% of them were transplanted and survived, is not a sustainable execution of the event. All of the aforementioned phenomena point to the lack of sustainability in various aspects of the Olympic Games and, therefore, the IOC has failed to host such events sustainably, as it claims it strives to do.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) Should Be Promoted and Taken Advantage of by Event Planners

In order to ensure that an event is sustainable, and especially when referring to large-scale international events, it is really important to imitate and follow the footsteps of events and event-planning that has proven to be successful in the past. As evident from above, most well-known and eco-friendly events have received a title from the ISO, most frequently the ISO 20121. Therefore, it is crucial that advice it taken and implemented from the personnel of the ISO, whose help has proven to be efficient multiple times in the past.

Leftover Materials and Waste Should Be Either Recycled or Repurposed for Future Events

As previous events have done, materials that were left could be recycled accordingly, or could be saved, in order to be used in other events. By doing this, not only overconsumption is ameliorated and materials that would otherwise been thrown away and made into waste. Lastly, Venues could be repurposed, according to the needs of the event, in order to ensure that the environment is not negatively affected when not absolutely necessary.

Green Power Plants Should Be Used, In Order For Carbon Emissions to Be Minimised

Green Power Plants, such as water and air generators for electricity and solar panels for heat could be used, in order to ensure carbon-neutrality, which contributes significantly to the pollution of the air. Moreover, natural resources, such as natural lighting should be prioritized, and only when deemed necessary to use Green Power Plants.

Leftover Food Should Be Donated or Composted

More than half of the waste generated in events consists of food. Therefore, all untouched food should be donated to people in need, instead of being thrown in the bin and all leftovers should be composted, meaning modified and used as soil to cultivate vegeables and other goods.

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