

MEDIMUN XV Annual Session 2020



RESEARCH REPORT – Security Council

Contents

Topic 1: Kashmir.....	3
Topic 2: Yemen.....	4
Topic 3: Maldives.....	4

Topic 1:

Topic 1: Kashmir

Introduction

For nearly seven decades, the Kashmir people have struggled with the right to self-determination without any positive outcome. The conflict originated over claims of both India and Pakistan over the territory since 1947, following the partition of the Indian subcontinent into Muslim-majority Pakistan and Hindu-majority India. Since, this conflict escalated to 3 wars and many more armed skirmishes. China has also been involved in the conflict, with currently all three of the states controlling a portion of the region, India controlling 55% of land and 70% of population, Pakistan corresponding to 30% of land and China maintaining authority over 15%.

Definition of Key Terms

Self-determination: the right of people to freely chose their sovereignty and political status without any external influence or compulsion.

Decolonization: the act of a colonialists' withdrawal from a colony.

Princely states: regions that were ruled via monarchy by indigenous Indian rulers (Princes) rather than the British, prior to the decolonization of India in 1947.

Power vacuum: usually takes place after decolonization. Refers to the development of strong interest of several nations for the decolonized region so as to secure influence prior to the full development of the area.

Accede: to join, or become part of

Line of control: established in 1949, this is the military control line between the Pakistan and India administered regions of the former princely states

Article 370: an article of the Indian constitution which allowed Kashmir to accede to India and still maintain a degree of autonomy

General Overview

When India was decolonized in 1947, it was divided into two countries, namely India and Pakistan. The Princely States in between the two countries were then given an option: To either accede to one of the two countries or remain independent. Under the British colonial rule, the two main religious groups of Kashmir were Hindus and Muslims (believers of Islam). For this reason, the region was divided with approximately sixty percent of it belonging to India (Kashmir Valley and Jammu) and forty percent being reserved for Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir).

Kashmir, being a Princely State prior to the year 1948, when its partition took place, was no object of control by neither India nor Pakistan. Ultimately however, the polarization within the Kashmiri population led to the deal of partition. The prince of Kashmir at the time attempted, despite being himself a supporter of Hinduism, opted to remain neutral, aiming to deflect any uprising in the region and to secure his power. However, after Pakistani militias began to threaten his presence, he fled to neighbouring India, requesting for its military intervention in Kashmir to provide safety to the Hindu population and establishment. The Indian government pledged to offer assistance under the condition that Kashmir would become part of the Indian territory via Article 370 of the Indian constitution, which allowed a region to become a part of India while still enjoying some autonomy. On the 25th of

August 1947, Kashmir officially acceded to India via Article 370 of the Indian constitution.

India and Pakistan currently both claim Kashmir in full, but control only parts of it.

The First Indo-Pakistani War

The First Indo-Pakistani War (1947), also known as the First Kashmir War, took place after the accession agreement was not recognized by Pakistan, which on the 26th of October of the same year, invaded the region of Kashmir with military troops. The Indian troops, that had taken control over the region after the accession instrument proceeded to conduct counter attacks and engaged themselves into war. It was not until December of the following year, 1948, when the United Nations Security Council adopted two resolutions regarding the India- Pakistan Question and urged the removal of all Pakistani troops in the area, while also requesting India decreases its military presence after a referendum in Jammu/Kashmir took place. Moreover, the United Nations also implemented a ceasefire operation, which ended the war. Finally, on the 1st of January 1949, both countries signed a ceasefire agreement and pledged to remove all troops from the region. This conflict resulted in immense losses as far as human population is concerned, although it left both countries with areas of Kashmir in their possession. The territorial claims however, did not stop there. Right after the war, there was a preposition for the implementation of a referendum so as for the population of Kashmir to decide to which country they wish to belong to. However, the plebiscite never took place since India alleged that the referendum could not be considered valid because of the presence of Pakistani troops in the region. Pakistan then proposed a simultaneous withdrawal of troops; with India remaining opposed to this solution and

the referendum never organized. Since the plebiscite had not been conducted, there was a de facto designation of the territorial sovereignty, which resulted in India occupying the South and Pakistan the North.

On the one hand, India insisted that Kashmir was under Indian sovereignty due to the Accession Agreement. Moreover, one of their main arguments was that the United Nations did not oppose the accession instrument and that under the Indian constitution Kashmir enjoyed special autonomy.

On the other hand, Pakistan claimed the Accession Instrument is not valid due to the fact that Maharaja Hari Singh was in no position and had no jurisdiction to sign and ratify the document, since he was appointed by the former British rule. Furthermore, the Pakistani government reinforced their argument by adding that most of the population of Kashmir comprises of Muslim citizens and therefore should become a part of coreligionist Pakistan.

The Rann of Kutch Dispute

Before the second Indo-Pakistani war unfolded in 1965, another problem arose to the surface, namely the issue of Rann of Kutch. This territory, located in the Kutch District in India in the Thar Dessert, became a land of violence and conflict between India and Pakistan, which was claiming the northern part of it. From the 8th of April, the skirmishes went on until 30th June 1965, when ultimately United Kingdom intervened and urged both sides to resolve all issues legally. The results of these negotiations also ended up in a dissatisfactory outcome for the Pakistani government receiving less territory than India.

The Second Indo-Pakistani War

The Second Indo- Pakistani war (1965) is divided into two phases. The first phase unfolded on August 5th, when Pakistani troops, dressed as Kashmiri civilians, crossed the borders (Line of Control, established in the year 1949) and entered the Kashmir Valley. Often referred to as Operation Gibraltar, the first phase included the attempt of Pakistan to spark an uprising in regions where the majority of the population was Muslim. However, the response of the civilians was not expected. Most of them remained neutral and only four districts ended up supporting Pakistan in the war against India. India, having a strong military force at the time, responded to the invasion with the crossing of the Line of Control and the captivity of several Pakistani outposts.

Pakistan then, in order to regain its troops and its prestige, implemented the Operation Grand Slam, which initiated the second phase of the war. It was established on September 1st of the same year and its purpose was to cut off supplies of the Indian army and to seize the city of Akhnoor in the region of Jammu. Initially, the Operation was successful, however the army never reached the city due to its halt by the Indian Air Force.

In reprisal, a strategy was launched from the Indian side, particularly the Punjab Front, that aimed at the prevention of Pakistani advance. After violent skirmishes, India, on the 20th of September, had obtained three times more territory than Pakistan

Recent events

During the past three decades ceasefire agreements have been violated by Pakistani paramilitary and Kashmiri insurgents, who crossed the de facto border. These incidents led to a brief war between the two countries. After 1999, India ceased all diplomatic relations with Pakistan, only to begin

reconsidering its stance in 2001. However, in 2004, tension in the area seemed to increase with a dreg of uprising deriving from the Muslim population. The tension intensified until 2010, when protests erupted all around the region, with civilians demanding secession. Suppressing the uprising was extremely difficult for the Indian authorities and during one of these protest- marches a protester was shot dead. Hereafter, the situation could not be controlled. Although it was stated by the Indian government that the presence of police in Jammu/Kashmir would decrease, there seemed to be no sign of retreat. In March 2013, after several citizens were killed during an upheaval and out of fear of further violence, a curfew was imposed by the chief minister of the State, Omar Abdullah, which only caused further protests.

Today, violent and non-violent protests by the Muslim population continue, with no resolution in sight. Indian Special Forces are still present and the negotiations between Pakistan and India are currently non-existent. Therefore, it is of utmost importance, that this issue is delicately and immediately resolved. On an up-to date approach to the issue, the Indian Supreme Court declared that the preposition of the region's autonomy is out of the question, while the protests get more violent with each passing day and terrorist attacks taking place in the region.

India revoking Article 370

The Jammu and Kashmir reorganization act of 2019 is an act by the Parliament of India which states that Jammu and Kashmir will become two "union-territories", namely "Jammu and Kashmir" and "Ladakh", effective October 31st 2019. This revoked Article 370 of the Indian constitution, claiming that the regions should have maintained a special degree of autonomy due to the circumstances of their accession to India in 1947,

hence leading to a revocation of the special status of the region and tightening India's grip on them. This led to protests in the Muslim-majority valley, and as such it has been locked down by the central Indian government, with local politicians under house arrest, the right of assembly taken away, blocking of internet and mobile services etc. The people in these regions are no longer considered Kashmiris, but Indians, by the Indian government.

Major Parties Involved

India

India occupies more than 60% of the region. While facing an extremely unstable situation, India is simultaneously confronted with the threat of war with Pakistan. Both countries have nuclear capacity. India just recently revoked Article 370, reversing the title of Kashmir as a "state" and instead making it into a union territory, sparking protests

Pakistan

Pakistan played and continues to play an extremely important role in the situation in Kashmir. It too, is in a position of engaging itself in war with India for both the preservation and acquisition of territory.

China

As mentioned before, China has also played an essential part in this issue, however, it is not participating in current conflicts in the region of Jammu/Kashmir. MEA spokesman Geng Shuang has stated that China is "willing to play a constructive role in improving relations between Pakistan and India."

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

- Resolution 38, 39 and 47 of the Security Council

- Tashkent Agreement
- Chenab Formula Roadmap (2005)

Possible Solutions

As far as tackling this issue and reinforcing political- social stability and peace in the region, appropriate measures need to be taken. You should primarily focus on the political aspect of the issue and propose solutions such as the initiation of negotiations and multilateral or bilateral diplomatic discussions, mainly focused on giving the right of self-determination to Kashmiris. In addition, an extremely fundamental aspect of the issue would be the imposition of a strong ceasefire agreement or strengthening of the Line of Control and possibly the Intervention of United Nations' Peacekeeping forces.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peacebuilding_in_Jammu_and_Kashmir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QI5yArLvLU>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir_Reorganisation_Act,_2019

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir_conflict

http://www.pucpmun.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Study-Guide_-Kashmir-Crisis.pdf

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/dmk-accuses-centre-of-turning-kashmir-into-a-huge-prison/article29937072.ece>

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/india-draws-line-kashmir>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49329370>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line_of_Control

Topic 2: The Situation in Yemen

Introduction

Yemen in 2011, A new war: The first blow to the stability of Yemen came in 2011 with the now infamous “Arab Spring” when mass protests were held all across the country against the long ruling president [Ali Abdullah Saleh](#) who was forced to step down from power. His position was to be transitioned to his deputy, [Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi](#). The country’s new administration immediately faced difficulties when dealing with the country’s problems, ranging from food shortages to rebel and jihadist insurrections.

The Houthis strike back: Taking advantage of President [Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi](#)’s weakened government, [The Houthi movement](#) managed to gain a lot of support amongst the Shiite minority of the country as well as ordinary Sunni Yemenis who felt disillusioned with the transfer of power which followed after the Arab Spring. With the support of armed forces still loyal to [Ali Abdullah Saleh](#), they took over a large portion of the western part of the country, including the capital, Sanaa, in early 2015. Their operations ousted the then acting President [Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi](#), who was forced to escape abroad to [Riyadh](#).

The Return of Hadi: In response to the developments in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the WHO claims the Houthis are supported financially by the Shiite Islamic Republic of Iran which established a [multinational coalition](#) comprised of largely Sunni Arab states. The coalition began conducting airstrikes on Houthi Military targets less than a week after the ousting of President [Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi](#). The foreign minister of Hadi’s Government publically approved of the airstrikes saying that the Houthis “forced us into this”. The Saudi Coalition entered the conflict with the Logistical, Technical and Intelligence Support of the US, France and the UK and at first projected for it to be over in 2 weeks. 4 years and counting after their entry into the war, however, the stalemate continues.

Involvement of terrorist organisations: the chaos created by the outbreak of the conflict gave the opportunity to the Arabian Peninsula branches of [Daesh](#) as well as [al-Qaeda](#) to capitalise and gain a following in Yemen, adding yet another side in the conflict.

The split in the Houthi-Saleh alliance: The loyalty to the former President of Yemen [Ali Abdullah Saleh](#)’s unsteady alliance with the Houthis broke down in November of 2017 and in December of the same year the Houthis launched an assault in order to completely recapture the now contested Capital. After Sanaa was secured, the Houthis proclaimed that Saleh was dead. The remaining loyalists became anti Houthi and started to fight against the Houthis alongside either the Saudi Coalition or under the [Southern Movement](#). The coalition and

the Separatists have been slowly chipping away at the edges of the Houthi Territories, encumbering the important city of Taiz.

The Southern Movement and the Saudi Coalition: There was roughly half a year of hostilities between the Southern Movement and the Saudi Coalition, following a devastating airstrike resulting in the death of an important military leader of the Separatists in January of 2018, was blamed on the coalition. The resulting hostilities lead to fighting which in turn, turned the conflict into a three way civil war, as the Southern Movement was receiving support from the UAE, also a member of the Saudi Coalition. The alliance as of writing this (November 10th 2019) has been more or less solidified and hostilities have ceased after the [Riyadh agreement of November 5th](#).

Definition of Key Terms

“Arab Spring”: A series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Islamic world in the early 2010s.

Bilateral: involving two parties

Multilateral: involving more than two parties

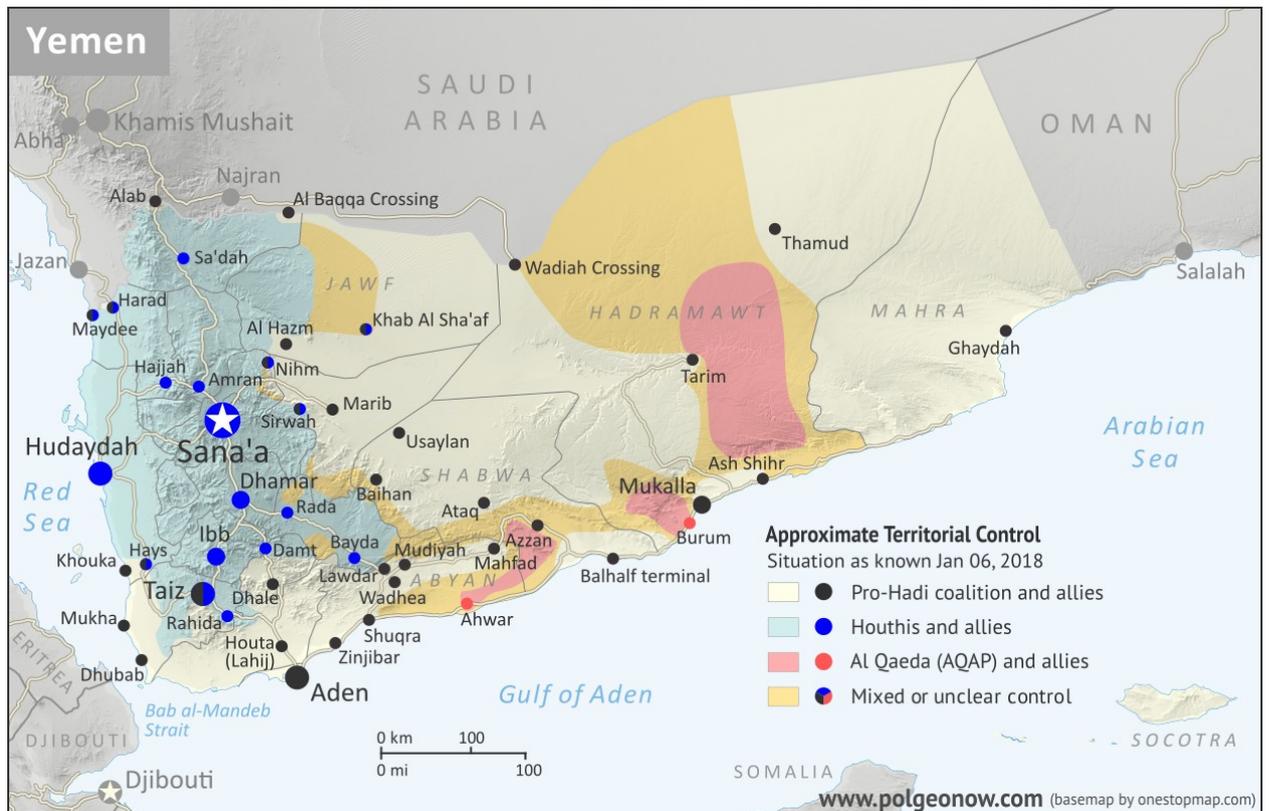
Loyalist: a person who is loyal; a supporter of the sovereign or of the existing government, especially in time of revolt.

Separatist: an advocate of separation, especially ecclesiastical or political separation.

Coalition: the joining together of different political parties or groups for a particular purpose, usually for a limited time, or a government that is formed in this way:

Statement of understanding: or Memorandum of understanding, is a type of agreement between two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action. It is often used either in cases where parties do not imply a legal commitment or in situations where the parties cannot create a legally enforceable agreement. It is a more formal alternative to a gentlemen's agreement.

General Overview



As it stands, Yemen is currently locked in a three-way civil war between the Houthis, the coalition and Al-Qaeda. The war has been raging for 4 years and is considered the world's worst humanitarian emergency according to the UN

Civilian Casualties: According to the UN human rights office, [OHCHR](#), the total number of civilian casualties as of February 2019 since March 2015 stands at 18,173.

Humanitarian Disaster: The Scale of the humanitarian crisis is further escalated by the lack of funding and access to the affected areas, making it difficult for the appropriate NGOs to provide the help the civilian populations so desperately need. The lack of access to said areas is partially caused by the Saudi coalition blockade that has [actively restricted access of aid to the Houthi controlled ports](#).

"Last week, my office released the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Yemen (the HNO). Agencies pooled data from more than 100 earlier assessments. We also collected new data from nearly 7,000 locations in 331 of Yemen's 333 districts and

we conducted more than 22,000 interviews. With a stronger evidence base than ever, the 2019 HNO represents an authoritative analysis of the scale, drivers and trajectory of Yemen's crisis. And it paints a bleak picture. About 80 per cent of the population – 24 million people – need humanitarian assistance and protection. Some 20 million people need help securing food, including nearly 10 million who are just a step away from famine. Nearly 240,000 of those people are right now facing catastrophic levels of hunger. Almost 20 million people lack access to adequate healthcare, and nearly 18 million don't have enough clean water or access to adequate sanitation. More than 3 million people – including 2 million children – are acutely malnourished. Some 3.3 million remain displaced from their homes, including 685,000 who have fled fighting along the west coast since June 2018” - SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR MARK LOWCOCK Briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Yemen -February 19th 2019

With only half of the country's 3,500 medical facilities fully functioning, almost 20 million people lack access to adequate healthcare, with almost 18 million deprived of adequate clean water or access to adequate sanitation. Consequently, medics have struggled to deal with the largest cholera outbreak ever recorded, which has resulted in more than 1.49 million suspected cases and 2,960 related deaths since April 2017.

Coalition Airstrikes: The coalition has been accused of conducting unlawful airstrikes tantamount to war crimes. The UN has attributed 65% of the 7,025 civilian deaths since the start of the civil war in 2015 until February of 2019 to precisely these airstrikes.

Causes of International Tension: The airstrikes that struck Saudi oil refineries in September of 2019, which the Houthis Took credit for, have caused a large amount of tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran, by extension the USA and Iran. The strikes even spawned a discussion within the USA concerning the liability of their Patriot SAM defence system and has lead some countries to consider purchasing the Russian made equivalent S-400.

Major Parties Involved

The Houthis: have the alleged support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, although both the Houthis and Iran have publicly denied this in the past. They also have the alleged support of [North Korea](#) and [Oman](#).

The Hadi Government: the internationally recognized government of Yemen that rose in power after the resignation of President Saleh in 2011. They are propped up by the Saudi-led Coalition

Mediterranean Model United Nations XV 2020

The Saudi-Led Coalition: Comprising of Sunni Muslim majority states (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Sudan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Senegal). The Coalition has the Logistical and Tactical support of The United States of America and the United Kingdom

Al-Qaeda: Taking advantage of the volatile conflict, Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations have been able to gather up a significant following in the affected areas. The Saudi coalition claims to have ousted these organizations from the region, however there have been allegations of the opposite, [accusing the coalition of even working with Al-Qaeda](#).

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The main agreement attempting to move towards peace in the Yemen civil war as of now is the Stockholm agreement, endorsed by a resolution of the Security Council in December of 2018. The agreement consists of 3 segments:

[Hudaydah agreement](#): an agreement to cease fire around the city of Hudaydah

[The Taiz agreement](#): a statement of understanding on the Yemeni city of Taiz

And a [Prisoner Exchange agreement](#)

The ceasefire in Hudaydah is crucial as it is the country's main port for importing necessities such as food and aid, the country is reliant on imports for 90% of its food supply.

The other two agreements are also very important as they are essential in building trust between the two sides, so that more talks can follow in the future.

The Stockholm agreement however, isn't perfect. It's only the first step in a long process of de-escalation its overall success is questionable, since even almost a year after the agreement was first signed, its clauses have yet to come into effect.

Appendix/Appendices

[The Middle Eastern Cold War](#)

[The Arab Spring](#)

Sources

[BBC NEWS- Yemen crisis: Why is there a war?](#)

[THE GLOBE AND MAIL- Saudis' Operation Decisive Storm in Yemen...](#)

[OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR YEMEN](#)

[SAUDI BROKERED DEAL AVERTS WAR WITHIN A WAR](#)

[HUFFINGTON POST- NORTH KOREA'S BALANCING ACT IN THE PERSIAN GULF](#)

[REUTERS- ARMS FOR HOUTHIS FOUND IN YEMEN TRUCKS WITH OMAN PLATES-NEWSPAPER](#)

[ALJAZEERA- REPORT: SAUDI-UAE COALITION 'CUT DEALS' WITH AL-QAEDA IN YEMEN](#)

[UN AND PARTNERS TO HOLD CONFERENCE SEEKING URGENTLY NEEDED FUNDS TO SAVE MILLIONS IN YEMEN FROM 'HORRIFIC' PLIGHT](#)

[HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH- YEMEN](#)

[HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH- YEMEN: COALITION BLOCKADE IMPERILS CIVILIANS](#)

[AL JAZEERA - THE GOOD AND THE BAD THING IN THE NEW PEACE AGREEMENT ON YEMEN](#)

Topic 3: Maldives

Introduction

The rise of global sea level has been tremendous over the past centuries and the rate has increased in recent decades. 2014 was a largely catastrophic year for global sea level, approximately 7 cm above the 1993 average, the highest annual average in the satellite record. Sea level continues to rise at a rate of about 0.4 cm per year. Such developments may induce deadly and destructive storm surges, pushing further inland than they did before, which leads to more frequent flooding.

The scenic island of the Maldives, with a population of 449365, is in danger of soon being taken off the map, as more than 80% of the island's land is less than one meter above sea level. Depending on which forecast you trust, the island is expected to be completely underwater in the next 30-100 years.

Definition of Key Terms

Climate change: a change in global or regional climate patterns

Anthropogenic climate change: changes in global or regional climate patterns which is predominantly human-caused via the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

Global sea level rise: Global sea-level rise is the average increase in the level of the world's oceans that occurs due to a variety of factors, the most significant being thermal expansion of the oceans and the addition of water by melting of land-based ice sheets, ice caps, and glaciers.

General Overview

There are three major causes behind sea level rise:

1. **Thermal expansion**- It is anticipated that up to half of the sea level rise is deductible to thermal expansion. As the ocean warms, it expands, meaning the increase of sea level.

2. **The continuing increase in the ocean's temperature**- 2006 Data concluded that the Ocean's temperature had began to cool down. Unfortunately, later it was shown that the trend was continuing to warm.

3. **Ice melt from Arctic and glacial sources** are contributing to half of the sea level rise. Antarctica will begin contributing more in the future.

A rise in sea levels will bring about obvious problems, both for the Maldives and the world, such as salt water intruding into groundwater drinking supplies and overrunning agricultural fields, as well as decimating essential infrastructure for the growth of food and the transport of water.

Notably, a rise in sea levels will also lead to the displacing of most of the Maldivian population, as most of the land is less than a meter above sea level. This is also a problem internationally, as 8 in 10 of the world's largest cities are coastal, with 40% of the world's population lives less than 100km away from the ocean. Aside from an impending refugee structure, essential infrastructure may also be irreparably damaged if no action is taken.

Major Parties Involved

Maldives: the island is at risk of going underwater within the next century due to rising sea levels caused by anthropogenic climate change.

USA: the only country to have withdrawn from The Paris Agreement, major emitter of CO₂

IPCC: The intergovernmental panel on climate change is the superior body for the evaluation of climate change. The IPCC Report details the catastrophic effects of climate change if action is not taken as soon as possible.

UN Environment (UNEP): Immediately following the 2004 tsunami, UNEP worked with environmental authorities in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Seychelles, Yemen and Somalia to conduct an environmental assessment of tsunami impacts and provide recommendations for reconstruction. Some of the key findings of the assessment, which were recorded in After the Tsunami were included in UNEP's Rapid Environmental Assessment Report.

LEDC nations: Most of the pollution arising from industrial production currently is attributed to financial action in LEDCs such as Kenya and India due to their inadequate environmental legislation or emission reducing practices.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

- Montreal protocol (ozone layer) – successful attempt to repair the hole in the ozone layer, which is now nearly closed
- Kyoto treaty
- Paris agreement
- European climate change program
- G8 and G20 climate change action plans
- Sea walls, sea dikes, barriers

Possible Solutions

Any agreement must ensure that mass action is taken on a global scale, as the problem is wider than the Maldives sinking – solutions must show understanding of climate change is a global phenomenon, with action to be urgently taken by all countries if disaster is to be averted. Increasing transparency, comprehensiveness and consistency for tracking country-wide indicators (e.g. emissions) might be a start on getting countries to agree to an equitable accord, as well as mechanisms to ensure each country performs to the best of its capabilities when fighting climate change. Of course, to combat the immediate effects of sea level rises in the delicate region of the Maldives, it is critical to also think of proactive and reactive measures to the problems that face the region specifically.

Sources

https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Coastal_defences

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2009/12/20091214163858738712.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_carbon_dioxide_emissions_per_capita

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/about/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_level_rise

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/global-sea-levels-rising-faster-due-global-warming-160222201945865.html>