Good Cop Bad Cop?
Briefing notes for students for draft resolutions

Resolution 1
Eliminate global fossil fuel subsidies and phase out coal

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that emissions from fossil fuels are the dominant cause of global warming. In 2018, 89% of global CO2 emissions came from fossil fuels, which were burnt to generate power for electricity generation and heat for industry, including the production of cement and steel.

IPCC Report: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/srccs_chapter2-1.pdf

Coal is the dirtiest of the fossil fuels and responsible for over 0.3C of the 1C increase in global average temperatures – making it the single largest source of global temperature rise.
Oil also releases a huge amount of carbon when burned – contributing approximately a third of the world's total carbon emissions. There have also been a number of oil spills in recent years that have had a devastating impact on our ocean's ecosystem.

Natural gas is often promoted as a cleaner energy source than coal and oil. However, it is still a fossil fuel and accounts for a fifth of the world's total carbon emissions.

However, *coal releases almost twice the CO2 emissions of natural gas*. See table below:

Pounds of CO_2 emitted per million British thermal units (Btu) of energy for various fuels

Coal (anthracite)	**228.6**
Diesel fuel and heating oil	161.3
Gasoline (without ethanol)	157.2
Propane	139.0
Natural gas	117.0

Which is worse for the environment – Coal or oil?
Coal not only impacts the environment more when mined but also when burnt as it has a greater effect on air pollution.

This is the reason that it is coal that was targeted at COP26 above other fossil fuels.

Countries which produce most of the world's coal are:
China, Indonesia, Australia, USA & Russia –
See https://www.statista.com/statistics/265638/distribution-of-coal-production-worldwide/

19 of the world's 80 coal-powered countries plan a complete phaseout of the fuel, including the UK and Germany.
(See https://www.carbonbrief.org/mapped-world-coal-power-plants)

Renewable energy electricity generation is in many countries cheaper to build than to run coal plants.
See https://carbontracker.org/reports/how-to-waste-over-half-a-trillion-dollars/ _ has charts showing where it is cheaper to finance renewables.

Some countries offer coal subsidies to ensure the poorest have access to the only source of electricity.
See https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/25/g20-nations-triple-coal-power-subsidies-climate-crisis
and https://odi.org/en/publications/cutting-europes-lifelines-to-coal-tracking-subsidies-in-10-countries/

Coal producing countries dilemma

Coal is currently a revenue earner as an export so would affect the economy of these countries. The sector is a huge employer; transitioning to renewables will take time and likely leave some areas without employment.

Questions

- How will your country reduce its dependence on coal and transfer any subsidies to a renewable source of energy?

- How will those currently employed in coal mining be retrained and employed in other sectors?
  For example, renewable energy manufacturing, wind turbine or solar thermal & photovoltaic panels or new high-tech sectors.

- For countries where finance is required to make this transition, consider what might be needed and who should be contributing.

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