

Supplemental Brief by “Youth 4 Climate Action”

(Executive Summary)

28 September, 2020

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- **On 13 March 2020, Do-Hyun Kim and 18 others from Youth4ClimateAction Korea filed a Constitutional Complaint and on 28 September, Petitioners filed Supplemental brief.**
- **The supplemental brief discusses the following:**
 - 1. The Irish Supreme Court's Decision to Quash the National Mitigation Plan Rendered on July 31, 2020**
 - 2. Recent Severe Climate Crisis and the Need for Substantial Reduction of Greenhouse Gas**
 - 3. The Need for a Prompt Hearing on this Case**

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1.The Irish Supreme Court's Decision to Quash the National Mitigation Plan Rendered on July 31, 2020

- **On July 31, 2020 Supreme Court of Ireland rendered a final ruling, deciding to quash the National Mitigation Plan adopted by the Irish government for reducing greenhouse gas emission under the 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act**
- **The Court said that the Plan lacked specific details required to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emission**

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2. Recent Severe Climate Crisis and the Need for Substantial Reduction of Greenhouse Gas

A. Recent Severe Climate Crisis

- In 2020, Korea experienced the extreme weather: consecutive typhoons and longest rainy season (for a record of 54 days from June 24 to August 16) since 1973. It was an extreme climate event caused by global warming, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (“KMA”).
- Globally, large-scale forest fires (such as in Australia, the western area of the United States, Siberia, and the Amazon) are continuously occurring.
- Abnormal climate phenomena and climate disasters such as heatwaves, wildfires, storms, heavy rains and floods worldwide are also recorded high according to the KMA.

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2. Recent Severe Climate Crisis and the Need for Substantial Reduction of Greenhouse Gas

B. Need for Substantial Reduction of Greenhouse Gas

- There are flurry of Korean media reports on the seriousness of climate change and the need for substantial reduction of Greenhouse Gas
- Korean climate scientists are pointing out Korea's serious climate crisis and the need for extensive reduction of greenhouse gas emission. They also denounced the lack of countermeasures on a national scale.
- However, Korea's carbon dioxide concentration level is rising at a rapid rate (417.9ppm in the year of 2019 was even higher by a figure of 8.1ppm than the global average of 409.8ppm).
- So, Korea is facing both 'the liability' for climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions as well as the resulting 'harm'.

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3. The Need for a Prompt Hearing on this Case

- **There is a great need for implementing constitutional measures by declaring said provisions at issue that are infringing basic human rights unconstitutional.**
- **However, the Respondents, the National Assembly and the President of the Republic of Korea, have not provided any response for over the past six months since March 13, 2020, the date when the Constitutional Complaint was filed.**
- **The Petitioners are concerned that delay in response by government may reflect another facet of delay in the Korean government's response to the exacerbating climate change problems.**
- **The Petitioners request the Constitutional Court of Korea to adequately exercise the Court's discretion to prevent any further delay in response by the Respondents, the President of the Republic of Korea and National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, for this case to proceed speedily and in good faith.**