

CERRITOS CONFERENCE 2021



UN-HABITAT

UNHabitat

TOPIC A:

SLUM UPGRADING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

TOPIC B:

NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY

DIRECTOR: BENJAMIN MENDOZA

October 9-10, 2021

To Delegates of CHSMUN Advanced 2021

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to CHSMUN Advanced 2021!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2021 advanced conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host our second advanced conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although there will be a few changes to our conference due to Covid-19, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2021, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With this strong circuit consisting of over 500 delegates, CHSMUN Advanced 2021 will provide a quality experience for intermediate delegates to enhance their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Advanced 2021!

Sincerely,

Anushka Panjwani & Naima Dellawar

sg.cerritosmun@gmail.com

Secretary-Generals

Position Papers are due on October 1st by 11:59pm to the committee email.

A Note From The Director

Delegates,

Hey everyone! My name is Ben Mendoza and I am very excited to be your Director for UN Habitat. I am currently a senior at Cerritos. This is my 6th year of MUN and I have learned so much from this program. At school, I am part of ASB where I am currently serving as ASB President. I also run Cross Country and Track. My favorite event in track is the 800m. In my free time, I like to take my dog named Jimmy on walks. I also like to go to Disneyland, my favorite rides are Space Mountain and Splash Mountain. I also like to listen to music. My favorite artists are Lorde and Lana Del Rey. I am looking forward to a lively committee and I am very excited to hear all of your ideas. I encourage you to not focus on the awards, but to genuinely try to have a good time, meet new people, and improve as a delegate. I look forward to meeting all of you and hope that you make the most of this conference! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mendoza

Director, UN Habitat

Committee Email: unhabitat.CHSMUN@gmail.com

Committee Introduction:

UN Habitat is a United Nations agency dedicated to building a more effective urban future. As the demographic of many communities grows, it is evident that countries must take more actions to ensure that our planet's suitable living circumstances and public health are maintained. Accelerated population increase, on the other hand, has had an impact on many less developed countries. . For instance, most adolescents are not receiving enough schooling, households are being forced to live in poverty, many towns have no infrastructure, and the prison population in several of these countries has hit an all-time peak. UN Habitat's purpose is to provide a positive life for younger groups in order to address these issues.

The component is tasked for fostering higher living conditions in rural and underdeveloped countries as part of ECOSOC, which is mandated by the UN charter. This involves social, cultural, and economic assistance to countries. Across all organizations and organizations for which it serves, the council arranges economic and social tasks as well as promotes global harmony. UN Habitat is an ECOSOC institution with the mission of assisting countries and promoting greater living conditions in rural and developing areas. Homes,

infrastructures, and equitable access to jobs and essential services are their goals. UN Habitat has proposed a variable strategy every 6 years in order to secure that these targets are met. UN Habitat has made an effort to get back with recent advances and changes, given that each consecutive program relies on the first one. Urban laws, land and government, design and construction, economics, essential necessities, habitation and improved sanitation, disease prevention and reconstruction, study and replying are the seven key areas of the most proposed strategy.

UN Habitat has already collaborated with a variety of groups for almost four decades, all with the goal of improving quality of life in which inhabitants may thrive. At the United Nations Conference on Infrastructure and Clean Urbanism in October 2016, member countries agreed upon a revised framework. Communities adopt global objectives within such a strategy to ensure that all countries, no matter how destitute, have a fair probability of a sustainable and healthy society. Some communities inside rural areas have modernized by becoming sustained as a result of these ideals, allowing many people to have higher opportunities.

Topic A: Slum Upgrading in Sub-Saharan Africa

Background:

Accelerated development has resulted in chaotic and badly constructed communities, notably in poorer nations. As a consequence, slums have sprouted up around the city. In Sub-Saharan Africa, much of these urban slums disappear. While mass immigration is not new in this area, the magnitude and speed with which they are occurring is unprecedented. Africa's population is predicted to double by 2050, with a total of 2 billion people. Over one billion people reside in city slums presently, the majority of whom were between ages of 15 and 24. Despite the fact that several locations, such as Asia, have larger or equivalent percentages of slum construction than Africa, people in Sub-Saharan African slums are also the least capable to attain their aspirations for sustainable housing. As a consequence, relocation to most of these slums in Africa, as well as fast growing populations in established slums, has prompted the formation of informal settlements within major centers. Most are uncontrolled and semi-monitored, implying that they do not receive much global attention. Consequently, these slums are congested, and cultural - financial problems abound.

Such slums lack sufficient facilities, such as roads, clean drinking water, and public workers, leading to a shortage of attention devoted to them. Structures are frequently created carelessly, and as a consequence, such slum dwellers are unstable since they are ineffective in producing a healthy, thriving city. That most of these hovels do not fulfill the minimum required

of medical requirements. Such constructions were ecologically wasteful due to a lack of structure plan, due to severe waste of valuable water resources and electricity. Because several administrations neglect the difficulties within certain slums, these individuals living in the slums are frequently refused the right to dwell in their home and are forced to move. Because several slums are permanent, it is critical to comprehend how so many people are relocating to urban slums. Environmental change's consequences in the rural areas, along with worsening droughts, make it impossible for a predominantly agricultural industry to thrive. As a result, those in rural areas being unable to support themselves via agriculture or livestock are compelled to relocate to urban areas. As a result of the growing flood of urbanization, urbanization challenges are exacerbated.

Several familial connections are severed with both the departure of the farming town, thus others can be lured towards these slums for said supply of nutrients, sustenance, and a traditional, communal society. Nevertheless, various slum areas have various requirements for various sites. Regardless of the fact that many of the average community are creative and motivated in their efforts to improve their community, people still require foreign assistance to receive natural and basic amenities.

Several officials have attempted to address these concerns in the past, using relocation plans; however, many governments have failed since there are benefits and drawbacks to residing in several of these slums. Most people like to live in slums for financial reasons, one of which is that numerous inhabitants should not have to pay taxes as though they would be in town. Or, given many of these communities are at risk of being invaded by foreign invaders, some locals still desire political institutions and regulations to ensure ensuring particular country is protected. Individuals lose their law and human rights due to a lack of authoritarian rule. It leads to a shortage of sustainable development and social order in culture, and prevents a cohesive and productive modern world.

United Nations Involvement:

The UN Habitat-sponsored Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) aims to improve the lives of many residents living in poverty by altering their mindsets and modifying national policies, as well as strengthening the capacity of national, provincial, and local authorities. The PSUP session focused on healing the connection between local governments and businesses in order to achieve some of these objectives. Major partners to update many of these slum enterprises by establishing slum upgrading targets at municipal, provincial, and county level. To achieve so, the PSUP provides vital equipment to handle the challenges of life in many slums, such as water shortage and external trade, but also industrialisation collaborations and upgrading regulatory bodies. The initiative also gives administrations significant economic instruments to entice slum inhabitants, and it has been applied in 35 countries across the world, assisting in the improvement of over 150 cities. Rwanda, Senegal, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are all home to a number of these initiatives. Numerous people and governments in these countries will be in a position to help.

UN Habitat held a meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2012 called "Making Slums History - A Global Commitment for 2020." Governments came up with a new set of recommendations during this meeting in order to ameliorate many of the living standards in urban slums. Some of these objectives included enacting worldwide slum improvement,

prevention, and eradication standards. This would entail encouraging young people and women, but also making a variety of services more inexpensive and attainable. It also decided to define and promote global regulatory framework in all countries in order to explore immediate concerns within a large number of countries. This also leverages this approach to analyze and develop upgraded technologies to help that most of these people live better lives.

Case Study: Ghana

Nations located within Sub Saharan Africa have a constantly increasing amount of slum dwellers. Ghana, for example, has 50.9 percent of its inhabitants living in cities. Because two-thirds of Ghana's slum residents live in poor slums, the demographic and number of urban slums are both growing. Many citizens live in makeshift shelters on indigenous territory. Many of the indigenous peoples in this area are worried about their cultural origins and the destruction of their ancestral houses.

While there haven't been many social welfare programs to handle the problem of these slums in Ghana, there seem to be a handful in specific localities. The majority of efforts have been directed at strengthening the country's infrastructure instead of repairing particular dwellings inside slums. The World Bank, for instance, has provided funding to assist the country in implementing programs to enhance infrastructures in certain slum areas. In East Maamobi, the World Bank financed the construction of better sewage pipes, simpler water routers, and communal wash places in 1985. The Accra District Rehabilitation Project was a project's (ADRP) that allowed a total of 19,000 people who live in such urban slums to benefit.

The World Bank again aided two refurbishment schemes in 1985 and 1996. The Priority Works Project and also the Urban II Project were the two. Around 160,000 individuals in places including Kumasi, Ashanti, and Tems benefited from these two projects. These projects aided in the construction of bathrooms, roads, social care, and other essential life necessities like water and energy. Many people were able to find new occupations as a result, resulting in a more consistent increase in income in several of these urban slum regions.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: Many Western nations cooperate together to subsidize the construction of slums in developing nations. The European Commission has invested more than 50 million euros in building a community throughout the globe during 2010. Attempting to eliminate settlements in Western societies, on the other hand, is a common concern. Due to a dearth of access to any information, several slums have formed in this location. Slum dwellers' lifestyles can be improved by working to provide both inexpensive homes and better income prospects.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc: With industrialization and urbanization levels, the number of households in slums has grown by 55 million after 2000 Mexico and the Mediterranean have been focusing on housing schemes to improve group structure. Slums in all

these places have limited socio economic prospects. Slums abound in San Paolo, Argentina, and schooling levels are poor. This is linked to high unemployed rates of up to 49%, as well as a rise in violent crime. In Venezuela, slums are home to around 58 percent of people. Many children from these locations continue to engage in agricultural and physical tasks as toddlers. This leads to a never-ending cycle of poverty due to a lack of literacy and unstable working circumstances, which is not unique to Venezuela.

African Bloc: Numerous slums are vulnerable to spontaneous fires because of the harsh and windy climate. It is critical to strive to change a lot of projects as well as healthcare access. Many nations, like Niger and Mauritania, have efforts to improve their urban development projects. Formerly, African countries were unable to construct slums due to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, food scarcity, and criminal attacks among their countries. As a response, slums like Nairobi emerged, with barely 20% of the total population access to resources and no access to medical care. Several slum inhabitants in Ethiopia are prone to illnesses such as TB, swine flu, and parasites due to poor living circumstances. In terms of living circumstances and medical issues, it's critical to work on vast reform programs.

Asian- Pacific Bloc: The Asian-Pacific Bloc accounts for around 64% of those living in poverty. Unemployment rates are low in major cities, which affects a huge number of slum inhabitants. Because of the rapid growth of the city, more metropolitan planning and implementation is required to avoid more people from sliding into wealth inequality. This territory has already been vulnerable to landslides, landslides, or other natural calamities as a result of many catastrophic events and the environmental problems. Dharavi, Asia's largest slum, is home to at least one million inhabitants and is headquartered in Mumbai, India. Inhabitants of slums use one toilet for up to 500 people and are often threatened with displacement.

Basic Solutions:

When it comes to slum development, it's critical to be meticulous in understanding the many challenges that come with improving inhabitants' lives. This involves things like good sanitation, clean drinking water, tenancy to prevent evictions, schooling, and far more. To solve these difficulties, both short and long solutions should be developed.

To prevent the increastement of slums in Sub Saharan Africa, the international community must tackle rising crime among slums. Increased legislation and humanitarian support groups can be developed and implemented in some of the highest crime rate filled slums in Sub Saharan Africa. Many slums have a wide range of criminality, including drug and sex trafficking, as well as burglary. Furthermore, because most of such criminality is coordinated inside numerous big cities, many of these robberies go unpunished. This is dependent on a number of factors, including insufficient global and subnational community policing and a lack of long-term equipment. Due to the increasing danger of violence and the officer's incapacity to provide proper security for all people, many companies and people are forming personal security organizations. Slum areas are organized together into community watch organizations in multiple cities.

Another crucial sector to focus on is the lack of infrastructure plans in Sub Saharan Africa. Governmental bodies have little to not formal plans to address a lack of infrastructure or

public housing. This ties in largely with the need for ownership of slums as to prevent eviction. It is critical to offer enough resources for individuals who are being taken from their houses regularly to ensure that most of these urban people have a place to go. This entails establishing adequate division of business decisions and inhabitants through city design. Infrastructure, water, energy, drainage, and education must all be considered in urban development. Because Sub-Saharan Africa does not have the single least equipped communication and data system, it is practically difficult for impoverished urban inhabitants to avoid living in slums. Defective equipment has a negative effect on the economic growth of many residents. In most of these places, there is a scarcity of good, affordable homes, which leads to the rise of big, metropolitan regions.

Health and disease prevention must be taken into consideration when undertaking efforts to upgrade slums in Sub-Saharan Africa. The allocation for funding must be redesigned to place more emphasis on the need for increased public health clinics and access to healthcare. Diseases are more likely to spread in many Sub-Saharan slums caused by lack of sanitation. Authorities that are struggling to manage the rise of urban slums are also struggling to manage the illnesses that are spreading there. Coli is amongst the most common illnesses. Given the large number of afflicted individuals, several public hospitals across towns must provide proper treatment to almost all of them. Furthermore, while healthcare providers must treat any such wide spectrum of patients, business funds have already been disbursed at both the personal and national sectors. In many ways, this has an impact on society institutions. Many instructors, as well as kids, catch the sickness, and they are compelled to leave schools if unwell. Many city people's salaries and efficiency are lowered as a result of this, since many are driven off of employment and even into hospitals. This has an impact on an area's economy overall since there isn't a consistent transfer of capital into or out of the community.

Education is limited if offered at all within Sub-Saharan African slums. It is imperative to provide basic literacy and education to young people living within these slums. Education is a vital tool that many adolescents in slums do not have access to since they are forced to labor from an early age to support their family. As a result, certain organizations, including the IMPROVE-UP Initiative, offer the option to attend night courses inside urban meccas. Job creation, business, and private finance education are among the topics covered in seminars.

Questions to Consider:

1. What rules and regulations should the UN encourage nations to establish in order to support a strong and responsible urban setting?
2. What issues might occur when a country's economy is unable to support policy objectives in urban slums?
3. What is your nation's present position in terms of modernization and slums?
4. What are the freedoms and granted rights of slum residents?
5. How many more successful slum upgrading methods will be developed?
6. What could be achieved on a global, national, and municipal level to promote slum residents' access to essential services?
7. What could demand major investment to provide the necessary infrastructure for Sub-Saharan Africa's urban development?

Sources:

1. “Demand for Sanitation in Kenyan Urban Slums.” *The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab*,
www.povertyactionlab.org/evaluation/demand-sanitation-kenyan-urban-slums.
2. Fisher, Jordan R. “Urban Slums: How and Why They Form.” *ThoughtCo*, ThoughtCo,
www.thoughtco.com/massive-urban-slums-1435765.
3. “Housing & Slum Upgrading.” *UN-Habitat*,
unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading/.
4. “REFERENCES.pdf.” *Scribd*, Scribd,
www.scribd.com/document/329607831/REFERENCES-pdf.
5. “The Political Economy of Slums: Theory and Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa.”
Egyptian
6. *Journal of Medical Human Genetics*, Elsevier, 21 Sept. 2013,
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X13001873.
7. Degradation.” *Multinational Corporations: an Overview | Share The World's Resources (STWR)*,
www.sharing.org/information-centre/reports/seven-myths-%E2%80%98slums%E2%80%99-myth-3-slums-are-places-crime-violence-and.
8. “The Study of Slums as Social and Physical Constructs: Challenges and Emerging Research

9. "Slum and Urban Health." *Center for Global Public Health*, 10 Aug. 2017,
cgph.globalhealth.berkeley.edu/research/slum-and-urban-health/.
10. "Slums, Climate Change and Human Health in Sub-Saharan Africa." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 4 Mar. 2011,
www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/12/09-073445/en/.
11. "Slum Politics in Accra : Understanding Urban Ghana." *Africa Research Institute*,
www.africaresearchinstitute.org/newsite/event/slum-politics-in-accra-understanding-urban-ghana-launch/.

Topic B: Natural Disaster Recovery

Background:

For decades, natural catastrophes have had devastating consequences for institutions, industries, and social assistance. The United Nations defines a natural catastrophe as "the repercussions of events induced by natural threats that surpass local coordination and have a severe impact on a region's poverty alleviation." In certain nations, there is a pattern in the number of catastrophes that occur in the region. Farmers are forced to burn wood for fuel and participate in unsuitable agricultural methods as a result of poor administration, international sanctions, hardship, and federal aid, all of which contribute to logging and, as a result, slope instabilities. Increased migration to metropolitan regions has resulted from the growing rate of poverty. However, they are generally dangerous places, and the results can be devastating. The result might be earthquakes and debris flows in metropolitan areas. From 1991 to 2005, developing countries accounted for over 90% of disaster-related mortality and 98 percent of disaster-affected individuals. Because people in poor nations live in locations of natural hazards, this is the case. Infrastructure development, a lack of preventive measures, and a shaky tax base are all factors that contribute to catastrophic disasters of such scale. Advanced economies, on the other hand, have laws in place to lessen the impact of its next disaster and have put in place precautionary mechanisms to decrease the likelihood of harm. The problem in dealing with the aftermath of a disaster stems from the fact that many countries began with inadequate resources and sanitation. Over a million people have been murdered in more than 7,000 natural catastrophes over the last 20 years, as per a UN research. Tsunamis are the main causes of mortality, according to this research, but climatic calamities are close behind. Given this data, natural disasters such as droughts, tropical storms, and flooding are the leading causes of mortality.

In the case of a crisis, the disparity between rich and poor countries is striking. In March 2011, Japan, now one of the world's wealthiest countries, was hit by the most costliest tragedy in humanity's civilization, as per the World Bank. The earthquake that later generated a tsunami that destroyed over \$235 billion in assets sheds little light on the lengthy consequences of Haiti's 8.0 magnitude earthquake. Over 230,000 Haitians perished, and illness spread due to the loss of shelters and housing, as well as the impending heavy rainfall. Similarly, having enough technologies and well-equipped societies may make all the difference. Chile was hit by a 9.1 earthquake, with just 500 people killed, far fewer than its developing peers.

As a result of falling of life, a weather event can drain human capital, as well as a natural resources and environment. It's just as essential to attempt to rebuild as it is to attempt to avoid future damage. Citizens' social consequences might include stress and an incapacity to readjust

to a stereotype in their society. This is why governments regard reconstruction as a means of rebuilding effectively. Facilities that support a higher level of living reduces future human suffering while also easing residents back into their usual routines. Building improved infrastructure, on the other hand, permits countries to make a growth jump that would not have occurred if the tragedy had not occurred. Hurricane Harvey, the harshest storm ever documented in the United States, is expected to cost Americans \$130 billion, without any clear strategy in view. The United States, on the other hand, has placed a strong focus on flood recovery instead of flood prevention. They have tried to implement a nationwide insurance plan that places limits on the location of new projects. Nevertheless, as a result of the decrease of technology, most nations' performance has remained stagnant. Following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010, the country received \$13.5 billion in donations and commitments. The government is still a long way from fulfilling its objective of rebuilding effectively. The tragedy had long-term consequences, including a hunger and poverty crises, as well as a fatal cholera outbreak. Vast majority of newly homeless individuals were forced to live in dispersed tent towns after 80 percent of rural housing was damaged. When dealing with natural disasters, it's critical to consider both the long and near term consequences. Reconstruction must be culturally coherent as well. There have been several cases when new fire risk housing has gone unnoticed due to an unusual or ineffective design. Because local people considered the circular forms of these new buildings to be forbidden, the newly built housing developments in South Africa instead were utilised as rice storage facilities. Following a catastrophe, disadvantaged people with theoretically uncertain property rights, such as women, sharecropping, and wealthy landowners, lose income. However, when relocation plans fail to acknowledge their traditional land rights, their status might deteriorate even more. In land grabs, they are also sometimes eclipsed by monetarily strong organizations. As the economy recovers at a national scale, new or changed socioeconomic disparities may develop.

Natural catastrophes may have a wide range of consequences depending on a country's approach and abilities when it comes to rebuilding. It is critical to understand that giving money and help to poor nations does not always have the intended effect. This is due to politics and strongly impacted, making it difficult to go forward with vast numbers of people who are homeless constantly fighting to survive. Recognizing the pain and tragedy of natural catastrophes, as well as striking a balance among strategy and execution, is critical.

United Nations Involvement:

Technology, creativity, and infrastructures are all major goals of the United Nations Development Programme's, UN Habitat, and Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. In many nations, structural reforms are critical for ensuring sustainable growth and empowering people. A UN disease prevention forum started in Mexico in 2017 to combat natural catastrophes. They addressed the pressing need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and catastrophe risk in order to achieve the country's development objectives. Because since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Global Platforms has been hosted every two years. The Sendai Program, which includes seven objectives and four objectives, was approved at their most recent global forum. Impacted lives, the amount of persons impacted by catastrophes, monetary losses, and damage to infrastructure –

are all important goals. Africa, the Atlantic, Asian, Europe, the Arab World, and North Africa have all agreed to the structure. As per the World Bank, catastrophes cost the financial sector \$520 billion per year, and 24 million people are motivated into despair yearly.

Following the approval of the New Urban Agenda at the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development the year before, UN Habitat conducted its eighteenth session of the Governing Council on May 12, 2017. Ecological and appropriate housing are among the themes covered. Climate resilience and housing availability are addressed in the agenda, with a focus on people in poor countries. In the commercial and domestic sectors, new initiatives have been established to adopt cheap renewable resources. Attwood produced recommendations for the initial stages of a natural catastrophe in collaboration with The Water Erosion Technology System (GLTN) and also the World Food Programme (FAO). They show how to adapt everyday concerns for professionals to the unpredictable post-disaster recovery environment. The lengthy paper also emphasizes the need of establishing a monitoring and assessment mechanism. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been working on a tool that would provide ecological advice. The QSAND internet tool, also defined as Gauging Sustainable development in the Following of Environmental Disasters, is the result of this partnership. The tool was organized into four classifications by the IFRC in collaboration with UN Habitat. To assist administrations and aid agencies in becoming the most successful, QSAND may offer an overall quality assessment that helps them to comprehend the effects of their work, highlight the most successful tactics, and highlight areas for results of this case.

UN Habitat has its own programs, such as the Cities on Environmental Issues Initiative (CCCI), which aims to improve city preparation and resilience in poor nations. The CCCI assists peers in developing and implementing energy policies that are pro-poor and creative. They're also working on a set of tools to assist community officials and clinicians when it comes to discussing the climate crisis.

Case Study: Sichuan Earthquake

The Sichuan Earthquake, which occurred in 2008, struck Sichuan, China. The Denoising autoencoders Fault was the epicenter of the earthquake, which was caused by the colliding of the Eurasian and Indian-Australian plates. The floor was pushed upward by about 29 feet, with deadly aftershocks following in the days, weeks, and subsequent years. The quake destroyed 80 percent of all buildings in its path. Houses made of mud bricks and student proficiency just weren't designed to survive an earthquake of this magnitude. This was allegedly the biggest earthquake to strike the United States since 1950, and the country was unprepared in the least. Infrastructure failure claimed the lives of 90,000 people and wounded additional 375,000. As a result, the Chinese government dispatched 130,000 soldiers and humanitarian personnel to assist the injured. In this situation, the absence of contemporary response personnel and the remoteness of the rural communities made treating the injured much more difficult. As rehabilitation proceeded, the cost of compensation soared to \$86 billion. As a result of the earthquake, various concerns arose that needed to be handled. China has also asked for humanitarian assistance for its first time in recorded history.

One question was whether a large volume of water stored in a storage near the epicenter contributed to the temblor's occurrence. While there were discussions about the shaky structure that may have contributed to the earthquake's size and damage. Facilities, or the lack thereof, has a major effect on the effects of a natural catastrophe, as mentioned earlier.

The world offered assistance in the form of relief supplies and humanitarian help. Companies contributed millions in cash, with Saudi Arabia sending \$60 million and even the total sum approaching \$456.9 million. But that was in addition to the \$1.5 billion contributed by the Chinese people. Transnational organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union (EU), including Oxfam also lent their assistance. The United Nations has offered \$7 million in help to China. Nonetheless, contemplating the earthquake's consequences and the existing status of the hilly region in western part China, it's critical to distribute funds where they'll be most effective. The region had entirely collapsed a century ago, despite the fact that there was a plethora of cash flowing into the recovery effort. To be able to restore, if not enhance, a nation after a national calamity, materials must have clear goals and capital must be spent wisely. It's critical to understand if asking for cash donations and equipment is effective in the event of future calamities. The earthquake in Sichuan may be used as an indication of how the catastrophe developed after being handed millions of pounds.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: The effects of Global Warming are most prevalent in the Western Bloc. The Western countries have more earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and wildfires than the rest of the country altogether. In the United States, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is the federal agency in charge of coordinating the country's order to build for, defend against, respond to, and recoup from natural catastrophes, man-made crises, and terrorist attacks. Frameworks similar to that of the position of FEMA have been implemented globally.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc: Latin America is extremely susceptible to natural disasters and has been within the past two decades due to climate change. And for its geographic area, the region is prone to catastrophic natural disasters. However, the high social and political cost of these natural disasters is mostly due to severe susceptibility. In Latin America and the Caribbean, flooding was the most prevalent natural catastrophe. CDEMA is the Caribbean Population's regional disaster preparedness agency. Its mission is to create an enabling, driver, director, and motivator in the development and implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in all participating countries.

African Bloc: Diseases, endemic illnesses, drought, floods, agricultural pests, and bushfires are the most common environmental dangers in Costa Rica, but earthquakes, cyclones, and volcanic eruptions can also occur in select regions. Africa's disasters are usually the consequence of a mix of natural and human forces: hunger is the outcome of conflict combined with droughts. Soil erosion and reduction of vegetation amplify the effects of floods and droughts. Despite the fact that these issues are urgent, African governments have failed to present a comprehensive rescue strategy.

Asian Pacific Bloc: Asia has the best response plan to funding the aftermath of natural disasters. For example, learning from Japan's effective and contextualized Disaster Management System is important for all countries to see how theory is put into practice. In countries like Korea and Taiwan, earthquake engineering has been used to limit damage on land. Tsunami response methods were initially studied in Japan in 1896. Massive sea barriers up to 12 meters tall make up a major component of Asia's technical solutions. This is a solution to the need to safeguard coastal regions that are densely inhabited.

Basic Solutions:

Solutions tackling the immense issue of Climate Change are necessary to work towards more comprehensive disaster relief plans. Global warming, and per the IMF, will result in more frequent weather-related environmental hazards, as well as loss of property and lives. Their finding was that by the end of the twenty-first century, most sorts of weather-related calamities will become more prevalent, affecting people of all economic levels. Climate change is making disasters more intense and widespread every year. Before 2003, the scientific consensus was that global warming had a major impact on meteorology, even though there was no way to know how much of an impact it had on any one occurrence. Nevertheless, as severe event attribution has grown in prominence, scientists have been able to highlight the role of global warming in this growing area. It is obvious that there is a direct relationship between the two, and natural catastrophes may be avoided by reducing or preventing greater climate change. When discussing such occurrences, it is critical to acknowledge the role of climate change and how to use that information in the future. While scientists believe that it is impossible to blame a single occurrence on climate change, they are attempting to determine how much climate science influences a certain occurrence.

Further, an important topic to target solutions toward is the lack of preventative infrastructure in developed nations. Maximum devastation can be attributed to a lack of functional and contemporary infrastructure. Over the years, China's drainage infrastructure leads to significant flooding. As a result of the pluvial floods, China has launched a number of initiatives and regulations to improve the country's present drainage infrastructure. In 2014, the government publicly launched a national program to reduce floods while also enhancing ecosystems and the environment, dubbed "sponge cities." Unfortunately, mechanical complexity and irresponsible urban growth stymie adoption. Infrastructure problems can also cause social problems. An epidemic broke out in Haiti, which spread due to all the Caribbean country's inadequate sanitary standards. China's fast transport infrastructure also exposed the country to possible calamities. Infrastructure and economic growth are inextricably linked, thus infrastructure risk must be assessed before recovery can begin. The research showed, however, that China's vigorous rebuilding effort in the aftermath of natural catastrophes enabled the government to successfully avoid future worsening for the per capita economy beyond the rapid event of a catastrophe.

Lastly, solutions should address the effect that natural disasters have on developing nations and how a lack of relief plans can lead to extreme, long-term problems. Many times, the

places or districts who are most affected are those that lack adequate facilities or personnel. Though natural environments are being depleted in many developing nations, resulting in drought and starvation, it is crucial to remember that these places had limited economic freedom to begin with. Disaster-prone areas may exhibit "adaptive behavior," resulting in further economic damage. Given that their position may be vulnerable to disaster, landowners may pay less in order to enhance the productivity of their land. The United Nations should strive to help emerging economies with urban money in politics and domestic institutions in this respect. Companies must invest in adaptability and security in order to solve their often futile fight against natural catastrophes. Countries are expected to foresee and prepare for catastrophes if they are exposed to them on a frequent basis, according to specific tendencies. Unfortunately, for poor nations, this is rarely the case, since their industries start to worsen.

Questions to Consider:

1. What role does viability play in the success of your strategies?
2. What role does global warming play in natural catastrophes, and what can be done about it?
3. How could the UN Habitat Committee assist in the aftermath of natural disasters, given its mandate?
4. What industries must be handled following a natural catastrophe, and how can UN Habitat help?
5. Given previous failures, how might your strategy be unique or successful?

Sources:

1. Migration Research and Development. "Planned Relocations in the Context of Natural Disasters: The Case of Sri Lanka." *Brookings*, Brookings, 28 July 2016.
2. Acevedo, Sebastian. "Climate Change Will Bring More Frequent Natural Disasters & Weigh on Economic Growth." *IMF Blog*, 28 Nov. 2017.
3. "Economic Recovery after Natural Disasters | UN Chronicle." *United Nations*, United Nations, May 2016.
4. Zorn, Matija. "Natural Disasters and Less Developed Countries." *SpringerLink*, Springer, Dordrecht, 1 Jan. 1970.
5. Ferrier, B A, and J T Spickett. "Natural Disasters in Developing Countries: an Environmental Health Perspective." *Advances in Pediatrics.*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2007.
7. Schlein, Lisa. "UN: Most Deaths From Natural Disasters Occur in Poor Countries." *VOA*, VOA,
8. "Haiti Quake Death Toll Rises to 230,000." *BBC News*, BBC, 11 Feb. 2010.
9. Cook, Jesselyn. "7 Years After Haiti's Earthquake, Millions Still Need Aid." *The Huffington Post*, TheHuffingtonPost.com, 13 Jan. 2017.
10. Milman, Oliver. "How Do Cities Rebuild after Hurricanes like Harvey and Irma?" *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 8 Sept. 2017.