



Topic: Relief for Natural Disasters

Director: Chisomam Agaranna

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To Delegates of Cerritos Novice 2019 Conference

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to Cerritos Novice 2019!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our annual novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host another year of this long-standing 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 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.

Our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2019, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With 31 high school committees and 2 middle school committees, CHSMUN 2019 will provide a quality experience for beginners to learn, develop, and grow as delegates.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2019!

Sincerely,

Brianna Roldan and Tess U-Vongcharoen

Secretary-Generals

UNDP

National Disaster Relief

A Note From the Director

Delegates,

Hello All! My name is Chisomam Agaranna and I'm going to be your UNDP chair for the 2019 Cerritos Novice Conference. I am a senior here at Cerritos High, and this is now my fifth year in MUN. Model United Nations is a truly rewarding program for me because it has allowed me to become more self aware of the world around me, while also assisting me in building long lasting relationships with some of the most interesting people on the planet. In short, I would like to say MUN is FUN!! Aside from MUN, I am part of the Varsity Volleyball Team, American Cancer Society, and Black Student Union here on campus. Outside of school, I play travel volleyball, volunteer at my preschool, and participate in my church's praise dance team. In my free time, I like reading , playing volleyball, watching Netflix, cooking, and listening to music. With that being said, I am really looking forward to meeting all of you in committee and hearing the ideas you will bring on conference day. I know for most this may be your first conference and there might feelings of nervousness arising, but trust me when I say that if you try your best, you are sure to see improvement. Don't be afraid to email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chisomam Agaranna

Director, UNDP

Committee Introduction

Through the merging of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Specials in 1965, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established with the goal of eradicating poverty. As the UN's largest development programme, the UNDP strives to achieve sustainable human development by "advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life". UNDP provides aid through five-year country programmes, which financially supports projects that are centered on increasing the capacity for good governance in developing nations. The UNDP currently works in over 170 countries and regions in order to develop solutions to challenges in achieving human development. UNDP primarily focuses on topics that include from poverty alleviation, democratic governance, climate change, and economic inequality through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, their universal call to action for sustainable development until 2030.

Background:

According to WHO's 1971 Guide to Natural Disasters, natural disasters are known as an "act of nature of such magnitude as to create a catastrophic situation in which day-to-day patterns are suddenly disrupted and people are plunged into helplessness and suffering." Since the 1960s, the number of reported weather related natural disasters have more than tripled. Earthquakes, Tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and landslides are some of the various forms of natural disasters. Natural disasters can be classified in three major groups: hydro-meteorological disasters (floods, storms, typhoons, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.), geo-morphological disasters (landslides, avalanches, etc.), and geophysical disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions etc.)

Natural disasters take the lives of 60,000 individuals annually. Even the most developed nations are still vulnerable to natural disasters, as seen in the case of Hurricane Katrina in the United States (2005) and the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and tsunami (2011).

Many of these deaths occur in developing countries. Extreme weather conditions, such as rising sea levels, can or will destroy several homes, medical facilities, and other various forms of essential infrastructure. Depending on how extreme the hazard and other factors, such as population density, victims can often become displaced from their homes, ultimately disrupting their livelihoods. Displacement can also lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases.

After the natural disaster strikes, the most immediate priority is to provide emergency first aid and medical services to the injured. First responders often include local residents, health professionals, emergency workers, and public safety officers. Although the spread of injuries depends on the intensity of disasters as well as the population density of the region, there is always an acute need for health personnel and medical supplies, which overwhelms the local medical systems. After injured are attended to, the next priority is search-and-rescue and distribution of temporary shelter, as well as food, water, and medicines. With different variations of natural disasters, there are different types of health services that are required. For example, if an earthquake strikes, there are typically more blunt trauma and orthopedic injuries, while floods induce the spread of water-borne diseases.

Not only are the health effects from these natural disasters, there are also economic effects as well. \$330 billion dollars were lost from natural disasters in 2017, while \$184 billion dollars were lost the year before. There are also many problems regarding disasters-relief organizations. Majority of these organizations provide similar supplies, which causes there to be an inefficient network of aid distribution. Seeing that in the 1940s there were few non-governmental organizations compared to 1.5 million in 2012, many stakeholders have the idea that humanitarian aid has not found success in delivery because of lack of coordination among NGOs, which causes duplication in services provided. 60% of the items that arrive to the disaster site are non priority items, which causes rescue workers to waste their time dealing with these supplies, when there are high-attention needed in other areas at ground zero. This often impedes on the relief effort by clogging "in-country logistics and distribution channels".

United Nations Involvement:

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination System (UNDAC) was created in 1993 "to help the United Nations and governments of disaster-affected countries during the first phase of a sudden-onset emergency." UNDAC teams can respond and deploy with 12-48

hours upon request. Since September 2014, UNDAC has organized 236 emergency missions in over 100 countries. In emergency relief for natural disasters, several UN organs take on and coordinate different emergency sectors. UNICEF has supplied fast lifesaving emergency relief, such as “water purification tablets, vaccines and nutrition supplements for children and nursing mothers, tents and temporary shelters for families, school kits, and services like post trauma counseling and reuniting children separated from their parents.” UNHCR has provided emergency shelter and protection. WFP decides how much food assistance is needed and the best way to deliver the food to emergency victims when disaster strikes.

In 1971, the United Nations established its own mechanism in order to distribute international assistance to governments that request for humanitarian assistance. All response activities that are within the UN will be organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). After request, within 12 to 48 hours after the sudden onset disaster there will be provision of technical service for the purpose of a damage and needs assessments, on-site coordination, and information management, which will be conducted through a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC). OCHA has also created a “structure of clusters”, which serves as a way for UN agencies work in collaboration with non-UN agencies in an organized manner.

During 1990-1999, known as the *International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction* (IDNDR), experts began to create the global framework for disaster risk and their management, which started the introduction of the various concepts related to disaster-risk and the necessity in reduction of disaster-risk in order to achieve sustainability amongst communities around the world. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was an immediate product of the 2005 *World Conference on Disaster Reduction* (WCDR), which was hosted by the UNISDR and the government of Japan. HFA, which was endorsed by 168 Member States. HFA is known as the first plan “to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses”.

10 years later, HFA was replaced with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the aim to reduce disaster risk and loss at a substantially rate. The Sendai Framework also included four priorities for action and seven global targets. The Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations (UNOOSA) created the United Nations Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response in 2005.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc:

North American and European nations tend to be more developed compared to the rest of the world, which is why they are looked to for more assistance when these disasters strike. For example, the United States tends to provide relief for dozens of disasters in more than fifty countries every year. It is the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that organizes most federal disaster relief efforts with services ranging from hazard mitigation to long-term recovery. Recently, the European Commission was able to raise 1.2 million Euros to assist those affected by the floods in northern and south-western parts of Iran. Both the European Union and Commission have assisted nations threatened by natural disasters through the establishment of various emergency relief funds.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc:

In the twentieth century, approximately ½ million people died in Latin America due to natural disasters. The most common types of natural disasters in Latin America are floods and droughts. When looking geographically, hurricanes occur only in the Caribbean, Middle America, and northernmost South America. Majority of earthquakes develop along the western coasts. Acknowledging that Caribbean lies on a very active seismic zone, the region is prone to earthquakes at anytime. One notable large-scale earthquake is the 2010 Haiti earthquake on the West Indian island of Hispaniola. This earthquake affected nearly a third of Haiti's total population. Although nearly 10 years later, the nation still faces weak political governance, lack of infrastructure, and little to no access to basic resources. When natural disasters hit the region of Latin America, it can disrupt the development and threaten the social and economic gains of the nations. Geographically, Latin American sits on a territory that is highly prone to hazards. Recently, Latin American countries have begun to increase efforts to better assess the risks. For example, the Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment Initiative (CARPA) was launched in 2008, serving as a platform for decision makers to primarily estimate the impacts of future disasters and develop risk mitigation strategies.

African Bloc:

According to a recent study, 20 out of 100 disasters that are reported occur in the African region; however, Africa suffers from 60% of all disaster-related deaths. These natural disasters, in conjunction with various circumstances that prevail, often makes it easy for these disasters to escalate and multiply its impact. With Africa being a very vast continent, there is a diverse variation of natural disasters. Northern Africa is more susceptible to droughts and bushfires because of the hotter and drier climate. West, East, and Central Africa have more of a tropical climate, which leads to mudslides, floods, and earthquakes. The African Union developed the African Risk Capacity (ARC) in order to provide member countries support for early warning, finance, and planning and management. ARC allows for governments to strengthen their capacities before disaster strikes in order to improve response and preparedness. In addition to this, the African Union established an African Region Strategy for Disaster Relief Reduction in 2015, in response to drought-stricken bodies of water and the high livestock mortality rate. Even so, due to lack of resources, money, and communication, progress has remained stagnant. Studies have also shown that this gradual increase in temperature, induced by climate change, will lead to many frequent and extreme outbreaks of rainfall during the next 80 years, ultimately damaging the crop and food production

Asian-Pacific Bloc:

Acknowledging that the Asia-Pacific is the world's most disaster-prone region, disaster management is extremely critical. During 2014 and 2017, nations within the region were affected by 55 earthquakes, 217 storms and cyclones, and 236 causes of severe flooding. This affected the lives of 650 million people, while taking the lives of 33,000. There are high concentrations of people within badly constructed cities. With this rapid rate of industrialization, more dense and urban areas are highly susceptible to the damages. In response to this, there have legally binding

agreements to mitigate the effects of these natural disasters. One being the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which is framework for “cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilization in all aspects of disaster management”. AADMER was signed by 2005 and began to be enforced in December 2009. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters also takes both legal and administrative measures to put in place agreement provisions to effectively address aid distribution.

Basic Solutions:

When researching this topic, it is important for delegates to realize that there are many aspects of the issue. One of the main problems that come with relief in the midst of natural disasters is the inefficiency of aid distribution. Organizations and governmental bodies find it difficult to coordinate shipment, recovery, and transportation assets in a more collaborative effort with one another to avoid .When these disasters strike, it is often difficult to deliver life-saving assistance to the affected populations. Seeing that essential infrastructure and other modes of transportation (roads, canals, bridges) may be damaged, delegates must take into account that critical supplies must be delivered accurately and effectively. Delegates should also consider strategies in order to mitigate the effects on the most vulnerable, so improving and strengthening preventative efforts. Take the nation of Japan for example. Japan, being highly susceptible to earthquakes and tsunamis, created its own Earthquake Early Warning system (Kinkyu Jishin Sokuho) in 2011, which slows down trains, controls earthquakes, and such in order for its citizens to quickly protect themselves in various environments. Noting that each year, natural disasters push 26 million people into poverty, social and financial protection cannot be avoided. Kenya already had a social protection system in place that assisted vulnerable farmers before the 2015 drought fell upon the region. In the nation of Pakistan, there was an establishment of a rapid response programme comprised of cash grants that benefitted 8 million people after severe floods hit.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the most common natural disaster that occurs in your specific country?
2. Are there any existing early warning systems or mitigation strategies that have been implemented in your country to minimize the casualties before the disaster occurs?
3. How will your country ensure that the distribution of aid will be both effective and accurate?
4. Will there be similar and/or different plans of action according to the type of natural disasters that strikes?
5. How can the already existing strategies and action plans be enhanced to decrease the casualty rate?

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