



UNITED
NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME
TOPIC BULLETIN

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Junior Academy MUN

- THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE -

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Ethan and I will be your head chair. I hope you are all extremely excited to discuss pressing world issues, debate solutions to problems, and brainstorm new ideas in this year's JAMUN UNDP committee. This year our topics cover a wide range of current events and will require all of you to make your country's case. I expect to see excellent oratory skills, teamwork, leadership, and, above all, diplomacy. Your other chairs and I will be judging you on these characteristics within committee along with the quality of your position paper. As UN delegates and UNDP members, your role is to work together to create an efficient plan for the topics we have presented you with. A little bit about myself. Model United Nations has been a large part of my high school career thus far. I am a freshman at Bergen County Academies in the Academy of Engineering and am interested in debate and robotics. I also find Cup Ramen and Octopi very tantalizing. I avidly play table tennis and soccer during my free time. I am looking forward to some awesome debates, punderful MUN puns, and fun discussions. If you have any questions, my email is down below.

Best of Luck,
Ethan Donovan, Head Chair, UNDP
ethdon21@bergen.org

Dear Delegates,

My name is Michael Papadopoulos, and I will be serving as the Vice Chair for the UNDP committee of JAMUN this year. I am incredibly excited to meet and chair for you all, and I hope you are excited to compete as well. The world issues you will be discussing throughout our committee sessions are pressing and need to be resolved. I hope to see great cooperation, strategy, and debate skills that will help the committee find efficient and feasible solutions. Above all, standing out rather than blending in will help you get your voice heard by us and the rest of the delegates. We are judging you on the quality and effort put into your position paper, speeches, and working papers. If all of you strive for your best, the UNDP committee will be fun and interesting for all. Of course, you should know a little about me. I'm a freshman in the Computer Science Academy here at Bergen County Academies. I was introduced to MUN when I decided to take it as a club, and since then I've been to 3 conferences and won many awards. While this is my first time chairing, I am still excited to judge you all. I love robotics, coding, and puzzles, and I'm always up for a good pun or two. Again, I can't wait to meet you all in the committee room, see you there.

Sincerely,
Michael Papadopoulos
micpap21@bergen.org



Overview:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was founded on 22 November 1965 with the purpose of allowing the world's citizens to enjoy a higher quality of living by connecting countries to the knowledge, experience, training, and resources they can use for change. The UNDP currently works in over 170 countries and is working towards strengthening new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change with the larger goal of completing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, democratic governance and peace-building, and climate and disaster resilience. The UN defines a natural disaster as: "the consequences of events triggered by natural hazards that overwhelm local response capacity and seriously affect the social and economic development of a region." Natural disasters such as hurricanes and droughts can affect anyone in any country with the ever increasing world economic divide

only adding to the universal struggle to provide relief in response to destruction. Delegates must create a comprehensive plan to find a solution to the problems at hand.

Topic History:

Since 1994, 4.4 billion people have been affected by natural disasters with 1.3 million lives lost and US \$2 trillion lost. Organizations with the goal of providing disaster relief began to materialize in the 1800's and have sprung up for the last 200 years. Such organizations include but not limited to Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers, World Vision, a relief and development organization specializing in impoverished areas, and Operation Blessing, an international relief and humanitarian organization providing food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, among other necessities of life. These organizations have provided relief in a number of ways. Many organizations call for donation support in developed countries as



well as volunteer action to fuel relief efforts. Other organizations contain specialized officers that can advise operations to ensure success while others focus on rebuilding resilient infrastructure to prevent against future destruction. Often, it has been a combination of many organization-specialized facets that have allowed for successful relief efforts. Another large part of relief is awareness. This was witnessed when the Japanese Tsunami's effects were dampened when the world came together while droughts, tsunamis, and hurricanes which are just as destructive can go unnoticed in developing countries. Awareness towards a specific natural disaster is the fuel for relief organizations which often rely on volunteer and donation support. During the 1960's, the UN adopted measures that began to shed light on severe natural disasters with earthquakes in Iran as well as other natural disasters in Yugoslavia and Cuba being discussed. The UN gave the Secretary-General permission to submit recommendations for assistance in cases of natural disaster in 1970. In 1971, the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) was created to promote

the study, prevention, control, and prediction of natural disasters and work directly with worldwide governments. For the last 40 years, efforts have focused on natural disaster reduction through prevention and preemptive action. In response to the deadly 1994 glacial flood in Bhutan, The UNDP stepped in to help to government monitor glacial lakes at risk of bursting to reduce risk. In response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, UNDP worked directly to create 40,000 temporary jobs, and clear debris for resilient infrastructure. There is importance in creating both short and long term relief solutions. Short term relief can provide victims with the essentials to live. For example, The Red Cross provided shelters, meals, and financial assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina immediately after it occurred. However, preemptive and long term solutions have been created and used in the past. The UNDP has created disaster risk management agencies, transportation networks for the easy delivering of relief, and resilient infrastructure to ensure that future disasters have less of an



impact. Long term relief can also allow an affected area to truly rebound culturally and economically. The UNDP has spend more than US \$1 billion on relief for natural disasters since 2005.

To make matters worse, Natural Disasters have occurred at an increased rate between 2005 and 2014 compared to between 1995 and 2004 and between 1985 and 1995. The rate of natural disasters now is 14 percent higher than what it was between 1995 and 2004 and is almost twice as much as what the rate was between 1985 and 1995. Climate models indicate changes in climate will increase the risk of drought and increase the intensity of disastrous storms. An increase of natural disasters means the need for more larger, resourceful relief efforts.

Current Situation:

In the present day, developing countries are much more vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. In these countries, a combination of lack of

resources, awareness, and resistant infrastructure among other factors can allow disasters to perpetuate a cycle of poverty and cause death.

In fact, although 33 percent of natural disasters occur in lower-lower middle income countries, 81% of natural disaster related deaths occurred in these countries. Natural disasters in the present also have the ability to increase poverty in developing countries by 50 percent. Developing states often have poorly constructed buildings, poor sanitation, high density populations, limited resources, and lack of economic safety nets, making natural disasters extremely difficult. The biggest problems of natural disasters today lie in four categories: Displaced Populations, Health Risks, Food and Water Scarcity, and Emotional Aftershocks. Natural disasters cause people to be displaced from their original environment and can create refugee problems in other areas which can lead to a decline in health care, education, food, and clean water in these areas. Between the health risks of disease and danger caused directly by a disaster, immediate relief is a necessity. The lack of quick



transportation and resource allocation leads to the loss of lives in affected areas. With food and water availability being essential to life, any threat to this becomes dire. However, in many areas, natural disasters can cause food prices to skyrocket as shortages of food become reality. In addition, water contamination can become commonplace as well as successful water treatment and transportation becoming almost impossible. An often overlooked consequence of natural disaster is emotional aftershock. Losing everything one has in the face of destruction of death can create serious mental damage especially in children. It is necessary that a population affected by a natural disaster is not only given the essentials to stay alive, but also has enough support to recover.

Possible Solutions:

There are many ways to provide relief to people around the world who have been affected to natural disasters. One is, of course, direct government spending towards the issue. Donating sums

of money to countries that need relief can help them fund that relief. However, spending money like this can be difficult for less wealthy countries, along with not being feasible for any country if the money can't be properly put aside. Joint efforts between countries could help gather this money, and recognizing if and how much money should be directly spent is something all countries should consider.

On the other hand, sending people, supplies, and equipment can also be very helpful. Getting trained doctors to the area needing relief as soon as possible can save many lives, while sending workers that will help clear debris/rebuild will be important for the long term. Alongside that, things like clothes, fresh food and water, construction and medical resources, etc. is necessary for relief. Once again, not every country can feasibly donate people and resources, but this option might be better for countries with less money.

Lastly, funds for relief have proved to be helpful in the past. Asking



citizens to donate to relief by giving money and resources can be very effective. This does, however, rely on the citizens to actually donate, which is not a given. Besides all this, there are many more options for you to come up with. It is, of course, up to the delegates and not the chair to decide what solutions are possible, so an out-of-the-box solution could work very well. It is also a good idea to look towards ways to mitigate the effects of natural disasters in the first place. Finding ways to prepare for disasters can make a major impact on how much damage is caused. This can range anywhere from educating citizens on what to do during a disaster to working on infrastructure strength and anything else in between.

Questions to Consider:

To what extent is relief funding an issue?

How much funding should go into relief effort?

How should funding for relief be obtained?

How will supplies and people be sent into the countries struck by natural disasters?

Is it appropriate to ask citizens for donations to help countries in need?

Is asking citizens for relief donations a reliable source of funding?

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