SRMUN ATLANTA 2018
Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration
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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2018 and the General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen). My name is Rachael Wnuk and I will serve as your Director. This will be my fourth conference as a SRMUN Atlanta staff member. Previously, I served as the Assistant Director of the World Health Organization, Director of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees Executive Committee and Director of the United Nations Human Rights Council. I am currently in my final semester of my undergraduate studies, completing my bachelor's degree in elementary education with minors in psychology, health education, and French. Our committee's Assistant Directors are Aanchel Shah and Asha Coutrier. This is Aanchel's second time as a staff member and Asha's first year as a SRMUN staff member. Asha is not new to SRMUN, as she previously participated as a delegate.

Established in conjunction with the 1945 United Nations Charter, the General Assembly is the principal deliberative body of the United Nations (UN). The General Assembly first convened on January 10, 1946 with 51 Member States to discuss and pass its first measure: creating peaceful usages of atomic energy and reducing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

As one of the six primary bodies of the UN, the General Assembly serves as the sole entity wherein all 193 Member States are objectively and impartially represented. The Committee facilitates the discussion of dense topics, such as how to commemorate "the abolition of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade" before splintering off into detail-oriented sub-committees.

By focusing on the mission of the General Assembly and SRMUN Atlanta 2018's theme of *"Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration,"* we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

      I.   Migration and its Effects on Economic Development
     II.   Humanitarian Relief in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters

This background guide provides a strong introduction to the committee and the topics and should be utilized as a foundation for the delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at our conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and must demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit www.srmun.org. ***All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, October 26, 2018 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.***

Aanchel, Asha, and I are enthusiastic about serving as your dais for the GA Plen. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Director-General Chase Kelly, Aanchel, Asha, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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Committee History of the General Assembly Plenary

Established in conjunction with the 1945 United Nations Charter, the United General Assembly (GA) is the principal deliberative body of the United Nations (UN). The GA first convened on January 10, 1946 with 51 Member States to discuss and pass its first measure: creating peaceful usages of atomic energy and reducing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.[1] Currently, the GA convenes the third week of September and decides the final meeting date, which is typically in December.[2] As one of the six primary bodies of the UN, the General Assembly serves as the sole entity wherein all 193 Member States are objectively and impartially represented. Additionally, both the Holy See and the State of Palestine participate as Non-Member Observer States.[3] The GA facilitates the discussion of dense topics, such as how to commemorate "the abolition of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade" before splintering off into detail-oriented sub-committees.[4] According to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the consistent need to reflect every Member States' perspective leads to the GA frequently "focusing excessively on reaching consensus and passing resolutions that reflect "the lowest common denominator" of opinion."[5]

The GA is comprised of six separate entities. The First Committee is Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), which handles challenges to the global security regime and works closely with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.[6] The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the Second Committee and is charged with issues pertaining to poverty eradication, macroeconomic policy issues, and the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian State.[7] The Third Committee pertains to Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs Committee, which includes guaranteeing the rights of indigenous people, eradicating racial discrimination, and improving the treatment of refugees.[8] Special Political and Decolonization is the Fourth Committee, which discusses decolonization, the effects of atomic radiation, and provides comprehensive reviews on peacekeeping missions.[9] Fifth, is the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary responsibilities, which handles budget arrangements with specialized agencies.[10] Lastly is the Legal, or Sixth Committee, which deals solely with the legality of proposed measures within the GA.[11]

As the central body for global discourse, the GA has been endowed with a multitude of authorizations, some of those include:

- Financing peacekeeping missions;
- Assessing and amending the United Nations' budget;
- Initiating studies and making recommendations that would aid international political cooperation;
- Providing counsel for conflict resolution;
- Amending the United Nations Charter; and
- Appointing the Secretary-General and other Member States.[12]

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[1] "The General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations, http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-general-assembly.html (accessed March 24, 2018).

[2] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/sessions.shtml (accessed March 24, 2018).

[3] "Non-Member States," General Assembly of the United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/non-member-states/index.html (accessed March 24, 2018).

[4] Non-Member States," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[5] "The Role of the UN General Assembly," Council on Foreign Relations (Fall 2017). https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/role-un-general-assembly (accessed March 24th, 2018).

[6] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[7] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[8] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[9] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[10] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[11] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

[12] "Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," General Assembly of the United Nations.

The UN aims to globally accomplish their 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. The Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, established by the 2014 General Assembly Resolution 66/288, is in the process of cooperating with Member States to make the goals feasible and individualized.[13] These goals and targets include:"(1) no poverty; (2) zero hunger; (3) good health and well-being; (4) quality education; (5) gender equality; (6) clean water and sanitation; (7) affordable and clean energy; (8) decent work and economic growth; (9) industry, innovation, and infrastructure; (10) reduced inequalities; (11) sustainable cities and communities; (12) responsible consumption and production; (13) climate action; (14) life below water; (15) life on land; (16) peace, justice, and strong institutions; and (17) partnership for the goals."[14]

Because of their ambiguous nature, there has been a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the feasibility of the SDGs. Concern has been voiced by politicians that these goals, while admirable, are too numerous and risk being ignored in their entirety.[15] Bjorn Lomborg, of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, sees them as absolutist and recommends investing in a select few rather than thinly spreading resources.[16] These goals coexist with an era of increased prolonged global conflict and famine and Lomborg argues that the billions of dollars should be directly invested in provisionally aiding Member States, rather than in non-essential aspects of the SDGs.[17]

Regardless of the opposition, the United Nations, in partnership with organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Itaipu Binacional, Canadian Science Policy Centre, and the International Renewable Energy Agency, continues to push forward with their efforts in Sustainable Development Goal-oriented projects.[18] With twelve years left until their set date of 2030, the GA is exploring every possibility for working towards completing the SDG's on the timeline put forth by the international community.

This persistence embodies the importance of the UN's ability to expand their perspective toward more culturally-sensitive and self-sustaining resolutions. The support and praise provided by these partner organizations and entities serve as a reminder that the GA is one of the few places where equity is heavily emphasized within every facet of the decision-making process.

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[13]"General Assembly Adopts Resolution on SDG Report : Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform," General Assembly of the United Nations, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=276&type=230&menu=2059 (accessed March 24, 2018).

[14]"Sustainable Development Goals," General Assembly of the United Nations, http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ (accessed March 24th, 2018).

[15]United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

[16]United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

[17]United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2018.

[18]"Browse Partnerships & Commitments - United Nations Partnerships for SDGs Platform," United Nations General Assembly, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/browse/ (accessed March 24th, 2018).

I. Migration and its Effects on Economic Development

"Only by upholding our duty to protect those fleeing persecution and violence, and by embracing the opportunities that refugees and migrants offer to their new societies, will we be able to achieve a more prosperous and fairer future for all." - Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon[19]

Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Migrants defines a migrant worker as a "person who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a [Member] State of which he or she is not a national."[20] Since 2006, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has published the *International Migration Report,* which analyzes varying levels of migration patterns. According to the 2017 *International Migration Report*, the number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow at a rapid pace, reaching 258 million in 2017; up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000.[21] However, this exponential growth closely follows an increase in displacement, mostly due to violent conflict.[22] Over 60 percent of migrants live in Asia and Europe, though the Member State with the highest migrant population is the United States (US).[23]

Migrants are often the most vulnerable members of society. They work long hours for low wages, have minimum job security, and are often forced to work in dangerous working conditions.[24] Migrants also experience human rights violations, discrimination, and are more susceptible to becoming victims of human trafficking.[25] Migrant children often lack access to education and are even held in detention centers when their status is unknown.[26]

History

The discourse on the adverse effects of migration, both on a Member State's economy and the migrant themselves, began with the International Labor Organization's (ILO) creation of the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.[27] Noting the lack of standardized international labor policy, the ILO utilized this declaration to increase understanding of migration and perpetuate the idea that "economic growth alone is not enough to ensure equity, social progress, and to eradicate poverty."[28] Prior to this, the only protections in place were from the United Nation's General Assembly (GA) Resolution A/RES/34/171, which established a working group to discuss the preservation and promotion of human rights in 1979.[29] Both of these protections were a response to the hesitant integration of migrant workers into their respective foreign labor markets. During this time, Member States

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[19] "Refugees and Migrants: A Crisis of Solidarity" Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/05/secretary-generals-op-ed-refugees-migrants-crisis-solidarity/ (accessed July 31, 2018).

[20] "Migrant and Migration" The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/ (accessed May 1, 2018).

[21] The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017 Highlights, New York: United Nations 2017, http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf (Accessed May 1, 2018).

[22] "The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017," United Nations.

[23] "The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017," United Nations.

[24] "The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017," United Nations.

[25] "The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017," United Nations.

[26] "The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM),"The International Organization for Migration, https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration (Accessed July 19th, 2018).

[27] "ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work," International Labour Organization, https://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang--en/index.htm (Accessed July 18th, 2018).

[28] International Labour Organization, *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*

[29] "U.S. Immigration Since 1965," History.com Staff, https://www.history.com/topics/us-immigration-since-1965 (Accessed July 19th, 2018).

were re-adjusting to the abolition of racial quota systems, like the implementation of the 1965 Hart-Celler Act which served to reunite separated families and attract high-skilled labor to the US from regions such as Asia and Africa.[30]

Most recently, the ILO, during the 2013 Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration, exhibited their desire to:

> "strengthen data collection, research and capacity development in order to facilitate evidence-based policy-making, develop tools for dealing with the internationalization of labour markets to the benefit of all, and promote harmonization of statistical methods and concepts on international migration and the exchange of knowledge on labor migration among countries."[31]

This was also readdressed in the 2017 UN DESA document that called for innovation in the regulation of migration due to its mutual benefit.

Case Study: Nepal

Due to the lack of economic prospects at home, many Nepalese citizens decided to work abroad in other Member States.[32] The devastation of multiple natural disasters, as well as Nepal's lack of economic opportunities, led many to leave in order to provide for their families back home.[33] From 2009 to 2017, the Nepalese government issued over three million work permits to migrant workers.[34]

During 2014 alone, statistics from the ILO show that the number of labor permits accounted for more than 520,000, with most migrant workers being Nepalese men seeking work in Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Kuwait.[35] Remittances have become a staple of Nepal because education was historically reserved for the rich, while large scale industrialization has yet to fully occur, and women and girls are not allowed to completely contribute to the workforce because they are often married off or sold into child labor.[36] Because of this, low-skilled workers, typically men, must travel to other Member States to earn a living for their families.[37] Personal remittances account for 28.3 percent of Nepal's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).[38] With major disparities between those fortunate enough to be literate, some resort to selling their labor in other neighboring Member States. Despite the obvious benefit to the labor market, individuals who engage in migration for the purposes of work may become subjected to the risk of trafficking or forced slavery.[39]

Economic Implications

Mobility has always been a key factor in both how and why certain goods and services tend to be relegated to specific economies. The Heckscher–Ohlin model theorizes that, because most Member States share similar production technologies, the abundance of certain goods is what determines their comparative advantage.[40] In most instances, those advantages are found through tangible goods, such as Botswanan diamonds, Congolese oil, and Tajikistani cotton. The "good" that migrants who are fleeing violence, conflict, or disastrous economies can provide local economies is their capacity to work different types of jobs, particularly in certain sectors of the economy that are less appealing to domestic workers.[41]

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[30] "Labour migration statistics," International Labour Organization, https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/policy-areas/statistics/lang--en/index.htm (Accessed July 19th, 2018).

[31] International Labour Organization, *Labour migration statistics*

[32] "Nepalese Labor Migration: A Status Report" The Asia Foundation, https://asiafoundation.org/2018/06/06/nepalese-labor-migration-a-status-report/ (accessed August 31, 2018).

[33] "Nepalese Labor Migration: A Status Report" The Asia Foundation.

[34] "Nepalese Labor Migration: A Status Report" The Asia Foundation.

[35] "Labour migration in Nepal," International Labour Organization, http://www.ilo.org/kathmandu/areasofwork/labour-migration/lang--en/index.htm (accessed August 31, 2018).

[36] "Labour migration in Nepal," International Labour Organization.

[37] "Labour migration in Nepal," International Labour Organization.

[38] "Personal Remittances, received (% of GDP)" The World Bank, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/bx.trf.pwkr.dt.gd.zs (accessed July 30, 2018).

[39] "Labour migration in Nepal," International Labour Organization.

[40] "The Heckscher-Ohlin Trade Model," Iowa State University, http://www2.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ355/choi/ho.htm (Accessed July 19th, 2018).

[41] "The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017," United Nations.

In fact, 74 percent of all migrants are of working age (20-64 years old).[42] This includes both temporary labor migrants and highly skilled migrants.[43] Because of this, migrants can contribute to the receiving Member State by increasing the workforce, filling much needed jobs in different sectors of the economy, and contributing to labor market flexibility which allows for more economic freedom overall.[44] Migrants represented about 25 percent of those entering into declining industries, including trade workers, machine operators, installation and repair work, and production.[45] Migrants are filling jobs in industries that domestic workers see as failing or having low career prospects.[46] Multiple studies conducted in Europe, the US, and Australia show that migrants contribute more in taxes and other social contributions than they receive in benefits.[47] This combats the misguided stereotype that migrants are burdens and take from social safety nets meant for a Member State's citizens.[48]

Inclusivity of migrants within the global labor market promotes both benefits and opportunities needed to facilitate economic growth, as supported by the 2017 UN DESA technical paper titled "Migration is a Form of Development: The Need for Innovation to Regulate Migration for Mutual Benefit."[49] The UN DESA argues migration is not only a driver and consequence of economic development, but rather "development in all its forms is an uneven, risky, occasionally brutal process, and it inherently produces some degree of displacement, uncertainty, and fear."[50] Confirmed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Migration Policy Debates, movement in and around labor markets is usually a strong indicator of successful development. This is because migrants arriving are equipped with specialized skills and abilities, who then supplement the availability of human capital of the host Member State.[51]

Actions Taken By the UN

In September 2016, the GA passed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants with the aim of protecting human rights and placing responsibility for this action on the global community.[52] The declaration included detailed commitments, including preventing gender-based violence, strengthening positive economic contributions made by migrant workers, ensuring that migrant and refugee children have access to education, and an overall commitment to protecting the human rights of migrants, regardless of status.[53] Through the adoption of the New York Declaration, the UN agreed to develop the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.[54] The compact, which is to be put into practice in December of 2018, aims to:

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[42] The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2017," United Nations.

[43] "Migrants/Migration" United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

[44] "Is Migration Good for the Economy?" Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, https://www.oecd.org/migration/OECD%20Migration%20Policy%20Debates%20Numero%202.pdf (Accessed August 31, 2018).

[45] "Is Migration Good for the Economy?, "The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, https://www.oecd.org/migration/OECD%20Migration%20Policy%20Debates%20Numero%202.pdf (Accessed July 19, 2018).

[46] "Is Migration Good for the Economy?," The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

[47] "Is Migration Good for the Economy?," The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

[48] "Contributors, not Trouble-Makers-Stereotypes of Migrants Need to Change" United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/change-stereotypes-of-migrants.html (accessed August 31, 2018).

[49] "Migration is a Form of Development: The Need for Innovation to Regulate Migration for Mutual Benefit ," The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/technicalpapers/docs/TP2017-8.pdf (accessed July 19th, 2018).

[50] The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Migration is a Form of Development: The Need for Innovation to Regulate Migration for Mutual Benefit*.

[51] " Is Migration Good for the Economy?,"The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, https://www.oecd.org/migration/OECD%20Migration%20Policy%20Debates%20Numero%202.pdf (Accessed July 19, 2018).

[52] New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants," The United Nations, http://www.unhcr.org/new-york-declaration-for-refugees-and-migrants.html#CRRF (Accessed July 18, 2018).

[53] "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The United Nations.

[54] "The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM),"The International Organization for Migration, https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration (Accessed July 19th, 2018).

"(a) address all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects; (b) make an important contribution to global governance and enhance cooperation on migrants and human mobility; (d) set out a range of actionable commitments, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions; (e) be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and (f) be informed by the Declaration of the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development."[55]

The Compact contains 23 objectives, all of which address the migration issue at each stage.[56] Specifically, the objectives focus on minimizing structural factors that cause instability in a person's Member State of origin, ensuring migrants have adequate documentation, addressing vulnerabilities like discrimination that migrants face, working conditions, access to basic services, and trafficking, as well as establishing ways for migrants to have benefits and social security entitlements.[57] The process of creating the Compact began in April 2017 and after 16 months, the final language was agreed upon on July 13, 2018.[58] The Compact will be officially adopted in December 2018 at the *Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* in Marrakech, Morocco.[59]

Conclusion

Dilip Ratha, Chair of Remittances at the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) stated "Currently, the global migration architecture is fragmented and undefined. The global community needs to systematically map the current institutional framework, clarify the missions of key organizations, and develop normative guidelines by building on existing conventions that address migration."[60] With the assistance of the GA and the International Organization for Migration, the global community is beginning the process of properly re-adjusting existing policies to create substantive frameworks that support future migration discussion. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration is a major step in the right direction, but it will not officially take effect until at minimum December 2018. In the meantime, migrant populations continue to grow and migrants themselves continue to be victims of discrimination, dangerous working conditions, and low wages. Since migrants come from a variety of backgrounds, with different motives for leaving their home Member State, it can be difficult to find all-encompassing solutions.

Committee Directive

While preparing research, delegates should consider the goal of the committee and our conference theme "*Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration*." Delegates should come prepared with knowledge of the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals and which ones specifically relate directly to our committee's mandate. Delegates should also understand the central elements of the GA and its influence in intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and private parties. Consideration should be placed on how Member States can facilitate economic development by supplementing migration. Delegates must focus on the main topics of the economic impact of migration on Member States, policy that lowers the costs of migration, and equal treatment of legal migrant workers.

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[55] The International Organization for Migration, *The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)*.
[56] Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, The United Nations, https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf (accessed August 31, 2018).
[57] "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration." The United Nations.
[58] "Global Compact for Migration" United Nations Refugees and Migrants, https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact (accessed August 31, 2018).
[59] "Global Compact for Migration" United Nations Refugees and Migrants.

II. Humanitarian Relief in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters

"Conflicts and disasters have driven millions of children, women, and men to the edge of survival.
They desperately need our help."
-Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator[61]

A natural disaster, according to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), is "a situation or event, which overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request to the national or international level for external assistance; an unforeseen and often sudden event that causes great damage, destruction and human suffering."[62] The UNSD has further described the following as natural disasters:

> "Floods, natural disasters of geological origin (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and landslides), natural disasters of climatic or meteorological origin (droughts, cold waves, heat waves, avalanches, wave surges including tsunamis and tidal waves, and wind storms including cyclones, hurricanes, storms, tornadoes, tropical storms, typhoons and winter storms), wildfires (both forest and scrub), insect infestations, and epidemics of cholera, diarrhea, meningitis, dengue fever, and malaria."[63]

Additionally, the UNSD utilizes various international data sources, such as the Community Trader Statistics Database (COMTRADE), Census Knowledge Base, the United Nations Disability Statistics Database (DISTAT), and the Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance/Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (OFDA/CRED) International Disaster Database for conclusive reports on international events.[64] The International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) mentions that for disasters to be included in the database, the event must have fulfilled at least one of the following criteria: ten or more people reported dead, 100 people affected, a call for international assistance, or a declaration of a state of emergency which very often requires relief.[65] According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), relief was defined as rapid, life-saving emergency humanitarian assistance and included search and rescue, emergency food assistance, water, sanitation, emergency shelter.[66] USAID also defined recovery as what bridged the gap from emergency assistance to reconstruction and encompassed cash-for-assets, rubble removal, shelter solutions, education, and coordination and planning.[67] Reconstruction is the process of promoting sustainable, long-term development, requiring in-depth exchanges with the government of Haiti and other officials to design and implement projects. Projects included housing/settlements, energy, economic security, food security, health, education, disabilities, democracy and governance, justice, and anti-corruption.[68]

Recent History

On December 26, 2004, a magnitude 9.2 earthquake hit the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia; it was felt in 14 different Member States and left 1.7 million homeless in the aftermath.[69] It was the longest earthquake ever recorded, lasting between eight and ten minutes, causing damage 1,500 times stronger than that of the Hiroshima atomic bomb and ripped an 800 mile gash in the sea bed of the Indian Ocean.[70] Unfortunately, there was no tsunami warning system

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[61] ReliefWeb, "UN and partners launch 2016 humanitarian appeal asking for $20.1 billion, aiming to reach over 87 million people in need," https://reliefweb.int/report/world/un-and-partners-launch-2016-humanitarian-appeal-asking-201-billion-aiming-reach-over-87 (accessed July 17, 2018).

[62] United Nations Statistics Division, "Environment Statistics," https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators.cshtml (accessed May 7, 2018).

[63] United Nations Statistics Divisions, "Environment Statistics."

[64] United Nations Statistics Divisions, "Environment Statistics."

[65] United Nations Statistics Divisions, "Environment Statistics."

[66] United States Agency for International Development, https://www.usaid.gov/haiti/earthquake-overview "Earthquake Overview," (accessed May 13, 2018).

[67] United States Agency for International Development, "Earthquake Overview."

[68] United States Agency for International Development, "Earthquake Overview."

[69] The Telegraph, "How the Boxing Day Tsunami Unfolded, Hour by Hour," https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/indonesia/11309215/How-the-Boxing-Day-tsunami-unfolded-hour-by-hour.html, (accessed April 7, 2018).

[70] Malcom Moore, *How the Boxing Day Tsunami Unfolded, Hour by Hour.*

for the Indian Ocean at the time. When the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii received notice of the earthquake that originated in Sumatra, there was confusion on its magnitude and, as a result, those living on the coast could not be warned.[71] Thirty minutes after the initial earthquake, a tsunami destroyed Banda Aceh, the northern tip of Indonesia and both the capital and largest city in the Aceh province. The city lost over "60 percent of its buildings to a wave over 30 feet high."[72] Two hours after the initial earthquake, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, and the Andaman Nicobar Islands suffered a death toll of 45,248.[73] Approximately seven hours later, another natural disaster linked to the earthquakes took place. Waves hit the Maldives and Somalia, which led to an increased death toll of 45,480.[74] On December 31st, merely five days later, the United Nations (UN) began their largest relief effort to date with "five parallel operations that tended to the needs of the almost a dozen countries struck by the catastrophe; the disaster ended up killing 120,000 people, injured 500,000, and deprived up to 5 million of basic services."[75] In Sumatra, Indonesia, nearly 230,000 lives were taken alone, and 2 million were left homeless.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) contributed labor and resources to those affected by these disasters. For example, UNICEF opened the Daruasda's Children Centre Aceh that helps children who have been orphaned, abandoned, or sexually assaulted.[76] Additionally, due to the international response, UNICEF reported that international cooperation allowed the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement to sign a peace agreement, halting seven decades of conflict.[77] Based on prior operations in Myanmar, UNICEF was able to quickly step in to distribute emergency relief supplies, such as family survival kits, necessary medications to local health centers, and insecticide treated bed nets for other disasters that followed.[78] UNICEF was also able to offer shelter to displaced communities. For instance, on the island of Dhuvaafaru in the Maldives, new houses were built to specifications that were meant to survive rising sea-levels, allowing for displaced communities to resettle after the tsunami.[79] Four years after the Indian Ocean Tsunami tragedy, on December 11th, 2008, the UN General Assembly (GA) convened to pass Resolution 63/137, in order to strengthen emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and prevention.[80] This Resolution served to "foster the ongoing efforts to enhance national capacity and create a reliable tsunami early warning system."[81]

Current Situation

Between the years of 1994 and 2013, EM-DAT has recorded over 6,800 natural disasters worldwide, which claimed roughly 1.35 million lives – or about 68,000 lives on average each year.[82] 218 million people were also affected directly or indirectly by natural disasters during this period.[83] In 2014, all ten of the top weather-related displacement events occurred in the Asian-Pacific region.[84] The top two events causing the largest number of displacements happened in the Philippines, due to typhoons, which caused nearly five million displacements alone.[85]

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[71] Malcom Moore, *How the Boxing Day Tsunami Unfolded, Hour by Hour.*
[72] Malcom Moore, *How the Boxing Day Tsunami Unfolded, Hour by Hour.*
[73] Malcom Moore, *How the Boxing Day Tsunami Unfolded, Hour by Hour.*
[74] Malcom Moore, *How the Boxing Day Tsunami Unfolded, Hour by Hour.*
[75] United Nations, "Multifaceted UN Response to Tsunami Focuses on Both Large and Small, UN News."
        https://news.un.org/en/story/2004/12/124912-multifaceted-un-response-tsunami-focuses-both-large-and-small,
        (accessed April 7, 2017).
[76] UN News, "Five years after Indian Ocean Tsunami, affected nations building better – UN,"
        https://news.un.org/en/story/2009/12/325422-five-years-after-indian-ocean-tsunami-affected-nations-rebuilding-better-un (accessed June 8, 2018).
[77] UN News, "Five years after Indian Ocean Tsunami, affected nations building better – UN."
[78] UN News, "Five years after Indian Ocean Tsunami, affected nations building better – UN."
[79] UN News, "Five years after Indian Ocean Tsunami, affected nations building better – UN."
[80] United Nations, "United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly."
        http://www.un.org/en/ga/63/resolutions.shtml, (accessed April 7, 2018).
[81] United Nations, "United Nations Official Document," http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/63/137,
        (accessed April 7, 2018).
[82] ReliefWeb, "The human cost of natural disasters 2015: a global perspective" https://reliefweb.int/report/world/human-cost-natural-disasters-2015-global-perspective (accessed 22 September, 2018).
[83]   ReliefWeb, "The human cost of natural disasters 2015: a global perspective."
[84] World Meteorological Organization. "Disaster-related displacement in a changing climate."
        https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/bulletin/disaster-related-displacement-changing-climate (accessed 10 June, 2018).
[85] World Meteorological Organization. "Disaster-related displacement in a changing climate."

Half of the ten events took place in South Asia, specifically in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh and all were caused by floods.[86] Of the last three disasters, two of them took place in China and one occurred in Japan.[87]

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk (UNISDR) reports that, of the top ten Member States with the most natural disasters between 2005 and 2014, eight of those were the following Asian/Pacific Member States: China, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Japan, and Pakistan; the other two were Mexico and the United States.[88] Amongst these nine years, there was a reported USD 1.4 trillion in financial damage across the globe, and over 1.7 billion people were affected by these travesties.[89] The Asian Development Bank reveals that Asian Member States are four times more likely to be hit by natural disasters than Member States in Africa and 25 times more than Member States in North America and Europe.[90] In 2015 alone, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported that the Asia-Pacific region suffered from 160 of the year's 344 disasters; that is 47 percent of the year's disaster in one single region.[91] The year caused over 16,000 fatalities in the region, affected 59.3 million lives in the Asia-Pacific region, and caused an alarming USD 45.1 billion in economic damage.

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) served as a ten-year plan during the decade of 2005-2015 to make the world safer from natural hazards; 168 Member States agreed upon it.[92] Its primary components are noted as the following:

> "(1) ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (2) identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risks and enhance early warning; (3) utilizing knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (4) reducing the underlying risk factors; and (5) strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels."[93]

Established after the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in 2015, and at the end of the HFA decade, the Sendai Framework was born from the groundwork laid by the HFA. It is a voluntary, non-binding 15 year framework that recognizes that each Member State maintains the primary role of disaster reduction, but authorizes and encourages disaster reduction to be an assumed responsibility by other affiliated Member States.[94] The UNISDR reports: "[the Sendai Framework] aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years."[95] UNISDR reports that there are 111 Member States that have Sendai Framework focal points worked into their national policy.[96] The Sendai Framework is seen as an upgrade from the HFA because it is considered to have a clear scope, there is a stronger focus on risk prevention, there is a clear articulation of measures to be taken at various levels, and there is a stronger focus on reconstruction and health. Additionally, it addresses seven global targets and four priorities for action, those targets focusing mainly on increasing Member State natural disaster readiness in order to reduce the global mortality rate linked to disasters.

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[86] World Meteorological Organization. "Disaster-related displacement in a changing climate."

[87] World Meteorological Organization. "Disaster-related displacement in a changing climate."

[88] United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk, "The Economic and Human Impact of Disasters in the Last 10 Years," https://www.flickr.com/photos/isdr/16111599814/in/photostream/ (accessed April 12, 2018).

[30] United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk, "The Economic and Human Impact of Disasters in the Last 10 Years."

[90] Asian Development Bank, "The Rise of Natural Disasters in Asia and the Pacific," https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/evaluation-document/36114/files/rise-natural-disasters-asia-pacific.pdf (accessed April 15, 2018).

[91] Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, "Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: 2015 Year in Review http://www.unescap.org/resources/disasters-asia-and-pacific-2015-year-review, (accessed April 25, 2018).

[92] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction," https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework, (accessed April 7, 2018).

[93] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."

[94] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."

[95] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."

[96] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Countries & National Platforms," https://www.unisdr.org/partners/countries (accessed July 14, 2018).

Case Study: Somalia

The four seasons prior to March 2016 consisted of below-average rains in parts of Somaliland (a self-declared State, internationally recognized as an autonomous region of Somalia) and a below-average Deyr (the October-December rainy season in a Northwest region of Somalia known as Puntland).[97] As a result, Somaliland declared themselves as in a period of drought in August 2015. Conditions were exacerbated by an El Nino season, a known phenomenon that consistently fails to bring necessary rains to local crops.[98] The drought significantly affected pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, which consisted of nearly 75 percent of the total population.[99] Due to the unfavorable drought conditions, not only were their sources of food and water at risk, but so was their source of income. Along with some Somalis, pastoralists from nearby Ethiopia and Dijbouti sought refuge in nearby lands known for their plentiful rainfall. However, only those who were economically advantaged were able to make this trip.[100] Additionally, the Member States of Kenya and Uganda were also experiencing similar drought like circumstances.[101] Currently, 4.7 million people, or 38 percent of Somalis, are considered acutely food secure and in need of humanitarian assistance.[102] Current conditions have led to "an estimated 739,000 drought displacements since November 2016."[103] The drought situation in Somalia has been deemed a dire humanitarian crisis, especially considering that just a few years prior, in 2011, a famine killed a quarter of a million Somalis.[104]

To offset the lack of crop production, the World Food Programme provided vitamin fortified foods and school meals, supporting Somali-led initiatives by supplying food rations in return for business training or work on projects that strengthen community livelihoods, infrastructure, the environment, and infrastructure rehabilitation.[105] Humanitarian aid based organizations worked with authorities in the affected regions, with a total of 95 national and international partners operating in the area.[106] By channeling existing resources and funds made by donors in late 2015 and early 2016, hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable communities have already been assisted, illustrating the usefulness of preparedness.[107] Various organizations have helped 41,000 people with seasonal livelihood by providing goods such as seeds, tools, fishing equipment, irrigation vouchers, and livestock distribution.[108] Additionally, 91,000 have been provided with livelihood assets such as cash transfers, cash/food for work and/or training.[109] Through the clusters, 183,000 people have been given access to food via direct contributions of food, cash vouchers, and unconditional cash transfers. Feeding programs in existence strive to provide for 4,000 malnourished children and lactating mothers.[110] Over 40,000 people were able to receive primary and basic health services.[111] Tens of thousands of people were also able to gain access to either temporary or sustained access to safe and clean water. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reports that over 250,000 people in Somaliland have been given some kind of bilateral food assistance[112]

Some access constraints in areas undergoing drought are related to food insecurity and bureaucratic impediments.[113] Delays in the movement of humanitarian goods and personnel, caused by temporary suspensions and security operations, are often.[114] The famine crisis was further exacerbated in 2009 due to the terrorist group, Al-Shabaab, known for restricting access to humanitarian aid. While it is less of a challenge now, obstacles such as these still

[97] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018," https://reliefweb.int/disaster/dr-2015-000134-som (accessed April 6,2018).

[98] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[99] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[100] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[101] ReliefWeb, "EU boosts aid to drought affected countries in the horn of Africa," https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/eu-boosts-aid-drought-affected-countries-horn-africa (accessed July 18, 2018).

[102] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[103] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[104] IRIN, "Famine in Somalia: Twice in six years?," https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/03/28/famine-somalia-twice-six-years (accessed July 17, 2018).

[105] World Food Programme, "Somalia," http://www1.wfp.org/countries/somalia, (accessed April 7, 2018).

[106] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[107] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[108] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[109] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[110] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[111] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[112] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[113] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[114] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

exist. Although roads tend to remain open, the ban on transportation of humanitarian necessities by roadway from Somaliland to Puntland continues to serve as a challenge in offering aid.[115]

International Response

Member States will often step in and offer humanitarian aid by providing funds, food, clothing, labor, professionals, and other resources when other Member States are trying to rebuild after a natural disaster. In 2015, Nepal was struck by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake near its capital city of Kathmandu.[116] While Nepal underwent rescue and recovery efforts, many charities, government agencies, and nonprofits sent aid and medical assistance. The UN offered 80 percent of funding on flash appeals, while 20 percent was provided by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). According to Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), 189,000 people were reached; the CCCM offered temporary safety sites for displaced peoples. In Nepal, 1.4 million people were targeted for food security services, however, service was provided to twice that amount. One hundred percent of the damaged health facilities were able to resume service with this humanitarian relief.[117]

After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, some of the relief required was immediate recovery efforts and long-term reconstruction assistance. Many Member States provided aid, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, Canada, Italy, Brazil, and Cuba.[118] The European Union (EU) totaled 429 million euros in financial contributions to Haiti, including donations by Member States and other funds within the EU.[119] The UN stepped in in many ways, such as how the Security Council allowed for an increase of 3,500 UN Peacekeepers.[120] The World Bank provided an extra USD 100 million for reconstruction purposes.[121] The World Food Programme provided over 200 staff members on the ground.[122] Additionally, OCHA established a coordination office within Haiti to help coordinate international relief efforts to support the government of Haiti.[123]

Conclusion and Committee Directive

Natural disasters are not preventable, nor are they controllable. Their consequences are far reaching and are result in some prolonged effects. They tend to affect lesser developed Member States specifically in the Asian-Pacific region due to geographical features such as proximity to large bodies of water, although no Member State in the world is immune to their threats. Although it is impossible to stop a natural disaster from happening, it is critical to ensure there is a strong plan in place to alleviate the effects of the disaster.

GA delegates are expected to be well informed on the topic of humanitarian relief. Particular focus should be on questions such as: which Member States suffer the greatest threats to natural disasters? What kind of aid is needed for specific types of disasters (i.e. thunderstorms, avalanches, flooding)? How many people have historically been displaced from these Member States, and where do they relocate to? Delegates should also understand the organizations that are in play, which Member States offer aid and how often they receive it, and how to develop or maintain a sustainable program that allows for immediate humanitarian aid relief. It is also requested that delegates look into whether Member States are receiving proper aid based on their needs, or if greater strategies need to be implemented to ensure efficient and productive relief on a consistent basis.

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[115] ReliefWeb, "Somalia: Drought 2015-2018."

[116] CNN Money, "Nepal earthquake donations: who's sending what,"http://money.cnn.com/2015/04/27/news/nepal-earthquake-donations/index.html, (accessed May 12, 2018).

[117] CNN Money, "Nepal earthquake donations: who's sending what."

[118] Al Jazeera, "Cuba's Aid Ignored by the Media," https://www.aljazeera.com/focus/2010/01/201013195514870782.html, (accessed May 13, 2018).

[119] European Commission, "Factsheet on Haiti earthquake," http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-10-9_en.htm?locale=en, (accessed May 13, 2018).

[120] United Nations, "Security Council authorizes 3,500 more UN peacekeepers for Haiti," https://news.un.org/en/story/2010/01/326922-security-council-authorizes-3500-more-un-peacekeepers-haiti, (accessed May 13, 2018).

[121] The World Bank, "World Bank to Provide an Additional $100 Million to Haiti, Following Earthquake," http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22440632~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html, (accessed May 13, 2018).

[122] World Food Programme, "World Food Programme Response in Haiti," (accessed May 13, 2018).

[123] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "OCHA's Response – Fact Sheet," http://www.unocha.org/OCHAHome/WhereWeWork/Haiti/HaitiOCHAsResponse/tabid/6422/language/en-US/Default.aspx, (accessed May 13, 2018).

Annotated Bibliography

I: Migration and its Effects on Economic Development

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. International Migration Report 2017 Highlights. New York: United Nations 2017 http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf.

> The document addresses current levels and trends in international migration, as well as the status of the Member States of origin and destination for the migrants. Additional key points are: migrants by gender, contribution or migration to population dynamic, and measuring immigration. The annex of the paper includes regional migrant data that might be useful for delegate research.

"ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work." International Labour Organization. https://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang--en/index.htm (Accessed July 18, 2018).

> This document addresses the rights of individuals while working, as well as highlights the commitment of Members States to respect and promote the principles within. It outlines the primary rights and principles of work as freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced or compulsory labor, the abolition of child labor and the eliminator of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

"Migration is a Form of Development: The Need for Innovation to Regulate Migration for Mutual Benefit." The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/technicalpapers/docs/TP2017-8.pdf (Accessed July 19th, 2018).

> This technical paper address migration in relation to development and how they can be mutually beneficial to one another. The paper, in detail, references the informal labor markets inferences to the migrant economy; this includes domestic labor, which is used both abroad and in the United States. The crux of the paper argues that migration is not an independent variable for development. Instead, having migration flows has a causal relationship with economic development.

II. Humanitarian Relief in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters

United Nations. "Multifaceted UN Response to Tsunami Focuses on Both Large and Small." UN News. https://news.un.org/en/story/2004/12/124912-multifaceted-un-response-tsunami-focuses-both-large-and-small, (accessed April 7, 2017).

> This article provides a detailed and critical recount of how the United Nations responded to tsunami damage in India. Through this analysis and recount, the emotions are visible, as well as the multitude of various aide groups that are present when natural disasters occur, such as UNDP, UNESCO, World Heritage Committee, WHO, and UNICEF. The webpage is also useful as it links to several other relevant resources for further delegate research.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction." https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework (accessed April 7, 2018).

> This article outlines the United Nations goals in Natural Disaster Rask reduction, as well as actions to take and implementation guides. The goals of the Sendai Framework include reducing global mortality, reducing disaster damage, enhancing international cooperation, and reducing economic loss due to disaster.

The Borgen Project. "Top 5 Humanitarian Aid Organizations." https://borgenproject.org/5-top-humanitarian-aid-organizations/ (accessed June 11, 2018).

This short article outlines five key humanitarian aid organizations and what they are able to provide in the event of a natural disaster. Each brief description in this article provides an outline of the organization's history of humanitarian relief. The organizations outlined are World Food Programme (WFP), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Action Against Hunger (AAH). Delegate should become aware of their general activities so that they don't attempt to replicate any preexisting programs or initiatives in their position papers or resolutions.