

**Freshman #13**

TOPIC:Natural Disaster risk reduction



# SOCOMUN XXVI

Freshman Committee #13

Climate Action - Natural Disaster Risk Reduction

Dear delegates,

Hello, my name is Darna Tajonera and I am so excited to be one of your co-chairs at your first Model United Nations conference! I am a junior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and I have been doing MUN for the past three years; however, this is my first time chairing at SOCOMUN XXVI. Model United Nations has truly changed me as a person, impacting me in all aspects of my life—socially, academically, and internally. Through my experience with MUN, I was able to develop strong public speaking skills, as well as portraying a more confident disposition for myself and for my peers. Along with this, I became more aware of the various kinds of issues within the international community through the immense amount of research an MUN student must complete, as well as improving my leadership and diplomacy skills. At the numerous conferences I have attended, from GauchoMUN at UCSB and NAIMUN in Georgetown, I had the opportunity to befriend delegates from around the world, ranging from New York, to Puerto Rico, to China, and to the Czech Republic. Aside from Model United Nations, I am on the yearbook staff at our school while taking all honors/AP classes, and I love boba, traveling, adventuring, eating, photography, and music.

My name is Monica Hamra, and I am excited to work as a SOCOMUN secretary for my sophomore year at Santa Margarita Catholic High School during my second year in MUN.  I enjoy playing clarinet in the SM band, and love to compete in figure skating competitions.  I appreciate my Model United Nations experiences and look forward to participating in more conferences each year.  I enjoy learning about various topics in conferences, as well as the public speaking and social skills acquired in MUN.

At SOCOMUN XXVI, I hope that you all experience an amazing first conference for your Model United Nations career, filled with fruitful debate, treading in new waters, and stepping out of your comfort zone. To begin committee, we will create a speakers’ list in which delegates are encouraged to put their country names on it in order to exhibit your country’s policy and possible solutions to the certain topic through speeches. In order to expand more on these speeches, there will be motions for caucuses where delegates will comment or elaborate on the previous delegate’s speech, either showing agreement or disagreement. Now, the main focus of a committee is to draw up a resolution that contains delegates’ proposed solutions on the topic. To be achieved, there will be caucuses called “unmoderated caucuses” in which delegates will meet with other delegates in order to share, debate, and compromise their solutions to the issue. This was a quick overview of what goes down in committee, but since this is all your first conference, the Dais and I are happily and willingly going to help you throughout the entire flow of committee! With sufficient research and knowledge of this topic, as well as your country’s policy on this topic, I hope that every delegate will give this committee a full effort that will hopefully sprout an enthusiastic attitude for Model United Nations. I look forward to seeing all of you at SOCOMUN, and please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions about committee at [socomunfresh13@gmail.com](mailto:socomunfresh13@gmail.com).

**Background:**

As inhabitants of earth, citizens throughout the world experience natural disasters, in which they are naturally caused hazards by earth and cause an immense amount of damage and deaths. Examples of a natural disaster include earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, hurricanes, flooding, etc. from the years 1994 and 2016, over 1.4 million lives have been lost due to natural disasters, and over 220 million people being affected in a physical way by these natural disasters. Seeing that these events are inevitable, the United Nations has called upon the international community in order to implement and cooperate preventive measures and subsidize the amount of damage caused by these natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction is defined as, “[…] the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters”. Some examples of disaster risk reduction include the improvement of the use and management of land, develop infrastructure, citizen preparedness, minimizing the exposure to certain hazards, advancing technology for early warnings, and the ability to recover from such events. A clear exhibition for the development and proactivity of the international community towards disaster risk reduction was the creation of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) in which it promotes the recognition and public knowledge of the significance that disaster risk reduction measures have in our future’s society, through facilitating different preventive risks programs and spreading public awareness. Other actions to take note of and further research upon are the Sendai Framework and Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. There is a clear lack in international cooperation and a distinct lack of international awareness of the need for serious disaster risk reduction measures and plans. Not only this, but the potential improvements of natural disaster risk reduction clearly lack the sufficient amount of communications of knowledge and technology in regards to reducing the risk of natural disasters. Various countries are all involved in this situation in their own different ways, some being extremely involved and others that are at the very least informed. An example of this would be the lack of resources and funding that a country has in order to prevent such damage from natural disasters impacting their citizens. Along with this, a country’s proactivity and involvement in this issue solely depends on their government’s political and fiscal investment to this issue.

**Possible Solutions:**

While the given solutions can be implemented into addressing this issue and brought up in debate, it is significant that each delegate creates their own solutions, but can elaborate and expand on these given ideas. These are merely a guide to develop substantive solutions to natural disaster risk reduction. After researching your country’s policy on this issue, please ensure that your country’s initial platform would advocate and support your proposed solutions. Along with this, you need to also ensure that your proposed solutions are realistic, ranging from short-term to long-term solutions in which it is detailed and thoroughly explained. Lastly, your solutions should try and address a good amount of the different aspects that arise out of this issue.

Frameworks such as the Sendai and Hyogo Framework are important outlines for disaster risk reduction, however, seeing that these have been not as effective as they should be in the past, some solutions can be focused upon improving certain clauses or ideas of these frameworks. Solutions should mainly be geared towards strengthening policies and investments in disaster risk reduction measures, increasing cooperation on a domestic and international level, and the enlarged output of public awareness and support on this issue. Some possible solutions that can be considered are utilizing social media to increase public awareness, reaching out to more organizations and bodies that can assist in the campaigning and support for measures to be taken for disaster risk reduction. Another important aspect to focus on is the infrastructure and hazard-resistant structures that cities should be equipped with. Along with this, emphasizing upon the need and advancement for early warning and response systems and disaster technologies in significant, as well as building development plans and policies for pre-and post- disasters. Altogether, international and domestic cooperation is vital in any given natural disaster risk reduction situation; such as that by increasing this communication, it will target citizens’ preparedness to these disasters, the development and improvement of response systems, the improvement of infrastructure and institutions, and implementing a detailed plan for the inevitable natural disasters.

**Questions to Consider:**

The following questions are provided for you to consider as you research and create solutions. These questions are not to be explicitly answered during committee, however they are solely for the purpose of guidance in research.

1. What kind of natural disasters impact your country and how badly does it affect your nation as a whole?
2. What current measures does your country have intact to minimize the amount of damage caused by these natural disasters? How can they be improved upon?
3. How is your nation’s government better able to react, protect, and rehabilitate their country’s citizens from any natural disaster?
4. What industries would mainly be impacted by the type(s) of natural disasters that affect your country? How does your government plan on restructuring this?
5. What are proactive measures that citizens can develop/improve on to subsidize the effects of the natural disaster?
6. What organizations or bodies can assist in the pre-and post-stage of these natural disasters?
7. How can the international community improve on the foreknowledge and technology of predicting these natural disasters, in order to ensure preparedness?

Works Cited

Kelman, Ilan, et al. “Indeigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction.” JSTOR, Geographical Association

“Climate Change Adaptation.” UNISDR News, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"New UN Report Reveals Devastating Human Toll of Disasters in 'Hottest Year on Record'." Arabia 2000, 12 Feb. 2016.

Arias, Donya C. "New International Plan Takes Aim at Global Climate Change. (Cover Story)." Nation's Health, vol. 38, no. 1, Feb. 2008.

“Disaster Risk Reduction.” Practical Action, Practical Action, practicalaction.org/disaster-risk- Reduction. Accessed 7 Apr. 2017.

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"Governments 'must Invest Today for Safer Tomorrow' – the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Opens in Geneva." UNISDR News. United Nations, 6 June 2009. Web. 22 Apr. 2017.

Rego, Loy. "Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction BUILDING THE R RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS." Towards a P Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. PreventionWeb.net, n.d. Web. 22 Apr. 2017.

1. Kelman, Ilan, et al. “Indeigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction.” JSTOR, Geographical Association, [www.jstor.org/stable/24412175](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24412175)

This resource acknowledges the information and understanding people have about their community at the possible disasters that might occur in that area. This information is reliable because its publisher, Geographical Association, is reputable, as well as the site it can be found on, JSTOR. It can be used for the solutions and background part of the paper.

1. “Climate Change Adaptation.” UNISDR News, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, [www.unisdr.org/we/advocate/climate-change](http://www.unisdr.org/we/advocate/climate-change)

This resource summarizes the United Nations’ actions, opinions, and involvements on climate change. It is a very reliable resource, as it has been published by a committee of the United Nations on the website of the UNISDR. This information would be most useful for the United Nations’ involvement section.

1. "New UN Report Reveals Devastating Human Toll of Disasters in 'Hottest Year on Record'." Arabia 2000, 12 Feb. 2016. EBSCOhost, <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=4&sid=3f4bde24-8b54-4dd9-b0a2-5be7958464d1%40sessionmgr104&hid=129&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=6FI3483702478&db=nfh>

This article highlights the United Nations’ report of statistics regarding the effect of natural disasters. It is a good resource because its information is of recent times, as it regards the year 2015. The article is on a reliable source, EBSCO, and the information comes from the United Nations, adding to its credibility. This information can be used primarily in the background.

1. Arias, Donya C. "New International Plan Takes Aim at Global Climate Change. (Cover Story)." Nation's Health, vol. 38, no. 1, Feb. 2008, p. 1. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=tth&AN=30002297&site=ehost-live.

Detailed information is outlined about countries’ collaborative effort with the United Nations to create plans and understandings about climate change and disaster risks. It can be viewed as a credible source, as it comes from EBSCO, a reliable source. This can be used for UN Involvement and Solutions.

1. “Disaster Risk Reduction.” Practical Action, Practical Action, practicalaction.org/disaster-risk-reduction. Accessed 7 Apr. 2017.

This is the site of an NGO called Practical Action. that gives information about the topic, as well as provides solutions and information about them. This is a credible resource, as it is the official website of the organization. This can be used for solutions primarily, and also for background.