

**Freshman #13**

TOPIC:Natural Disaster risk reduction



# SOCOMUN XXVII

Freshman Committee #13

Climate Action - Natural Disaster Risk Reduction

Dear delegates,

Hello, my name is Darna Tajonera and I am absolutely thrilled to be one of your co-chairs at your first Model United Nations conference! I am currently a senior here at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and I have been doing MUN for the past four years. 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. Aside from Model United Nations, I am the Talon Yearbook’s Chief Editor, a member of ASB, the softball social media manager, a part-time employee at Chipotle, and an AP/honors student. I am an avid boba-food-adventure-music enthusiast, so hopefully you have a little taste of what I’m like. 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).

Hi! My name is Monica and I will be your legal for SOCOMUN this year! I am a junior at SMCHS; this is my this my third year in MUN. I enjoy MUN because of the uniqueness of the experience in which students are presented the opportunity to confront legitimate international issues, developing public speaking skills, and collaboration skills along the way. I specifically appreciate the ability to meet other delegates and make new friends at conferences. Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing clarinet in orchestra and band, as well being part of our school’s color guard.

Hello, my name is Claira Scott and I am a freshman here at Santa Margarita and this is my first year doing MUN, which has provided me with great opportunities to learn life and people skills and provided me with fun and educating experiences. I have interests in art and literature and I also play soccer which I participated in here at Santa Margarita. MUN has made me a more capable and self-supporting person whether it was through public speaking or navigating my way through procedures, which I’m sure you will also come to find about yourself. MUN is also a fantastic way to meet new, intelligent people that will help you better yourself and become a more well-rounded person.

At SOCOMUN XXVII, 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. 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.

**Background:**

Natural disasters are inevitable events that occur on a global level to every part of this world. In such tragic, yet unavoidable disasters, these cause hazards that inflict much death and damage to the earth and its citizens. Some examples of natural disasters include earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, hurricanes, flooding, etc. from the years 1994 and 2017, over a million lives have been lost due to natural disasters, and over 220 million people are negatively affected in a physical way by these natural disasters. As seen in the previous year of 2017, some of the deadliest natural disasters in history have occurred such as Hurricane Maria in the Dominican Republican in September. Along with this, Santa Barbara, California has had its fair share of natural disasters such as wildfires and mudslides all in the same year. Seeing that these events occur spontaneously and sporadically, the need for addressing this issue is vital through cooperation and legislation that prepares citizens as well as enhancing better responses to such situations. 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, enhance the development of national infrastructure, preparing citizens efficiently and appropriately, minimizing the potential of certain hazards caused by natural disasters, advancing technology for early warning systems, 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 international actions to take note of and further research upon are the Sendai Framework and Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. There are shortcomings in international cooperation and awareness of the need for serious disaster risk reduction measures and plans, therefore, this is your role as a part of the United Nations to come up with solutions that address this issue on a social, economic, political, and environmental aspect. Not only this, but the potential improvements of natural disaster risk reduction clearly lack the sufficient amount of communications of knowledge and technology in regard 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 utilized 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. MUN is all about creativity, uniqueness, and diplomacy. A delegate should come up with solutions that are mainly universal, realistic, and unique while maintaining a respectful and compromising disposition towards other delegates with similar or different policies and 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; in other words, targeting the legislation and legality of solutions. Solutions should mainly be geared towards strengthening policies and financial investments in disaster risk reduction measures, increasing cooperation on a national 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 as well as during caucusing. In committee, try to address these issues while meeting with other delegates.

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 your nation’s 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?
8. Does your government view this issue of disaster risk reduction to be very important? Are they willing to allocate resources and financial support to combat this issue?

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.

Below are some resources that the Dias has prepared for you to assist in your research. We provided the links and brief summaries of what these articles are about. Happy researching!

1. Dilley, Maxx. “Setting Priorities: Global Patterns of Disaster Risk.” *Philosophical*

*Transactions: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*, vol. 364, no. 1845,

2006, pp. 2217–2229. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/25190323](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25190323).

The article summarizes history on global natural disaster risk, to gain advantage on predicting risk and prioritization of projects and their scope. The credibility of this article can be verified by the accuracy of its publisher, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. Not to mention, it is officially in accordance with the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. The information presented provides background and knowledge necessary to make accurate and well-based conclusions for the issues at hand.

1. Mechler R. *Natural Disaster Risk Management and Financing Disaster Losses in*

*Developing Countries.* Ph.D. dissertation. Verlag fuer Versicherungswissenschaft,

Karlsruhe, Germany 2004.

This website details framework for natural disaster management programs in developing countries. It recognizes that developing countries have different needs and conditions and accommodates their required special attention and help. This is the official website for the program, thus its information accurately represents and outlines details that are applied to developing countries. This website is useful to help identify ways to confront the issue for special developing countries, a topic often debated in committee.

1. Neisser, Florian M. “'Riskscapes' and Risk Management - Review and Synthesis of an Actor-

Network Theory Approach.” *Risk Management*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2014, pp. 88–120.,

[www.jstor.org/stable/43695438](http://www.jstor.org/stable/43695438).

The article is an overview of a specific plan on how to tackle the pertinent issue. It analyzes the method, components, and results of this theory from an unbiased viewpoint, concluding how it may be beneficial or malignant to the goal which is to be accomplished. Its container, an internationally recognized journal was written by a professional researcher for ResearchGate, a trusted data network for scientists. It is a useful source because it gives the researcher ideas for possible solutions and describes where framework must improve, giving reasonable and well-informed feedback on how solutions are to be enacted.

1. Pelling, Mark. "Learning from Others: The Scope and Challenges for Participatory Disaster

Risk Assessment." *Disasters*, vol. 31, no. 4, Dec. 2007, pp. 373-385. EBSCO*host*,

doi:10.1111/j.1467-7717.2007.01014.x

This article provides insight on management methods for the risk of natural disasters; its information encompasses plans from a community and individual platform. The material displays intelligence and credibility, with an author who has earned a PhD, and works as a professor of geography at King’s College in London. He has also worked on many committees and organizations involved in this topic, including being on the Lead Expert group of a UK Government Office of Science Foresight project on ‘Improving Future Disaster Anticipation and Resilience’. The document reflects significant topics that are pertinent with this subject with perception on how to approach them.

1. Thomalla, F. , Downing, T. , Spanger‐Siegfried, E. , Han, G. and Rockström, J. (2006),

Reducing hazard vulnerability: towards a common approach between disaster risk

reduction and climate adaptation. Wiley Online Library. Disasters, 30: 39-48. [10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00305.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00305.x)

This article discusses the wide range of affected issues to which disaster risk connects. It also proposes framework for 3 potential solutions to counteract the impact of the issue at hand. The publisher, the Wiley Online Library, reinforces the reliability of this source, and its information is intelligent and useful. This article is helpful to analyze possible solutions, utilize information, and give an idea of what guidelines would be conducive towards resourceful conclusions.

1. Jaaskelainen, Liisa. “Topic: Natural Disasters.” *Www.statista.com*, [www.statista.com/topics/2155/natural-disasters/](http://www.statista.com/topics/2155/natural-disasters/).

The source offers data on natural disasters worldwide. This website indicates when devastating disasters occurred, where they occurred, the number of disasters etc. The data is reliable and offers facts to incorporate into your position paper.

1. Evans, Michael. “Natural Disasters.” *Natural Disasters | The Earth Times | Encyclopaedia*, [www.earthtimes.org/encyclopaedia/environmental-issues/natural-disasters](http://www.earthtimes.org/encyclopaedia/environmental-issues/natural-disasters).

This source includes information on the origin of the disasters and the natural causes of them. This can be helpful when distinguishing where particular disasters are more common geographically and may help you understand how they are formed and how they can be prevented. This source also briefs on signs of natural disasters and the triggers and reactions that can enact these disasters.

1. Child Fund. “The Devastating Impact of Natural Disasters.” *The Effects of Natural Disasters | ChildFund*, [www.childfund.org/Content/NewsDetail/2147489272/](http://www.childfund.org/Content/NewsDetail/2147489272/).

This source provides information on the effects of natural disasters and to what locations are more vulnerable to natural disasters. This includes the impacts on people, civilization and food, health, economy and so on. This source highlights the contributors that make developing countries more susceptible to the damage.

1. Rogers, Chris Dinesen. “Natural Disaster Prevention | Hunker.” *Hunker.com*, Hunker, 3 Oct. 2009, [www.hunker.com/12222177/natural-disaster-prevention](http://www.hunker.com/12222177/natural-disaster-prevention).

This source provides information on what can be done to prevent natural disasters. This includes methods, existing safety laws, associations and so on. This gives information on what is being done today to prevent disasters and facts on natural disasters.

1. “UNISDR.” *UNISDR News*, [www.unisdr.org/](http://www.unisdr.org/).

This source is the United Nations Office website on natural disaster risk reduction. This offers information on current events regarding the topic. Also elaborates on their purposes and actions to act against natural disasters.