

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# SOCOMUN XXVIII

## FRESHMAN #13

TOPIC: NATURAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



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## Freshman Committee #13 Climate Action - Natural Disaster Risk Reduction

Dear delegates,

My name is Monica Hamra, and I am thrilled to serve as your chair for SOCOMUN this year. This year I will complete my fourth year in Model United Nations as a senior. I enjoy MUN because I appreciate the opportunity to confront legitimate international issues and develop public speaking and collaboration skills. MUN has instilled a confidence in me to voice my opinion and an aspiration to discover other parts of the world and make a difference. Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing a musical instrument, performing in color guard, and participating in ASB. I am very excited to meet you all at SOCOMUN; please feel free to email me if you have any questions at [socomunfresh13@gmail.com](mailto:socomunfresh13@gmail.com)

Hello delegates! My name is Ziyad Fahd and I will be your Vice-Chair at SOCOMUN. I am a Junior at SM and have been doing MUN since I was a Freshman. At school, I am part of our money management club and do track in the spring. I look forward to meeting you all at the conference, and best of luck in MUN.

Hello, my name is Leo, I am a sophomore here at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and I've been doing MUN for almost a year. I went to four conferences and won four awards. I love doing MUN and being a rapporteur is indeed an honor. I like to participate in tennis in my free time and I look forward to working with you in MUN.

We hope that you all enjoy your first Model United Nations experience at SOCOMUN XXVIII as a positive experience marked by intellectual debate, productive collaboration, and enriched mindsets. Processes and procedures for the conference structure will be explained in committee. We encourage you to come ready to learn and participate with an open mind to this new MUN experience to hopefully develop a positive attitude towards the activity in the future!



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## **Background:**

Natural disasters are catastrophic events which originate from changes in the Earth's natural condition. Some examples of natural disasters include earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, typhoons, cyclones, floods, tornados, forest fires, etc. The United Nations reports that 282 natural disasters took place in 2018 alone. Natural disasters inflict severe damage on the victimized communities, often cutting them off from the necessary supplies needed to operate and recover. Thus, many lives are lost in the disasters and ecosystems are often destroyed. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction defines natural disaster risk reduction as “the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters.” This refers to the direct goal of the topic and issue it tackles. An important aspect of this issue is associated with countries' varying levels of risks based on their environmental, economic, and political conditions. Understanding the full scope of the topic, the unpredictable nature of these events adds to the urgency for the need of solutions on this topic. Some countries have already enacted legislation to take a stance on this issue. The Sendai Framework, enacted in 2015, was passed by UN Member States to assign responsibility for natural disaster risk reduction to the federal governments, local governments, and entities in the private sector. It has a fifteen-year long term; it serves an extension of the Hyogo Framework, a document which expired the same year the Sendai Framework was passed. The Sendai Framework outlines seven major goals and four priorities for action, as well as a guide to assist countries' in their implementation of the framework. Additionally, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been productive in their mission to reduce disaster risk. From 2002-2015, the UNDP has voluntarily assisted 75 countries in improving their understanding of disaster risk and strategies to reduce the risk in each country. This work has been in coalition with the UNDP's goal to create an evidence-based capacity for analyzing risk in specific areas. This analysis will guide legislators with information about prevalent hazards, exposure of citizens, and other vulnerabilities. The UNDP encourages member states to take measures which consider climate changes and the welfare of all citizens, regardless of race or gender. It suggests that this task be accomplished most efficiently through a standardized information system offered in an institutionalized manner.

## **Possible Solutions:**

It is highly suggested that delegates create their own original solutions. It is important for delegates to research their country's policy on the topic and compose solutions in accordance with these policies. Also, delegates are reminded that their solutions should specifically address “Natural Disaster Risk Reduction” – our topic. While Climate Action is the name of committee and Sustainable Development Goal we are discussing (see below), the solutions and debate should be focused on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction. Delegates are asked to create solutions which are geared towards effectiveness in the entire world, not just his/her country. Solutions of high quality are often accompanied by originality, universality, and both short- and long-term strategies. It is suggested that delegates consider possible fall-outs in their solutions and necessary details which could be addressed in committee. Additionally, funding will not be discussed in committee; All funding in MUN is most often differed to the World Bank.



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Possible solutions to effectively reduce the risk of natural disasters may cover economic, political, or social thresholds. One priority might involve strengthening the current legislation, as its clauses have been largely inactive. Creating more powerful agreements or providing incentives to countries who meet certain standards might effectively promote a legislative solution. Another idea to spread information and activity to more local establishments could involve raising awareness on a social media campaign. Utilizing new means of communication to encourage action and promote involvement could inspire more frequent action on local levels and individual undertakings. Also, identifying new technologies to focus on quickening reactions to disastrous events would be beneficial to conquering the issue. Another important aspect of the issue involves upkeeping information on natural disasters in each region. Identifying which strategies were ineffective and effective in past natural disasters would contribute to making well-informed decisions in future disasters.

## Questions to Consider:

These questions do not require a literal answer; they are meant to guide your research and provoke thought for your solutions.

1. Which kinds of natural disasters are currently most threatening to nations in each region?
2. How can countries prepare their citizens for a natural disaster?
3. What can be done to assist developing countries which might lack the proper resources to prepare for or recover from a natural disaster?
4. How might preparation or recovery techniques differ based on the type of natural disaster taking place and the region in which it is located?
5. What non-governmental organizations can provide insight or assistance to execute your solutions? Do these organizations have the experience or credibility to convince nations to trust their services in their domains?
6. Are there current strategies and/or steps in place to help nations prepare for or recover from natural disasters? If so, how can they be improved?
7. Is your country willing to assist other nations with their development of risk reduction strategies? How extensively will your country's resources accommodate these nations?

## Sustainable Development Goal:

The Sustainable Development Goals guide United Nations actions for a more sustainable and improved future for our Earth. Our committee emulates the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action. Here are the main points of Goal 13:

### Goal 13 Targets. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>2</sup>

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful



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mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

## **MUN Impact**

We hope that you learn a lot about Model UN at our conference. We also hope that you learn about the world we live in and want to make that world a better place for everyone. Consider taking the next step and becoming a part of the MUN Impact Program <http://munimpact.org/>

To see what MUN Impact is doing related to SDG #13 look here <http://munimpact.org/sdg-13/>



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### Works Cited:

“What Is Disaster Risk Reduction?” *UNISDR News*, 2019, [www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr](http://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr).

On the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction website, they discuss the United Nations definition and strategy concerning Disaster Risk Reduction. This includes a definition of DRR as well as the difference between natural disasters and hazards. Ultimately, this site is the official, U.N. definition of what DRR encompasses and the universally accepted difference between natural disasters and hazards. The UNISDR is in favor of broad reform and it is apparent its position is one of advocating for increased risk reduction. This source is useful to explain the United Nations position and definition of Disaster Risk Reduction. The source also is useful in differentiating between Natural Hazards and Disasters, with the UNISDR claiming there are only natural hazards, not disasters.

“Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.” *UNISDR News*, 2019, [www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework](http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework).

This article discusses and shows the Sendai Framework, which is the 15-year, voluntary, agreement that calls upon nations to improve DRR. The site also provides download links to access the full Sendai Framework document online. The Sendai Framework is the voluntary agreement recommended by the U.N. to improved DRR globally. This site has a bias towards implementing improved DRR globally, as that is the goal of the Sendai Framework. This source illustrates the most recent and important U.N. agreement that encompasses the goal of DRR. It highlights the global targets for mitigating the effects of Natural Hazards.

“Disaster Risk Reduction & Disaster Risk Management.” *Disaster Risk - Disaster Risk Reduction & Disaster Risk Management | PreventionWeb.net*, 2019, [www.preventionweb.net/risk/drr-drm](http://www.preventionweb.net/risk/drr-drm).

Prevention web is an organization that is associated with the U.N. and advocates for DRR. The site explains how to implement improved risk reduction and steps that can be taken by nations to achieve the goals in the Sendai Framework. This site has a deep bias towards improving DRR, as the organization’s goal is to provide steps for implementing DRR on a national level. However, PreventionWeb is a credible organization, seeing as it is supported and operated by UNISDR. The source is useful for explaining possible steps and measures that are being taken to improve DRR on a worldwide level. It provides clear steps for nations to take to achieve the Sendai goals and suggest broad actions, as opposed to merely objectives.

DURNING BRIDGET. “Benefits of Coupling Environmental Assessment and Environmental Management



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to Aid Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.” *Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management*, vol. 16, no. 3, 2014, p. 1. *EBSCOhost*, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsjsr&AN=edsjsr.enviassepolimana.16.3.09&site=eds-live](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsjsr&AN=edsjsr.enviassepolimana.16.3.09&site=eds-live).

This article is from a research journal regarding the need to learn from past disasters to improve DRR in the future. It illustrates the need incorporate environmental analysis and assessment to DRR, in order to provide more local and applicable risk reduction, depending on a nation’s environment and needs. The journal and the research are credible, as they are the work of Oxford University researcher Durning Bridget. With the backing of a credible institution such as Oxford, the journal is a reputable and biased source towards improving DRR. The source illustrates the need for more localized and customized approach to DRR, on a nationwide level. Because climates and environments vary from country to country, environmental research is critical to produce effective, customized DRR methods, specific to a nation.

Considerations for Success.” *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 104, no. 10, Oct. 2014, pp. 1811–1816. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.2105/AJPH.2014.302134.

This journal discusses the need to incorporate the health sector in strategies for DRR. It discusses how to potentially incorporate the public and private health sector in DRR strategies. This source is the veritable work of Osman Dar, who has a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, with contributions from several doctors and health researchers. The source has an inherent bias towards incorporating health in DRR and furthering its adoption globally. The source illustrates the need to incorporate elements of the public sector and different fields to create a comprehensive plan for DRR. Specifically, the source suggests possible methods of incorporating primary care providers in a DRR plan.

*UNISDR*, “What is Disaster Risk Reduction”, No Date, [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)

The page summaries what a natural disaster is and how it relates to everyone, and it is full of information about natural disasters and ways to prevent them. It gives information about how natural disasters can affect an area and the economy. The page is from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which is very reliable. The information on the page is well written and well researched. I would highly recommend consulting the page and use the information on it. The page contains excellent information and is very reliable.

*UNDP*, “Disaster Risk Reduction”, No Date, [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

The page gives a lot of numbers and critical information about natural disasters such as statistics of the effect of natural disasters and developments of solutions about natural disaster risks. It is a well-researched page, and it provides specific regions that experience frequent natural disasters. The page is from the United Nations Development program, so it is highly reliable. The



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information on the page is written using a large amount of research, and the facts that the page contains is well written with statistics. I would highly recommend using this source. This source can help delegates to develop solutions and support them with their papers.

*INEE*, “Disaster Risk Reduction”, No Date, [www.ineesite.org](http://www.ineesite.org)

The page offers a clear concept of the systematic effort to solve the issue, and it also delivers many examples of the effect. The page also clearly marks the idea that “there is no such thing as a ‘natural’ disaster, only natural hazards” ([www.ineesite.org](http://www.ineesite.org)). The page also includes a very educational video explaining the basic statistics and causes and effects of Natural Disasters. The website lists many solution ideas and things ordinary people can do to help. The source is relatively reliable, and the information on the page is excellent. I would recommend this as a second choice to use in the paper.

J. Richard Eiser, Ann Bostrom, Ian Burton, David M. Johnston, John McClure, Douglas Paton, Joop Van Der Plicht, Mathew P. White, “Risk Interpretation and action: A conceptual framework for responses to natural hazards”, May 2, 2015, [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

The source is from a journal, and it develops on the idea that people will react differently to Natural Disasters. The article lists many examples of how people responded to multiple different natural disasters, and it included many results of experiments and models. The data and results of experiments are compelling and can further develop delegates’ solutions. The article also included many psychological aspects of reactions to Natural Disasters, such as figure 1, which shows the different psychological responses of people based on various risks. The source is highly reliable, and many experts proofread it. The article can help delegates to develop great solutions with research.

Frain Fatemi, Ali Ardalan, Benigno Aguirre, Nabiollah Mansouri, Iraj Mohammadfam, “Social Vulnerability Indicates in Disasters: Findings from a Systematic Review”, September 6, 2016, [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com).

This source is also from a journal, and it develops around the idea of social vulnerability to natural hazards. The article identifies that demographic characteristic, socioeconomic status, and health as the leading causes of the vulnerability. The article has no reliable research; however, the topic that it brings up is exciting. The report says that it recommends researchers to consider the temporal context, measurability, and indicator interrelationships if the researcher wants to develop the topic further. The source is fairly reliable; however, it does not have significant research to back up the ideas. I would recommend using this source as a second choice, but I believe that the concept of the article will help delegates to develop solutions.