

13 CLIMATE ACTION



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN

XXXIII

FRESHMAN #13

TOPIC: CLIMATE ACTION



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Freshman Committee #13 Climate Action - Natural Disaster Risk Reduction

Hi! I'm Emma Gomez, and I am currently a senior and in my fourth year of MUN. I have been a rapporteur and a co-chair for the Freshman #13 Committee in my past two years at SOCOMUN, and I am so excited to share my experience in this committee by being the chair for this year! MUN has been such a positive experience in my high school journey and because of it, I have been able to become more aware of global issues, travel, and improve my public speaking. Outside of MUN, I am also involved in the cross country and swim teams at SM, which I have been participating in for all four years. I am also an active member of ASB, where I am currently serving as ASB Executive Vice President. I am so hyped to listen to all of your innovative solutions for the topic of natural disaster risk reduction, and I cannot wait to meet you all!

Hello delegates! My name is Natalie Wu and I am currently a Junior at SMCHS. This is my third year being involved in the MUN Program and I am delighted to be your vice chair in the Freshman #13 Committee. Model United Nations genuinely provides me opportunities to raise concerns on global issues and teaches me valuable lessons on perseverance and logical thinking. Outside of MUN, I am involved in track and field and am a huge fan of animals. I volunteer at animal shelters and create fundraising donations for them. Prior to the conference, I advise delegates to conduct research and fully understand your country's position. I am so excited to meet all of you and hear about your creative solutions. Additionally, we highly encourage delegates to participate and not to worry about mistakes. Just remember that we are all human beings, and we learn from experiences. Good luck delegates, I hope you all can have a great conference experience!

Hi delegates, my name is Leyla Counte and I am your rapporteur for SOCOMUN 2024. This will be my second year doing mun. A little bit about me is when I'm not working on position papers for conferences I am usually running because I do cross country and track here at SM. I also love baking, cooking, and surfing. I look forward to meeting you all and seeing the solutions that you come up with!

SOCOMUN is typically one of the first conferences of the year, which is why its primary goal is to be an educational experience and to be a stepping stone into the waters of Model United Nations. At the start of committee, we will have a brief discussion on the motions and procedures that we will be using throughout the conference. We will then open the speaker's list where delegates get the opportunity to put their name down to say their speech. As committee goes on, we will be doing a variety of unmoderated caucuses and moderated caucuses which will allow for delegates to expand on the solutions that they prepared and learn about collaboration and implementation. To be successful at the conference, we recommend that delegates try to speak as much as possible, collaborate with others, and make an effort to be on the speakers list. If there are any questions about the committee please don't hesitate to reach out to us at socomunfresh13@gmail.com.



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Background:

Natural disasters come in many different forms such as floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, or wildfires. One similarity between all of these is that it can be the cause of severe harm to both the environment and human life. Natural disasters can be so detrimental to society as they can cause severe economic loss, insecurity, and disruption. They also tend to pose threats to human and environmental life and also destructing infrastructure. Many innocent people have been subject to the harsh natural processes that occur in our world, with millions being displaced from their homes and some even losing their lives. From 1990 to 2020 over 200,000 people passed away due to the harmful effects of natural disasters. This statistic alone shows exactly why natural disaster risk reduction is such an important topic in today's world. Additionally, while natural disasters leave devastating effects, they also harm developing nations significantly more than those that are more developed. For example, in 2010, Haiti experienced the Port-au-Prince earthquake. This earthquake was so devastating to society since it was the reason for over 70% of Haitian deaths that year, and it brought the global disaster deaths to over 200,000 in one year. Typically, more developing regions tend to feel the negative effects of natural disasters more than developed nations because living standards are much lower, which leads to weak infrastructure. They also usually lack a strong response system of aid, which will ultimately lead to more deaths during a time of crisis.

While most natural disasters are caused by natural occurrences, there are also many instances of them being impacted through human involvement. The global warming crisis is a prime example of the human impact of natural disasters. Global warming and climate change are largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels, the rising of emissions into the atmosphere, and the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer. This allows for the temperature to start increasing, which is deeply affecting our planet. An example of how these impact natural disasters is how due to global warming, there is an increase in droughts around the world, and the increased water in the atmosphere leads to worsened storms, which ultimately leads to disasters such as flooding or hurricanes. Another human impact is the practice of waste dumping, which is when people dump toxic waste into bodies of water rather than properly disposing of it. The reason why this is so harmful to our environment is because the water seeps into the surrounding soil which allows for the waste to mix with the soil, which makes it unsafe for humans, plants, and animals.

Since overcoming natural disasters is such a global issue, the United Nations has already worked on possible solutions or has implemented solutions. The primary framework that is used to discuss Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), is called the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This framework sets targets on the international level that are required to include disaster risk reduction. The United Nations Educational Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has provided a variety of items to help promote disaster risk reduction such as early warning systems, education and school safety, post-disaster response, and more science and technology specifically used for the goal of reducing the effects of natural disasters. Additionally, there is also the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) which is the UN department that implemented the Sendai Framework and the Doha Program of Action to support developing nations. They are aiming to establish national disaster risk reduction platforms, have support for countries suffering from natural disasters, and create more early warning systems to build resilience. Overall, the United Nations recognizes and acknowledges the importance of having disaster risk reduction implemented into all policies that they create.



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Possible Solutions:

When you are researching solutions to present in committee, there are several factors you want to keep in mind. First, you want to try and be creative with your solutions, while also staying true to your country's policy. It is perfectly okay to present solutions that have either been implemented within your country or with the United Nations, but you want to be sure that you expand on them to ensure positive results from your solution. You also want to make sure that you are being very detailed with your solutions, and make sure that you are thinking about the who, what, when, where, why, and how to make sure that they are as thought out as possible. When coming up with solutions you also want to figure out what organizations or people you will be interested in collaborating with, this also adds on to the importance of staying on policy. For example, if you are a delegate representing a Latin American country, you would be more likely to work with another Latin nation, as your policies will align more.

For our specific committee on natural disasters, you want to make sure that you note several important ideas. First off, while you want to make sure that you stay on policy with your country's beliefs, you also want to make sure that your solutions can benefit the global population and not just your country. Second, when coming up with solutions it is always a good idea to come up with long- and short-term solutions. By doing this, it will allow for your solutions to have more credibility and you will be more well-rounded with ideas. Lastly, when you are thinking of solutions, you want to think about several different aspects that may hinder the overall credibility of your solutions. For example, it is always important to think about developing nations and their economy, you should also be thinking about the sustainable development goals since it is the foundation for the real United Nations. It is also important to think about the overall outcome and the importance and effectiveness of the solution.

This paragraph is going to be discussing specific solutions that can be used, but we highly recommend that you come up with solutions of your own. It is also important to note that funding is not going to be an issue with solutions since it is assumed that the United Nations will be granting funding. A short-term solution for natural disaster risk reduction is distributing emergency preparedness kits. With this solution some important questions to be thinking about are: How will these kits be distributed? How will the kits be available to all households? How can we provide kits for developing nations where it may be harder to distribute? These questions are important because they allow us to think about the solution in a broader sense and how big of an impact it will make. The emergency preparedness kits will be available in schools for children to take home, they will also be provided in workplaces and homeless shelters so that adults have access to kits, and for developing nations, Red Cross workers can help deliver kits. A long-term solution for natural disasters is improving the resilience of infrastructure. Questions to consider with this solution are: What nations would be receiving funding for improvements? What buildings would need renovating? For this solution, it would be more of a priority to improve infrastructure in developing regions since they are typically more prone to disasters, and already don't have the funding to improve buildings.



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Questions to Consider:

The questions to consider that are listed below are there to be a good starting point to your research, and things to keep in mind when forming policies and making solutions. You are not required by any means to respond to the questions.

1. What is your country's policy on the topic that is being discussed? Are there other nations that have similar policies?
2. What are past actions that your county has participated in to help promote natural disaster risk reduction?
3. Are there any non-governmental organizations or federal programs that can help reduce the risk of natural disasters?
4. What impact does human life play on the role of natural disasters? Does it make it worse or better? What can humanity do to ensure we aren't contributing to natural disasters?
5. Are there any past United Nations resolutions, actions, or programs that have been done to lessen the effects of natural disasters?
6. What is the role of technology and other advances that can either fuel or diminish the effects of natural disasters?
7. How can you find current solutions and expand them to match your nation's policies regarding the topic?

Sustainable Development Goal Targets

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 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

13.B: Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management.

MUN Impact

We are so happy that you have decided to participate in SOCOMUN XXXIII, and we hope that this has been the educational and exciting experience that we aim for SOCOMUN to be every year. If you are interested in learning more about the world around us and how you can become involved, visit <https://munimpact.org/> which will teach you more about the MUN Impact Program. Additionally, if Committee #13 has sparked your interest, consider taking a peek at <https://munimpact.org/sdg-13/> to learn more about the SDG #13.



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