



United Nations Development Programme

Welcome delegates! My name is Garrett Penderghast and I will be your head chair for the MVHS MUN 2018 Conference. I am a senior at MVHS and this is my second year in our MUN Program. I'm extremely involved at school as I participate in many clubs and activities, including the National Honors Society, California Scholarship Federation, FCA, E-Club, the IB Program, and Advanced Orchestra. I am also the president and founder of Kids Giving Hope to Kids: a club where we draw pictures and write letters that are sent over to refugees in Afghanistan and Syria. Outside of school I play soccer and volleyball and in my free time I love to go out with friends and enjoy a night on the town. I am really excited about our committee and I am sure we will create excellent resolutions to these very fascinating issues! . I am looking forward to seeing you all at the conference!

Good morning, afternoon, 10:30 pm before the deadline, delegates. My name is Madison Goetz your vice chair for this committee and I am a sophomore at Mission Viejo High School. This is my first year in MUN here at MVHS, but one of my advisors says I have taken to it like a marmot takes to a brambleberry bush... your guess is as good as mine. In my free time I enjoy training to become a professional wrestler for the WWE at a local gym. I'm hoping that my character Maddy "The Mad Dog" Goetz can get over with the fans, and I tend to pull a lot from my real life experiences breaking up fights in rural North Dakota. In addition, I am a big fan of practicing origami with aluminum foil as there is a two fold benefit (Get it "fold?") Origami puns!): 1. It's shiny 2. It blocks the CIA from using their satellites to spy on me. I look forward to a productive weekend and hope you will all take to our 35th Annual Conference like a marmot to a brambleberry bush... whatever that means.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at mvhsmunundp@gmail.com

Position papers due via email on December 15th, 2017.

Topic 1: Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

I. Background:

Over the last ten years more that 1.5 billion people have had to endure the horrors of natural disasters. Risk for these disasters has been steadily increasing at the hand of climate change, weak governance, and growing population centers that are becoming increasingly more exposed to natural hazards. However, these key factors have had a much greater impact in poor and fragile countries as they oftentimes do not have the infrastructure or support system to maintain control and order if a disaster does occur. Even still, when countries are hit by natural disasters, no matter



the wealth of the nation or how well its infrastructure functions, the country is devastated. Natural disasters are disastrous to any nation that is affected by one.

Nonetheless, the weight of the devastation of natural disasters is not equally shared. As stated above, developing nations who face economic obstacles and political instability are affected by these disasters far worse than the wealthier developed nations. This inequality “poses a critical threat to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. The UNDP’s efforts to reduce the risk of disasters align with the goals and targets of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Of course, the priority is to protect people and communities from disaster; however, disasters do occur and the devastation they bring is immense. These disasters often rewind the clock on developmental progress and traps people and communities into “cycles of poverty and vulnerability, leaving them only more exposed to future disasters”. Therefore, the UNDP’s goal of disaster recovery is to help people back onto the track of development. The UNDP also pushes for recovery that helps people effectively rebuild their lives, reduce risk of future disasters, and builds resilience if a disaster does occur.

II. UN Involvement

In March 2015, the UN hosted the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan. Here, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted as a new framework to be incorporated to reduce the risk of future disasters. Through this plan, the UN cemented the idea that the only way to achieve effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is through cooperation with groups, communities, and private sectors. Through supporting these communities the UNDP has provided “technical support to strengthen policy, legal and institutional development that fosters greater accountability and integrated solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation”. Specifically, the UNDP’s policies directly align with Priority 2 of the Sendai Framework on DRR on “Strengthening Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk”. From 2005 to 2015, the UNDP has worked to strengthen risk governance in 125 different countries by following these processes. On top of that, the UNDP also provided local and urban risk management to at least 75 countries which have resulted in “better understanding of local governments and communities of the risks they are exposed to, as well of how to build on their capacities, knowledge and culture in efforts to reduce and manage risks”. Currently the UNDP is actively involved in 96 early warning and preparedness projects which support countries to enhance coordination between multiple parties, and to use innovation, to improve the connection between “national and local early warning systems to the most vulnerable communities”.

In order to assist in the process of disaster recovery, the UN has implemented the Post Disaster Needs Assessment as the first step to holistic recovery. The UNDP conducts training programs at national, regional, and global levels to try and make Post Disaster Needs Assessment readily and widely available. The UNDP has also worked in conjunction with nearly 170 country



offices in attempts to formulate governmental plans that would facilitate efficient and effective post-disaster recovery. The plans have helped increase the likelihood of productive periods of recovery which also enhance the risk reduction measures in the areas affected. On top of preparing plans for recovery, the UNDP has also helped countries prepare for implementing these plans before a natural disaster occurs. The UNDP has assisted governments in recovery preparedness by developing their emergency services and support systems.

III. Possible Solutions

Recently, the United Nations have passed Resolutions that encourage the reinforcement of the processes established by the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk and Reduction. They have also called upon the reduction of environmental risks that may lead to more and greater natural disasters. The environment is the main source of danger when it comes to disasters, so come up with solutions that would lessen the impact of the environment. Cooperation in times of crisis is an incredibly important part of DRR and it mustn't be forgotten. Calling upon NGOs to assist with the Recovery aspect will help the recovery process as a whole. A key aspect of Risk Reduction and Recovery is to build resilience and strength when it comes to natural disasters. One way to build resilience is to educate the public on these issues. Make sure to include solutions that will foster effective and efficient methods of DRR so that the country will be better prepared for a disaster and ready to provide support for those states affected.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Western: The process of reducing disaster risk should be a key element to promote economic growth, reduce poverty, and halt the rise of humanitarian need. Supports a framework that builds international cooperation and global partnerships, strengthens disaster risk governance, takes into account the specific needs of countries that are at risk of conflict and insecurity, and ensures that development investments are disaster proof. They encourage the focus be moved to the local and community level to encourage more inclusive and participatory approach.

Latin America: It is the primary responsibility of the states to prevent and reduce the risk of Natural Disasters. States must cooperate to prevent these future disasters by sharing technologies and ideas. The civilians, private actors, and governments are capable of participating in the recovery process and are very valuable resources which can facilitate effective recovery. There is a major focus on investing in development programs that encourage sustainable development and work towards climate change.

Middle Eastern: Encourages a framework that facilitates the cooperation of civil society organizations, requires disaster risk reduction measures in investment projects, occupational safety and health requirements, and improving communication capabilities in times of crisis. It supports the preparation of programs that aim at building the capacity of governments toward enhancing their self capacities to respond to disasters.



Asian: Encourages the control of situations that may lead to greater risk of natural disasters. States that efforts to pool resources should be made as this will facilitate stronger engineering project to reduce the risk of natural disasters. The education of the general public must be enhanced. Central governments, local governments, and professionals must work together to provide more effective and efficient DRR measures.

Africa: Encourages the increase of political commitment to disaster reduction, the improvement of identification and assessment of disaster risks, the enhancement of knowledge management for disaster risk reduction, the improvement of public education on disaster risk reduction, the improvement of governance of disaster risk reduction institutions, and the integration of disaster risk reduction in emergency response management.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What specific actions can be taken in order to reduce the risk and danger of natural disasters in poorer countries?
2. Is there a point where it is a country's responsibility to protect and prepare themselves for disasters?
3. What could be done to establish a system where the countries are much more prepared for possible disasters?
4. Where will the resources come from which will be used to support the Disaster Risk and Recovery Programs?
5. What measures could be taken to help countries recover from devastation that can come from natural disasters?
6. How can the public get involved in DRR?

VI. Work Cited

Disaster Risk Reduction." *UNDP*

"Sustainable Development Goals." *United Nations*, United Nations

"Disaster Risk Reduction ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *United Nations*, United Nations

"Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *United Nations*, United Nations,

"Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction." *UNISDR News*.



“Countries & Regions.” *Countries & Regions* |
PreventionWeb.netsustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld.

Topic 2: Fighting Corruption in Latin America

I. Background

Since the development of social contract theory under John Locke the populace of the world has at times put its faith in political institutions to provide for their respective countries. These ideals are not always upheld in our current political climate in many areas of the world. As politicians and those that influence them engage in criminal behavior to drive the completion of their own goals the people suffer. According to the World Bank Institute an “estimated US \$1.0 trillion” are used for bribes throughout the world annually. The issue of political corruption has weaved its way into the geopolitical landscape with startling efficiency, specifically in the regions of Latin and South America.

During 1959 the United States turned its foreign policy gaze to its “backyard” in Latin and South America, following the successful Cuban Revolution and nationalization under Marxist leader Fidel Castro. This would signal the beginning of a more than 25 year conflict between the United States government and a host of revolutionary suitors in the form of Cuba, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, and El Salvador. The United States’ methodology during this time period was throwing their support behind right wing dictators who sought to combat the revolutionary left. As the dust settled from some of these conflicts in the late 1990s (as many still continue to this day) the region has become destabilized even through democratically elected governments.

The destabilization of the region does not rest solely on the shoulders of U.S. foreign policy. As the permeation of drug trafficking has increased in the region, levels of political corruption have risen in parallel. The emergence of drug cartels in Colombia in the 1960s sewed the seeds for the domination of Mexico by a new age of drug cartels such as the Sinaloa, the Cali Cartel, and Los Zetas. These organizations have become so ingrained in Mexican society that it is difficult to discern whether the corruption wrought by these groups is even combatted by the Mexican government as Dr. Morris explains, “Corruption facilitates the operation of Mexico’s vast and powerful criminal-business enterprises while simultaneously debilitating the state’s efforts to confront them. In fact, corruption makes it difficult at times to differentiate violators from enforcers.” (Morris) The cartels have made so many in-roads into their countries’ governments be it by force or by collusion that it has become simplistic for them to carry out their enterprises.

The above mentioned events have combined to put a severe hindrance on legal forms of development in the region. Although certain small communities within the regions do see aspects of economic and infrastructural growth it is often times perpetrated by cartels or their corrupt associates for the benefit of these organizations.



II. United Nations Involvement:

Aspects of corruption run in direct opposition to the the goals set forth in both the United Nation's Charter and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The prime guiding force the UN has utilized to dictate anti-corruption policy is the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Former Secretary General Kofi Annan describes the resolution's functions thusly, "The Convention introduces a comprehensive set of standards, measures and rules that all countries can apply in order to strengthen their legal and regulatory regimes to fight corruption. It calls for preventive measures and the criminalization of the most prevalent forms of corruption in both public and private sectors. And it makes a major breakthrough by requiring Member States to return assets obtained through corruption to the country from which they were stolen." (UNCAC) The resolution encourages the use of an universal definition of corruption and looks to synthesize procedure in investigating and combatting the crime. Advocating for a collective international response to issue is the most effective route to pursue.

The United Nations has also sought out the assistance of NGO's such as Transparency International, a watchdog group that seeks to expose political corruption across the world. Transparency International's creation of the Corruptions Perception Index in 1995 was the company's opening salvo in battling corruption. The index utilizes multiple categories to rank each nation's effectiveness at managing corruption.

III. Possible Solutions:

As the UNCAC references, a paramount challenge that member nations face is the difficulty in the implementation the document's provisions including the strengthening of international legal relations such as: judicial cooperation, international law enforcement, and international asset recovery (UNCAC). Expansion of education for law enforcement regarding strategies for investigating corruption would be an excellent focus for the international community. If law enforcement is able to better understand patterns, characteristics, and practices of corrupt institutions then the chance of success in successfully prosecuting this groups is much higher. Establishing an international database of recorded corruption based offenses would allow for better cohesion and procedural norms amongst governments and international groups. Corruption is an international issue and only through international collaboration can the UN hope to be successful in its eradication.

IV. Country Blocs:

Western: Though corruption is present, it is much more discreet and minimal in Western nations. Political corruption is the most common type of corruption in Western states which face threats such as bribery, in their political systems, especially if the system is a small number partied system and swing votes are needed.



Latin America: Corruption is the most prevalent in Latin American countries, refer to this whole synopsis.

Middle East: Corruption is also prevalent within Middle Eastern countries, mostly due to their political instability. In addition, radical organizations such as the Taliban and now ISIS, in addition to corruption within governments, has caused issues linked to it.

Asian: Many Asian countries feel the impact of corruption due to the fact that the top 1% of the population often has authoritative power over the society. For example, corruption in the form of bribery and money laundering is common, but still more discreet than in Latin American nations.

African: African nations face corruption that affects the development and ability to progress of these nations. In specific, poverty and exclusion factors increase the opportunity for corruption over monetary assets in the government.

V. Questions to Consider:

1. How has corruption in the regions of Latin & South America stunted aspects of their development?
2. Should the international community concern itself with the legitimacy of the ruling governments of states with above average corruption ratings on the "Corruptions Perception Index?"
3. Seeing as each country in this region has varying levels of corruption (minimally corrupt to exceedingly corrupt) and a unique set of circumstances, is it possible for a standardized anti-corruption procedure to be implemented?
4. Which areas of development do these nations need most? (Infrastructure such as: communication systems, city development, roads, food sources, military development)
5. How do we as delegates and as a body ensure these nations keep their sovereignty and autonomy, but also ensure that the threat of corruption is combatted for the sake of their populations?

Works Cited

"Corruption and Aid." *U4*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.

"Cuba Timeline." *BBC News*. BBC, 14 Aug. 2012. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.

E.V., Transparency International. "Thank You for Donating To Transparency International!"

Transparency International - The Global Anti-Corruption Coalition. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.



"Fighting Corruption." *UNDP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.

Morris, Stephen D. "Corruption, Drug Trafficking, and Violence in Mexico." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* XVIII.11 (2012): 29-43. Web.

Natasha.kamberska. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Convention against Corruption*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.

"Themes: Anti Corruption Resource Centre" *U4*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.

"UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 09 Nov. 2017.