

 **HCMUN**
MARCH 3RD, 2018

UNISDR

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

BACKGROUND GUIDE

CHAIRS: MELISSA WONG AND SABRINA WONG
DIRECTOR: ALEX JUCAN

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Office on Disaster Risk Reduction committee. We are excited to meet you, and to have a day filled with thoughtful debate, innovative resolutions, and perhaps a few surprises along the way!

Your first co-chair is Melissa Wong. She is a grade 12 student, and this is her fourth year in Model UN. She has been on the HCMUN staff since its first year back in 2014; this is her third year co-chairing a committee, and second year as one of the Secretary-Generals of HCMUN. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis and going on photography hikes. Melissa enjoys helping new delegates with tips and answering questions, so if anyone has any questions during the conference, feel free to send her a note or stay back after a committee session to ask!

Hello, my name is Sabrina, and I am your second co-chair! I am in Grade 10 and in my second year of MUN. HCMUN is my absolute favourite conference of the year, this year being my third year on staff (I paged in my first year). Outside of the classroom and outside of MUN, you can probably find me playing sports or hanging out with friends and family. I am extremely excited to see what all of you bring to the table and to see some amazing debate in our committee. Looking forward to meeting you!

Hi, I'm Alex Jucan and am your director for this committee. I am in grade 12 and this is my second year in Model UN. I am passionate about STEM subjects but love that MUN brings together people from all types of areas and allows them to debate relevant topics. In my free time, I am usually reading or binging "How I Met Your Mother". I am super excited for HCMUN and am looking forward to a great committee this March.

Position papers are mandatory for all delegates wishing to be eligible for awards. They are due on March 1st, 2018, and must be submitted to mwong@havergal.on.ca, swong@havergal.on.ca, or ajucan@havergal.on.ca. If you have any questions during your preparation or regarding the committee, please contact us through these emails as well.

We look forward to meeting you on March 3rd, 2018!

Warmly,
Melissa Wong, Sabrina Wong, and Alex Jucan
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Committee Overview

The United Nations Office on Disaster Risk Reduction was established in 1999 as the United Nations' main system for coordinating disaster reduction. It also works to promote disaster reduction activities regionally through socio-economic and humanitarian fields. The UNISDR serves as a liaison between the UN headquarters and implementing disaster related policy at field level.

Topic #1: Protecting and Ameliorating Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Overview

Disaster resilient infrastructure focuses on prospective disaster risk management. As one of five different types of risk management, prospective management works to actively avoid and mitigate the impacts of new or increased risks.¹ This committee will focus on the impacts of and discuss solutions to natural disasters. One main mantra used today in the reconstruction efforts is “Building Back Better”. This mantra, while optimistic, is much harder to implement. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals also works to address disaster resilient infrastructure. The ninth goal focuses on this topic, many of the goals contribute to better infrastructure and logistical systems. “Infrastructure systems that have the ability to anticipate, absorb, adapt to and or rapidly recover from a disruptive hazardous event are considered resilient.”²

Case Study: Sichuan, China

In 2008, Sichuan was hit by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake - the strongest to hit China since 1950.³ Over 87,150 people were either killed or went missing, and around 4.8 million people were left homeless.⁴ Included in this number were 5,300 children, who had been attending classes in structurally unsound buildings, and some 375,000 people were injured by falling debris.⁵ Many of the schools were not built to standards.⁶ Much of the existing infrastructure was annihilated or severely damaged, and \$137.5 billion was spent on rebuilding efforts. Estimates claim that around 80% of all buildings were destroyed.⁷ It is the second most costly earthquake since 1900. It is clear that the infrastructure in the Sichuan province was not prepared to withstand an earthquake, let alone one of this magnitude.

Rescue workers faced difficulty reaching the more remote villages, and this contributed to several deaths. Rebuilding efforts were also significantly delayed. Today, The World Bank is

¹ UNISDR. "Terminology on DRR."

² UNISDR. "Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

³ BBC News. "Sichuan 2008: A disaster on an immense scale." <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-22398684>.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Rafferty, John P., and Kenneth Pletcher. "Sichuan earthquake of 2008." Britannica.

⁶ Hodal, Kate. "Decrepit infrastructure denies millions urgent natural disaster aid, study says." The Guardian.

⁷ Rafferty and Pletcher. "Sichuan earthquake of 2008."

contributing \$300 million to help finance the Lushan Earthquake Reconstruction and Risk Reduction Project. This project builds critical urban and rural roads to connect rural populations to services they need. In the case of another natural disaster, the response time of emergency aid personnel would be much faster.

The World Bank hopes that this project will spur the launch of similar ones in other provinces who also face the same risks. According to the World Bank, around 155,700 people will benefit from new urban infrastructure and an additional 157,300 will benefit from the construction of new roadways.⁸ This case also emphasizes the importance of law enforcement. If schools had been at the very least built to code, the number of children who died would have been lower.

Disaster Resilience in Developing Countries

Developing countries face more barriers in improving disaster resilience than developed nations, as many solutions require significant financial contributions. The World Bank has a Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) that provides financing options to nations who may not have extra funds to invest in such projects.⁹ One example of an initiative that the GFDRR supports is the UNESCO-VISUS methodology in Mozambique. This initiative helps Mozambique to identify hazards in its educational infrastructure, and to funnel their funds where it is needed most. Upwards of 600 classrooms have been analyzed, and given tailored solutions to meet the disaster resilient guidelines.¹⁰ This is currently one of nine active projects in Mozambique. Others include improving weather radar systems to detect possible natural disasters earlier, the rebuilding of major roads after floods in 2013, and enhancement of other basic infrastructure.

The GFDRR helps governments to reach their goals through their projects. There has also been an increase in direct funding from governments since the Sendai Framework was announced. The Canadian International Development Platform states the Philippines as one nation who has increased its budget for disaster risk reduction. Donor countries have also stepped up and increased the amount of aid they allocate to the UNISDR and disaster risk reduction. The European Union currently allocates 9% of its humanitarian aid budget towards disaster risk reduction, with some of the top donor countries including Sweden and Germany.¹¹ These aid funds go towards immediate disaster relief when needed, and longer term projects within developing nations and other nations who require funding.

Barriers

Any particular solution could work for one nation, but not its neighbour. This proves to be extremely difficult when searching for a global solution. In addition, many nations see the benefits

⁸ The World Bank. "China: World Bank supports disaster-resilient infrastructure in Sichuan."

⁹ United Nations. "Integrating resilience and sustainable development in 2015 and beyond."

¹⁰ Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. "Mozambique."

¹¹ Canadian International Development Platform. "Disaster Risk Reduction and Canada's Humanitarian Aid."

of having such infrastructure, but it is financially infeasible for them to implement. The World Bank estimates that middle-income countries alone would need up to \$1.5 trillion to build an adequate level of infrastructure.¹² According to the [WorldRiskReport](#) published in 2016, poor or failing infrastructure and ineffective logistical systems have a “direct threat” to communities that need immediate assistance. Humanitarian organizations can play a part in funding these infrastructure projects, however the committee is encouraged to further discuss the financing of projects.

Moreover, reconstruction can often prioritize the needs of the elite over the poor. This hinders a nation’s economic and social development after a natural disaster. Natural disasters often make the poor even poorer, and more vulnerable to disease, crime, starvation etc.¹³ Even on a global scale, one can see that disaster resilience is a focus of nations that currently are able to provide basic social services to their citizens. When that need is not yet met, it is hard for governments to focus on improving their infrastructure.

To return to the original mantra stated in the overview, “build back better” is somewhat of a barrier to disaster risk reduction. Immediately after a natural disaster, the focus of rebuilding efforts is to get people back on their feet. Areas affected by such disasters can only begin to rebuild when services such as electricity, water, and healthcare are restored.

Past Actions

The UNISDR created a checklist and accompanying scorecard to help cities measure their disaster resilience. The checklist sets ten key criteria for cities to aim for, and can be found below.

1. Put in place organization and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role in disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
2. Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low income families, communities, businesses and the public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
3. Maintain up to date data on hazards and vulnerabilities. Prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions, ensure that this information and the plans for your city’s resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
4. Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.
5. Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.
6. Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles. Identify safe land for low income citizens and upgrade informal settlements, wherever feasible.

¹² Hodal. “Decrepit infrastructure”

¹³ “Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

7. Ensure that education programmes and training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
8. Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
9. Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.
10. After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the affected population are placed at the centre of reconstruction, with support for them and their community organisations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.¹⁴

One example of a specific project to improve disaster readiness is the United Nations Development Programme's airport readiness initiative. They partnered with Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL), a company who has experience in road, sea and air logistics and management.¹⁵ This project began as a goal to make airports post-disaster less chaotic, but now also encompasses risk reduction. This includes an evaluation of current infrastructure, training airport personnel and identifying bottlenecks in the delivery of aid.¹⁶ When major airports are able to improve these areas, they become much better prepared for a disaster. According to the UNDP, "over 500 people across 29 airports in Armenia, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Turkey, had been trained as of July 2015."¹⁷ Much of this funding has come from the Government of Germany, and the International Recovery Platform.

Moreover, the Sendai Framework for 2030 includes a target that directly relates to infrastructure. Target D is written as follows: "Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030."¹⁸ Priorities numbers two, three and four also directly relate to this topic. Priority number three states that both public and private investment should play a part in overall resilience-increasing methods of communities, countries, assets, and the environment.¹⁹

¹⁴ UNISDR. "The Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient Checklist Summary."

¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme. "Preparing airports for disasters."

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ UNISDR. "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."

¹⁹ Ibid

Guiding Questions

1. Has your nation been impacted by a natural disaster? If so, what steps were taken to mitigate impact in the event of a recurrence?
2. What technology has your nation implemented to build more resilient infrastructure? How can this be used in other places?
3. How can we make response to natural disasters more efficient and faster?

Delegate Resources

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/55922_55922criticalinfrastructureanddisas.pdf

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/switzerland/publication/building-resilience-world-bank-group-experience-in-climate-and-disaster-resilient>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/01/05/scaling-up-climate-and-disaster-resilience-for-the-worlds-most-vulnerable>

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<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/03/integrating-resilience-and-sustainable-development/>.

United Nations Development Programme. "Preparing airports for disasters."

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/our-projects-and-initiatives/gard/>.

UNISDR. "Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."
http://www.unisdr.org/files/46052_disasterriskreductioninthe2030agend.pdf.

UNISDR. "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."
<http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>.

UNISDR. "Terminology on DRR." <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology#letter-d>.

UNISDR. "The Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient Checklist Summary."
http://www.unisdr.org/files/26462_13.tenessentialchecklist.pdf.

Topic #2: Reducing Mortality Rates through Disaster Risk Reduction

"The more governments, UN agencies, organizations, businesses and civil society understand risk and vulnerability, the better equipped they will be to mitigate disasters when they strike and save more lives"

- Ban Ki-moon, Eighth United Nations Secretary-General (2007-2016)

Overview

According to the UNISDR, "Disaster Risk Reduction" (DRR) is the idea that every event commonly known as a "natural disaster" is actually a "natural hazard", while the scope and severity of the disaster is dependent on the location's susceptibility to damage from the hazard.²⁰ While recognizing the global need for DRR, special emphasis is placed on DRR for developing countries, who experienced 89% of the world's disaster-related mortalities from 1995-2014 and only 26% of the world's total disasters in these two decades.²¹ The international community agrees on and shares similar goals and objectives regarding DRR. However, a great challenge lies in "Disaster Risk Management" (DRM), the application and implementation of DRR strategies.²² The counteraction of poverty, in particular in developing nations, against DRM efforts is a prevalent issue that also highlights the problematic cycle that is perpetuated by poverty and natural hazards: poverty prevents adequate preparedness for natural hazards, while each occurrence of a natural hazard further deepens poverty.²³ While organizations like the World Bank are tackling this issue through means such as technical and financial support,²⁴ limitations such as competing priorities hinder progress.²⁵ Moreover, the growing pervasiveness of climate change is fueling and intensifying certain natural hazards, further impressing the need to combat this problem.²⁶ There is also an undeniable correlation between DRR and sustainable development. With effective DRR and DRM and resilience against natural hazards, it will aid in the achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²⁷ Delegates in this committee will have the power to save many lives in the future and reduce disaster-related mortality rates across the world.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

2015 saw the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, succeeding the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.²⁸ According to the UNISDR, "The

²⁰ "What is Disaster Risk Reduction?" UNISDR.

²¹ "Disaster Risk Management | Overview | Context." World Bank. October 6, 2017.

²² "Disaster Risk Management." UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal.

²³ Hoffmann, Bernd. *Linking Poverty Reduction and Disaster Risk Management*. PDF. Eschborn: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, September 2005.

²⁴ "Disaster Risk Management | Overview | Strategy." World Bank. October 6, 2017.

²⁵ Giugale, Marcelo. "Time to Insure Developing Countries Against Natural Disasters." World Bank. October 11, 2017.

²⁶ "How can climate change affect natural disasters?" USGS.

²⁷ "Disaster risk reduction." Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

²⁸ "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction." UNISDR.

Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders,” with its main objective being “The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”²⁹ The following are the Seven Global Targets and Four Priorities for Action, as stated in the agreement:

Seven Global Targets:

- (a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- (b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- (c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- (d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- (e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- (f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
- (g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

Four Priorities for Action:

- Priority 1. Understanding disaster risk
 - Disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be used for risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.
- Priority 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
 - Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is very important for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. It fosters collaboration and partnership.

²⁹ Ibid

- Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
 - Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment.
- Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
 - The growth of disaster risk means there is a need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, and ensure capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures.³⁰

Case Study: Kiribati

Kiribati is an island nation comprised of thirty-three atolls located in the Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and Australia.³¹ The islands that constitute Kiribati are at high risk of degradation or even complete submergence due to rising sea levels.³² Former president Anote Tong stated, "Where I went to school in the 1960s, it used to be one of the larger villages on the island. That village is no longer there because it has been washed away."³³ Rising sea levels are not only a hazard themselves, but they also intensify storms that could be devastating to this Small Island Developing State (SIDS).³⁴ With the urgency of this situation facing Kiribati, they have been exploring possible solutions, with the aid of other nations. Possibilities considered include land reclamation technology from the United Arab Emirates and external floating accommodations from Japan.³⁵ However, Tong has reached the conclusion that Kiribati's inhabitability in the future is becoming increasingly probable.³⁶ With a potential exodus in the time ahead, more possible solutions are being looked into, an example being New Zealand's consideration of a humanitarian visa for refugees from the Pacific region displaced by climate change.³⁷ The introduction and effectiveness of said visa, however, would not come without its challenges. An example is the case of Ioane Teitiota, a Kiribatian who, in 2014, applied to New Zealand as the first climate change refugee "on the basis of changes to his environment in Kiribati caused by sea level rise associated with climate change."³⁸ However, his case was denied.³⁹ Experts say that preliminary steps must be taken to make this visa a possibility, for

³⁰ "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction." UNISDR. <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>.

³¹ "Kiribati." CIA World Factbook. December 12, 2017.

³² Tremonti, Anna Maria. "How one Pacific island nation is battling rising sea levels." CBC Radio. October 12, 2017.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ives, Mike. "A Remote Pacific Nation, Threatened by Rising Seas." The New York Times. July 2, 2016.

³⁵ Tremonti, Anna Maria. "How one Pacific island nation is battling rising sea levels." CBC Radio. October 12, 2017.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Anderson, Charles. "New Zealand considers creating climate change refugee visas." The Guardian. October 31, 2017.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

instance by making changes to New Zealand's refugee convention to make such refugee cases legally approvable.⁴⁰

Guiding Questions

1. How can the UN educate people, communities, businesses, etc. about DRR and DRM?
2. How can the UN encourage and/or incentivize stakeholders to take steps toward disaster risk mitigating?
3. How should the UN encourage the implementation of DRR and DRM methods so that it is most effective?
4. How can DRR and DRM be tackled in its different aspects (ex. Technological, economic, social, etc.)? Should each aspect be addressed differently, separately, or altogether?

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"How can climate change affect natural disasters?" USGS.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-can-climate-change-affect-natural-disasters-1?qt-news_science_products=0-qt-news_science_products.

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Topic 3: Resilience of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Introduction

One underlying issue and subsection the UNISDR must continue to tackle is the resilience of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This grouping includes island states in the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean, and the Mediterranean and South China Sea (list of SIDS). These states can be especially prone to natural disasters. As a result, they need to develop disaster risk prevention systems and other ways to protect their development and population from the devastating effects of extreme weather and natural disasters. SIDS have higher risks when it comes to being affected by a natural disaster or recurring issues from such events due to factors such as geographical location, small populations, and climate change. Furthermore, SIDS are still developing states and therefore, their economic standing will not be prime for developing sustainable infrastructure or acquiring equipment when hit by a disaster. This topic will focus on implementing and financing sustainable and long-term disaster risk reduction and prevention infrastructure for SIDS to increase their resilience.

Past Action

Perhaps one of the most potent and well known disasters in recent history is the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that took place in January 2010. This event clearly demonstrates the challenges SIDS face when hit with a major natural disaster, or in the case of Haiti, multiple disasters within the span of a few years. The 2010 earthquake severely affected 80% of rural housing, left 3.3 million people in a food shortage, displaced large numbers of people sending them into unsanitary living conditions, and ended with a cholera outbreak brought on by UN peacekeepers. In 2012, Haiti was then hit by Hurricane Sandy, plunged into three years of drought, and hit again by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The accumulation of all these events led to increasing poverty, collapsed buildings, blocked roads, and major health crises such as the spreading of cholera, famine and recurring flooding.

Haiti and other SIDS are at higher risk for natural disasters because of their geographical location. However, many of these states are some of the poorest and do not have the GDP to spend on disaster and risk prevention infrastructure. With the increasing urgency and need for such infrastructure and disaster and risk prevention methods, the committee must address how much responsibility the international community has in helping SIDS establish disaster risk prevention infrastructure. As well, the role of NGOs should be discussed as trust and monitoring of them is in a gray area. For example, using Haiti's 2010 earthquake as an example, the Red Cross had half a billion dollars donated but the only effect that had in Haiti was the building of six houses. 2017 has seen some horrific natural disasters, most popular being Hurricane Irma and Maria, which made worldwide news this past year, hitting multiple islands in the Caribbean and the United States. Among the many SIDS affected, Puerto Rico remains in a state in which many civilians still lack access to electricity and water, Irma devastated already crippled infrastructure in Cuba, 90% of

homes were destroyed in Barbuda, and approximately 90% of structures were ravaged in Dominica. Many of these island states are racing to reopen hotels as tourism is a driving force of their economies. None of these SIDS had the infrastructure to deal with such a massive natural disaster as Irma or Maria, and these events have caused massive setbacks in these states' development. With climate change looming over the world's head, threatening to not only increase the number of natural disasters each year but the intensity as well, it is imperative to develop disaster risk prevention and protective methods for SIDS development to prevent further setbacks and increase long term economic and development success. Without it, we can expect many more future humanitarian crises like the one in Haiti and the ongoing struggle of the Caribbean islands.

Future Solutions

There have been many international guidelines and organizations established to aid countries on the way to sustainability, and specifically SIDS in establishing effective and long lasting disaster risk prevention infrastructure. The most major works include the Paris Agreement, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Documents and committees that specifically discuss challenges and solutions for SIDS in disaster prevention include the SIDS Accelerate Modalities of Action (SAMOA) pathway and the Small Island States Resilience Initiative (SISRI) which had their second meeting in May 2017. A good background of these works and committees are recommended as they consist of international framework that should be considered when discussing possible solutions.

The SAMOA Pathway consists of multiple guidelines and recommendations for the future development and protection of SIDS and outlines the help needed from the international community. Most importantly, for this committee, it outlines steps for disaster protection, finances, and sustainability to aid SIDS. The document states the need for SIDS to improve their climate change adaptation measures as they are at a higher risk. In terms of sustainability, the document stresses sustainable tourism as it is a significant source of income to be able to implement sustainable energy initiatives using local methods (ie. geothermal in SIDS with access to a geothermal source, biomass, wind, etc.), sustainable agricultural practices and food security, and sustainability in health and sanitation sectors. The need for sustainability is becoming increasingly important in our world and should be taken into account when discussing possible solutions, as the long-term development of SIDS is extremely important. The most important area of this document is the proposed solutions given for disaster risk reduction. The document stresses the importance for international financial assistance and support in implementing these guidelines in SIDS. The SAMOA Pathway recognized that disasters in SIDS have been increasing due to climate change and that these states are disproportionately affected by disasters. The guidelines for disaster risk reduction, in clause 52, includes:

52. In consideration of the special case of small island developing States and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, we are committed to supporting their efforts:

- (a) To gain access to technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and

data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;

- (b) To promote cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors;
- (c) To strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;
- (d) To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 23 and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;
- (e) To mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development, as appropriate;
- (f) To harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence;
- (g) To establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies, where applicable;
- (h) To increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The committee should utilize guidelines such as those mentioned above and work toward creating sustainable and long-term disaster risk prevention and reduction systems as well as overall guidelines for the development of SIDS to ensure shorter recovery time for these states. Other complementary documents include the Barbados Programme of Action, the Small Island States Resilience Initiative, and the Mauritius Strategy.

Guiding Questions

1. How should donors and NGOs contribute to humanitarian crises such as the one in Haiti?
2. How can this committee establish disaster risk prevention infrastructure in SIDS with low GDP or who cannot otherwise establish such infrastructure themselves?
3. What is the role of developed countries and the UN in aiding SIDS?
4. What new guidelines or recommendations should be added to existing disaster risk prevention documents to increase their effectiveness?

Delegate Resources

List of SIDS: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/list>

Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

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