EAST AND NORTHEAST INDIA INTER-SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 3.0

BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE
United Nations Human Rights Council

Welcome Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

We are beyond excited to meet you and are eager to welcome you for a productive and stimulating debate. For us, Model United Nations has become an integral part of our lifestyle; we view it as educational as much as it's empowering to have the ability to construct opinions on global issues through the eyes of several different countries. We hope that as soon as you join the committee session you learn something new and that hopefully by the end of the conference, you have grown in one way or another; whether it's your ability to overcome your fear of public speaking or your ability to lead large groups of people.

If this is your first Model United Nations Conference, don't worry too much, and feel free to approach any of us at any point in the conference if you need any support. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Secretariat or Executive Board and even your fellow delegates if you have any concerns.

Regards,

Nehal Rohilla   Vihaan Jain
(Chairperson)   (Vice-Chairperson)

Best Practices to Research before an MUN:

(You can take these best practices into account, not only for this MUN but for other MUNs as well.)

- Read the Agenda Guide, least 3-4 days prior to the conference, and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the Background guide. In case of a crisis situation always read and look for the analysis and plausible rational on the updates that may be issued a week before the MUN.

- Google/Search everything and find related documents (UN, News articles, Scholarly articles) for whatever was not really understood.

- After wholly understanding (subject to how in-depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.

- Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions, etc.)

- Understand the cues and hints that are given minutely in the Background Guide that may come handy while the presentation of contentions in committee.

- Take a good look at the mandate of the council as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. This point is placed here, just because your knowledge base shouldn't be limited to the mandate of the council. Know everything, speak whatever the mandate allows.

- Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the footnotes and the links and hyperlinked text.

- Predict the kind of discussions and on what subtopics can they take place, thereby analysing the subtopic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly. Make a word/pages document and put your arguments there for better presentation in the council.

- Download the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols thereto and other relative treaties and documents given.

Introduction

Climate change has a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Persons in vulnerable situations – owing to factors including geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, national or social origin, birth or other status and disability – may experience heightened exposure and vulnerability to climate-induced human rights harms.

People living in small island developing States and least developed countries, and in conditions of water scarcity, desertification, land degradation and drought are amongst those most affected by climate-related harms. Rising sea levels, tropical and extratropical cyclones, increasing air and sea surface temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and loss of adaptive capacity and ecosystem services have implications for the right to self-determination, cultural rights, the right to health and the right to life among other human rights. These impacts also severely affect peoples' livelihoods and may act as a driver of migration.

The meaningful inclusion and participation of persons in vulnerable situations within disaster risk management and climate-related decision-making at the local, national, regional and global levels, lies at the heart of a human rights-based approach to climate action.

The effects of climate change on vulnerable communities are manifold and encompass social, economic, and health-related dimensions. Climate change is intensifying the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods. These events can have devastating consequences for vulnerable communities, exacerbating existing inequalities. Climate change disproportionately affects marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, low-income households, and communities lacking access to essential resources and infrastructure. Climate change may also negatively impact infrastructure and worsen access to basic urban services and quality of life in cities. Climate vulnerability has been defined as the degree to which natural, built, and human systems are at risk of exposure to climate change impacts. International organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) are tasked with designing and implementing climate change policies to address the impact that climate change has on vulnerable groups in society.

Health Related Issues

Climate change is impacting health in a myriad of ways, including by leading to death and illness from increasingly frequent extreme weather events. These climate-sensitive health risks are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, including women, children, ethnic minorities, poor communities, migrants or displaced persons, older populations, and those with underlying health conditions. IPCC predicts climate change will worsen human health conditions, especially in tropical regions. In places like Africa and the USA, an increase in temperature signifies an increase in mosquito populations, thus escalating the risk of malaria, dengue, and other insect-borne infections. The United Kingdom was plagued by an outbreak of legionnaires' disease -- a bacterial lung infection. Countries like Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkey might already be in the danger zone for mosquito-borne malaria. Climate change induces both immediate mental health issues, like anxiety and post-traumatic stress, and long-term disorders due to factors like displacement and disrupted social cohesion. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) concluded that climate risks are appearing faster and will become more severe sooner than previously expected, and it will be harder to adapt to increased global heating.

Migration

Climate-related events can force people to migrate from their homes or regions and create a highly vulnerable population. Migration can be temporary or permanent, internal within the country or international between countries. It may be voluntary, or involuntary, and secondary to slow onset or acute events. Some reports suggest that by 2050 climate change will displace internally as many as 143 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. While no nation offers asylum to

climate migrants, UNHCR published legal guidance in October 2020 that opens the door for offering protection to people displaced by the effects of global warming. The commission acknowledged that temporary protection may be insufficient if a country cannot remedy the situation from natural disasters, such as rising seas, suggesting that certain climate displaced people could be eligible for resettlement if their place of origin is considered uninhabitable.

Economic Impacts

The physical impacts of climate change will affect most aspects of human welfare and the economy. In some regions of the world, rising temperatures will harm worker productivity and crop yields, and lead to more cardiovascular and respiratory problems and higher mortality rates. However, cold-related mortality rates are likely to fall. Meanwhile, higher sea levels will flood cities, storms will become more damaging, rivers will dry up, glacier-fed water supplies will diminish, and ecosystems will suffer. Climate change-induced disruptions to agricultural production can lead to food shortages and price spikes, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities with limited purchasing power.

Vulnerable communities, often located in hazard-prone areas such as coastal regions and river deltas, face damage to infrastructure due to extreme weather events like hurricanes, cyclones, and storm surges. Reconstruction and repair costs for housing, roads, schools, and healthcare facilities further strain already limited resources. Some areas will be completely devastated by climate change, such as low-lying islands and coastal towns, and economies that depend a lot on agriculture. These areas are often the poorest parts of the world, where millions are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and their economies will be hit the hardest. People living in poverty are the least able to adapt to warming and small changes in their income due to climate change-related events can result in overwhelming losses to welfare and livelihoods.

How Climate Change affects socially vulnerable communities?

As the impact of climate change increases, socially vulnerable communities around the world are disproportionately experiencing the detrimental effects. We believe that ensuring a transition to the green economy is essential, and we think capital markets have an active role to play in the process.

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating that socially vulnerable communities—particularly low-income groups and minorities—are least able to prepare for and recover from heat waves, poor air quality, flooding and a host of other climate-related changes. These risks are heightened not only among populations in emerging markets, but also for vulnerable communities in developed nations

Questions To Consider:

1. How can policy interventions address the intersectionality of vulnerabilities, such as gender, race, and socioeconomic status, in the context of climate change impacts?
2. How does climate change impact access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water in vulnerable communities?
3. How can innovative technologies and sustainable practices be leveraged to support adaptation and resilience-building efforts in vulnerable communities?