**Institute: The Samarth School FairGaze MUN**

**Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)**

**Country: United States Of America**

**Topic: Addressing Climate-Fragility Risks**

Research on compound climate fragility and conflict risks has developed rapidly over the past two decades, reflecting the growing urgency of the topic. One of the most visible consequences of a warming world is an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. The National Climate Assessment finds that the number of heat waves, heavy downpours, and major hurricanes has increased in the United States, and the strength of these events has increased, too.

Over the past 20 years, American researchers have applied an increasing number of quantitative approaches to understand the links between climate, conflict, and fragility. They have focused more on when, where, and how particular compound climate-fragility risks are likely to interact, and what role specific context factors play. Climate change was found to most directly impact natural resource-dependent livelihoods in rural areas by decreasing agricultural yields, contributing to land degradation, or reducing water availability. These impacts can increase migration to neighboring communities, urban areas, etc., and lead to negative coping strategies such as cattle raiding, petty crimes, or deforestation. The indirect impacts of climate change on global supply chains also affect food prices.

The role of governance in linking climate change, fragility, and conflict has been observed in a range of different contexts. Numerous studies confirmed that conflict risks are higher in those contexts where communities lack the institutions, economic stability, and voice to cope with increases in the frequency and severity of climate change impacts. However, the literature exploring the links between climate change, conflict, and fragility is still largely silent on the role of governance and power. Also, climate change undermines the ability of the US government to deliver proper services to its population. As climate change increases the risks faced by citizens, the pressure on the government to guarantee core functions and deliver basic services also increases.

Several studies show that climate change adaptation action can have a stabilizing influence on fragile states and reduce vulnerabilities, conflict, crime, and insecurity. To have a stabilizing effect, America needs to include processes that build trust and relationships and/or cooperation and networks (social capital) between conflicting groups and between the government and its people (e.g. through shared management of natural resources, meaningful consultations with residents, and social accountability mechanisms).