



CSPCMUN2017

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**United  
Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**Committee:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Topic B:** Providing economic support after natural disasters.

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“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.” – Harry S. Truman

Dear Delegates,

First of all, welcome to CSPCMUN2017. It is an honor to have you in this year's edition. We hope that this simulation is a memorable experience. We are confident that during these three days you will develop skills such as leadership, negotiating, and critical thinking while representing a specific country. We expect that in this model you meet new people who will encourage you to make an impact in our world. I am sure that you will prepare yourself enough so you can get to agreements and help in the resolution of the committee's problematic. We hope that you enjoy this simulation as much as we will. Any doubts you may have, do not hesitate on asking us.

Sincerely,

Mariana Lazo

Chief of Moderators

## I. Committee Overview

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), is a program that has the authority of environmental protection in the United Nations, it works as a support for the global environment. It was established on the 5th of June in 1972. UNEP is important because it searches for solutions for the environmental protection world wide. UNEP priority areas are: climate change, disasters & conflicts, and chemicals & waste. Even though UNEP is not a main organ, it is a significant committee because it helps with environmental issues which affect all of us as the human society, and helps to preserve our environment for future generations. This committee is formed by 58 members that are chosen by the general assembly (GA), and if  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the members agree with the resolution paper, it will pass. The mission of this committee is to give control and protect the environment.

## II. Topic Information

Natural disasters may cause a big economic blast for a lot of countries which are not well prepared, but they also may cause that increasement of a country economy. One of the main factors of why it may have this result is because of the improvement on productivity in the economy's corporate sector, as it occurred in Skidmore and Toya in 2002.

Nevertheless, it is more often seen that countries go through devastating economic issues from which most are long term, this concerns the rebuilding of infrastructure, houses, hospitals, schools, industries, etc., and one more important thing to consider is that the effects may variate depending on the country we are talking about and also about the category each disaster is considered to be for example: if the US gets hit by a category 5 earthquake it would have time for its economy to be fully restore, but not as much as if it had hitted Fiji (as an example).

Now considering the short term effects that natural disasters have on the economic growth, it would be mainly the country's economy capacity to adapt to the changes in that moment, for example, the money from the public fund that would be spent on providing useful resources to its population. It will also have to face a decline in economic activity which involves imports and exports being affected causing causing damage on its economic balance.

This topic is to take into consideration since it affects a country economy in a drastic way either short or long term, making sometimes a whole population fall into poverty.

## **A) History of the Topic**

Natural disasters have always been part of history, they are unavoidable scenarios which cause a lot of damage on a country economic profile especially when is not expected.

Hurricane Katrina is one of the most known natural disasters, was hurricane that had its landfall in August 29 of 2005. It was one of the strongest economic impact that the US has faced. It is estimated that the cost was as high as \$250 billion, also considering its impact, besides the damage. Katrina caused such a lost to the US government because of its path which devastated 19% of US oil production and important industries.

In general, we may say that in a long history, natural disasters had been a big concern for the countries governments since their economy growth may be impaired.

## **B) Current Issues**

Right now the world is facing way more natural disasters on a stronger category than it used to in places that aren't usual making those countries closer to poverty.

One disaster was the one that occurred on Italy on August 24th of 2016 categorized as 4.5, this disaster caused a big polemic since Italy is not a zone where earthquakes tend to hit, but as we said, natural disasters can't be avoided, and in this case unfortunately Italy wasn't prepared for it. The earthquake caused damage in its economy both long and short term, with limited impact in Italy's GDP.

Now a lot of countries are taking safety methods concerning that natural disasters are now occurring on places which are not often affected by natural disasters and on bigger scales.

## **C) UN Action**

The UN provides assistance, support and relief whenever there is a disaster. The World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN provides food to people that are starving. Save the children alliance together with UNICEF provides education to kids that have been displace. The United Nations Development Programme helps rebuilding and ensures that the recovery is stable and firm.

### III. Conclusion

Natural disasters causes a big damage in the economy of a country. Nowadays natural disasters are being more current and in a stronger level, we humans create this disasters and we receive the damages in a greater degree. When this catastrophes occur, most of the time they leave the country in bankruptcy and it's hard to recover from all the damages.

### IV. Essential Questions

1. Does your country has history in this topic? If so, succinctly explain how.
2. Is your country affected by a natural disaster? If so, which one?
3. Has your country given any support for a natural disaster? If so, to whom?
4. How can the UN be capable of solving this problem?
5. Has your country receive any support from a natural resource? If so, which one?

### V. References

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