



United Nations Security Council

Directed By: Sean Rutten

TSMUN XXV BACKGROUND GUIDE 2021

Topic I: Ensuring Global Security During a Global Crisis
**Topic II: Protecting People Most Susceptible to the Effects of
Climate Change**



Dear Delegates

Welcome to Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations. My name is Sean Rutten and I am the Director of the Security Council for TSMUN 2021. I am a student attending Tallahassee Community College and plan to transfer to Florida State University to study Political Science. This is my second year participating in Model United Nations and am currently serving as the Vice President for the Tallahassee Community College Model United Nations team.

The topics under discussion for this year's Security Council are:

- I. Ensuring Global Security During Global Crisis
- II. Protecting People Most Susceptible to the Effects of Climate Change

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six main organizations of the UN. The Security Council is tasked with sustaining international peace and security. It is the only UN body with the authority to adopt binding resolutions as well as impose economic sanctions and military power. The Council is made up of fifteen Member States, which include five permanent members with the power of veto. The membership, functions, and governance of the Security Council make it a unique body of the UN.

I hope you find this background guide useful in your preparation for the conference. This background guide is meant to introduce delegates to the topic that will be discussed in committee and provide guidance as delegates begin their research. Delegates are strongly encouraged to research the positions, views, and opinions of their Member States as well as relevant regional and international frameworks, previous resolutions, and organizations and initiatives.

Each delegation will submit a position paper for the committee. Delegates must turn in their papers before the start of the first committee session. Papers may be emailed to sc@tsmun.org. For a position paper guide and an example position paper, please visit <http://www.tsmun.org/position-papers.html>. Papers that are not in the correct format will not be eligible for awards. For conference information, resources for preparation, scholarships, and other useful information, visit <http://www.tsmun.org/>. If you have any questions leading up to the conference, feel free to contact me at sc@tsmun.org. I look forward to seeing you all in committee.

Sincerely,
Sean Rutten,
Security Council Director
sc@tsmun.org



Committee Overview

Introduction

Since its creation in 1945 with the ratification of the United Nations (UN) Charter and its first assembly in January of 1946, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has stood as the foremost international body for maintaining “International peace and security”¹. The UN Charter gives the UNSC the primary responsibility to maintain this peace and security and grants it the power to deploy peacekeeping operations to fulfill its responsibility². These peacekeeping measures can include peacemaking, sanctions, and military force³. The UNSC normally convenes at the UN headquarters in New York, in both private and public sessions, continuously throughout the year and when emergency sessions are called⁴.

Committee Mandate

Under the United Nations Charter, the UN has four main purposes.⁵ To maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights, and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations⁶. Among the six main parts of the UN is the UNSC.⁷ The main role of this 15 Member State council is to maintain and ensure international peace and security through the least means of armaments as possible⁸. It may respond to breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and is authorized to deploy peace keeping operations, including military operations, in areas where a Member State is unable to maintain security and public order.⁹

History

The Security Council originally consisted of 11 Member States; five permanent Member States (P5) including, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, France, the United States, and the United Kingdom as well as six non-permanent Member States which are elected by the General Assembly (GA) on a two-year term basis. In 1965, an amendment was added to the UN charter widening the UNSC’s membership to 15 Member States, with the same P5 Member States apart from the Russian Federation succeeding the Soviet Union¹⁰. In late 1950, the UNSC employed its military authority for the first time in its history to intervene in North Korea’s invasion of South Korea in a conflict that would be the UNSC’s first test of its ability to maintain peace.¹¹ On June 25th and 27th the UNSC ratified a directive urging for a ceasefire between Soviet Union occupied North Korea and United States occupied South Korea, and for all Member States to support South Korea¹². Between the years of 1987 and 2000, there was a jump in peacekeeping operations authorized by the UNSC, including operations in Sierra Leone, Angola, the Balkans, Haiti, Liberia, Somalia, and several others, increasing the UNSC’s reputation as a peacekeeping organization and

¹ “Security Council.”

² UN Peace Keeping editors. “Mandates and the Legal Basis for Peacekeeping Peacekeeping.”

³ Nadin, Peter. “United Nations Security Council 101.” March 24, 2014.

⁴ Sarooshi, Dan. Security Council.

⁵ UN Charter. 1945. “Chapter I, Article I: Purposes and Principles”. United Nations.

⁶ “What Is the Security Council? Security Council.” United Nations.

⁷ UN Charter. 1945. “Chapter III, Article VII : Organs”. United Nations.

⁸ United Nations. “Chapter V: The Security Council.”

⁹ UN Charter. 1945. “Chapter V, Article XXIV: The Security Council”. United Nations.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ “Soviets Boycott United Nations Security Council.” History.com. A&E Television Networks, November 13, 2009.

¹² Truman Library Institute. “The United Nations in Korea.” The United Nations in Korea | Harry S. Truman, 2016.



leading to its awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988¹³. This peacekeeping reputation was bruised in its failures in addressing the Genocide in Rwanda and the Bosnian War leaving many critics questioning the effectiveness of the UNSC¹⁴.

Governance, Structure and Membership

The UNSC is composed of five permanent Member States (the P5s) and ten Member States elected by the General Assembly that serve two-year terms. The P5 Member States include China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States¹⁵. The council shall adopt a President, which according to rule 18 of the UNSC's provisional rules of procedure, is held in turn by Member States in alphabetical order (of the English alphabet) of Member States for one month, who will represent the UNSC¹⁶. All Members of the UNSC may have one representative and one vote, however only P5 Member States hold the right to veto, or to reject a resolution made by the UNSC¹⁷. Decisions of the UNSC require nine affirmative votes to pass for procedural matters and nine affirmative votes including affirmative votes of all P5 Member States, unless the Member State abstains, to pass for all other matters¹⁸. Member States who are not on the UNSC may participate in the council's discussion if the President believes that Member State is "specially affected," however they may not vote¹⁹.

Conclusion

The Security Council stands as the most powerful body of the UN, holding the responsibility of maintaining international peace and justice. In times of international crisis, it often acts as the guiding force of the international community in its efforts to overcome the crisis. In order to achieve its mandate, it may employ peace keeping operations, including peacemaking, sanctions, and military force. Because the UNSC is the only body that can make binding resolutions that Member States are obligated to follow, it is an integral part to attaining the goals on the UN.

¹³ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "History." Edited by Michael Ray. Encyclopedia Britannica. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., January 2, 2020.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ CFR Staff. "The UN Security Council." September 24, 2018.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ United Nations. "Chapter V: The Security Council." United Nations. United Nations.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid



Topic I: Ensuring Global Security During Global Crisis

Introduction

Throughout the lifetime of the UN, the Security Council has faced the task of maintaining global security during a global crisis. The UNSC works to protect the economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security of individual Member States and the world that would be threatened by a global crisis²⁰. In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, named then the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression of 1929 starting in the United States and rippling out to the rest of the world, the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination began a review of the 2008 financial crisis and adopted nine initiatives that would serve to coordinate the global response to helping Member States address the crisis, and created an opportunity for the UN to address the weaknesses that led to the global crisis as well as create measures for the future²¹. Recently this task of maintaining security during a global crisis has been tested with even greater challenges brought on by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. With escalations in political unrest, plummeting of the global economy, indications of a possible hunger pandemic looming on the horizon, and the intensification of existing crises, the UNSC and the rest of the UN bodies have had to rise to meet considerable challenges in their global responses, and still have many more to tackle.

Current Situation

With the emergence of COVID-19 in December of 2019, the world plunged into a global crisis that rivals the Stock Market Crash of 1929, also called the Great Depression, which is thought to be the worst economic crisis in world history²². COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) as of March 11th of 2020²³. As of August 13th, 2020, WHO reports over 20,400,000 cases of COVID-19 and over 740,000 deaths globally²⁴. The pandemic has not only triggered a global health crisis but an economic one as well. Most Member States fell into a recession and are experiencing negative economic growth²⁵.

COVID-19 has dealt a devastating blow to numerous industries, including millions of tourism, manufacturing, and mining jobs²⁶. These blows are partly responsible for the large amounts of job

²⁰ Human Security Unit. "Human Security Handbook." h2.pdf. United Nations, January 2016.

²¹ Chief Executives Board for Coordination, United Nations. "United Nations System Response to the Global Financial and Economic Crisis." United Nations system response to the global financial and economic crisis | United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. United Nations System.

²² Marks, Julie. "What Caused the Stock Market Crash of 1929?" April 13, 2018.

²³ editors of EU official website. "Event Background COVID-19." European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, July 2, 2020.

²⁴ The World Health Organization. "WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard." World Health Organization. World Health Organization, August 13, 2020.

²⁵ World Bank. "The Global Economic Outlook During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Changed World." World Bank, June 8, 2020.

²⁶ Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "May 2020 Briefing: The Pandemic Crisis Will Worsen Global Inequality | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." United Nations. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, May 1, 2020



loss around the world. For Member States whose economies largely rely on tourism for economic growth, this could have disastrous consequences, affecting not only the Member State's income and employment, but also sectors like transportation, construction, and agriculture. For Member States that already experience higher levels of income equality, they are at risk of a widening divide of economic equality. With disruptions in the global supply chains and lockdowns affecting labor, the global manufacturing industry has taken a major hit. The manufacturing industry accounts for over 460 million jobs worldwide according to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and is a main driving force for the growth of living standards around the world and is a significant equalizer of income inequality, so consequently, the slow-down of the industry has had and is projected to have a devastating effect on Member States around the world²⁷.

With stay at home orders, partial lock downs, and full lockdowns, the global economy came to a halt leading to the loss of jobs and homes and pushing many into poverty²⁸. The restrictions on exports and varying food price inflation among Member States has also alarmed many officials with the potential of a climb in the amount of food insecurity²⁹. With a change in the patterns of consumers and supply of labor and agricultural supplies having been disrupted, several food producers are encountering large losses of perishable food³⁰. These disruptions in labor and agricultural supplies also threaten next season's crop leading to future food shortages³¹. Member States that are already experiencing extreme weather like droughts and floods, inflation and deflation, poverty, and conflicts are at a risk of heightened food insecurity³².

COVID-19 has pushed the world to a tipping point, threatening security around the world. With the rise of food insecurity and unemployment public unrest has surged. In Member States like Brazil, India, Kosovo, Malawi, and South Africa, violent protests have emerged, and protests in Member States like France (Yellow Vest Movement) and the United States (armed protestors denounce lock-down) have exhibited the heightened political unrest around the world. Police repression has escalated in other Member States like Kenya and the Philippines³³. This political tension is worsened by postponement of elections and reduced ability to vote, limited movement, and soaring employment in many Member States³⁴.

Actions Taken by the UN

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General, the chief administrative officer of the UN, called for an immediate global ceasefire on March 23rd 2020, asking Member States to

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ The World Bank. "Food Security and COVID-19." World Bank, August 7, 2020.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

³³ Muggah, Robert, David Steven, and Liv Tørres. "How COVID-19 Is Putting Global Security under Threat." World Economic Forum, April 23, 2020.

³⁴ United Nations. "Secretary-General Reiterates Appeal for Global Ceasefire, Warns 'Worst Is Yet to Come' as COVID-19 Threatens Conflict Zones | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." United Nations. United Nations, April 3, 2020.



“silence the guns” and “focus together on the true fight of our lives³⁵.” The UN has also created 3 plans to address the economic, humanitarian, and security crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first plan is the *Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan* to address immediate health needs. The second is the *Global Humanitarian Response Plan*, aimed at easing the impacts in the 50 most vulnerable Member States, and the third is the *UN Framework for Immediate Socio-economic Response* to deliver rapid recovery to low income Member States from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic³⁶. The plan, coordinated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), partnered with several Inter-Agency Standing Committees (IASC) like WHO and the World Food Programme (WFP), raises resources for COVID-19 responses related to health and various sectors. This includes the *Recover Better Together* Action Forum that was held on June 26th, 2020 which focuses on expanding “the social safety nets and close the digital divide; and it has built infrastructure, including for water and sanitation, to support both immediate response and long-term resiliency in Member States around the world³⁷.”

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) launched several responses for COVID-19 aid. In Indonesia, UNDP, with the help of WHO and other organizations, obtained 75 ventilators and 500,000 masks for distribution, launched its *Global Marine Communities* project to help fishermen with the pandemics impact and to help improve hygiene practices, and set into motion a mass information campaign designed to spread information about best practices for COVID-19 prevention and response for commuters³⁸. In Laos, UNDP has initiated a special service called *One Call Away*, which automatically sends voice message to help inform 160,00 people living with disabilities and 78,000 people with visual impairments about COVID-19. UNDP Malaysia has set up five quarantine centers as well as donated thousands of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)³⁹.

The UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) has been active in Member States like the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo to maintain the health of communities. In the Central African Republic, DPO has been spreading information about COVID-19 prevention by having UN police offices wear fluorescent vests on their patrols that show WHO’s preventative measures on preventing the spread of the virus⁴⁰.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have been working to maintain food security primarily through its *COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme* which is designed to help alleviate the immediate impact of the virus and to build long-term security of food systems⁴¹. The program covers seven key priority areas: data for decision making,

³⁵ OCHA Services. “International Peace and Security, and Pandemics: Security Council Precedents and Options - World.” ReliefWeb. OCHA Services, April 5, 2020.

³⁶ United Nations Response to COVID-19. “UN Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better.” United Nations. United Nations, June 2020.

³⁷ UN COVID-19 Response. “Coronavirus | Recover Better.” United Nations. United Nations.

³⁸ Better World Campaign. “UN Response to COVID-19 Pandemic.” Better World Campaign, 2020.

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Ibid



economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty, trade and food safety standards, boosting smallholder resilience for recovery, preventing the next zoonotic pandemic, and food systems transformation. The program also uses FAOs ability to lead international efforts to match up those that need assistance with donors⁴².

Regional and International Framework

Member States around the world have taken action to halt the spread of COVID-19. In France, public gatherings of more than 5,000 people are banned leading to the cancellation of many events in France and locations like the Louvre. China implemented lockdowns and travel restrictions as well as closed several public venues to slow the infection rates. In response to the economic hardships, Hong Kong has included payments of over \$1,200 in the government budget for residents to help ease economic strains. Albania adopted two support packages to support residents and businesses affected by COVID-19 with budget spending and tax deferrals. The plan includes increasing funding to the health sector, supporting small businesses and self-employed people who were forced to close due to COVID-19 by paying them minimum salaries, doubling unemployment benefits and social assistance, moving defense spending to humanitarian relief for the most vulnerable, and a sovereign guarantee fund that allows businesses to access overdrafts in the banking system so they can pay their employees for up to three months capping the interest rate at 2.85 percent⁴³. Germany has allotted 350 billion euros to prop the eurozone's largest economy, and will help support struggling businesses, including unlimited loans⁴⁴.

The European Union has launched a 500-billion-euro package focused on providing emergency lending and assistance to provide quick relief to Member States. The packages *European Stability Mechanism* will deliver support through precautionary credit lines, establish a “temporary solidarity instrument” to give loans to EU members who intend to protect workers and jobs, and create a “pan-European guarantee fund” which are designed to help businesses in the EU, especially small and medium sized businesses. The European Central Bank (ECB) has been prepared to buy up to 750 billion euros in further bonds to help Member States⁴⁵.

In addition, *The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan*, created by WHO, sets priorities for the global health response and created an outline for Member States to follow in implementing public health measures and to prepare and respond to COVID-19. The \$1.74 billion plan is being funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Government budgets, and WHO's Solidarity Response Fund. The Global Humanitarian Response Plan also sets priorities for responding to COVID-19, however, it focuses on responding in impoverished and vulnerable

⁴² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UN. “FAO.org.” COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme | Resource Mobilization | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2020.

⁴³ International Monetary Fund. “Policy Responses to COVID19.” IMF. International Monetary Fund, August 14, 2020.

⁴⁴ Masters, Jonathan. “Coronavirus: How Are Member States Responding to the Economic Crisis?” Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations, May 4, 2020.

⁴⁵ European Council. “Statement by the President of the European Council Charles Michel Following the Agreement of the Eurogroup.” Consilium. Council of the European Union, April 10, 2020.



Member States. The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan aims to improve Member State “preparedness and response, accelerate research and development, and coordinate across regions to assess, respond, and mitigate risks⁴⁶.” The response plan also includes the shipping of PPE to 128 Member States, solidarity trials to test vaccines, a partners platform to share Member States response plans, the strengthening of laboratory treatment capacity and equipment, more accessible tools for COVID-19 for vaccines, tests, treatment, health system connectors, the deployment of emergency medical teams across the world, guidance and training of 108 courses with 13 topics in 36 languages, a campaign to combat misinformation primarily in social media and governments, and an EPI-WIN network for epidemics with 60 technical webinars and 287 expert panelists⁴⁷. The network delivers crucial information and advice to people about the COVID-19 pandemic from reputable public health sources that is tailored to its audiences and is easy to understand⁴⁸.

Conclusion

Among the many crises the UNSC has faced throughout its lifetime, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown itself to be a particularly unique and challenging one. The pandemic threatens the economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security of Member States around the world. Between the rising food insecurity, escalated political unrest, a multi-front health crisis, and mild to severe economic strain of Member States and individuals, the Security Council must move to ensure the stability and security around the world. What can be done to ensure all peoples have enough food? How can the UN, Member States, and organizations provide adequate medical equipment, training, and COVID-19 information to everyone? How can current frameworks be modified, and new ones created to help ease the economic stress on individuals, businesses, and Member States and to rebuild the economy on all levels?

⁴⁶ WHO. “Strategy and Planning.” World Health Organization. World Health Organization, April 14, 2020.

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ World Health Organization. “EPI-WIN, World Health Organization's Epidemic Information Network,” 2020.



Topic II: Protecting People Most Susceptible to the Effects of Climate Change

Introduction

With the melting of sea ice, rising sea levels, and changing weather patterns, all of which threatening the livelihood of millions, Climate Change is a key issue of our time. Climate change, as defined by NASA, “is the long term heating of Earth’s climate system observed since the pre-industrial period (between 1850 and 1900) due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth’s atmosphere⁴⁹”. The UN has taken an active role in combating climate change, holding several summits and conferences on climate change, and has a UN agency dedicated to the topic of climate change called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which is “tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change⁵⁰.” The UN also has a Sustainable Development Goal for Member States, SDG 13, focused solely on climate action. By the 1830s and 40’s the first Industrial Revolution had spread across the world, shifting the production of good from hand crafted to mass produced in factories, transforming the face of the human world and thus beginning the change of the natural world as well⁵¹.

Current Situation

Climate change is primarily caused by Member States like the United States and China, however, it is the less developed Member States that are at the greatest risk from the effects of climate change, including infectious diseases, heatwaves, loss of agricultural productivity, as well as asthma and other respiratory diseases⁵². Those who live in poverty generally suffer disproportionately more from the effects of climate change, and there is a further inequality of effects divide between gender, age, race, and ethnicity. Lower income populations tend to be at a greater risk because their houses may be made of less sturdy materials that won’t hold up in floods, they may not have air conditioning to combat the excessive heat from heat waves, and they may not have the diversity of assets that would help with the prevention of complete asset loss during a climate change related disaster. People in poverty are at a greater risk to the negative health affects related to climate change related disease, lack of clean water, and loss of food; further, women in these areas can be at a greater risk due to gender inequalities.

Among the many adverse effects of climate change are heat waves, or periods of “prolonged abnormally high surface temperatures relative to those normally expected⁵³.” These heat waves can have serious consequences for the health of vulnerable populations like the elderly, sick, and impoverished⁵⁴. Lower income areas that don’t have access to air conditioning do not have the ability to combat the excessive heat caused by heat waves, and sometimes waves can last days or

⁴⁹ NASA editors. “Overview: Weather, Global Warming and Climate Change.” NASA. NASA, August 28, 2019.

⁵⁰ United Nations Climate Change editors. “About the Secretariat.” unfccc.int. United Nations Climate Change, 2020.

⁵¹ History.com Editors. “Industrial Revolution.” History.com. A&E Television Networks, October 29, 2009.

⁵² Kasotia, Paritosh. “The Health Effects Of Global Warming: Developing Member States Are The Most Vulnerable.” United Nations. United Nations.

⁵³ Rafferty, John P. “Heat Wave.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., December 5, 2018.

⁵⁴ Ibid



weeks. It can have severe negative health effects on these populations like hyperthermia or heatstroke which can, if left untreated, lead to death⁵⁵. WHO estimates that in just 2015, 175 million more people were exposed to heat waves compared to average years, and between the years of 1998 and 2017, more than 166,000 people died due to extreme temperatures⁵⁶. In 2003, a heatwave in Europe took the lives of approximately 35,000 people, representing a grim foreshadow of waves to come⁵⁷. With the climate warming in many areas, infectious diseases are increasingly becoming a risk. As climate warms, diseases that require warm temperatures are allowed to spread to new areas where they were not able to flourish before. An increase in temperature also means many vector populations, or animals and insects that spread diseases, can grow, especially mosquito populations which elevates the risk of malaria, dengue fever, and other insect borne diseases. The Member States of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkey are within the “danger zone” of mosquito-borne malaria due to climate change relates shifts in climate. Member States that do not have access to medical technologies such as vaccines and medicines and do not have the resources and public health systems to prevent outbreaks are at a great risk from these diseases⁵⁸. People who are vulnerable to the heat problems and do not have the resources to escape it, like air conditioning, are also at a heightened risk of asthma and other respiratory diseases. In high temperatures, the cardiovascular system must work harder to keep the body cool. High temperatures also raise ozone concentration. Both can cause damage to the lungs and lead to respiratory related diseases⁵⁹. With the limited access to medical resources of many vulnerable and low-income populations, this becomes a major problem.

Floods, droughts, mudslides, wildfires, and hurricanes; climate change does not cause these disasters, but it can significantly worsen them. The most vulnerable populations are those who live on floodplains or those who cannot afford to construct houses with durable materials and are therefore more susceptible to damage. Many low-income communities simply do not have the assets to recover from a climate related natural disaster or, because they do not have the required resources, their livelihoods are at a greater risk. If a flood or drought kills all of a group’s livestock or crops, they may not have a means to make a living anymore. If a disadvantaged group’s homes are destroyed by a hurricane because of flimsy building materials or is burned down by a wildfire, they may not have the assets to rebuild and recover⁶⁰. These natural disasters can also lead to loss of agricultural productivity which means that the food supplies for millions are at risk. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is estimated that by 2020, approximately 75 to 250 million people in Africa will be without sufficient water and will face food shortages due to crop productivity reduction of about 50 percent. They also estimate that in Asia, about 130 million people could face food shortages due to the rising temperatures⁶¹. The IPCC also released a report that placed flood and droughts as one of the key drivers behind the increasing hunger around the world⁶². It will be those people who do not have the resources to mitigate these effects whose lives and livelihoods will be in danger.

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ WHO. “Heatwaves.” World Health Organization. World Health Organization, 2020.

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid



Gender, race, and ethnic inequalities lead to many groups being at a higher risk to the harmful impacts of climate change. Women represent one of the largest proportions of vulnerable peoples because women make up the majority of the world's poor, and many women around the world make their living on agriculture; an industry extremely vulnerable to climate change⁶³. Among developing Member States, women currently make up about 45 to 80 percent of all food producers⁶⁴. Women often do not have equal access to resources and decision-making and women are more likely to be lower income, often located in areas most susceptible to climate change because of this⁶⁵. Ethnic and racial minorities are also disproportionately affected by the changing climate. In Myanmar, the minority farmers are more vulnerable to damages from the cyclone Nargis in 2008, because of the lack of infrastructure and warning systems in place. This led to disproportionality high loss of income, assets, and life among the minority farmers. This unequal loss due to climate related disasters can be seen all over the world, in developing Member States and developed Member States alike. One reason is because often racial and ethnic minorities have lower income statuses making them more vulnerable populations⁶⁶.

Actions Taken by the UN

The UN has launched *its Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change (NWP)*, which aims to advance adaptation through knowledge to improve adaptation to climate change at all levels of government, especially focusing on developing Member States. This program created the Adaptation Knowledge Portal, which is intended to share knowledge on adaptation actions and “facilitates science-policy-practice collaboration” between Member States and organizations⁶⁷. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is working to address four main areas of disaster displacement of climate refugees, or people displaced by climate change related disasters. This is done by firstly, giving legal guidance to climate refugees to protect their rights. Secondly, promoting policy coherences to make sure issues of climate disaster are established across all pertinent areas. Thirdly, filling in gaps of the work of operations and policy through research. Lastly, creating field-based activities to minimize the climate change impact on refugee settlements and establish a sustainable response to climate refugee displacement⁶⁸.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has created a four-prong approach to help protect the world's most vulnerable children. This approach includes making children the center of climate change strategies and response plan, recognizing children as agents of change, protecting children from the impact of climate change and environmental degradation, and reducing emissions and pollution. UNICEF is making children the center of climate change strategies by working with governments and organizations around the world to ensure that the strategies being developed include children as an essential part. UNICEF supported Bolivia's Youth Summit on Water and

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ UNFCCC. “Climate Change Impacts Human Health.” unfccc.int. UNFCCC, April 12, 2017.

⁶⁸ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Climate Change and Disaster Displacement.” UNHCR. Accessed August 16, 2020.



Climate Change which was aimed at strengthening leadership in climate change and resource management. UNICEF has also worked to ensure that children around the world have critical services like schools, health centers, water, and sanitation facilities, that are resistant to climate disasters. UNICEF is implementing solutions to maintain water, sanitation, and hygiene services and avoid water scarcity and water contamination that often results from climate change related floods and droughts. This is done by using remote sensing to improve the detection of water sources, solar energy to help pump the water to the surface, and management systems to use the water efficiently. The UN agency is also working on providing health services that are resilient to climate change disasters by implementing sustainable and renewable energy sources to provide health facilities with electricity for lighting, heating, and cooling, and for powering medical equipment. This also includes the creation of solar fridges to improve vaccine delivery⁶⁹.

Regional and International Framework

Canada has remained dedicated to supporting the populations most vulnerable to climate change, and as of April 2019, pledges to deliver \$2.65 million to developing Member States to help with the effects of climate change and to reduce greenhouse emissions. In 2018, Canada emphasized the need to address gender inequalities in solving these problems and make their solutions inclusive to women and girls⁷⁰. The World Food Programme (WFP) has initiated their *Climate Adaptation Management and Innovation Initiative*, which focuses on 16 Member States throughout Asia, the Middle East, and Africa to inform decision making and programming through analyses and practices on food insecurity⁷¹. WHO has collaborated with the UN to launch *Climate Change and Health Country Profiles* for 14 Member States. These profiles feature climate change related information on Member States that show the current and future impacts of climate change on areas of policy response of Member States and human health. The profiles demonstrate actions that Member States can implement to combat climate change. These actions include shifting to cleaner energy sources, using public transport, walking, and biking, etc.⁷².

Conclusion

As the global climate changes increasingly with the rise of greenhouse gasses, more and more are the lives of millions around the world threatened by climate change related disasters. Especially the lives of people most vulnerable to these disasters. Heat waves, floods, droughts, mudslides, wildfires, hurricanes, all disasters that are exacerbated by climate change and wield the power to

⁶⁹ UNICEF. "Environment and Climate Change." UNICEF, July 29, 2020.

⁷⁰ Canada, Global Affairs. "Climate Change in Developing Member States." *GAC*, Government of Canada, 23 June 2020.

⁷¹ World Food Programme, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes Unit (OSZIR). "C-ADAPT: Climate Resilience for Food Security," October 2017.

⁷² WHO, UNFCCC. "Climate and Health Country Profiles - 2015: A Global Overview - World." ReliefWeb. OCHA Services, November 7, 2015.



destroy crops, livestock, infrastructure, homes, and lives. Populations that are of lower income, elderly, young, face racial, ethnic, or gender inequality oftentimes do not have the assets to protect themselves and their livelihoods from climate change impacts. Climate change is something that the whole world faces together, and therefore, the Security Council must ensure that the response to climate change involves the impoverished, racial, ethnic minorities, vulnerable age groups, and women. How can the racial and ethnic inequalities regarding climate change impact be addressed? What can be done to aid low income populations in preventing loss and to assist their recovery from climate change related disasters? How can we ensure the solutions created are inclusive to women, children, and the elderly? What precautions can be implemented to secure the health and safety of vulnerable populations in regard to the spread of climate change related diseases and water contamination?

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