Background Guide

Commission on the Status of Women

GatorMUN XVII

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Commission on the Status of Women for GatorMUN XVII! As a delegate of CSW, you will have to discuss issues involving marginalized communities and the need for protection and advancement for the rights of women and girls. To preface, my name is Stephanie Gonzalez and I am a fourth year here at the University of Florida majoring in Advertising with a minor in Women's Studies. I have been a part of UF Model UN since my sophomore year of college and have traveled to various conferences in the circuit. Outside of school and MUN, I am either eating Snapea Crisps or watching documentaries for fun.

The first topic is Women's Welfare After Natural Disasters. This topic delves deep into the discussion about vulnerabilities of women after potential crises in both developed and developing countries. According to UN Women, women are especially vulnerable to violence and discrimination following natural disasters, as governments' ability to protect women diminishes in the immediate aftermath of such events. I would like delegates to consider their Member State's situation and policies in regards to natural disaster relief and how women may be particularly vulnerable. Ambitious ideas for this topic are encouraged, but they should be substantiated with realistic policies that stay equitable with respect to different Member States.

The second topic is Violence Against Indigenous Women and the Advancement of Their Rights. Amnesty International writes that in the United States alone, indigenous women are over twice as likely to experience violence. This population of women is one of the most underrepresented in the discussion of women's rights, and it is your job as a delegate is to give a voice to them in discussing this critical topic. I encourage you to think about the historical context in respect to your designated Member States and how that will affect policies that fight against this form of gender-based violence.

Position papers are required for this committee. If you have any questions regarding the committee format or position papers on the topics, please feel free to email me at gatormun@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing innovative solutions and seeing thoughtful debate. See you all at GatorMUN!

Stephanie Gonzalez

Director, Commission on the Status of Women

Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as "Present" or "Present and Voting."

Motion to Open Debate

This opens the floor for debate, allowing other points or motions.

Motion to Set the Agenda

This motion determines the order in which the topics of a committee will be debated. Permission to speak will be accorded to one speaker for and one speaker against, and a two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass.

Motion to Open the Speaker's List

Opening the Speaker's List requires a simple majority to pass. A delegate may only be present on the Speaker's List once, but may re-enter after he/she has spoken. If the Speaker's List expires, debate then closes.

Motion to Set Speaking Time

Speaking Time must be indicated by this motion from the floor before any members of the body may speak on the Speaker's List. This motion must also accompany any motion for a Moderated Caucus. In a Motion to Set Speaking Time for the formal Speaker's List, a delegate may also specify a number of questions or comments to automatically affix to the Speaking Time. These designated questions or comments may also have Speaking Time or Response Time (in the case of a question) limits, but these are not required. The Director may rule any Motion to Set Speaking Time dilatory. This motion requires a simple majority. Any delegate may make this motion between formal speakers in an effort to change the Speaking Time.

Motion to Close the Speaker's List

The Speaker's List may be closed upon a motion from the floor. Permission to speak will be accorded to one speaker for and one speaker against, and a two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications:
   a. Length of the Caucus
   b. Speaking time, and
   c. Reason for the Caucus.
During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus should never exceed twenty minutes.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year's conference.

Motion to Table the Topic

If a delegate believes that the flow of debate has become stagnant, he/she may make this motion. To Table the Topic is to halt debate on the present Topic, save the speakers' list and all draft resolutions, and move on to the next Topic on the Agenda. The delegate making this motion may also choose to specify a previously tabled Topic. This motion requires a two-thirds vote to pass. The Topic may be returned to at any time by tabling the present Topic and adding the phrase "for the purpose of returning to Tabled Topic ____," to this motion. If no Topics have been previously tabled, debate must follow the established Agenda. This motion is to be used sparingly.

Points of Order

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:
    a) To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
    b) To question relevance of debate to the current Topic or
    c) To question a quorum.
A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time. The question must conform to the following format:

    Delegate from Country A raises placard to be recognized by the Committee Director.
    Committee Director: "To what point do you rise?"
        Country A: "Point of Inquiry."
    Committee Director: "State your Point."
    Country A: "Will the delegate from Country B (who must have just concluded a substantive speech)   yield to a question?"
    Committee Director: "Will the Delegate Yield?"
    Country B: "I will" or "I will not" (if not, return to the next business item)
        Country A asks their question (it must not be a rhetorical question.)

Country B may choose to respond or to decline.
If the Delegate from Country B does not yield to or chooses not to answer a question from Country A, then he/she yields all remaining questioning time to the Committee Director.

Points of Personal Privilege
Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

Rights of Reply
At the Committee Director's discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL. Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

Working Papers and Draft Resolutions
Once a Working Paper has been submitted, approved, distributed, and formally introduced to the body, it can and will be referred to as a "Draft Resolution." In order for a Working Paper to be submitted to the Committee Director, it must be in correct format and bear the names of a combination of a number of Sponsors and Signatories necessary to introduce, as determined by the Committee Director.

Sponsors are the writers of the Working Paper, and agree with it in its entirety. They should be able to vote 'yes' for the paper during voting procedure. Signatories are those delegates interested in bringing the Working Paper to the floor for debate, but do not necessarily agree with its contents.

A delegate can motion to discuss the working paper during a moderated caucus or unmoderated caucus. A delegate can also motion for an author's panel, which is essentially a moderated caucus moderated by the authors. It is the chair's discretion on the maximum amount of authors allowed on the author's panel.

Friendly Amendments
Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that *all* Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

Unfriendly Amendments
Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and nonsubstantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.

Plagiarism

GatorMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the GatorMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

Motion to Close Debate and Voting Procedures

A motion to close debate may only pass with a two-thirds majority. Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors.

Once moving into voting procedures chair can only accept these motions:
• A point of order to correct an error in procedure
• An appeal of the decision of the chair
• A motion for division
• A motion for roll call vote
• A motion for adoption by acclamation
•
No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures.

Each Draft Resolution will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Draft Resolution will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Draft Resolution as a whole is put to a vote. The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures. Unless otherwise specified by the Secretariat, each Committee may pass as many resolutions as it agrees are necessary to efficiently address the Topic

Delegates who requested to be noted as "Present and Voting" are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.

Roll Call Voting

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: "For," "Against," "Abstain," or "Pass."

During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, "Pass," reserves his/her vote until the Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to "Passing" Delegates, they must vote: "For" or "Against."

Voting with Rights

During a Roll Call vote delegates may vote "For with Rights" or "Against with Rights." Delegates will be granted 30 seconds to explain their reasons for voting for or against a draft resolution. This time will come after the tabulation of votes.

Delegates should use this option sparingly. It is meant for delegates who feel that their vote may seem off policy, despite it being correct. The acceptance of rights is up to the director's discretion. If a speaker goes off topic during their allotted time the director will rule their speech dilatory and move to the next motion in order.

Accepting by Acclamation

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.

Background

The Commission on the Status of Women started off as the Subcommission on The Status of Women under the Commission on Human Rights, yet many women representatives saw the importance in creating a separate intergovernmental entity dedicated to addressing women's issues and rights. Formally established in 1946, the Commission on the Status of Women is an intergovernmental body underneath the branch of the UN Women with the objective to pro-mote gender equality and empower women. The CSW was created out of a resolution passed by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). On February 24, 1947 the first session of the commission was held with 15 member delegations present, with a female majority present. The member states represented were Australia, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Syria, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela. One of the Commission's first accom-plishments was to push for more inclusive, gender-sensitive language and against references to "men" as a synonym for humanity.

During the Commission's earliest stages, the issues on the agenda in 1950s addressed wom-en's political rights such as the right to vote or to hold political office and the discrimination in marriages. The results from these debates were the first international laws used to acknowledge and protect women's political rights and the first international agreements on women's right in marriage. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Commission addressed women's portrayal in the media by appointing a Special Rapporteur to report on ways to eliminate stereotypes in the mass media's coverage of women and girls. The Commission on the Status of Women worked to strengthen the standards on women's rights and developed the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimi-nation against Women which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1967.To remind the in-ternational community about the prevalence of injustices and discrimination against women the Commission recommended that 1975 would be considered International Women's Year. Adopt-ed in 1979 by the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrim-ination against Women (CEDAW) strived to bring together a series of internationally accepted principles on the rights of women in a legally-binding form. More efforts to strengthen the sta-tus of women was where 145 Member States convened for the mid-decade World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1980. The Commission on the Status of Women evolved from meeting Biennially to annually in 1987. The Commission on the Status of Women, the CEDAW Committee brought the issue of violence against women as a priority in their agenda during the late 1980s and early 1990s which resulted to the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women by the General Assembly on 20 December 1993. During the late 1990s and the early 2000s, the Commission had to update its methods of work by reas-sessing and monitoring the committee's implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission considered only one priority theme at each session which resulted in agreed conclusions negotiated by all States in 2007.

In 2010, the UN Women committee was established by the General Assembly as its own entity with the goal to advance gender equality and empower women, according to the United Nations and the Advancement of Women. The entity also encompasses and strengthens four parts of the United Nations system. In its fifty-fourth session in 105 the Commission decided to transform the Beijing Platform of Action into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sus-tainable Development Goals. UN Women's relation to the Commission on the Status of Women was to to be the secretariat that supports the Commission's work by not only providing analyses and documentation on policies that promote gender equality since the Commission's fifty-fifth session. There will be a 25-year review and evaluation of the execution of the Beijing Platform for Action during the 2020 sixty-fourth session, due to a motion set by the Commission.

Topic 1:Women's Welfare After Natural Disasters

Introduction

According to the World Health Organization, disasters are defined as "any occurrence that causes damage, ecological disruption, loss of human life or deterioration of health and health services on a scale sufficient to warrant an extraordinary response from outside the affected community area". The topic will be focusing on natural disasters, specifically environmental events that are not (directly) human made such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, cyclones, etc.

In the period between 2014 and 2017, 870 million people from about 160 countries either died, lost their livelihoods, or were displaced from their homes because of disasters caused by natural hazards, according to the United Nations' Global Humanitarian Overview 2019 report. Natural disasters do not affect everyone equally. Oftentimes, disaster within high conflict regions causes an intensification of gender disparities within those very regions. Certain populations become more vulnerable when experiencing a natural disasters due to various factors such as differing socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds (Eric Neumayer & Thomas Plümper). The focus of this topic is to fully evaluate the various aspects that leave populations (in this case specifically women) in worse conditions after natural disasters from various geographical, economical, and societal perspectives. In order to do this, one must look at this from both a regional context and also on a global scale as natural disasters can impact people beyond the area of immediate impact.

History

In an effort to advance equal rights and opportunities, UN Women emphasizes the gender dimension of the effect of disasters in the discussion of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) effectiveness. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan as a settlement of 2030 Sustainable development agenda. There were recommendations made about "gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, and awareness raising on gender equality and the need for empowerment and leadership of women in natural disasters," according to UN Women. The UN Women also asserted the need for stronger language surrounding women's participated.

In particular, UN Women has advocated for strengthened language relating to women's equal participation and leadership, increased collection and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, gender analysis as well as inclusion of gender-responsive targets and indicators in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In May 2017, UN Women co-hosted an event called "Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction" at the fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. This event brought increased awareness to how gender inequality affects risk and what the best practices are in regards to gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Key Issues

Economic:
According to the United Nations Commission for Social Development, both human-made and natural disasters are a barrier towards eradicating poverty. As a result, when a natural disaster hits an economically struggling region the effects have greater consequences as compared to a more economically developed nation. This it is encouraged for delegates to consider the effects that aspects such as unemployment rate and lack of economic growth can have in terms of addressing post-disaster relief.

Social/Cultural:
While more research and data is needed to make more accurate and substantiated claims of natural disasters, it is important to note the significance of the role social and cultural norms play in getting aid after natural disasters. In terms of gender roles, women in many countries usually take on the roles of a family caretaker which may provide a barrier when it comes to potential self-rescue or women's well-being after a natural disaster. Another cultural norm to consider is the significance of dress codes that affect individual regions. Consider the example of the traditional clothing item like the saree which is worn in Bangladesh. These can act as barriers to movement when an unexpected natural disaster hits as that clothing can potentially provide an obstacle towards running, swimming, etc.. The impediment to movements provides a barrier before and during cyclone-induced floods.

Political:
Another thing to consider is how post-conflict or politically turbulent areas affect outcomes after natural disasters. In the example of Bangladesh (which is very prone to cyclones), the 1991 Marion cyclone affected the region and was considered the fifth deadliest tropical cyclone recorded in the 20th Century, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Bangladeshi government, that was installed two months prior to the cyclone was open to receiving international assistance but was cautious in the alliance made due to the question of sovereignty. This brings up the point of how willing a particular region is to receive relief assistance from foreign agencies, NGOs, and government, and how that will impact future diplomatic relations. As stated in the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization, the Bangladeshi government had budgeted around 1.4 million dollars for immediate relief operations, and had sent out "790 medical teams and 108 army medical teams."

Environmental:
Some natural disasters are more prevalent in certain regions than other regions.The overall effects of climate change continue to be felt disproportionately by certain populations in regions around the world. In areas such as the Philippines, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for example, the extreme weather events create circumstances where there is displaced people that are known as "Climate Refugees".

Current Progress

2004:
The 48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women analyzed the themes of the role that men and boys played pursuing the goal of gender equality. Understand the role men and boys play in the aftermath of a natural disaster and how it best be remedied. The other theme was "Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention,

Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-Conflict Peace-Building" which emphasized certain objectives and actions from the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action. Certain agreed conclusions such as "improving the collection, analysis and inclusion of information on women and gender issues as part of conflict prevention and early warning efforts" and to "ensure better collaboration and coordination
between efforts to promote gender equality and efforts aimed at conflict prevention" should also be noted when considering solutions to the problem of women's welfare after natural disasters.

2005:
The Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan utilized the Hyogo Framework (endorsed by 168 national governments) and considered gender main streaming in the strategies that came up with such as the policies, plans and disaster preparedness risk assessment, warnings, information management and educational trainings.

The 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution natural disasters that urges governments to integrate gender perspectives in all phases of the disaster preparedness and relief decision-making.

2016:
From March 14th to 24th, the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held with the goal of promoting women empowerment and they even linked it to sustainable development. The application of achieving gender equality within the 2030 agenda is something to be considered in the grand scheme of solutions constructed. In the case of this topic, it is important to also look through the agreed conclusion that outlines the empowerment of women and girls as it relates to sustainable development goals (SDGs). Among the agreed conclusions are how the gender perspective is involved in climate change, disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, women's participation in the decision-making on environmental issues.

2019:
From March 11th to 22th, the 63rd and most recent Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held and focused on the theme of "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls". The conclusions mentioned the importance of addressing issues in accessibility to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure especially during post-natural disaster due to increased vulnerability and disadvantages to certain populations of people. However, problems continue to exist so it is important to look at the existing framework and see how it can be improved or properly implemented.

Regional Context
Depending on the region, different geographic locations are more prone to certain natural hazards or potential natural disasters compared to others. Thus, it is important to be aware about how each natural hazard may disproportionately affect women. For example, in droughts women are more likely to miss school in various locations as they may need to collect water and care for their family. Additionally, sixty percent of all preventable maternal deaths happen in settings of conflict, displacement or disaster because women lack access to critical health care. On top of this, within different regions there are various cultural norms and/or taboos that may increase women and girls susceptibility to health problems such as the social taboo of menstruation or women staying at home waiting for their husbands and caring for the children when disaster

strikes.

In the aftermath of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, a tsunami was triggered that affected different countries and caused a death toll of 300,000 in 2004. However, one nomadic population remained intact with a death toll of zero in the Surin Islands of Thailand. The Mokan nomads had relied on observing the environment and utilized folklore as a lifesaving measure. An elder in the Mokan community told a folk legend of a "Laboon" which provided a reference to the members of the community to watch for changes in the ocean which served as an early warning system for the Moken.

Additionally, the importance of gender is discussed in the Regional Plan of Action and Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment into Development. In the 2009 regional reports almost all countries included some reference to gender issues. However, many regions are still facing very specific problems that are unique to their community or region. Thus, it is highly encouraged to look at and address the needs of varying communities in terms of differing cultural and geographical factors that make each region and natural disaster unique.

Regional Context

Africa
Natural hazards include epidemics, endemic diseases, droughts, floods, agricultural pests and bush fires with susceptibility to earthquakes, cyclones, and volcanic eruptions. Also consider how other contexts of the region may affect the overall susceptibilities of your countries. The 53 countries within Africa face susceptibility as there is fast population growth, forced movements of population, environmental degradation, urbanization, food insecurity, poverty, fragile economies, infrastructures and institutions, and cultural and political instability.

Africa remains specifically vulnerable due to climate change, erratic rainy seasons, and political turmoil that has intensified poverty. This combination of environmental, political, and economic factors left specific regions within Africa a whole more vulnerable. For example, two-thirds of the female labor force in developing countries are in agricultural work. If a natural disaster strikes such as a drought, a developing country's economic growth would be negatively affected because of food sources becoming scarce and loss of income, according to the FAO.

When analyzing African natural disasters, it is important to not only look at what the government is doing but also what organizations are doing. As an example, the Sahel region of northern Africa has faced severe droughts and saw that during food shortages, women were more likely to suffer from malnutrition due to the burdens associated with childbirth and the associated care for the children (breast feeding, etc.). However, organizations such as the World Bank have been supporting efforts such as the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to support African countries facing droughts and floods. These programs require that women be involved in decision-making and get skills training in fields such as meteorology and hydrology. This adds a new dimension of gender in order to address disaster reduction. Specifically, Togo has worked with the Red Cross to promote women groups and empower them within communities. This shows large corporations coming in at the grassroot levels to help promote women empowerment and overall resilience of the community to natural disasters. Despite this, many countries remain vulnerable and organizations have come in and been unsuccessful in implementing their programs. Finding the reasoning behind why certain programs are not working

and how women's welfare can be promoted before, during, or after natural disasters is imperative to solving this problem.

The Americas
Gender equality laws and Disaster Risk Reduction measures are limited especially within Central America. However, small-scale projects have been being used which take into account both gender equality and DRR measures as they push for new measures to be taken such as skills training. For example, six months before Hurricane Mitch struck in Honduras, a disaster agency had provided gender-sensitive community education on early warning systems and hazard management. This was when women took the previously unsought duty to continuously monitor the warning system. This resulted in prompt evacuations after the hurricane strike the community. After Hurricane Mitch in 1998, the village of La Masica registered no deaths and was the only community to do so.

Furthermore, another example to look to is Nicaragua with Hurricane Mitch. Women would assume the traditional role as caretakers and help others evacuate. According to Bradshaw (2001) gender analysis report, three quarters of the emotionally affected people during Hurricane Mitch were women and they roles of them "doing nothing" would hinder their participation in the reconstruction process.

Despite these improvements within some communities, Central America and Mexico especially still have high levels of poverty and violence, making them increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters. Additionally, the Caribbean region especially remains increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricanes due to their location. These natural disasters are only become more dangerous and frequent due to increases in climate change.

Asia and the Pacific
A lot of this region's progress has been to commit the Hyogo Framework and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that outwardly commit to promoting resolutions that solve gender issues and have explicit references to them as well. However, problems still exist as gender issues are not being addressed in new policies, legislation or practices which are more so meant to mainstream gender issues that need to be addressed on local and community based levels.

For example, in the Philippines it has often been seen that a lack of communication during natural disasters has created a serious problem especially for women. Thus, the Philippines hosted a Text Brigade that gave alerts on impending disasters to all registered members of the community and was a helpful strategy in the experience of the women. Case studies also emphasizes the need for women to be a part of the decision-making processes within legislation, and for natural disasters with preparation and restoration to better ensure that women's interests are included in the strategies and solutions.

This region is especially vulnerable as they are susceptible to more natural disasters and are already facing the negative effects of climate change and urbanization. Additionally, regional factors such as fast-growing populations with high poverty rates only propound the issue of preparation and restoration after natural disasters according to the World Economic Forum. Coastal regions especially are susceptible to natural disasters, and this leaves vulnerable populations at great risk. Also, it is important to consider the effects of climate change as it pertains to its correlations to natural disasters. Women are increasingly vulnerable since they makeup most of the world's impoverished population and natural disasters create barriers to overcome poverty because of decreased access to necessary resources.

In the Philippines again, to come up with preemptive measures for Natural Disasters scientists had to look at environmental hazards that were taking place, specifically in the city of Malabon such as ground shaking, liquefaction, tsunamis, flooding, and storm surges. Another hazard that had to be taken into account were the risks that are specific to the metropolitan area such as population crowding. The type of natural disaster will cause certain after effects that may be unique to the situation, showing disaster relief needs to be specialized for specific situations. The city of Malabon is surrounded by three rivers and has a high risk for flooding which can be aggravated by improper waste management. This needs to be taken into account if solutions addressing disaster relief are to be found for this area.

The case study and associated tables below analyzed how the City of Malabon dealt with natural disasters and how they targeted gender disparities. In the study, a representative from the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office had stated that gender and development initiatives had only began since November 2014.

It has been shown that there are differences in accessibility to various resources for women in different countries. For many, there is limited access to basic preemptive natural disaster relief resources according to respondents in one case study. The study mentioned how women relied on women's associations for basic resources because both national and local governments assistance had arrived later. A barrier to evacuation efforts included the women's gendered role in the household in staying home, leading in relief efforts for other, tending to children's safety, etc. The World Health Organization says that gender roles dictate how women will behave during disaster situations as many women take on the role of a caretaker and remain responsible for those affected by disasters, particularly children, the elderly, and the disabled. Not only will women they will also take on more of the psychological/ emotional burden.

Europe
The advancement in Gender Equality has been highly prominent in Europe because of their current equality laws, education, and gender-sensitive practices. However, gender issues and disparities are not yet specifically integrated in all DRR plans. France's DRR plan stands out as it specifies that reach must be to both men and women in their initiatives. By having specifics for both men and women they are able to allow for a specialized approach that allows each gender to disaster relief once a natural disaster strikes. However, despite advancements especially within western Europe, eastern Europe is still in need of development. This is due to the fact that regions such as former Yugoslavia is continuing to develop. Nevertheless, by looking at the history of natural disasters countries within these developing regions are able to learn from their past. For example, in 2014 there were floods within Bosnia and Herzegovina. They evaluated everything within different sectors such as agriculture, energy, transportation, housing, health, education, water, sanitation, and more. Additionally, they did a gender analysis to evaluate employment and specifically how women were affected by welfare programs in relation to caring for children. They were able to conclude that it is important for women from all groups to be a part of decision-making forums, allow for men and women to be a part of housing and property compensation, gender-sensitive disaster preparedness, and more. Thus, developed and developing countries both can take different plans of attack and still get successful results, showing the need for differing perspectives and approaches in terms of addressing natural disasters, especially in reference to women's welfare.

South America
South America has been seeing improvements within recent years due to changes in governmental power. However, a lot of turmoil still exists that has prevented governments from focus-

ing on topics such as disaster relief since it is not of immediate issue to most governments. Despite this lack of preparation, natural disasters continue to strike and thus force government and organization alike to get involved in restoration and relief. For example, in 2010 Chile experienced both an earthquake and tsunami. After doing a seven-year longitudinal study on the communities, researchers were able to determine multiple patterns of change and even proposed ways to create long-term help for the communities. First, they found that at the heart of many countries (especially within the South American region) sits a patriarchal system that needs to be challenged in the face of natural disasters. For example, they saw that that grassroot organizations were very successful when women took control in creating long-term changes. These women helped allow social, political, and economic change for the community while also promoting women empowerment and gender equality. They also found that organization could foster long-lasting gender role changes. By teaching women about both their internal and external strengths as leaders and members of the organizations they were able to promote resilience to future natural disasters. They did this through what were known as gender-sensitive programs at national and local levels. This is all based off of the Chile case study, but by using gender-sensitive approaches on a community-based level they were able to promote gender equality and increase resilience to future disasters, allowing for a solution for the present and future.

Despite this, certain minority groups are left more vulnerable than others within local communities. For example, within Brazil there are what are known as favelas which are basically slums or shantytowns. These highly impoverished neighborhoods sometimes are even directly next to high tourist attractions, such as those seen in Rio de Janeiro below. The rapid urbanization of these cities leaves many people in small areas, making it so that more people are affected when a natural disaster chooses to strike. Many of these people are women and children who have nowhere else to go. Thus, it is also important to address the growing problem of urbanization and minority communities in terms of preparing and addressing natural disasters in areas.

Questions to consider
1. How can Climate Change and Gender Inequality correlate in regards to possible natural disaster long term?
2. What role does geography and past politics play into gender-responsive solution?
3. How can sex- and age demographic data research help in coming up with solutions?
4. How is girls' education affected by natural disasters and how can it help in disaster reduction?
5. What supporting governments can work together and collaborate on gender-responsive disaster relief and management.

Topic 2: Violence Against Indigenous Women and the Advancement of Their Rights

Introduction

To further global sustainable development, it is critical to consider indigenous women's struggles, needs, and contributions in order to support and improve vulnerable communities. Indigenous women are often offered limited access to social protection and are underrepresented in discussions of women's rights. While indigenous women have made substantial contributions to the world in terms of politics, the economy, society, and culture, they are still marginalized, suffering from an intersectional form of oppression based on both their gender and status as racial minorities in many countries.

In order to fully understand the scope of the problems that indigenous women face, it is also crucial to understand the context of climate change, globalization, and various socio-political forces to see how certain key issues continue to affect the advancement and implementation of rights for indigenous people.

The breakdown of the rule of law (such as in times of conflicts) and system that increases general insecurity in member states are often risk factors for violence against women and girls.

History

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has supported emphasizing the situation and rights of indigenous women from their first session on May 12th to 24th in 2002. Additionally, multiple studies have been done over the years to address the ongoing epidemic of violence against indigenous women in particular. According to a 2012 United Nations report on the Expert Group Meeting on Gender-Motivated Killings of Women, a lot of the causes and consequences of femicides (gender-motivated killings) in Latin America were due to insecurities felt by the people. The report showed that this exacerbated the effects of gender-based violence against indigenous women and girls.

In March of 2017 indigenous women leaders and representatives from indigenous organizations gathered at the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. They emphasized the importance of women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work with a focus on the empowerment of indigenous women.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), also known as A/RES/61/295, was passed by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007, having first been drafted in 1994. The UNDRIP is considered to be "the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples," enumerating fundamental rights and standards, as well as including specifics as to how these rights can be protected for indigenous peoples specifically. Importantly, the Declaration forbids discrimination against indigenous people and ensures their right to participate in society, both at-large and in spaces unique to them.

The United Nations General Assembly convened for a High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) regarding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September of 2014. At this

meeting, benefits and limitations of the Declaration were discussed, in addition to methods for implementation of the 46 articles. The creation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People took into context the colonial and imperial histories of various states and how this could be seen in relation to the international community. Within the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 22 calls on states "to take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination." Both The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Statute of the International Criminal Court provide different platforms to advances criminal protection of the rights of indigenous peoples under international law. However, problems still exist within internationally for indigenous women, so it is highly encouraged to look into the reasons why this is and how it can be addressed.

Key Issues

Poverty/Livelihood:
According to various proposals, poverty is not such a technical issue for indigenous people but it has roots in the political environment which can only be sufficiently dealt with at a global level. It is also important to consider proposals that allow for sustained livelihoods and income generation. When it comes to sustainability, it is important to take note about how sustainable these natural resources are to the environment as not only do indigenous people utilize these resources but help rebuild them. Several conservation efforts have taken place in various regions in the world. In Guatemala, to protect lake species from overexploitation there is a "tul" management system practiced by local Tzutujil fisher folks. Colombia's agro system includes a seed exchange with efforts to increase the society through the Nasa tul agro system consists of both production and conservation activities in the region. Another thing to note, is how the agricultural infrastructure and development ultimately affect marginalized indigenous populations differently.

Climate Change:
Consider the tangible effects that climate change may bring about in creating an already more fragile environment with more turmoil and increased violence. The indigenous people would use adaptive strategies in order to combat risks involved with the changing weather patterns. However, when it comes to climate combating strategies such as forest preservation or preservation of national parks, many indigenous people are often excluded from efforts and are scapegoated for conflicts/misuse that arise from misuse of these areas.

Specific Barrier to Research and Potential Solutions:
Specific hindrances to aiding/investigating abuses of indigenous people are "factors such as language barriers, lack of confidentiality in procedures for reporting of abuse, geographic remoteness of indigenous territories, patriarchal and discriminatory attitudes of service providers, law enforcement and judicial personnel, the culture of impunity and
limited awareness of the rights of indigenous people in general and women and girls" (UNFPA, VAIWG).

Ecotourism/Ethno Tourism:
Ecotourism can serve as an economically beneficial to tribal communities without the environmental and social consequences that traditionally commercial tourism may bring about and will help protect indigenous natural resources. Ethno-tourism may also bring a downfall as outsiders and outside business may want to exploit the lives of indigenous people by exploiting their culture.

Recent Developments

Demarcation/Land Governance
Land governance is a central topic on the subject of indigenous people as a large part of their culture and identity are rooted in their land. According to the IWGA, "loss of land and natural resources undermine economic security, sociocultural cohesion and human dignity of indigenous peoples around the world. Territorial self-governance, mobilisation, rights-awareness and legal strategies are helping to protect indigenous peoples and their land." Often, because of the constant race towards economic growth and development, many indigenous people have been uprooted from their native land displaced. Overall problems with land governance include a lack of legislation and an absence of proper implementation. This has caused the unequal distribution of the land. Land rights of indigenous people are constantly being controlled by the private sector and fellow encroachers. Projects are implemented to serve as a defense mechanism to combat these problems. Such projects include forest patrols utilizing the help of the GPS and other manners to control initiatives such as coal mining that can serve as a threat to the sociocultural life of an indigenous population.

Currently in the Atlantic, there are large percentages of Indigenous people specifically within the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. Nicaragua is also considered one of the least developed countries in Latin America with the problem of land tenure security despite the Agrarian reform. This presents a large threat to indigenous people and was caused by lack of land records, legal or administrative frameworks, and top land administration. This also makes it difficult for indigenous people to proceed on the topic of demarcation. Such fragile environments can lead to more conflict and violence among the indigenous people. However, Nicaragua helped to mitigate these challenges by implementing a new legal/administrative framework through the Land Administration Project (PRODEP) that was also supported by the World Bank. It began by initiating legal and policy changes, which consolidated land institutions, modernized land records and information systems, and also implemented more initiatives that included demarcation and regularisation.

Legal Services
Legal protections may be especially limited to indigenous women and girls due to low levels of birth registration. There is a lack of proof of identity and age which puts more girls and adolescents especially, at a vulnerable position to forms of violence such as trafficking, sexual exploitation and other child protection concerns.

Regional Context

Asia
India's population of indigenous women are disproportionately affected by violence. Indigenous tribes in India, known as Scheduled Tribes, are mostly concentrated in the northeastern provinces of the country. There about 705 "Scheduled Tribes" or ethnic groups in India. In a government survey, it was found that "47 percent of ever-married girls and women aged 15-49 belonging to Scheduled Tribes have experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their husband, compared to 40 percent of the total population." This indicates that indigenous women are more likely to experience domestic violence, which is a detriment to their safety and the development of their communities.

According to one report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of the Ministry of the Interior, there were 6,568 registered cases of crimes against indigenous people reported in India during 2016 as compared to 10,914 cases in 2015, which shows a substantial decrease." One thing to note about the reported cases of crime is that it failed to include certain cases such as human rights violations committed by the security forces. For example, in 2017 the security forces continued to be responsible for human rights violations against indigenous people. This is especially accurate in areas affected by armed conflicts, where indigenous peoples are caught between armed opposition groups (AOGs) and security forces. The cases happen often but there is lack of substantiated information about them.

North America

Canada is also experiencing widespread marginalization of indigenous women despite being a developed country. In Canada, indigenous women are murdered at a rate seven times higher compared to non-indigenous women. Despite the seriousness of the situation, 38 percent of indigenous women were still unable to access victim resources, including legal or medical resources. Contributing factors and problems point to Canada's history in relation to colonialism, reckless decision-making about land and resources, limited space for indigenous peoples in decision-making, and underfunding of basic service for indigenous people.

In the United States, American Indians and Alaskan Natives are considered the indigenous population. In May 2016, 567 tribal entities were federally recognised, and most of these have recognised national homelands. In 2010,the U.S. announced it would guide it's decision making with the support of the morality of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People even after voting against it in 2007. However, the current state of U.S. indigenous land rights and diminishing land resources are constantly being threatened due to policies set under the Trump Administration. It is important to see how differences within political parties and changes within politics can affect indigenous cultures. Threats such as mining and pipelines are still a present danger for many indigenous people in the U.S. For instance, the Pebble project in Alaska is aimed to target copper deposits near to Bristol Bay. A confederation of local Alaska Native village corporations, the United Tribes of Bristol Bay, opposes the mine for fear that it will destroy the rich salmon fishery in the bay.The Environmental Protection Agency came to a settlement that would allow the Pebble mine to apply for a permit in order to complete its project.

South America

Argentina's indigenous population faced specific problems due to the socio-economic context of the region. "They suffer from poverty, exclusion and discrimination,unemployment, lack of resources, environmental erosion, marginalisation of their culture and indigenous identity. Challenges coming from outside include patenting of traditional knowledge by non-indigenous companies; negative impacts of megaprojects; extraction of natural resources (oil, gas, minerals and forest produce) and agricultural mono-plantations," as stated in the IFAD report.

Africa

The San people in the South African region dealt with six proposals deal with San people. According to project information, the Sans people suffer from poverty; social fragmentation; erosion of their culture, knowledge and hunting-and-gathering livelihoods; lack of livelihood alternatives and unemployment; and food insecurity], according to the IFAD report.

In Algeria, the indigenous people are the Amazigh. A common problem is because the Algerian government doesn't recognize their right to their indigenous status so there is a lack of information about them.

A big challenge for the Amazigh people are the arbitrary arrests in various regions of the country. For example, in 2016, the 140 Mozarabic and Amazigh people in the M'zab region were arrested and sent to jail without trial. In protest against their illegal detention and inhuman detention conditions, some prisoners of Mozabite resorted to repeated hunger strikes.

Located in central Africa, the Republic of the Congo is the second largest forested land area globally. The indigenous population makes up about 10 percent of the total population, according to a 2011 survey. Despite laws to protect indigenous people, some challenges for the indigenous population is that they continue to suffer from discrimination and marginalization, which shows progress is still needed. Yet, Parliament adopted a law that was like no other in Africa in 2010. It was a law for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous people in the Republic of Congo. It is hoped that it will lead other countries to take similar initiative for their own indigenous people.

Middle East
The indigenous people of Israel, the Bedouins, have seen marginalization as they are not even officially recognized by the State of Israel. A major issue for the indigenous people is forced displacement. The member state did not participate in the vote on the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People and has not met the provisions from the Declaration. The lack of recognition and marginalization of the indigenous has led to lack of infrastructural necessities and increased displacement of the population.

Israel lack of voter participation for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous which has only helped in restricting rights to movements for the Palestinian people while having them live in areas of demoltion and confiscation. Additionally, the indigenous people of Palestine are the Jahalin, al-Kaabneh, al-Azazmeh, al-Ramadin and al-Rshaida Bedouins, according to the IWGIA. It is highly encouraged to consider how the Isreali-Palestinean conflict may affect the rate of violence against indigenous women and ways to possibly mitigate it.

Works Cited

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/12/why-asia-pacific-is-especially-prone-to-natural-disasters/
https://www.preventionweb.net/files/9922_MakingDisasterRiskReductionGenderSe.pdf

https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1964&context=jiwswill be carrying

https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/factsheet.html

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/12/why-asia-pacific-is-especially-prone-to-natural-disasters/

http://lib.riskreductionafrica.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/988/6020%20-%20Gender%20and%20health%20in%20disasters.pdf?sequence=1

https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/48/csw48b_e_final.pdf?la=en&vs=3723

https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/soc4876.doc.htm

https://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/Indigenous-Knowledge-Natural-Hazard-Mitigation.html

http://www.lse.ac.uk/website-archive/GeographyAndEnvironment/neumayer/pdf/Article%20in%20Annals%20(natural%20disasters).pdf

https://theconversation.com/women-worse-off-when-it-comes-to-natural-disasters-21717
https://www.du.edu/korbel/crric/media/documents/katie_hapeman1.pdf

https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/bangladesh-cyclone-apr-1991-undro-situation-reports-1-10

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/VAIWG_FINAL.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_qH7A51TMM&feature=youtu.be

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/world/canada/canada-indigenous-genocide.html

https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/Out%20of%20Sight%20Out%20of%20Mind%20EN%20Embar
goed.pdf

Commission on the Status of Women, "Overcoming Barriers to Care: Improving Indigenous Women's Access
to Social Protection Services,"

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/03/Final_ConceptNote_CSW63_IndigenousWomen_8March.pdf.

UN Women, "Indigenous Women & the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda," https://www.
un.org/esa/soc
dev/unpfii/documents/2016/Docs-updates/UNWomen_and_Indigenous_Women_FR_Final.pdf.

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indige-
nous-peoples.html

https://www.iwgia.org/en/focus/land-rights

https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40861543/custodians_biodiversity.pdf/002993bc-
6139-44cf-86a6-07acce712a0d

https://www.landcoalition.org/sites/default/files/documents/resources/c0020-wb-nicara-
gua-en-v20150415.pdf

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/VAIWG_FINAL.pdf

https://www.iwgia.org/en/india

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/VAIWG_FINAL.pdf

https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/indigenous-wom-
ens-rights-are-hu
man-rights

https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/Out%20of%20Sight%20Out%20of%20Mind%20
EN%20Embar
goed.pdf

https://www.iwgia.org/en/usa

https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40861543/custodians_biodiversity.pdf/002993bc-
6139-44cf-86a6-
07acce712a0d

https://www.iwgia.org/en/algeria

https://www.iwgia.org/en/republic-of-congo

https://www.iwgia.org/en/israel

https://www.iwgia.org/en/palestine