LEADERS SUMMIT

1. **Welcoming Letter**

"In a world of complex threats, our security and leadership depends on all elements of our power including strong and principled diplomacy" - Barack Obama, 2014

Dear Excellencies, Mateo Giraldo Estrada and Maria Camila Benjumea Cacante, your committee presidents, welcome you to this year's CBEMUN leaders summit. As presidents, we will accompany you as your guides throughout the days leading up to the summit.

Furthermore, as your guides, we incentivize you to participate in this event with your best. To experience the wisdom one could gain from participating in these upcoming debate sessions. Sessions that will transform each individual into a more globally aware person. Consequently, within this committee, all of you will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue about contemporary global issues.

Additionally, we expect participants to be fully dedicated to fulfilling this summit's core principles, which include fostering diplomatic relations between nations, addressing global challenges collaboratively, protecting human rights, and serving as a pillar for coordinated international efforts.

Without further ado, we hope that throughout the following days of discourse, each of you will evolve, achieving a deeper comprehension of our world's current state. Lastly, Mateo Giraldo and Maria Camila Benjumea will address any doubts each of you has regarding the uncertainties about the event or proceedings. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time.
Sincerely,

Mateo Giraldo Estrada   Maria Camila Benjumea

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CBEMUN XV
Do more than just watch!

2. Introduction To The Committee

The Leaders' Summit at the United Nations is a high-level platform where heads of state and government convene to address global challenges and set international priorities. It serves as a space for policy discussions on pressing issues such as peace, security, sustainable development, human rights, and climate change. By bringing together world leaders, the summit ensures that global governance remains effective and inclusive in tackling problems that transcend national borders.

This Summit cannot be understood as a regular committee since, unlike various bodies derived from organizations such as the United Nations, it lacks certain limitations that allow it to use its members' powers fully. By bringing together the leaders of the most influential nations around the world, whether as Heads of State or Government, the summit is endowed with a number of tools that are granted by the status of its participants, who, as plenipotentiaries, are empowered to make autonomous decisions regarding the actions they wish to take to resolve a specific issue. These powers are limited by applicable national and international law.

2.1 Historical Background

It is of utmost importance to analyze the origins of the Leaders Summit to understand its composition and purpose. To begin with, we must go back to the emergence of the nation-state, which was born as an institution at the end of the Middle Ages, when authority did not reside in sovereignty and whose legitimacy was supported as a rule by the command of God.

Everything started with the principle of sovereignty, consolidated when the parties to the Thirty Years' War[1] were summoned to determine a peace agreement, thus ending the war with the so-called Peace of Westphalia[2]. During the agreement, the ability of states to deal with their internal affairs as they pleased was established, as long as these were absolute. This is evidenced in texts of theorists such as Thomas Hobbes who in his book "The Leviathan" (1651) declares that the state as the Leviathan [3]is absolute, and can only be equalled by another Leviathan, therefore it is not subjugated to ecclesiastical power.

Both of these events later allowed the consolidation of the nation-state ideal that we know today, where power resides in the state as an institution and not in the ruler of the day. Under this conception of the state and its position in the world system, it is necessary to consolidate a summit composed of plenipotentiaries who by their nature are endowed with the figure of full powers to make and execute sovereignly the decisions that arise therein.

The Summit is convened under the framework of the United Nations, however, it is neither an organ of the organization nor a subsidiary body of it. Therefore, it is only governed by the general principles of International Law, the respective norms of consular relations, and the applicable international customary law. Most summits are convened to address and discuss a specific problem and eventually reach a clear solution.

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[1]The Thirty Years' War was a series of conflicts that took place in Europe from 1618 to 1648. It was one of the most destructive wars in history, with an estimated 4.5 to 8 million deaths from battle, famine, and disease. The war had a profound effect on Europe, changing the geopolitical landscape and the role of religion and nation-states in society.

[2] The Peace of Westphalia was a series of treaties signed in 1648 in the cities of Münster and Osnabrück that ended the Thirty Years' War and the Dutch War of Independence.

[3] The Leviathan is a visual representation of the state's authority and control over its citizens. It symbolizes the need for social order to prevent the chaos of the state of nature.

This summit also has the objective of managing situations to guarantee international peace and stability through the implementation of the powers that the leaders have; watching over the general interest without neglecting the needs of each nation through the search for consensus.

2.2 Functions And Powers

Due to the status of its members, this reunion of Heads of State does not share how decisions are made in the United Nations. However, since it is not an organization or body belonging to any other, its powers are not inherent to itself. Instead, it is its members, with their individual and collective authorities, who give the summit its powers.

The Summit is nothing more than a tool for the plenipotentiaries attending to be in an environment where they can seek and implement comprehensive, responsible and effective solutions to the issues being discussed at the session. They can do so by using the resources that the summit provides as well as the individual and collective powers of each member through the use of the directives.

2.2.1 Ratification of a Treaty

Summit attendees may sign a treaty due to their plenipotentiary qualities, however, ratification of the treaty depends on the legislative body stipulated in national legislation.

2.2.2 Imposition of Sanctions

The Summit cannot impose sanctions as an organization. However, if the need arises, members may do so individually or collectively and under the formats stipulated in the

commission's manual. Sanctions must have a justification and can only be diplomatic or economic sanctions. These are some cases in which sanctions do not apply (other cases will be subject to the decision of the board):

a. Sanctions for violation of a treaty that was not ratified, or accepted. The requirements for formal consent to be bound by a treaty were not completed according to the 1969 Vienna Conventions in Part II or customary international law. Also in case of violation of a specific part of a treaty where a reservation has been made. This should not apply when reference is made to IUS Cogens. For the effect of treaties prior to the Vienna Convention of 1969, refers to the doctrine.

b. The succession of international responsibility does not always lead to sanctions unless one is individually responsible for major crimes such as those covered by the Rome Statute.

2.3 Specific Function And Mission

The summit's primary function is to facilitate decision-making, consensus-building, and priority-setting on key global issues. Leaders use this platform to propose initiatives, negotiate agreements, and foster partnerships between nations, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society. It also enables bilateral and multilateral diplomacy on the sidelines, helping resolve disputes and strengthen relationships.

The summit's mission is rooted in advancing the principles of the UN Charter, such as promoting peace, protecting human rights, and fostering economic and social progress. It is also a crucial mechanism for driving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mobilizing political will and resources to ensure global progress.

Ultimately, the Leaders' Summit strengthens multilateralism by fostering collective responses to global crises, such as climate change, pandemics, and conflicts. By emphasizing inclusivity and equity, it ensures the needs of vulnerable populations are addressed, aligning international efforts toward a fairer and more sustainable world.

2.4 Ground Documents

- Rome Statute: https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf
- Customary International Humanitarian Law: https://www.icrc.org/en/law-and-policy/customary-ihl
- Vienna Convention: https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights
- Leaders summit page: https://events.unglobalcompact.org/leaderssummit24
- SDG's:https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24933SDG_Summit_Leaders_Dialogue_Concept_Note_FINAL.pdf

3. Topic A - Reevaluating And Reestablishing Anti-Discrimination And Racism Policies

3.1 Introduction

Racism and discrimination are deeply entrenched societal issues that manifest in various forms across the globe. Racism is defined as the belief that inherent differences among racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, often leading to the notion that one race is superior to others. This belief system results in discriminatory practices that disadvantage individuals based on their race or ethnicity. As Professor Ibram X. Kendi argues, "The opposite

of racism is not neutrality. It is antiracism" — emphasizing the need for proactive measures to dismantle systemic inequality. Discrimination, on the other hand, refers to the unjust treatment of individuals based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, or disability, often occurring at both individual and systemic levels. As noted by the American Psychological Association, "Discrimination is usually the behavioral manifestation of prejudice and involves negative, hostile, and injurious treatment of members of rejected groups".

Historically, racism and discrimination have been pervasive issues. Events such as colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade illustrate how deeply rooted these problems are. In contemporary society, systemic racism continues to affect various aspects of life, including education, healthcare, and criminal justice. According to Joe Feagin and Kimberley Ducey, "Systemic racism includes the complex array of antiblack practices...and the continuing economic and other resource inequalities along racial lines". This systemic nature often makes racism less visible but equally harmful.

The problem of "reevaluating and reestablishing anti-discrimination and anti-racism policies" aims to address the inadequacies of existing frameworks designed to combat these issues. It seeks to critically assess current policies and strengthen organizational accountability mechanisms. The need for community engagement is also paramount; effective strategies must involve input from those affected by racism to ensure relevance and impact.

Numerous nations worldwide are recognizing the need for robust anti-racism and anti-discrimination strategies. These strategies are needed in response to the urgent conflicts they face, such as rising global migration, xenophobia, and polarization, which exacerbate inequality. For instance, Australia's National Anti-Racism Strategy emphasizes public awareness about

racism, while Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy focuses on eliminating systemic barriers affecting marginalized communities.

These initiatives reflect a growing acknowledgment that racism and discrimination are a worldwide phenomenon requiring comprehensive responses. Reevaluating and reestablishing these policies aims to eliminate structural inequities and foster inclusivity by addressing systemic barriers in institutions like education, employment, and healthcare. Moreover, it involves promoting comprehensive legal frameworks, as advocated by the UN, which calls on states to "renew their commitments to equality and implement enforceable anti-discrimination policies aligned with international law" (OHCHR, 2023).

Ultimately, tackling racism and discrimination requires systemic change, accountability, and inclusive frameworks. Policies must be data-driven, globally coordinated, and centered on the voices of marginalized communities. As historian Angela Y. Davis reminds us, "In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist." This highlights the critical need to reimagine policies that ensure equity, justice, and dignity for all.

3.2 Historical Background

The struggle against racism and discrimination has a long and complex history that spans centuries. The roots of this struggle can be traced back to the era of slavery, conquest, and colonization. It was during this time that the bases for a racial hierarchy were formed, such bases institutionalized and perpetuated systemic injustices. For example, in the colonial United States slavery endured for two and a half centuries and racism lived on for an additional 100 years due to Jim Crow laws. The aforementioned laws were designed to limit the liberties of the African

American people. However, these laws would be abolished, thanks to the efforts of those who established civil rights legislation, in the 1960s, against racism and discrimination of any sort.

On another note, the concept we today know as race didn't come into existence until the turn of the 17th century when it started to be used as a code for slavery. Leading philosophers and scientists of the 17th century argued that race was a biological construct that provided the necessary reasoning as to why white people are the superior race. Therefore, through this argument and logic, various racial hierarchies were established in terms of intelligence, ingenuity, sexuality, criminal behavior, and more. In summary, race was used as scientific proof, and was the basis for certain biased scientific studies that measured, brain size, pseudoscientific intelligence, and other measurements, which, later on, would be shown to be fraudulent (Gould, 1978).

In addition to slavery, the colonization of the "New World" witnessed a series of extreme expressions of racism. The loss of Indigenous people's land at the hands of European settlers, as well as, the marginalization, genocide, and mistreatment of natives within North America, serve as clear expressions of racism. Similarly to slavery, colonizers justified their theft of land, natural resources, culture, and identity, under the pretext that the caucasian race was superior to all other people (Harvey, 2016). It was not until 1924 that the U.S. government began to recognize its indigenous people as American citizens. On the other hand, the right to vote for the Indigenous community took more time to obtain, with some states preventing Native Americans from voting until 1957 (Library of Congress, n.d.).

In a broader sense, racism directed at minoritized people, such as the Latin American community, also dates back to the funding of the United States. Lynchings and mob brutality against Mexican Americans were common in the 19th century and into the 20th century

(Carrigan & Webb, 2013). Around the same time, people of Latin American descent were being pushed into segregated communities, forbidden from serving on juries, and forced to attend designated schools throughout the Southwest(Antman & Cortes, 2013; Denis, 2015; Donato & Hanson, 2019; Powers, 2008; Villalobos, 1972; Wollenberg, 1976).

Meanwhile, during the 19th and 20th centuries, Asian Americans also faced racial discrimination, through anti-Asian immigration and naturalization laws. For example, the "yellow peril" scares resulted in the exclusion of Asian immigrants, and during World War II, more than 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and interned in camps (National Archives, n.d.; Shoag & Carollo, 2016). These and various other historical injustices have contributed to the systemic racism that persists today, affecting various sectors of society, such as employment, healthcare, and education.

3.2.1 Codification of Racism

Systemic racism has been perpetuated throughout the world, and the root of this is the codification of racism. Racism, through national laws, policies, and practices, has been coded into nations and their institutions. Within the United States, the passage of "Black Codes" after the American Civil War limited the rights of former slaves, exploited them for labor, and criminalized certain activities, to force them into servitude again(Hinton and Cook, 2021). The previously mentioned Jim Crow laws, enforced segregation in education, transportation, public accommodations, and facilities (Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537 [1896]). This led to further entrenching racial disparities.

In education, racial discrimination led to unequal school environments, where racial minorities were provided fewer opportunities than Caucasians. Indigenous children were only

accepted in segregated boarding schools, where they would be punished every time they spoke in their tribal language, all to assimilate and eliminate the racial identities of these students(Loring, 2009). Chinese Americans faced similar issues, as they were segregated in schools within the state of California, and Mexican immigrant children also experienced the same treatment. These children were often forced into separate schools until legal acts started to dismantle such practices (Urban & Jorae, 2011; Wollenberg, 1976).

3.3 Current Situation

Nowadays, in the contemporary world, racial discrimination and anti-discrimination policies are covered in persistent challenges, despite progress made in the past decades. As of this guide being written, close to one in six people globally report or admit to experiencing some form of discrimination, usually racial (United Nations Statistics Division, n.d.). Moreover, the United Nations (n.d.) states that discrimination happens both equally to men and women, but it still is more likely to happen to women.

In addition, recent surveys indicate that a median of 34% of adults across approximately 36 countries perceive racial or ethnic discrimination as a huge problem in their society. This particular concern was most prominent in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, where historical injustices and socio-economic differences to this day serve as fuel for racial tensions. In contrast, perceptions about the previous issue are more acute in high-income nations, such as Australia and Sweden, where less than two out of ten respondents view racial discrimination as a significant problem (Chavda & Chavda, 2025). Notably, the United States is an outlier to this theory. Within this nation, more than half of the Black American population thinks that racial

discrimination is a serious problem, compared to only 23% of White Americans coinciding with this opinion (Blazina, 2024).

On a similar note, the political climate that surrounds issues of race and discrimination has also dramatically shifted. The rise of far-right parties in Europe and the re-election of Donald Trump in the U.S.A. has led to rising concerns about racist ideologies coming back into the light. The resurgence of such ideologies could lead to political movements that exploit anti-immigration sentiments, and nationalist rhetoric. This is to advance policies that threaten minorities and undermine democracy (*World Report 2025*, 2025). Such is the case of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India. This man's campaign rhetoric has included hate speech against minorities (*World Report 2025*, 2025). This campaign is clear proof that systemic racism can be spread out even from the highest levels of government.

Conversely, there are instances of democratic resilience in which the people rejected populist agendas that sought to marginalize minority groups. This indicates a complex interplay between an extremist and inclusive government. It also demonstrates that while challenges persist in this modern world, there is still prominent public resistance against discriminatory practices (*World Report 2025*, 2025).

Followingly, the impact of racism extends far beyond social justice. One of the areas in which such practices affect the health outcomes of marginalized communities is health. For example, a survey found that approximately one in five Black adults report being treated unfairly due to their ethnicity or race. Furthermore, over half of American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), Black, and Hispanic adults reported experiencing at least one type of discrimination in daily life within the past year (*Survey on Racism, Discrimination and Health - Findings - 10257 | KFF*, 2024).

3.3.1 International Efforts and Policy Responses

In light of these ongoing challenges, international organizations have intensified their efforts to combat racism and its consequences. Some examples of such efforts would be the following:

- **The Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination, organized by UNESCO**, provides a platform for stakeholders to discuss and convene strategies to address discrimination globally (*Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination*, n.d.).

- **The European Union's Anti-Racism Action Plan (2020-2025)** emphasizes the need for comprehensive measures to combat racism across member states. The plan recognizes that racial discrimination still has detrimental consequences on society (*EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025*, n.d.).

- **The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** highlights the ongoing struggle against racism and intolerance worldwide (United Nations, n.d.).

3.4 Case Studies

3.4.1 Australia's Governmental Inaction on Racism (2024)

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) published a report highlighting the government's systemic failure to combat racism, especially toward Indigenous Australians. Despite well-documented disparities in health, education, and incarceration rates, the government has not taken adequate steps to address the root causes of racism or implement meaningful reforms. For example, Indigenous Australians are incarcerated at 13 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians, and their life expectancy is significantly lower than the national

average. This failure violates human rights by perpetuating inequality, as outlined in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD[4]). The AHRC emphasized that the government's superficial acknowledgment of racism without concrete policy actions exacerbates marginalization.

3.4.2 Wales' Governmental Failure to Address Racial Discrimination (2021)

Successive Welsh governments were criticized by race equality experts for failing to address systemic racism and discrimination against Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME[5]) communities. Reports showed entrenched racial inequalities in employment, housing, and education, with BAME individuals disproportionately occupying lower-income jobs and facing barriers to upward mobility. Despite public discussions on equality, critics argued that no concrete, enforceable measures had been implemented. The lack of government action directly contravenes the Equality Act 2010[6], which obligates public institutions to proactively eliminate racial discrimination. This failure perpetuates the marginalization of BAME communities and denies them equal opportunities and protections under the law.

3.5 Guide Questions

What are the current gaps in anti-discrimination policies in your country?

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[4]

https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cerd/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial-discrimination-50-years-fighting-racism

[5] The acronym BAME stands for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and is defined as all ethnic groups except White ethnic groups. It does not relate to country origin or affiliation. As far as possible, the GLA seeks to adhere to the Office for National Statistics' harmonised output categories for ethnic groups.

[6] The Equality Act 2010 is a law in the United Kingdom that protects people from discrimination and harassment based on certain characteristics. The Act came into effect on October 1, 2010.
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance

How can anti-discrimination policies be more effective?

How can organizations ensure accountability for discriminatory actions?

How can anti-discrimination policies be tailored to address specific types of discrimination?

What is the impact of systemic discrimination on marginalized groups within your nation?

Does your nation have any plans dirto assesse issue of discrimination in the upcoming years?

If citizens of your nation feel discriminated are there any communication channels or organizations where their concerns could be addressed?

3.6 Recommendations

Lastly, the chair would like to provide you with some recommendations for this topic. Firstly, establish a clear agenda as to which subtopics will be debated and the order in which they will be debated. Consequently, avoid focusing too much on just one specific aspect or type of racism. For example, excellencies could start by identifying the problems with discrimination policies in the current world, and move on to how such flaws affect each minority. Afterward, a possible solution or various solutions could come from a series of brainstorming sessions where world leaders debate priority order, funding, length of application for this new solution, whether this solution is temporary or not, and various other aspects. However, don't rush this process otherwise key points could go ignored or forgotten, and without further ado, that would be all recommendation-wise, and if necessary please contact the chair for further recommendations.

3.7 Useful Links

- https://www.epi.org/unequalpower/publications/strengthening-accountability-for-discrimination-confronting-fundamental-power-imbalances-in-the-employment-relationship/
- https://www.hoover.org/research/problem-antidiscrimination-laws
- https://www.hec.edu/en/why-anti-discrimination-laws-are-not-enough-ensure-inclusiveness
- https://equitablegrowth.org/the-importance-of-anti-discrimination-enforcement-for-a-fair-and-equitable-u-s-labor-market-and-broadly-shared-economic-growth/

3.8 Glossary

Racism: Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's race is superior.

Discrimination: Unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, gender, or disability.

Systemic Racism: Institutionalized policies and practices that create and maintain racial inequality in society.

Intersectionality: A framework for understanding how multiple social identities (e.g., race, gender, class) intersect to create unique experiences of discrimination or privilege.

Xenophobia: Intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries or cultures.

Marginalization: The process of relegating certain groups to the fringe of society, limiting their access to resources, rights, and opportunities.

Equity: The quality of being fair and impartial, often involving efforts to provide resources and opportunities based on the need to achieve equality.

Implicit Bias: Unconscious attitudes or stereotypes that affect understanding, actions, and decisions unintentionally.

Ethnocentrism: Evaluating other cultures based on the standards and customs of one's own culture, often leading to a sense of superiority.

Allyship: The practice of actively supporting marginalized groups by advocating for their rights and challenging systems of oppression.

4. Topic B - Enhancing Natural Disaster Response Systems: Building Resilience and Efficiency

4.1 Introduction

Natural disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, are escalating in both frequency and intensity, largely due to climate change and human-induced environmental degradation. Over the past 50 years, the number of weather-related disasters has increased fivefold, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO, 2021). These disasters result in devastating human, economic, and ecological consequences. Vulnerable communities, especially those in low-income regions, bear the brunt of these impacts, with limited access to resources and infrastructure further exacerbating the problem (UNDRR, 2022). While the immediate focus after a disaster has traditionally been on rescue and relief efforts, this reactive approach often results in delayed responses, resource mismanagement, and inequities in recovery.

In recent decades there has been a paradigm shift toward proactive strategies that emphasize disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness, and resilience-building. These strategies prioritize prevention, such as strengthening infrastructure, implementing early warning systems (EWS), and educating communities about disaster risks. For instance, DRR programs have successfully reduced the death toll from cyclones in countries like Bangladesh, where investments in warning systems and cyclone shelters have proven highly effective (World Bank, 2021). However, challenges persist, including inadequate funding, lack of coordination among agencies, and the need for equitable responses that prioritize marginalized populations (Brookings Institution, 2023). Moreover, as disasters grow more complex, the integration of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing, and blockchain, is becoming critical to enhance forecasting, resource allocation, and recovery efforts (Time, 2024).

Despite advancements, significant barriers remain. Funding disparities mean that low-income nations often struggle to implement even basic disaster preparedness measures, while wealthy nations face challenges in ensuring equitable recovery within their borders. Climate change further complicates these efforts, as rising sea levels, more extreme weather patterns, and prolonged droughts exacerbate the scale of natural disasters (The Atlantic, 2024). These challenges underscore the urgency of a global, coordinated response that combines policy reforms, technological innovation, and community engagement.

Case studies from recent years demonstrate the potential of innovative approaches. For example, Sitka, Alaska, has implemented a landslide early warning system that uses real-time data to monitor risks and engage the community in preparedness efforts (Rural Health Info, 2024). Similarly, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, solar-powered solutions were deployed to sustain critical infrastructure like hospitals and community centers,

highlighting the importance of renewable energy in disaster resilience (Green.org, 2024). These examples illustrate how targeted investments and community-centered approaches can address the multifaceted challenges of natural disaster response.

To move forward, disaster response systems must prioritize equity, scalability, and adaptability. This includes strengthening local capacity, fostering international cooperation, and leveraging technologies that improve both preparedness and recovery efforts. By addressing systemic gaps and embracing innovation, the global community can mitigate the devastating impacts of natural disasters and build a safer, more resilient future.

4.2 Historical Background

The evolution of natural disaster response systems has been rooted in a legacy full of reactive policies, fragmented governance, and transformative crises that reshaped institutional frameworks. Moreover, a clear representation of such institutional frameworks would be the Congressional Act of 1803; this law was the first disaster relief law in U.S. history. Such a law emerged after a fire in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a fire that devastated the city and disrupted maritime commerce. This event marked the start of recognition as to what the government's responsibility was in disaster recovery. Although efforts towards this objective remained Ad hoc for over a century (Anna Maria College, 2025).

On another note, the Cold War diverted focus to nuclear preparedness under instances such as the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950. This act, according to President Truman of the United States, would pay for the basic framework to reduce the effects of an attack on the civilian population of the U.S.A., and this plan would also help with dealing with the immediate emergency conditions

that such an attack would leave behind (*Statement by the President Upon Signing the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 | Harry S. Truman*, n.d.).

Consequently, this shift in focus led to natural disaster planning being sidelined. This short-sightedness left nations vulnerable to failures such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, where delayed federal coordination only exacerbated racial and economic inequities and displaced over 1 million people, all the while causing 125 billion USD in damages (FEMA, 2025). Another similar case was the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. This natural disaster took the lives of 230 thousand people across 14 nations, and it also exposed the systemic blind spots in early warning systems for hurricanes; meanwhile, the Hyogo Framework for Action, between 2005 and 2015, became the first UN accord to prioritize disaster risk reduction, along with the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (GFDRR, 2017). Similarly, by 2015 the Sendai Framework expanded these goals, urged nations to reduce economic losses and enhance resilience through "building back better" principles (United Nations, 2017).

4.2.1 Global Collaboration and Persistent Gaps

Moreover, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, GFDRR, exemplifies international efforts to bridge disparities. Also, it supported initiatives like Turkey's ISMEP program, and Indonesia's community-based disaster risk management (GFDRR, 2017). On the other side, climate financing gaps continue to persist. This can be seen with only 5% of adaptation funds reaching frontline communities in cyclone-prone regions such as the Caribbean (GFDRR, 2017).

Similarly, the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquakes showed enduring flaws, as geopolitical tensions delayed cross-border aid, resulting in a death toll exceeding 55,000. Lastly, Cyclone Idai

in 2019 revealed systemic inequities when Mozambique's severely underfunded early warning systems failed to alert rural populations. This led to 3 million people being displaced (GFDRR, 2017).

4.3 Current Situation

Neglected, underfunded, and fragmented disaster response systems and a global community that dismisses them can only lead to catastrophe. Such catastrophe involves destabilizing nations, economic losses, and loss of life. As of February 2025, climate-driven disasters have displaced over 30 million people globally and provoked economic losses within the hundred billion annually (UNDRR, 2025). Therefore, to understand the current situation that the world is facing regarding natural disaster response efficiency, various focus points and their importance are listed below.

4.3.1 Systemic Challenges

1. Bureaucratic Fragmentation
    a. Within the Philippines, 27 agencies oversee disaster management, and this decentralization of power has resulted in duplicated and delayed efforts to respond to disasters like Typhoon Rai in 2021. This inefficient response system indirectly displaced 2.4 million people (ASEAN, 2021).
    b. As previously mentioned the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquakes revealed how political tensions hindered cross-border aid, and provoked a death toll well in the five digits (UNDRR, 2025).
2. Funding Gaps

a. According to the UNDP (2024), only 5% of global climate adaptation funds reach frontline communities in cyclone-prone regions such as the Caribbean.

b. Also, Southeast Asia's AHA centre struggles with resource mobilization, relying on inconsistent contributions from ASEAN member states, Even though it mandates to coordinate regional response (ASEAN, 2021).

3. Technological Inequities

a. UNDRR (2025) explains that low-income nations lack access to various predictive tools for natural disasters. Some of these tools such as an AI-driven model that forecasts floods, could avert 30% of disaster losses with 24-hour warnings.

b. Furthermore, during Hurricane Helene in 2024, Tampa Bay Hospital utilized AquaFence's Flood Wall. This deployable barrier system was used to protect critical infrastructure. However, such innovations are inaccessible for 80% of Global South hospitals (MDERS, 2025).

4.3.2 Advances in Global Coordination

1. ASEAN's "One ASEAN One Response"

a. The AHA Centre has trained 1,500 ASEAN Emergency Response Assessment Team members, thus streamlining cross-border aid during the 2024 Myanmar floods (ASEAN, 2021). Additionally, standardized protocols like the SASOP (Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements) now guide joint relief operations across Southeast Asia (*ASEAN's Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint*

2. UNDRR's Global Platform (GP2025)

    a. The upcoming Eighth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2025 prioritizes "Every Day Counts: Act for Resilience Today" and focuses on accelerating the Sendai Framework's implementation (UNDRR, 2025). Next, some of the key targets of this framework include integrating AI-driven risk analytics into national policies and establishing a Loss and Damage Fund to compensate vulnerable nations (UNDP, 2024).

3. Private Sector Innovations

    a. Some of the benefits of innovation within this sector would be the following. 3D printing has enabled rapid reconstruction in post-cyclone Fiji, reducing recovery timelines by 40% (UNDP, 2024). Similarly, blockchain platforms now track $2.1 billion in humanitarian aid annually, ensuring transparency in disaster financing (UNDP, 2024).

4.3 Possible Path Forward

1. Equitable Technology Access

    a. Scale Google's Flood Forecasting Initiative to alert 1 billion at-risk people by 2030 (UNDP, 2024).

    b. Establish ASEAN Centers for Disaster Education to train 10,000 specialists annually in AI and GIS technologies (ASEAN, 2021).

2. Decentralized Governance

a. Empower municipalities through the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations, therefore ensuring local leaders direct 30% of adaptation funds (UNDRR, 2025).

3. Unified Funding Mechanisms

a. Lastly, the UNDP (2024) insists on mandating high-emission nations to contribute 1.5% of their GDP to the Loss and Damage Fund, prioritizing small island developing states.

4.4 Case Studies

4.4.1 Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami, Indonesia

On September 28, 2018, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Sulawesi, Indonesia, triggering a devastating tsunami that caused over 4,000 deaths and widespread destruction. The earthquake was followed by landslides, which buried entire villages and left thousands displaced. One of the main issues in the response was the inadequate early warning system, which failed to notify the population in time, contributing to the high death toll. Additionally, many affected communities were isolated due to damaged infrastructure, making it difficult for aid to reach them promptly. Coordination among the government, humanitarian organizations, and local authorities was also lacking, which caused delays in resource allocation and hindered the efficiency of the relief efforts. To address these gaps, Indonesia needs to invest in stronger early warning systems, improve infrastructure and communication networks, and strengthen disaster preparedness plans to ensure better coordination and more effective responses in the future.

4.4.2 Texas Winter Storm, USA

In February 2021, Winter Storm Uri struck Texas, causing power outages, water disruptions, and significant property damage. The state's power grid, which is independent from the rest of the U.S. grid, was unprepared for extreme cold, resulting in widespread power failures. Millions of Texans were left without electricity and heat for days, and critical energy sources like natural gas plants and wind turbines froze. Additionally, the storm caused water pipes to freeze and burst in many cities, leading to shortages and public health concerns. The state's response was slow, with inadequate resources and poor coordination between state, local, and federal agencies. To prevent future crises, Texas must invest in winterizing its power grid and other infrastructure, develop comprehensive disaster preparedness plans, and ensure better coordination among government agencies to improve response times and effectiveness.

4.4 Guiding Questions

Were there any big natural disasters in your country? What did the government, civilians, and NGOs do?

What technologies can be leveraged to improve early warning systems for natural disasters?

What strategies can be implemented to enhance community coordination before disasters?

How can disaster response systems be optimized for efficiency?

Is your nation part of a natural disaster response organization? If so then how well does your delegation interact with such organizations?

Has your nation considered implementing any new and innovative measures to respond to natural disasters within the following years? If so, what are such measures, how are they going to be implemented, how expensive are they, and are they viable for other delegations?

4.5 Recommendations

Last of all, the chair would like to provide you with some recommendations for this topic. Firstly, establish a clear agenda as to which subtopics will be debated and the order in which they will be debated. Consequently, avoid focusing too much on just one specific aspect or type of Natural disaster. Although, don't forget to cover every flaw within the current natural disaster response systems. Now in regards to what the chair expects to happen, excellencies could start by identifying the problems with natural disaster response systems in the current world and move on to how such flaws affect each part of the process of dealing with natural disasters. Afterward, a brainstorming session where key aspects of a solution are debated would be beneficial. Although, don't rush this process otherwise, key points could go ignored or forgotten, and without further ado, that would be all for recommendations, and if necessary, please contact the chair for further recommendations.

4.6 Useful Links

- https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/recovery
- https://publichealth.tulane.edu/blog/technology-disaster-management/
- https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/metadata/adaptation-options/crises-and-disaster-management-systems-and-plans

- https://www.dhs.gov/strengthen-preparedness-and-resilience

4.7 Glossary

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters. This includes reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability, and improving preparedness.

Resilience: The ability of a community, system, or individual to anticipate, absorb, adapt, and recover from the effects of a disaster.

Emergency Preparedness: A state of readiness to respond to a natural disaster, including the development of plans, training, and resource allocation.

Early Warning Systems (EWS): Technology and protocols used to detect and warn populations about impending disasters, such as tsunamis or hurricanes.

Vulnerability: The degree to which a population or system is susceptible to harm from disasters.

Climate Adaptation: Adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli.

Humanitarian Assistance: Aid provided to meet the immediate needs of populations affected by disasters, including food, water, shelter, and medical care.

Recovery and Reconstruction: The phase following a disaster where efforts are focused on rebuilding infrastructure, homes, and communities.

5. List Of Delegations

1. Commonwealth of Australia - Anthony Albanese
2. Federative Republic of Brazil - Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva

3. French Republic - Emmanuel Macron

4. Republic of India - Droupadi Murmu

5. People's Republic of China - Xi Jinping

6. Republic of Indonesia - Prabowo Subianto

7. Islamic Republic of Pakistan - Asif Ali Zardari

8. Republic of the Philippines - Bongbong Marcos

9. Russian Federation - Vladimir Putin

10. Republic of Mozambique - Daniel Chapo

11. Federal Republic of Nigeria - Bola Ahmed Tinubu

12. Republic of South Africa - Cyril Ramaphosa

13. Kingdom of Spain - Pedro Sánchez

14. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Keir Starmer

15. United States of America - Donald Trump

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