



ŞAHİNKAYA MUN
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT 2019

GA-4: SPECPOL

AGENDA ITEM:
Strengthening of the
Coordination of Humanitarian
and Disaster Relief Assistance of
the United Nations

Letter from the Secretary-General

Meritorious participants,

It is my utmost privilege to welcome you to the second edition of Şahinkaya Model United Nations Training and Development Conference which will be held between 6-8 December 2019. I am really honoured to serve you as the Secretary-General in my 3 years of Model UN experience.

Şahinkaya Model UN Club is working steadily to provide you with phenomenal experiences and unforgettable memories, but especially to illuminate the path of diplomacy for the young minds. Our goal is always to put a step forward without looking back, provide you with the sincerest hospitality without compromising on academic quality. Turning every single dream into reality, our club has been acquiring many accomplishments in academic and organisation wise. If it weren't for the guidance and relentless help of our mentor and Goddess of MUN Emel Güceyü, this dream would have stayed as it was.

United Nations General Assembly the Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee is one of the most fundamental and crucial committees in all United Nations Charter. The participants of this committee will have a chance to discuss eccentric matters affecting humanity for thousands of years in this committee. Therefore, you will both find solutions to stop any loss of any human life from these dire events and also work steadily to prevent these events from happening again.

Briefly, on behalf of Academic and Organisation teams, I would like to state the deep feeling of excitement and merry to be welcoming you to Şahinkaya MUN Training and Development 2019.

Best Regards,

Ömer Faruk Yüksel

Secretary-General of Şahinkaya MUN Training and Development 2019

Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Honourable participants,

I welcome the delegates with utmost pleasure to this committee, which is Special Political and Decolonisation Committee in Şahinkaya MUN Training and Development 2019. In this committee delegates will be expected to discuss an issue that is unstoppable, yet that can be rendered almost ineffective which is the issue of disasters and as all delegates may know, to find a proper solution to this problem, collaboration with member states and the organisations whether they are bound to the United Nations or not, is a must and thus I believed that strengthening the relief and humanitarian assistance that is being given to other member states or specific regions in need is the thing that this committee should build upon. Each year tens of thousands of people die and many more lose their homes just because of the disasters happening all around the world and the lack of assistance and precautions. As we all have heard and we are going to, disasters are unstoppable but the loss of human lives are not.

We as the United Nations shall collaborate for a better future for all of mankind and look after all the people in need. If we ever can we should never leave the chance of helping another human being. That is what we humans are and that is how we will be, ignoring the ones suffering will only put us further from our humanity and sanity even. All the member states joining are required to put their utmost effort into this issue with as much aid as possible in both financial and humanitarian ways. There are also other people aware of this issue and there are a lot of organisations both from and outside the United Nations and those organisations are usually only funded by private donors, but the member states can also aid them even further increase their efficiency even more so why not.

Lastly, I and my committee board require all of you to put your utmost strength up on this issue and even brainstorm upon this issue. I also believe that if any delegate has an issue with how the procedures go on in the committees, this committee will be especially helpful to make them get rid of their stress and all of their negative feelings. As always, we wish every delegate fruitful debate.

Should you have any questions you can contact me via mrbstn99@gmail.com

Best Regards,

Emre Bostan

Under-Secretary-General of GA-4: SPECPOL

Table of Contents

I. Introduction to the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee: SPECPOL.....	4
II. Introduction to the Agenda Item: Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance of the United Nations	4
A. Places Where Relief Assistance is Used	5
B. Types of Disasters and Countries' Actions	6
1. Earthquake Events	6
2. Droughts	7
3. Tsunamis	9
C. Problems Caused by Natural Disasters	9
D. Public Awareness and Campaigns	10
E. Man-Made Disasters and Ways to Prevent It	11
F. Organisations Responsible for Assistance and Can Be Used for Further Assistance	12
1. United Nations Children Emergency Fund	12
2. United Nations Development Programme	13
3. World Food Programme	13
4. World Bank Group	14
5. International Committee of Red Cross	14
6. Direct Relief International	14
III. Points to be Addressed	15

I. Introduction to the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee: SPECPOL

The United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee (also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee or SPECPOL or GA-4) is one of six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. It deals with a diverse set of political issues, including UN peacekeeping and peaceful uses of outer space.



Figure 1: The General Assembly of the United Nations

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) considers a broad range of issues covering a cluster of five decolonization-related agenda items, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations as well as a review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices and International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In addition to these annual items, the Committee also considers the items on Assistance in mine action, and University for peace biennially and triennially respectively.

II. Introduction to the Agenda Item: Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance of the United Nations

This committee will be about strengthening the collaboration of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations. The phrase “relief assistance” refers to any aid done by United Nations and organisations bound to United Nations in financial and humanitarian ways. This includes any kind of material and money sent to the respective country



Figure 2: A Family Devastated by the Recent Disasters in Dacca, Bangladesh

in order to provide immediate assistance to the victims and to build the required precautions such as infrastructure and the humanitarian support in order to inform people about crises prevention and sustain the education of the individuals even further. There are a lot of countries suffering from massive famines and natural disasters and each year thousands of people die and even more people get their life quality decreased drastically. Just because of natural disasters, 336 million people in India, 72 million people in China and 10 million people in Ethiopia are getting affected and in undeveloped countries, a lot of those result in casualties. Because of massive droughts, a lot of countries are suffering from famine. In Afghanistan, about 4 million people are food-insecure due to natural disasters, in the Central African Republic, %63 of the total population is in need of humanitarian assistance, which includes 2,1 million people (roughly equal to %43 of the total population) suffering from food insecurity. 60 million people are dying each year from natural disasters. Disasters are responsible for 0,1 per cent of the total deaths over the last decade. Tsunamis, earthquakes and even droughts are unpreventable but the loss of many human lives is preventable.

A. Places Where Relief Assistance is Used

Relief assistance is used when a country or an area is in need of emergency support from the United Nations bodies and the Non-Governmental Organisations. This support includes the ration supplies done by humanitarian organisations, the emergency shelters being provided for the homeless people because of the disasters, monetary fund in order to comprehend the damage done to the infrastructure and any further development plans set for the respective country such as new infrastructures, special precautions depending on the disaster the region is prone to and educating the population inside an area in order to ensure the sustainability of the actions taken for their sake.

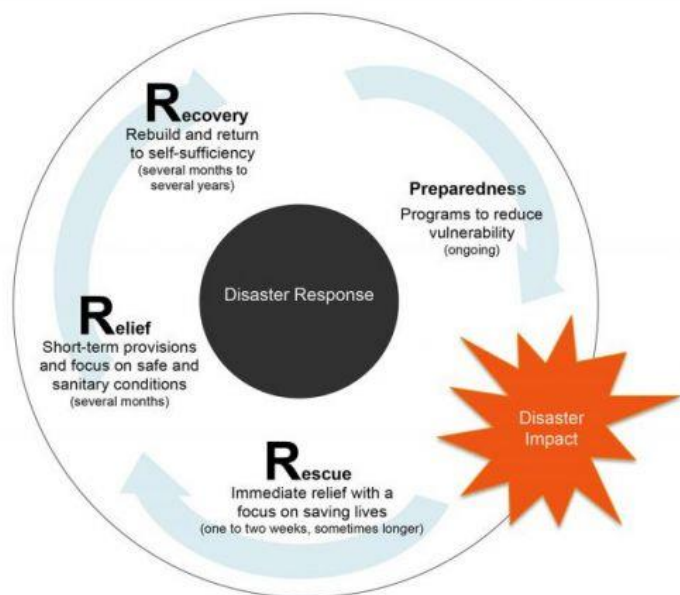


Figure 3: A Schematic Showing the Disaster Response during a Natural Disaster

Relief assistance is usually provided by UN Bodies and the Non-Governmental Organisations worldwide and the way the assistances are implemented depends on the crisis and the organisations doing it. While organisations like WDP provide mostly nutritional support, UNICEF usually focuses on the wider application of such assistances extending up to health and psycho-social assistance. Not only such assistances fix the current crisis happening in the region it also enables the usage of development programs since it stabilises the issue and opens many opportunities to collaborate with the local governments and prevent the loss of human lives further on.

As an example, to the effectiveness of such actions, nowadays there are 216 million fewer hungry people than what it was in 1990-92, even though the entire world's population increased by a total of 1.9 billion throughout the time period aforementioned which makes this improvement such a huge deal for our cause. Another great example would be the tireless actions taken by UNICEF in the huge disasters all around the world. In the Indonesian earthquake, they have collaborated with the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs in order to identify separated and unaccompanied children and provided them family reunification as well as psycho-social support with many other aids they have offered. Such an effort can be seen in the Nepal earthquake where they have airlifted metric tons of humanitarian supplies and shelters to the region.

B. Types of Disasters and Countries' Actions

Knowing the type of the disaster we are going to face is really important to decide how and where the victims are going to get help from and is vital for taking the required precautions in order to prevent further casualties.

1. Earthquake Events

Earthquakes happen all across the world and they do not pose any kind of significant damage most of the time. But there are times where big earthquakes happen and some countries are much more vulnerable than others. Countries such as China, Iran and Indonesia are really prone to such crises. But the most important thing is to take precautions and reduce its effects as much as possible since humanity is not able to stop the earthquakes. The best example to the countries getting prepared to face the disasters would be Japan. After the deadly Kobe earthquake in 1995, the government has forced the reassessment of the building regulations for both residential offices and transport infrastructure. Buildings have a deep foundation and massive

shock absorbers to dampen the seismic energy causing them to stay intact. But in Japan, the actions are not only limited with improving the infrastructure. Drills take place every month and school children are taught to behave accordingly when an earthquake happens such as taking the proper position under a desk during the



Figure 4: The Marmara Earthquake in 1999

disaster and rushing to an open centre to avoid any falling debris. Local fire departments also take children to earthquake simulations to further intensify the experience and making them more familiar with it. Immediately after an earthquake, all the television and radio switches to an emergency broadcast to inform the public about the risks which include a possible tsunami threat and telling people to retreat to higher grounds or to the special defence bunkers made specifically for tsunamis. All offices and almost every private house have the basic kits to survive if trapped which includes rations, water and medical supplies. Offices and schools also have hard hats and gloves inside.

Another recent example can be Turkey. After the series of events happened near Istanbul causing 17,000 people's death and causing billions of dollars of damage, with the collaboration of the Turkish government, World Bank and many other organisations, Istanbul has become a model for disaster risk management as one of the most proactive safeguards against seismic risks. More than a billion dollars have been invested in this issue in order to improve the critical public facilities for earthquake resistance and put an emphasis on the emergency response. So far, the investments have resulted in a lot of building being retrofitted and additional buildings were constructed as more durable to seismic actions. A training program has been offered for thousands of engineers in the country and millions were reached via media and got informed about disaster preparedness.

2. Droughts

A third of the entire landmass in the world is considered as desert, thus there are countries suffering from this issue a lot. Asian and African countries are suffering from drought the most.

The Sahara Desert, which is 9,200,000 kilometres square, covers a massive part of north Africa and it is expanding to the west. In Africa, countries like Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Morocco can be examples for countries suffering from drought most. In Morocco %18 of all the land is variable landscape and %12 is forest cover while the rest of the country is being engulfed by the Sahara Desert. The government itself is planning to invest 633 million dollars in order to prevent deserts from expanding even further. In Somalia, the situation is even worse. The country itself only has about %2 variable land inside and it is not able to depend on itself, thus most of the food and other humanitarian supplies come from United Nations and organisations such as Red Cross.

But Africa itself has a project called The Great Green Wall which is a project to plant a huge number of trees extending to 8000 km all across the continent. The wall itself takes root in the Sahel region in the Sahara Desert and despite being %15 done, millions of lives in Africa have started to get their quality of life improved. The project itself also contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Figure 5: Extreme Drought in Colorado, United States

In Asia, countries which are China, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan are a prominent example of the drought happening in the continent. In Iran, %73 of the entire land is considered desert land. Country's situation is so dire that the permanent crop fields only make up to %1 of the entire landmass, thus forcing Iran to notify the UN that they require international aid. With 200 million dollars of investment to water purification, Iran has spent 1.7 billion dollars in total to fight the current drought in the country.

In China, northern and south-eastern parts of the country are suffering from frequent droughts leaving millions of people on the verge of starvation. Farmers and herders are in desperate need of water for their farmlands and animals. On top of all of those vast deserts expanding into China are growing 2000 square kilometres each year. The government has started a project which is also called as Great Green Wall which covers 4500 km of Northern China's border facing the deserts. So far 66 billion trees have been planted.

3. Tsunamis

Tsunamis are waves that are the aftermath of a huge earthquake and tsunamis usually result in huge floods that take hundreds of lives and cause millions of dollars of damage. The biggest example would be the Sumatra tsunami



Figure 6: Tsunami in Tōhoku, Japan in 2011

which resulted in 300.000 lives being lost. The wave coming from the seismic actions deep below was so huge that it affected 18 countries including India, Indonesia, even Australia and Madagascar. The wave affected 5 million people's lives and a million of them were left homeless. The disaster itself dealt a total of 10 billion dollars damage in the Indian Ocean. Countries that got affected by the catastrophe got aided by countless organisations such as WHO (World Health Organisation) and now, even though the effects can still be seen, most of the areas affected are now prospering like they used to be.

C. Problems Caused by Natural Disasters

Natural disasters all around the world can result in a catastrophe, but the damage dealt by them is of course not limited by the loss of human lives. Disasters can result in massive damages dealt with the infrastructure in the area, lack of nutrition, massive migrations, diseases and contaminations and environmental damage. As an example, the infamous Kobe earthquake which is also known as the Great Hanshin earthquake, caused 6,400 people to lose their lives, 40,000 of them to get injured and 300,000 people being homeless, as well as in excess of 240,000 damaged buildings. The event is also known for revealing how weak the Japanese infrastructure was at that time.

Nepal earthquake, on the other hand, caused 9000 people's death and 2 million people becoming homeless. Apart from the casualties, the number of internal migrations has spiked and hundreds of thousands of people have scattered all across the country due to the earthquake. In addition to all of that, Nepal's economy heavily relies on the worker remittances, which

stands for %30 of the GDP (gross domestic product). With 2,2 million foreign labour permits issued by Nepal, %8 of the total workers were out of Nepal at the time of the earthquake, thus causing disarray among the workers and affecting the country's economy negatively.

In Malawi, 2,8 million people are at the risk of suffering from food insecurity in recent years due to frequent floods and droughts. In Somalia, because of the consecutive drought on top of all the other events in the region caused 855,000 people to face crisis due to unreliable food availability. In Central America, prolonged droughts have caused a lot of people to lose their farming jobs and face food scarcity. 3,5 million people in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are getting affected by those droughts and this factor contributes to the migration within Central America to Mexico and the United States of America.

Diseases may also be more common as an aftermath of extreme flooding. In Indonesia, the cases of Salmonella cases were four times more likely to have been exposed to the disaster itself. In Pakistan, there was a %42 increase in diarrheal infections right after the 2005 earthquake. In Iran, %1,6 of the 75,586 people displaced by the Bam earthquake in 2003 were also infected with diarrheal diseases.

D. Public Awareness and Campaigns

Raising public awareness and making public campaigns both from the member states themselves and the organisations is a crucial factor to hastening the process of providing relief assistance to the ones in need and is also really important for the amplifying of many precautions to be taken during and after the disasters. Since many organisations rely entirely on private donors, it will encourage a lot of people to help the victims with whatever they have in their hands with the help of adverts made for introducing the crisis and the organisations related to it. The public broadcasts made are really helpful to inform people about what to do in a situation of crisis and how to prepare against it before the disaster happens which is vital for reducing the fatalities from the disasters themselves. But the actions taken to increase public awareness are not only limited to public broadcasts within the country itself.

On 7 September 2006, UNICEF made an agreement with the Spanish Catalan association football club FC Barcelona, where the football club itself would donate 1,5 million euros each year for five years. This event was important because it was the first time where a football club sponsored an organisation rather than the other way around it. They were also wearing their emblem on their uniforms. In 2016, the team signed a four-year sponsorship with UNICEF where the team would pay 1,58 million euros each year and offer free advertising. These actions

taken by them has bolstered the potential of UNICEF drastically, both increasing their financial power and their popularity.

UNDRR (United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction) is also known for having its campaign worldwide to increase global awareness and to help the regions suffering from any disasters develop with the required finances being offered to them. The organisation is also known for facilitating and promoting activities during the World Tsunami Awareness Day, which is the 5th of November, in order to increase public awareness and international cooperation for establishing early warning systems and saving countless lives from the tsunamis.

Countries are also doing their own bit to publicly inform about the ways to be prepared against a disaster. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) of USA is known for collaborating with Sony Pictures to promote a message of emergency preparedness advert through the movie trailers upcoming alongside their own READY campaign which focuses on informing the public about many disasters and many ways to be prepared.

E. Man-Made Disasters and Ways to Prevent It

It is not only natural disasters that damage the environment and cause casualties. Man-made disasters such as fires and explosions, massive oil spillages and nuclear leaks have caused many lives to be lost and many others to be affected negatively both in terms of health and living quality. They might result as catastrophic as a massive natural disaster and it is in our hands to control our resources and prevent such events from happening. But that is not always the case since sometimes those events might get triggered by another disaster.

On 11 March 2011, Japan suffered from a massive earthquake with the magnitude of 9,0, which also caused tsunamis to devastate the area, also caused the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station to have its cooling systems failing and to have meltdowns in several parts of the power plant, which resulted in a nuclear crisis. More than 200,000 people were evacuated from the area surrounding the facilities right after the occurrence of the crisis. Three days later, a second explosion happened in the same facility. Officials tried pouring seawater inside in order to prevent a possible meltdown. After the explosion, hundreds were ordered to stay indoors.

Another example for catastrophic man-made disasters is, of course, nothing but the incident happened in Pripyat, Ukraine which is also known as the Chernobyl incident in April 1986 and

it still has its effects in the region making there inhabitable for humans. The incident was caused by the power plant of a flawed design and serious mistakes made by the inadequately trained plant operators working there. Destruction of the reactor caused 30 workers to die directly from the incident. The officials have ordered the evacuation of Pripjat a few moments after the crisis. By May 14, 116,000 people living in 30 km radius of the accident were evacuated. About 5 million people lived in the areas such as Belarus, Russia and Ukraine that were contaminated by radiation and 400,000 were living in the areas strictly in control of the authorities. About 29,400 km's of the area was contaminated with excess radiation. Few years after the event, about 400 million dollars' worth investments were made to improve the remaining power plants in the region which kept functioning until December 2000. Now the area around Chernobyl is inhabitable for any human, but tourism still functions in the region.

F. Organisations Responsible for Assistance and Can Be Used for Further Assistance

1. United Nations Children Emergency Fund

UNICEF (United Nations Children Emergency Fund) is a United Nations agency that is responsible for the humanitarian and the developmental aid especially to the children all around the world and its income entirely relies on the governmental bodies and private donors. UNICEF's programs emphasize developing community-level services to promote the health and well-being of children. Most of its work is in the field, with a presence in 192 countries and territories. Its network includes 150 country



Figure 7: Logo of UNICEF

offices, headquarters and other offices, and 34 "national committees" that carry out its mission through programs developed with host governments. Seven regional offices provide technical assistance to country offices as needed. Its Supply Division is based in Copenhagen and it provides essentials such as nutritional supplements, emergency shelters, vaccines and etc.

2. United Nations Development Programme

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is the global development network, which makes it crucial for further strengthening the collaboration. It supports any changes for better and lets countries connect to each other, thus improving the quality of life for their own people. It provides expert advice and training for developing countries as well as the least developed countries all around the world. It is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from the member states. United Nations Development Programme operates in 177 countries



Figure 8: Logo of UNDP

collaborating with local governments to meet development challenges and develop local capacity. It also works internationally to help countries reach their Sustainable Development Goals. In order to encourage global development in the globe, UNDP focuses on issues such as social development, crises prevention and recovery, which is important for this issue and etc.

3. World Food Programme

World Food Programme (WFP) is a humanitarian organisation bound to United Nations that delivers food assistance in emergency situations and works with communities in order to improve nutrition and build resilience focuses on relief and rehabilitation, development aid and emergency assistance to the places in need such as countries and areas that got affected by drought, earthquake, floods and etc. The organisation is entirely funded by voluntary donations and are able to distribute more than 15 billion units of ration all across the world every year.



Figure 9: Logo of WFP

In 2018, WFP was able to purchase 3.6 million metric tonnes of food and the three-quarters of it came from developing countries supporting the organisation. In addition, it also partners with more than 1000 NGO's worldwide.

4. World Bank Group

World Bank Group (WBG) is an organisation made by five institutions working in order to find sustainable solutions to problems related to lack of finance and are also known to be the largest development bank in the world, thus the committee might get their assistance if ever needed to accomplish its tasks.



Figure 10: Logo of WBG

5. International Committee of Red Cross

ICRC (International Committee of Red Cross) is an organisation operating worldwide, that aims to help the people living in a conflict area as well as the victims of disasters all across the world. The organisation is based in Geneva, Switzerland and it has the ability to deploy more than 16.000 people in 80 countries worldwide. It is funded by voluntary donors, governments and other organisations such as National Red Crosses and Red Crescent organisations. There are multiple Red Crosses and Red Crescents bound the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements such as the American Red Cross which focuses primarily on offering emergency assistance and disaster relief both in the US and worldwide.



Figure 11: Logo of Red Cross

6. Direct Relief International

Direct Relief International is the US-originated non-profit humanitarian organisation that offers emergency assistance, disaster relief, shelters, ration and many other supplies to the area suffering from disasters. The organisation focuses on bringing any sort of medical supplies to the region while maintaining and prioritizing the search and rescue missions and emergency assistance.



Figure 12: Logo of DRI

III. Points to be Addressed

- How does this committee define relief assistance?
- How are the member states are supposed to react depending on the type of the disaster?
- What are the precautions that can be taken to prevent casualties?
- In which ways can this committee offer relief assistance?
- How can this committee increase the collaboration between the member states in order to be informed and inform about the possible disasters?
- How can this committee ensure the funding of the actions taken?
- What are the ways to reduce the risks of man-made disasters?
- What are the ways of investigation of the power plants, buildings and etc. in other member states?
- How can this committee ensure the permanence of all the acts taken?