

SOCHUM: Tackling the Mismanagement of Humanitarian Aid Funding

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During the first committee session, the industrious delegates of the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural committee (SOCHUM) opened debate on the topic of humanitarian aid funding and the mismanagement of resources. Questions on whether funds should still be sent to countries with corrupt governments arose during discussion. The delegate from France suggested a plan to give small amounts of a designated budget to countries that need help, and once it is determined effective, more money can be sent. This would give countries with corrupt governments incentives to use the money correctly. The delegate from Canada refuted this idea by stating that, “People still suffer when funds are stopped or decreased to countries that need aid.” Instead, they suggested a plan that focuses on ways to actively avoid corruption in the first place.

The delegate from Israel introduced a strategy that would focus on giving work-based aid over monetary aid because there is less of a chance that this help might be misused. This was later supported by many delegates, such as the delegate from Japan. One of the biggest points of discussion was centered around an international task force suggested by the delegates of Syria and the Russian Federation (Russia). This task force would comprise of revolving members in designated professional fields that establish criteria to help countries regulate incoming aid. The goal of this task force is to help teach countries of how to manage these new funds because, as the delegate from Russia stated, “Some countries don’t understand how to manage their money and are not doing it out of malicious intent. They should be taught instead of just being banned from receiving aid.” So far, no working papers have been introduced, but obvious alliances have been forming throughout the session.