

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Debate the Effects of Natural Disasters, Solutions, and Infrastructure

New York Times

Alexandra Underwood

During the moderated caucus on the topic of short term natural disaster effects delegates spoke about how their individual countries were affected by different natural disaster along with potential plans to assist in the betterment of natural disaster effects on their countries as well as the world. Majority of the countries in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported plans involving Doctors without Borders and staging points to assist refugees after natural disasters. The delegate of Brazil suggested the implementation of refugee visa to calm the amount of refugees after a crisis. The delegate of Jordan suggested in response “refugee centers around the world” and “nations should design early warning systems.” Japan agreed upon these proposals and added that they already have systems like these in place and on September First they have disaster prevention days to help bring awareness to children in school. The Russian Federation(Russia) was quick to refute these solutions and ideas because they believe it doesn’t concern the United Nations “but only to the countries and their neighbors”. The committee was spilt on the views that were proposed some countries such as Canada agreed with Russia but others agreed with the Jordanian plans such as Japan and the United States. The United Kingdom disagreed with Russia, the delegate stated that although climate change may differ between countries disasters affect the world. All the countries agreed that something needed to be done but the committee was spilt on who held the power to do something about it.

The committee then motioned for a moderated caucus on the emergency preparedness. Canada developed a plan to create a new UN committee that would send personnel to countries that were affected by natural disasters to collect data and provide support to the countries affect. Russia quickly shot down this idea and said that every country should do their own plans. Each country began to suggest different solutions, the US proposed warning systems to enable people to get to safety faster. Kenya commented this on how the session went “my debate went pretty well. I think everything went really well. Everyone’s intervening and having multifunction ideas and putting them on the table.”