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COPUOS

Topic 2: Space System Based Disaster Management Support

In today's day and age of seemingly constant natural disasters, much of many UN committee's time and energy is spent supplying aid in the aftermath and wondering if we will soon be able to predict natural disasters and their scale. Such innovation would be a major triumph for humanity, as it would allow aid groups to dedicate resources elsewhere and prevent catastrophe. Recent advances have given the international community that this type of innovation is within reach if we expand our scientific horizons to space.

Many countries have already begun preliminary research and usage of such technology. Brazil has discovered that nanosatellite technology can be used to detect lightning¹ and satellite images can be used to detect other unexpected disasters.² China has also begun focusing on developing space-based technologies for disaster preparedness.³ Many other countries including Japan and France have also spoken about their use of satellite images of past disasters to prepare for possible future ones. These satellite images are helpful in analyzing the natural disaster itself as it develops and changes, as well as the destruction it leaves behind.

As you write your topic papers, please keep in mind the following questions:

- How can we promote the continued development of such important and promising technology?
- Has your country used or developed such technology? How can it share this technology with other countries?
- If the technology currently available only allows for research after a natural disaster has occurred, how can UNESCO currently best utilize this technology among countries?
- This technology is predominantly developed by wealthy, developed countries. How can we ensure that this technology is available to any country facing natural disaster?
- Though this application of satellite imaging and such technology is promising it is still quite far away from predicting natural disasters. Does your country advocate for a stronger short term solution?

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https://www.vaisala.com/sites/default/files/documents/Advances%20in%20the%20RaioSAT%20Project%20Detecting%20Lightning%20from%20Space%20Using%20a%20Nanosatellite_K.P.%20Naccarato%20et%20al.pdf

² <http://www.unoosa.org/documents/pdf/copuos/stsc/2019/tech-58E.pdf>

³ <http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/events/un-international-conference-beijing-2018>

Remember that these questions are just the beginning of our discussion, and you should not limit yourself to the above. Please be sure to present your country's position and be familiar with the guidelines listed in the YUNMUN Student Handbook, especially those regarding plagiarism, as each paper will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.

Best,

Tzvi Gettenberg
Chair, Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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