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**Assignment 1.1**

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Dating back to roughly a hundred years ago when the world just entered the 20th century, the British Red Cross initiates to world's first international volunteering campaign by setting up Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Scheme in 1909.[1] The VAD Volunteers, as well as volunteers from many other national Red Cross organizations, worked in battlefields across the continent of Europe during the World War I. Thanks to the 1960s and 1970s movements of volunteerism, volunteering programs became popular among students and graduates, and at this time, the United Nations first launched the UN Volunteers program for young professionals to take their active part in global volunteering.[2]

The Republic of Singapore, from its own viewpoint, recognizes and appreciates the global effort of establishing a comprehensive and reliable system[3] of providing and supervising both short-term and long-term volunteerism during the past decades. However, in the meantime, despite the pleasing effort and results made by member states, the Republic of Singapore would also like to point out several flaws and insufficient aspects that exists in the current system.

To start with, the Republic of Singapore believes that it is of great necessity to mention the screening process during the recruitment of relevant volunteers and the signing of local NGOs. It is known to all that only with well-qualified volunteers and local organizations can countries achieve the true impact of volunteering programs. However, in current times as 'voluntourism' and corruption start to raise in numerous volunteering branches, actions needs to be taken so as to ensure that the funds falls to the right place as it belongs. In accordance with statistics that United Nations Volunteers directly mobilizes more than 7,700 volunteers annually, with 80 percent coming from less developed countries[4], efforts should be committed to assure that the volunteers are all qualified to get fully participated in their volunteering work. From the perspective of a More Developed Country, the Republic of Singapore realizes the fact that as there is an increasing number of young talents wishing to join the international volunteers, it is the right time to adopt a standardized stricter guideline in order to select the right people to work and the right group to work with.

Furthermore, the Republic of Singapore would also bring up the issue of volunteerism resource distribution. Recognizing the uneven development state of various countries, volunteers tend to select volunteering spots with lower workloads and better environment, leaving certain spots in lack of applicants.[5] On the other hand, it is taken as an insufficient aspect that under the operation of the current volunteering system, the un-optimized allocation of funds as well as other sorts of aids lags to overall progress behind. Therefore, to further alleviate the uneven status in certain regions, an optimal distribution system of volunteerism resources should be put into practice. Elaborating on the distribution system, the Republic of Singapore is of the opinion that various factors including the speciality and health condition of volunteers as well as the current needs of different volunteering programs should be taken into further consideration.

On the other side of the spectrum, the Republic of Singapore greatly appreciates the advancements made over the past decade on the construction of the new established online volunteerism[6]. By keeping up the pace with the latest technology, online volunteering not only enables organizations to recruit and train volunteers remotely, but also advance largely in raising public awareness and advertising the concepts of volunteerism. Though noting the trend that online volunteerism has become a new trend, it is rather not a trustworthy method of volunteering as Internet access remains a major concern in less developed states.

In conclusion, in spite of several concerns raised above, the global volunteering system is generally stable and helpful. With great trail-blazing progress made over the past few decades,[7] the system has internationally established cross-continent connections and cooperations relationship between various sorts of countries and organizations while each part of the system functions to maintain the volunteering network. While admitting that flaws do exist and further efforts can be made to modify and improve the system, the Republic of Singapore is in great will to further cooperate will member states and organizations as well to provide a better global volunteering environment.

## **References**

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## **Assignment 1.2**

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Established early in 1970 by the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Volunteers is among the first international organizations that advocates to role and benefits of volunteerism seeking peace and development[1]. As United Nations Volunteers was created to be a development partner for UN organizations by providing volunteers into their development programs, the Republic of Singapore is of no doubt fully supports global volunteering in all aspects. Therefore, from the perspective of the nation, the Republic of Singapore would propose the following suggestions as complimentary advice to the program's further development.

Primarily, the Republic of Singapore believes that the security of volunteers in peacekeeping projects is of vital necessity to the success of such operations. As statistics suggests that United Nations Volunteers comprises one third of all international civilians working in United Nations peacekeeping operations,[2] it is our priority to provide volunteers with a safe and sound working environment. Thus, the Republic of Singapore suggests to relocate most volunteers to stabilized and sheltered regions instead of frontiers in furtherance of giving full commitment of security and safety. Henceforth, further measures can be taken by allocating volunteer living zones with guards and even armored protection measures might be necessary under certain extreme circumstances. Only can member states ensure the safety of volunteering regions before relevant organizations launch volunteering programs.

On top of that, the Republic of Singapore proposes the formulation of a global fund and aid distribution system under the organization of United Nations Volunteers. In this way, all funds and aids aiming to promote the development of volunteering programs can be pooled, managed and distributed in an optimized way under the supervision of United Nations as well as all member states. Thence, donators can be fully informed of their funds and aids provided while enabling aided state governments a clearer understanding of volunteering programs so as to further create multi-lateral cooperation relationship.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Singapore holds the belief that finance-related issues in volunteerism is of the main responsibility to most more developed countries. Thereby, the Republic of Singapore on a large extent is willing to provide financial support to volunteerism through setting up a micro-loan system[3] which aims to ensure living conditions and facilities necessary for humanitarian volunteering. As such, the Republic of Singapore is willing to partner with more developed states, United Nations Entities, IMF World Bank and relevant NGOs to provide long-term low-interest monetary aid program through providing purpose-oriented micro-loaning system to countries and organizations in need of funds.

Moreover, the Republic of Singapore considers the launch of public awareness campaign another part of the responsibilities held by more developed states.[4] Along these lines, the Republic of Singapore with all member states in the forum would propose the implementation of said campaign on the topic of why volunteerism is a must-have for every citizen. In detail, the public awareness campaign will mainly be done through the media of radio in certain nations with low internet access rates, sidebar advertisements on appropriate websites, physical flyers, taxi banners, billboards, social media and other relevant low-cost methods. By that, an extensive amount of targeted audiences will be informed of the incentive programs of volunteering, the benefits and advantages of participating in volunteering programs as well as the special benefits of participating in United Nations Volunteers. With the wide spread of such campaigns, more qualified volunteers can be recruited, local governments in the meantime might gain more comprehensive understandings over the system, thereby providing support and cooperation opportunities during the implementation of the above measures perfecting global volunteerism.

To conclude, the Republic of Singapore gives full commitment of realizing the Sustainable Development Goals especially peace development around the globe[5]. For the moment, though flaws and imperfections lies the obstacles ahead, the Republic of Singapore looks forward to continue the current stride towards better volunteerism around the globe. Thereby, the Republic of

Singapore fully supports the organization's effort and remains actively participated in the current matter of enhancing systematic volunteerism in peace and development.

### **References**

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