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Committee: United Nations Volunteers Partnership Forum

Topic: Systematic Volunteerism in Peace and Development

Country: Republic of Singapore

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Assignment 2

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Overview

Taking a brief overview on the current issue of providing systematic volunteerism in peace and development, the international community has with no doubt done resounding effort to promote the development of United Nations volunteerism entities especially the United Nations Volunteers[1]. However, in the meantime, member states are still aware of the multiple stigmas including cultural norms and traditions, national sovereignty and the lack of public awareness in less developed countries that keeps volunteerism from obtaining a comprehensive and systematic supervision system.

Current Country State

Presently as a country with a Gross Domestic Product of over \$80,000 per capita, ranking 3rd in the world according to the IMF report[2], likewise being the world's 11th in Human Development Index of 0.912(very high)[3], the Republic of Singapore is unquestionably of the most developed states in the Partnership Forum. Thus, representing the national government, the Republic of Singapore has done tremendous effort to promote the development of both domestic and international volunteerism opportunities and programs. By setting up the National Council of Social Service as a national coordinating body for Voluntary Welfare Organizations in Singapore, the Ministry of Social Family Development of the Singapore Government could further gain a long-term command of the nation's volunteering system. As the council's latest statistics shows, there are in rough estimate more than 400 Voluntary Welfare Organizations operating under the supervision of which domestically inside the Republic of Singapore[4], showing great capability of mobilizing and managing the current volunteering resources. Besides in-country volunteerism, the Republic of Singapore on the other hand is putting the international volunteering campaign of Singapore Cares[5] into practice by signing co-op agreements with United Nations entities and providing large quantities of volunteering resources to comprehensively aid the implementation of peace and development programs hosted by the United Nations and its branches.

Solution Overall Statement

In the current times, the Republic of Singapore would like to bring the issue of raising public awareness as well as establishing a comprehensive volunteerism profile database and management system. As the above two solutions could effectively resolve the current issue raised both in the First Round Assignment as well as the informal online session.

Prerequisites

Before taking any further insights into the practical measures of the solution, the Republic of Singapore would be very much eager to reaffirm the limitations of the partnership forum as member states do not have the capability as well as the rights to interfere with any other countries' national sovereignty[6]. Thereby, all solutions and measures mentioned are considered and put forward only in the circumstance that all member states recognize the following as suggestions and proposals to the co-op working partnership forum.

Public Awareness Campaign

Starting with the common goal of effectively raising public awareness, the Republic of Singapore is in favor of implementing a public awareness campaign on the purpose of publicizing the concept of onsite and online volunteerism, enabling more talented youth to be actively participated in the global matters. Such campaign will be done through not only municipal governments but also non-governmental organizations of various kinds including but not limited to IVHQ[7], Go Volunteering[8], ONE WORLD 365[9] and other relevant both local and international volunteerism-oriented NGOs. Elaborating on the public awareness campaign, it will be done through the media of radio advertisements in nations without wide-spread Internet access, sidebar advertisements on relevant websites, physical flyers on highways, taxi banners, relevant billboards and other pushes through the method of low-cost social media. Meanwhile, said campaign will target on separated groups of audiences with specific information acknowledged in the campaign comprising of the teenagers, young adults and adults as advertising materials might vary in accordance with the current status of volunteerism applicants. By further informing people of the benefits together with the incentive volunteering programs hosted by United Nations entities, the public awareness campaign will of no doubt be a great success for its adaptive capability in various kinds of countries and states.

Volunteerism Profile Database and Management System

Further regarding the establishment of an overall volunteerism profile database and management system, this goal is undeniably a long-term and comprehensive one requiring the cooperation of not only fellow member states governments but also international volunteering organizations, local branches and United Nations entities as well.

To start the elaboration, data collection is indeed the first step to success. Thereby, the Republic of Singapore would, on a very large extent, encourage member states to utilize the current existing system of UNV Profile[10]. On the basis of which, member states will be further working out a standard profile outlining information necessary to be provided when submitting new profiles into the system. Such volunteer profile might include the following factors mainly of real names, gender, age, nationality, expertise, photo, self-description, health status and etc. as info above might be of great importance during the process of screening for qualified volunteers. On the other hand, screening processes of not only volunteers but also local and regional NGOs should be implemented in furtherance of ensuring the credibility and qualification of numerous local organs. Thus, the UNV Profile would be extended in this case to further incorporate profiles of qualified local and regional bodies of NGOs[11].

Along with the screening process comes the management and supervision system, as the aforementioned system might be overseeing the aspects of the following including regional finance distribution, regional volunteerism implementation and communication, volunteer accommodation and safety and volunteerism-related contract signing issues. Specified tasks of the administrations include providing bi-annual regional status report[12] to inform the United Nations of the regional progression on volunteerism as well as creating a globalized understanding of regional onsite and online volunteering works.

Conclusion

To conclude, the Republic of Singapore will of no excuse decidedly pursue the aim of systematically constructing a volunteering system in peace and development programs. Though the Republic of Singapore do realize the fact that there might be unnoticed flaws and weaknesses, on the other side the spectrum, the Republic of Singapore is of great will to exchange ideas and thoughts in the coming future with member states thereby working out the best solution for all.

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Position Paper

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The Republic of Singapore, from its own viewpoint, doubtlessly supports the shaping of future United Nations Volunteers blueprint regarding the promotion of systematic volunteerism in peace and development.

Primarily, the Republic of Singapore would be in favor to remind the Partnership Forum of Resolution 2659[1] whereas the United Nations Volunteers was first launched. Clearly indicating the responsibility and purpose as well as limiting the range of power under the UNDP framework, the United Nations Volunteers would have no right to interfere with other nations' sovereignty. Stating the latest in-country status of the Republic of Singapore, the country is a more developed state with a minor land area of around 720 square kilometers, ranking 190th in size among all nations[2]. Still despite the tiny area of land, the Republic of Singapore is one of most economically developed nations around the globe with an annual GDP growth rate of 6.2% per annum[3]. Thereby, with the strong support of economic power, the Republic of Singapore will by and large promote the further development of volunteerism while join hand in hand with all member states. The current system of International Volunteerism has done great work implementing peace and development in less developed regions. While on the other hand, member states shall also recognize the ineffectiveness and the lack of communication and cooperation between member states, regional bodies and United Nations entities. Thus, from the perspective of the Republic of Singapore, further improvements concerning the aspect of finance distribution, management system, screening procedures should be made.

When it comes to finance-related issues, as most of the more developed states are willing to loan or donate a considerable amount of funds to encourage the construction of the volunteering system, the Republic of Singapore emphasizes the fact that all member states should receive a clear response on the annual budget as well as the outcome of the money spent by the end of each year[4]. Furthermore, as in the current case the United Nations Volunteers does not have an all-round command over the global volunteerism-related finance, it is so far even harder to workout relevant reports and researches on the current issue.

Due to the reason that the United Nations Volunteers in the current state does only have cooperative relationships with United Nations entities, the Republic of Singapore believes that it is the high time for member states to enlarge the power as well as the responsibilities of such organization. Since the present limitations largely draws the United Nations Volunteers back from its innovative progressions, the further expansion of the responsibilities would enable the United Nations Volunteers being involved in more volunteering programs and at the same time having a macro view over the global volunteerism instead of focusing on limited amount United Nations related volunteering programs[5].

Contrariwise, the screening process of both volunteers and volunteering organizations should be brought under the spotlight. Further evolutions should be put forward to ensure the credibility of local NGOs[6] when implementing programs as well as the security of international volunteers when conducting volunteering works. Said process requires perfections in major aspects which includes the UNV Profile System[7], online and onsite recruitment of volunteers, interviews and etc. In furtherance, only in this way can we select the right man to work and the right group to work with, thereby increasing effectiveness of volunteering.

To conclude, the Republic of Singapore will of no excuse decidedly pursue the aim of systematically constructing a volunteering system in peace and development programs. In the coming conference, the Republic of Singapore is of great will to exchange ideas and thoughts with fellow member states and organizations to comprehensively construct systematic volunteerism for peace and development.

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