Agenda: Addressing natural disasters and food insecurity through clean technology and global cooperation

SEARO/WPRO Working Paper
Sponsors: Australia, China, Japan
Signatories: Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, India

The World Health Assembly,

Alarmed by globally increasing rates of natural disasters over the past 50 years,

Recognizing the hardships that changing planetary conditions have inflicted upon individuals (and their children) around the globe related to displacement, food insecurity, infectious disease, and more,

Observing the need for global collaboration in tackling climate change, an issue manifesting as a variety of social and economic burdens,

Eager to embrace research and development and implementation of novel disaster risk prevention and mitigation technologies specifically using artificial intelligence and other novel techniques,

Fully aware of the role of natural disasters as a global issue exacerbated by climate change that influences agricultural production and food insecurity,

Acknowledging the importance of developing and improving education surrounding clean energy technology such as hydrogen fuel and electric vehicles to decrease carbon emissions,

Realizing that the liberalization of the international market in the early 21st century resulted in an average drop of import tariffs by a third for agricultural products in Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia, indicating that free trade agreements can combat food insecurity in the face of climate change,

Deeply concerned about the rapid decrease in global biodiversity,

Reaffirming the need for a legal foundation upon which climate refugees can access their country's resources,

1. *Endorses* the development of disaster preparedness programs to address Sustainable Development Goals 11.5 (to significantly decrease deaths and economic losses due to global gross domestic product changes following disasters, with a focus on protecting the

poor and people in vulnerable situations) and 13.1 (to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries),

    a. *Supports* global expansion of the Google Environmental Insights Explorer, in particular regarding tree coverage, carbon emissions from agriculture (farming and livestock cultivation), buildings data, and rooftop solar potential to improve knowledge about disaster preparedness

    b. *Endorses* the use and global exchange of novel technologies such as artificial intelligence programs for real-time monitoring and risk assessment of on-going natural disasters as well as mitigating its associated effects.

    c. *Draws attention to* the high rates of infectious disease spread that are caused by natural disasters and displacements, and that this spread can be prevented,

        i. *Calls for* the identification of infectious disease outbreaks using artificial intelligence systems similar to VERILY by extracting morphometric information from microscopy images.

        ii. *Indicates that* artificial intelligence can greatly aid Indonesian healthcare workers in hot spots, for instance, malaria epidemics using blood sample analysis.

        iii. Indicates that personal data utilized be de-identified in a manner that protects the health and well-being of individuals and families within the SEARO/WPRO region.

2. *Proposes* the establishment of a regional Disaster Emergency Aid & Relief (DEAR) fund to quickly, efficiently, and equitably respond to natural disaster events,

    a. *Designates* $1 billion (USD) funding each from China, Australia, South Korea, and Japan for the creation of a SEARO/WPRO disaster fund to support disaster-prone countries in immediate relief

    b. *Endorses* the creation of a board consisting of financially contributing nations to control the allocation and distribution of funds based on factors like disaster severity and geographical scope

    c. *Strongly encourages* other World Health Organization regions to consider the development of similar in regional DEAR funds

3. *Proposes* the establishment of a regional early warning system to prepare for natural disasters and displacement leveraging technological advancements,

    a. *Calls for* a focus on tools such as satellite imagery and social media to provide early warnings of impending disasters and enable proactive responses.

    b. *Recommends* that these tools be complemented with evacuation protocols to ensure that citizens in disaster-hit countries are alerted and safely removed from dangerous situations

4. *Approves* the development and implementation of sustainable farming practices and technologies to promote conscientious agricultural production and ensure persistence of food production in the face of natural disasters and global food insecurity,

    a. *Approves* further research into safe climate resistant agriculture and genetically modified organisms,

    b. *Encourages* the protection of agricultural workers' rights in order to sustain ethical and environmentally sound farming practices as well as ethical fishing

    c. *Calls* for building infrastructure utilized to help farms mitigate damage from natural disasters

5. *Calls upon* developed and wealthier nations to prioritize clean energy technology and solar and wind power for achievement of net zero carbon emissions

    a. *Encourages* developing nations that rely on fossil fuels as they expand their economies to employ carbon capture techniques at fossil fuel processing facilities. Due to the trade and involvement of certain SEARO/WPRO countries regarding trade and influence in Central and South America, it is suggested that nations within SEARO/WPRO invest in cleaner energy infrastructure in conjunction with those governments." This is due to the interest that China has in Latin and South America regarding the lithium triangle (in Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile) with further lithium interests in Mexico, which leads to more emissions in the region.

    b. *Emphasizes* the movement to more sustainable forms of mining in nations relying on these resources for their engagement in the global market,

    c. *Affirms* the need for further research and commercial expansion of electric vehicles (EV) for both commercial and private uses globally,

    d. *Endorses* global collaboration on research into hydrogen power plants and other forms of clean energy,

        i. Collaboration with notable industry members to develop educational materials to increase interest into clean energy and their associated fields

    e. *Calls upon* developed nations to expand solar and wind power through efforts including offshore wind farms,

    f. *Promotes* the dissemination of information, expertise, and funding related to semi-mature technologies such as "sponge cities," compact cities, and more

6. *Encourages* conservation of biodiversity through the expansion of the Biodiversity, Climate Change, One Health and Nature-based Solutions working group and the development of compact city and sponge city plans,

    a. *Expresses its hope* that global development of sponge cities with green infrastructure that would absorb 70% of rainfall into the ground will support conservation efforts to preserve water quality and preserve wildlife habitat,

    b. *Further invites* growing nations to implement compact cities and urban infrastructure operations that minimize energy consumption. 30 percent of urban energy consumption goes to pumping water and collecting wastewater, and compact city designs minimize energy devoted to water in urban centers,

7. *Recommends* the expansion of Free Trade Agreements between nations to remedy the growing food crisis

    a. *Emphasizes* the mutual benefit in Free Trade Agreements between China and Brazil, Japan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the US, and the European Free Trade Association and Indonesia

    b. *Establish* agricultural food security and free trade between SEARO/WPRO countries Bangladesh, Australia, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, and India along with other nations willing to participate

8. *Recommends* to the broader World Health Organization and the United Nations that climate refugees, those who have been displaced due to the effects of climate-related disasters, should be internationally recognized as refugees

    a. *Affirms* the need for a legal framework for this growing subset of refugees so they can receive the same protections as other refugees, including prevention against and aid for malnutrition and infectious disease

        i. Recommends the designation of climate refugees as officially recognized under either "Refugee" or "Internally Displaced Peoples"

    b. *Recommends* that they receive resettlement support and funding in their home country so that relocation outside of the country is not necessary.

9. Creates an international oversight committee comprised of all members of the SEARO and WPRO regions, a representative from each private-sector company mentioned in the paper and three representative countries from each other region, as voted upon by constituent states of that region to oversee the ethical and topical implementation of the technologies and policies outlined in subpoint C of operative clause 1 and both subpoints of operative clause 3. This committee will publish a public report on the implementation and progress of these technologies every two years. The purpose of this group is to promote transparency and share this technology with other members of the WHO who may benefit from it."