



JHUMUNC

THE JOHNS HOPKINS MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

ITU & UNESCO
Chaired by Manasi Nawathe

Session XXIII

ITU & UNESCO

Topic A: The Reconstruction of Mosul, Iraq

Topic B: Emergency Communication Around Natural Disasters

Committee Overview

In this year's ITU-UNESCO collaborative committee, delegates will focus on two contemporary topics: The Reconstruction of Mosul as well as International Communication after Natural Disasters. A collaborative committee such as this one is especially beneficial in working on topics that require more resources than one organization can provide.

ITU-UNESCO is a collaboration between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that promotes the development of communities through education and technology. By the nature of both committees, neither the ITU or UNESCO can enforce or legally require nations to follow the guidelines they set forth, but rather provide recommendations and suggestions to governments to take the appropriate actions.

Founded in London in 1945, UNESCO, a branch of the UN, protects the world's resources through education about

climate change, encourages cultural awareness through education about heritage sites, and often teams up with NGOs to implement peaceful and sustainable solutions. UNESCO's primary missions are to educate the world's citizens about living in peace and encourage governments to adopt international standards and guidelines regarding history, science, and culture.¹

The ITU, created in 1865, is responsible for safe international connection and communication through telecommunication networks. ITU is responsible for distributing the world's radio signals and satellite connections to create international communication channels. The organization also focuses on improving the satellite coverage and communicative technology in underprivileged areas. With an emphasis on the collaboration between governments and private companies, the ITU has an international presence where they work on everything from cybersecurity to emergency telecommunications.²

¹"UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations. United Nations.

²"UNESCO in Brief - Mission and Mandate." UNESCO, August 12, 2019.

² About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)." ITU. International Telecommunication Union, n.d.



Topic A:

The Reconstruction of Mosul

Introduction

UNESCO has chosen Mosul as a city in need of repairs and damage control because of its longstanding position as a target city in the wars of the Middle East. While there are numerous cities in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Iran, that need reconstruction efforts, Mosul is in a strategic location, connecting trade routes and urban centers. The city is also rich with oil reserves, an appealing resource to all who have attempted to conquer Mosul in the last millennium³. The real destruction and upheaval of residents began in 2003, with the American invasion of Iraq. Air strikes and bombs demolished homes and buildings, forcing people out of the city and causing nearly irreparable damage.⁴ Following that initial destruction, Mosul has been the site of religious and political wars for nearly the last twenty years, and continues to be a city that requires massive funding and foreign intervention to rebuild.

In order for this committee to come to a consensus on how to deal with the reconstruction of Mosul, delegates are advised to focus on which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be useful in providing resources, how the funding to rebuild will be secured, how to motivate citizens and foreign entities alike to support the effort to rebuild, and what can

be done to fortify the city against further collapse in the future.

Historical Background

As mentioned in the Overview, Mosul has long been a city of turmoil and therefore has suffered tragedy after tragedy, all resulting in massive damage and destruction. In 2003 American Special Forces teams, with the help of close military ally, the United Kingdom (together called the Coalition forces), invaded Iraq in a plan to overthrow the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. This invasion resulted in a war between Iraq and the US, as well as an Anglo-American occupation of Mosul.⁵ During this occupation, nearly 100 people were killed every day and with each missile and bomb, more and more of Iraq's, and Mosul's, cultural heritage and infrastructure was destroyed by nearly nine continuous years of fighting. In 2011, when the US and Coalition forces fully withdrew from Iraq, they left little to no plans on reconstruction after the massive damage their missions had caused, leaving Mosul, and many other villages and cities in ruins.⁶

For three years after the Coalition forces pulled out of Iraq, the political and economic climate took a turn for the worse, as prime minister Nouri al-Maliki left a major power vacuum and his policies drove

³Tharoor, Ishaan, and Laris Karklis. "The History of Mosul, in Five Maps." The Washington Post. WP Company, October 21, 2016.

⁴Tharoor, Ishaan. "How Almost Everyone Wants a Piece of Mosul." The Washington Post. WP Company, October 18, 2016.

⁵Administrator. "Consequences of the War and Occupation of Iraq." Consequences of the War and Occupation of Iraq. Global Policy Forum, n.d.

⁶"The Iraq War." Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.

a wedge further between religiously motivated Sunni and Shia forces in Iraq. This gap allowed insurgent groups like al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) to grow their power and establish support in the area by merging with other rebel groups.⁷ ISIS throve off of this sudden power surge as Iraqis protested the government, and eventually, ISIS was able to attack Mosul and capture it as a Sunni stronghold. In June 2014, ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, established a Caliphate in Mosul, marking the beginning of yet another occupation of Mosul.⁸

With ISIS now in charge of Mosul, a city had been in ruins for over ten years, the devastation only escalated as ISIS rebels desecrated religious symbols such as the famous al-Hadba minaret, educational institutions like the Mosul University Library, and historical statues and museums in the city.⁹ Along with the annihilation of physical landmarks, the people of Mosul also greatly suffered at the hands of insurgents, resulting in millions of residents fleeing their homes in order to search for better conditions elsewhere. Being forced away from their homes became a mark of psychological trauma from the ISIL insurgency, and the people of Mosul begin to lose their spirit and faith.

In July 2017, with the aid of the US military, Iraqi forces overthrew ISIS and retook Mosul as part of Iraq. After three years of rebel occupation in Mosul, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced that the city had been liberated, thus marking the beginning of reconstruction in

Mosul.¹⁰ ISIS occupation was concentrated on the western side of Mosul, in the Old City, where most of the city's historical landmarks are located. Because the rebels were focused in an area with fragile structures and more vulnerable buildings, the devastation in the Old City was massive.¹¹

However, the majority of the resources and push for rebuilding Mosul has come from UNESCO's "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" campaign, which has committed to finding a more permanent solution to helping the people of Mosul rediscover their rich history and reinvigorate the city's economy. In collaboration with the Iraqi government, UNESCO officially began its efforts in July 2018 in a massive international effort to salvage religious sites, educational systems, and culturally significant buildings and items.¹²

Clearly, after decades of violence and destruction, Mosul is in desperate need of help to rebuild the city and restore its former glory. The devastation in Mosul goes well beyond physical carnage; it has social, political, and economical consequences as well. Millions of people have been displaced as refugees of the war and are unable to return since their villages and buildings have been destroyed. Residents are hopeful that the Old City in Mosul will be rebuilt even stronger and more sustainably for the future.¹³

⁷Al Jazeera. "The Rise and Fall of ISIL Explained." ISIL | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, June 20, 2017.

⁸"Mosul: ISIL's Economic Engine." National Security Research Division. RAND Corporation, n.d.

⁹Curry, Andrew. "Here Are the Ancient Sites ISIS Has Damaged and Destroyed." National Geographic. National Geographic Society, July 27, 2016.

¹⁰Alsaafin, Linah. "One Year after Battle for Mosul, a City Lies in Ruins." Iraq News | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, July 10, 2018.

¹¹Bulos, Nabih. "The People of Mosul, Iraq, Find There's Life after Islamic State, but It Isn't Easy." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2019.

¹²Yan, ed. "UNESCO Holds Int'l Meeting to Revive Iraq's 'Mosul Spirit.'" Xinhua. XinhuaNET, September 11, 2018.

¹³"Youth and Local Communities at the Heart of the Rebuilding of Mosul." UNESCO.org. United Nations, March 5, 2019.

Contemporary Conditions

Since the agreement to reconstruct Mosul is a relatively new undertaking, the social, political, and economic have not changed drastically, but there have been new developments that could affect the future and path towards reconstruction in Mosul.

Political, Economic, and Social Sectors

Government-backed reconstruction efforts are essentially nonexistent, as hired companies work very slowly or do not work at all. Contracts created by the regional government are also poorly planned, and some governors have been accused of keeping the money intended for rehabilitation efforts. Corruption also runs rampant, as large, expensive companies with scoop up the contracts and increase pricing to make rebuilding virtually unaffordable.¹⁴ Mosul Municipality officials have stated that the nearly 400 million US dollars allocated for reconstruction in Iraq has dwindled to around 250 thousand US dollars, and some sectors have received no money to rebuild at all.¹⁵ Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mohamed al-Halbousi, on behalf of much of the Iraqi government, has insisted that the first step towards rebuilding Mosul and other Iraqi cities is political stability and directly helping people return to and rebuild their homes.¹⁶ Although the immediate threat of ISIL has been neutralized in Mosul, the political instability and division are enough to cause a vacuum in power and allow insurgents to recapture the city.

Because of insufficient security and authority in the city, crime runs rampant and threatens to worsen the situation in Mosul further.¹⁷

The government in Iraq is also plagued with corruption and pressure from certain contractors to take kickbacks. This further slows the process and takes away funding from the sectors that need money the most, draining the budgets set out to rebuild each area.¹⁸

Each branch of the Iraqi government is also majority Muslim, neglecting minority groups such as Christians, Kurds, and Yezidis. Because these minority groups have insufficient representation in the government, their groups often get overlooked when it comes to providing funding and resources. Minorities have already faced abuses and violations of their rights, and the government neglecting to provide ample aid could make dire conditions worse.¹⁹

Before liberation from ISIL, Mosul was the rebels' economic powerhouse due to its strategic location and abundant resources. From an economic standpoint, families and businesses in the area have gone into bankruptcy and debt attempting to rebuild their homes and buildings. The government has been allocating money to rebuilding efforts, but it seems to be misspent, with government officials claiming that the funding for construction is too little. The reconstruction efforts have taken a major toll on Mosul's (and Iraq's) economy as loans go unpaid and the work keeps piling up. Residents over-borrow money to salvage their homes, and this

¹⁴Bulos, Nabih. "The People of Mosul, Iraq, Find There's Life after Islamic State, but It Isn't Easy." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2019.

¹⁵Alsaafin, Linah. "One Year after Battle for Mosul, a City Lies in Ruins." Iraq News | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, July 10, 2018.

¹⁶"Iraq's Leading Lawmaker Warns Aid Needed to Finish Off ISIS." United States Institute of Peace, April 3, 2019.

¹⁷"Iraq's Leading Lawmaker Warns Aid Needed to Finish Off ISIS." United States Institute of Peace, April 3, 2019. \

¹⁸Dodge, Toby. "Is There Hope for Reform in Post-Election Iraq?" Foreign Affairs. Foreign Affairs Magazine, October 17, 2018.

¹⁹"The Situation of Minorities in Iraq after ISIS." UNPO. Accessed November 10, 2019.

process of borrowing and spending and then failing to repay the loans causes economic turmoil for not only the citizens, but for the governments as well.²⁰ Two years after Mosul was liberated and one year after the official initiation of reconstruction by UNESCO, the city still faces immense economic problems that have hindered the regrowth of Mosul. The foreign donations made by the EU and the UAE are vital in funding reconstruction, but the government has been slow and unreliable in processing them, and they do not allocate nearly enough money to the proper sectors. The bureaucracy in the Iraqi government has made it so that the billions of dollars pledged to Iraq remain entangled in red tape instead of being used to help cities in need. In addition to this, the government has been imposing hefty tariffs on goods and supplies entering Iraq from the Kurdish region, adding onto the already monumental costs of rebuilding.²¹

Millions of people live in poverty and in awful living conditions, and since homes and entire villages have been destroyed, many live in displacement camps and shelters. Even a year after ISIS was removed from Mosul, families are struggling to return to normalcy. Perhaps the demographic group most affected by this tragedy are the children of Mosul, who grew up in the midst of a terrifying war and violent rule by ISIS. They witnessed friends and neighbors, sometimes even family members, get killed in raids, bombings, and other inhumane acts. These events have catastrophically damaged the children's psyche, and many

specialists think that the damage is almost irreparable after seeing such horrifying images at such a young age.²² Because of the displacement camps and psychological trauma, children are unable to go to school, another hindrance to returning back to their routines and leaving wartime behind. Children are opting to stay with their parents or work to support their families rather than attend school.²³ Children and adults alike suffered a great deal of emotional pain by seeing loved ones die and leaving behind their homes, but the will to return to normalcy and retake their lives has caused residents of Mosul to come back even more confident. Even after such suffering, people have faith that Mosul will be rebuilt to be even better than it was in the past.²⁴

Since militant groups, like the Islamic State, thrive on chaos and corruption, many fear that this vacuum of resources and rampant destruction in Mosul leaves room for these groups to invade and reconquer power, which makes efficient and strong rebuilding absolutely imperative. This massive effort will also serve as an example for other cities like Raqqa or Basra that have also been ravaged by war that reconstruction and prosperity after difficult times is possible.

Rise of PMFs in Iraq

Once Mosul fell to ISIS fighters, the Iraqi government established an umbrella organization of militia groups to help the foreign troops and local fighters expel ISIS from Iraq. A lot of the groups were even funded by the national government to protect local towns and fight in smaller scale

²⁰Bulos, Nabih. "The People of Mosul, Iraq, Find There's Life after Islamic State, but It Isn't Easy." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2019.

²¹Zaya, Gevera, Gevera Zaya, Saddam Hussein, Saddam Hussein, Assyrian Democratic Movement, and Nineveh Provincial Council. "Is Mosul Headed for a Second Fall?" Is Mosul Headed for a Second Fall? - The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Accessed November 10, 2019.

²²Watkins, Kevin. "Iraq's War-Damaged Children Need Specialist Help to Heal Their Trauma | Kevin Watkins." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, August 3, 2018.

²³Ibid.

²⁴McDonnell, Nick. "This Is How the City of Mosul Could Be Rebuilt." Time. Time, December 7, 2018.

skirmishes. In 2016, the Iraqi prime minister passed an Executive Order that integrated PMFs into the Iraqi armed forces. From that point, they were established as a body of the Iraqi military and reported to the Iraqi Commander-in-Chief. With this new development, PMFs lost some autonomy in that they were required to report to the Iraqi government rather than provincial leaders, and this loss did not sit well with organization leaders who prized their independence from the government.²⁵

However, these groups have now gone rogue, seizing control of local trade, intimidating people in Mosul, and picking fights with other militants.²⁶ These groups, Popular Mobilization Forces (PMFs), are pseudo-military vigilante troops that have mobilized and taken it upon themselves to oust any last remains of ISIL. The danger with these police groups is that they also terrorize minority groups and innocent citizens who they believe are the reason that ISIL could flourish in Iraq.²⁷

PMFs are valuable in providing extra help and labor to rebuild roads and other infrastructure, and many groups have already begun using their manpower to expedite the cleaning and rebuilding process. While they seem to be working in favor of local municipalities, they have caused a large rift between supporters of the Iraqi army and proponents of local police forces. This controversy has led to the emergence of even more mob-like groups that oppose PMFs and the Iraqi government's centralized control.²⁸ The growing number of security groups and

authorities in Mosul has made it very difficult for ordinary civilians to return to their normal routines post-ISIS.

Key Players

As social, political, and economic conditions worsen in Mosul and the controversy over PMFs rages on, there are countless non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foreign administrations that have agreed to intervene to help progress reconstruction in Mosul. Several members of the Iraqi parliament and other government officials expressed concern over paying for reconstruction and providing resources to Mosul. Because of this lack of funding, international governments, foreign NGOs, and domestic organizations have agreed to pitch in on the effort to clear out debris, rebuild infrastructure, and provide support for the overall reconstruction process.²⁹

Some groups pledge money and garner funding for buildings, hospitals, and businesses, and others provide medical relief and volunteer corps to physically aid in the reconstruction efforts. Many agencies also provide humanitarian care for refugees of war, traumatized children, and other victims of human rights abuses.³⁰

Governments around the world have agreed to invest in the Iraqi economy, boosting Mosul's revenue and reinvigorating the consumer system in order to get businesses running again. They have also taken responsibility for helping to fix the political system to foster stability in the government. Most foreign governments have been pledging money and moral support to Mosul and UNESCO's efforts to

²⁵"More Than Militias: Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces Are Here to Stay." War on the Rocks, April 4, 2018.

²⁶*Ibid.*

²⁷Zaya, Gevera, Gevera Zaya, Saddam Hussein, Saddam Hussein, Assyrian Democratic Movement, and Nineveh Provincial Council. "Is Mosul Headed for a Second Fall?" Is Mosul Headed for a Second Fall? - The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Accessed November 10, 2019.

²⁸Nashimi, Fadel. "Mosul Rages over 'PMF' Takeover of Arqam Mosque." *Awsat*. Accessed November 10, 2019.

²⁹Bulos, Nabih. "The People of Mosul, Iraq, Find There's Life after Islamic State, but It Isn't Easy." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2019.

³⁰Carey, Jesse, and Jesse Carey. "5 Organizations Helping the People of Iraq and Syria." *RELEVANT Magazine*, December 27, 2017.

rebuild the city. Following the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq, billions of dollars were raised for rebuilding efforts in Mosul and other cities, and multiple countries, including the EU and many Middle Eastern nations, also promised humanitarian relief and support.³¹ Very recently, China has also pushed its way to becoming a major supporter of reconstruction in Iraq due to a dependence on crude oil imports from the nation.³² Unfortunately, many of the nations' governments have been either too slow to follow through or have neglected to send the money at all. These oversights, coupled with government corruption, have caused the reconstruction efforts to be backlogged by several months.³³ Regardless of this, certain countries have played a key role in helping Mosul get back on its feet. The European Union has pledged around 400 million euros, along with promises for future aid in sustainability and recovery. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar each pledged 1 billion dollars through investments and credit lines and Turkey has pledged 5 billion dollars towards reconstruction. However, reports of continued corruption and mysterious disappearances of money have perpetuated the backlogs in rebuilding efforts.³⁴

While there are multiple groups responsible for aiding children and refugees in Mosul, like Doctors Without Borders and Save the Children, there are some organizations in particular that have been tirelessly contributing to the reconstruction

effort in Mosul. An NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq has been established to assign and divide the work involved in the reconstruction of Mosul and all of Iraq.³⁵

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the National Institute of Human Rights (NIHR) were formed by groups of activists dedicated to humanitarian relief. The IRC is an organization based in the United States of America that provides direct aid to citizens in Mosul (and other parts of Iraq). Some of their services include job training for adults, providing access to education for children, and sheltering and caring for refugees from Syria and other Iraqi cities.³⁶ NIHR, a body of the NGO Coordination Committee, is also committed to providing personal care and aid to vulnerable trauma victims in Iraq. In partnerships with other centers for human rights, the NIHR surveys the progress of human rights and trauma victims in violent and post-war areas.³⁷

Another key group in the post-ISIL recovery effort is not an international contingency, but bands of youth and young adults who have vowed to pitch in the effort to clean up their city. While international organizations have the power and resources for a large-scale project to clean up the city, local grassroots and community groups have left quite a mark on the effort as well. These smaller groups possess knowledge of the city's inner-workings, and do not require monetary motivation to do their part to rebuild. They clear rubble and debris out of sheer hope that their city will return to its

³¹Editor. "Forget the Donations, Stupid': New Dynamics in Funding Reconstruction." *Iraq Business News*, June 15, 2018.

³²Wachman, Richard. "China Pushes for Bigger Role in Iraqi Reconstruction." *Arab News*. Arabnews, March 2, 2018.

³³Down, Aisha Kehoe. "Iraq Issues Warrant for Mosuls Provincial Governor Over Corruption." *Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project*. Accessed November 10, 2019.

³⁴Chmaytelli, Maher. "Allies Promise Iraq \$30 Billion, Falling Short of Baghdad's Appeal." *Reuters*. Thomson Reuters, February 14, 2018.

³⁵"Members - (NCCI): NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq." *Members - (NCCI) | NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq*. Accessed November 10, 2019.

³⁶"Iraq." *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*. Accessed November 10, 2019.

³⁷"About Us." *National Institute for Human Rights*. Accessed November 10, 2019.

former glory. These youth groups are so important to the effort because of their tenacity and desire to ensure that their beloved city is sustainable for their future.³⁸

A notable lack of presence by the United States in UNESCO's effort has been a point of contention. As of 2018, the US is no longer an official member of UNESCO, but the nation has dozens of NGOs dedicated to helping Mosul as well as interests in Iraq. The US also has a moral responsibility to clean up the mess in Mosul as its 2003 invasion played a large role in the initial destruction of Mosul and surrounding areas.³⁹ Therefore, the US remains entangled in this topic, but cannot directly intervene on behalf of UNESCO as it no longer has the benefits of membership.

Past United Nations and International Action

Following the devastating invasion of the Coalition forces, the first effort made by the UN to rebuild Iraq was in May 2003 in the form of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1483. This document established a UN Special Representative to Iraq to "coordinate humanitarian and reconstruction assistance by U.N. agencies and between those agencies and non-governmental organizations" as well as to "promote conditions for sustainable development and for the protection of human rights."⁴⁰ In August 2003 the UNSC passed Resolution 1500 which extended UNSCR 1483 and established the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) as an advisory body in Iraq to oversee the country's reconstruction. In the decade following these resolutions, the

UNSC passed several, less comprehensive papers that elaborated on the type of support and work that the UN Special representative and UNAMI could undertake. The UNSC also extended its mandate for the establishment of the UNAMI to sustain the efforts that the organization had in place to help Iraq rebuild.⁴¹ While neither of these documents specifically mentioned reconstruction in Mosul, they were stepping stones for UNESCO to begin forming its plan for permanent reconstruction.

After ISIL captured most of Iraq, the UNSC passed another major resolution regarding the violent situation in Iraq. Resolution 2367 denounced ISIL's occupation, as well as set out some guidelines for international cooperation, civilian protection, and sustainable development.⁴² Though two of the three resolutions were targeted to the pre-ISIL Iraq, they have since been adapted to relate to the situation in post-ISIL Iraq and helping citizens in affected cities to return to normalcy.

In February 2018, months after the defeat of ISIL in Iraq, the European Union, United Nations, and World Bank collaborated to hold an International Conference for Reconstruction in Kuwait at which the international community and governments promised thirty billion dollars to Iraq to help rebuild the nation. The European Union and United Arab Emirates were also among other allies to pledge even more money in the following months towards rebuilding infrastructure and strengthening institutions against further destruction. The money has since been

³⁸"Youth and Local Communities at the Heart of the Rebuilding of Mosul." UNESCO.org. United Nations, March 5, 2019.

³⁹The Intercept. "To Defeat ISIS, the U.S. Helped Turn Old Mosul Into Rubble - but Won't Help Rebuild It." The Intercept, April 22, 2018.

⁴⁰"Security Council Resolution 1483 on the Rebuilding of Iraq." ASIL, June 6, 2003.

⁴¹"UNAMI Mandate." United Nations Iraq. Accessed November 10, 2019.

⁴²"UN Resolution 2367." United Nations, July 14 2017.

allocated towards clearing contaminated and destroyed roads, buildings, hospitals, and other religious sites that are currently hazardous to citizens living in Mosul.⁴³ The results of the conference not only included large sums of money secured for financing the reconstruction, but also a resiliency plan put in place to establish guidelines for recovery. From anti-corruption campaigns to the role of the private sector, foreign affairs officials discussed how each sector would be affected by this new plan. This conference also brought Iraq's neighbors out of the woodwork, each nation promising money and unfiltered support and influence for the nation during the trying time of reconstruction.⁴⁴

Inspired by the conference, UNESCO itself has also taken charge of the situation in Mosul. Backed by their July 2018 campaign to "Revive the Spirit of Mosul," UNESCO has collaborated with other countries and NGOs to rake in even more support and resources to help people in Mosul rebuild. First, UNESCO has placed the Old City Mosul on the World Heritage Tentative List, and if accepted as a World Heritage site, Mosul will receive substantial protection for its religious and historic sites and monetary donation to help clear out and rebuild the city. This effort also includes reinvigorating

citizens' faith and love for the city and its historic past by fostering connections between the people and the identity of the city.⁴⁵ To bolster support for the revival campaign, UNESCO hosted a conference in September 2018 in Paris, France to include the international community in the initiative to rebuild Mosul. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay vowed to use this ambitious effort to not only physically reconstruct the city, but also revitalize the city's cultural and educational systems to prevent any further damage.⁴⁶ So while other international relief efforts work on reconstructing buildings, highways, and hospitals, UNESCO will focus on the more spiritually oriented aspects like culture and education.

The UNESCO Joint Steering Committee that has spearheaded the progress in Mosul has created a plan to engage youth and local organizations to speed up and personalize the reconstruction process.⁴⁷ The Secretary-General of the United Nations has also been inspired by this massive UNESCO effort, and he pledged over 500 million US dollars to Iraq to rebuild and has also promised moral support in favor of Mosul and other cities as they work towards reconstruction.⁴⁸

⁴³Tarzi, Nazli. "A Year after Kuwait Conference, Iraq Is No Closer to Reconstruction." Arab Weekly . Accessed November 10, 2019.

⁴⁴Laipson, Ellen. "What Iraq's Reconstruction Conference Revealed About Its New Friends and Partners." World Politics Review, February 20, 2018.

⁴⁵"UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations. United Nations.

"UNESCO in Brief - Mission and Mandate."

⁴⁶Alive, MNI. "Latest News." UNESCO Organizes First International Meeting on its " Revive the Spirit of Mosul " Initiative. Accessed November 10, 2019.

⁴⁷"Youth and Local Communities at the Heart of the Rebuilding of Mosul." UNESCO.org. United Nations, March 5, 2019.

⁴⁸"Guterres Pledges UN Support to Iraqi Government, People in Mosul; \$562M Needed in Aid | UN News." United Nations. United Nations, July 10, 2017.

Questions a Resolution Must Address

1. How does the resolution minimize corruption in the Iraqi government?

The Iraqi government has had accusations of corruption and withholding of funds from Mosul. It is very common for corruption to be perpetuated because the same officials who make “anti-corruption” legislation are the ones who look the other way when their colleagues neglect to allocate the correct amount of money to reconstruction efforts. So, it is imperative that the resolution come up with a solution to combat government corruption.

2. What other NGOs, government agencies, or UN bodies can UNESCO collaborate with to expedite reconstruction?

The NGO Coordination Committee (NGOCC) for Iraq has made collaboration between various NGOs more effective, but this resolution must translate the work of the NGOCC to coordinate between NGOs, government aid, and other UN bodies to provide a streamlined effort to rebuild Mosul.

3. How can foreign governments be held accountable for the money they pledge to reconstruction in Mosul?

Similar to the issues with corruption, there have been multiple instances of national governments, and some foreign government agencies, not sending the full amount of money they had publicly promised. What can this resolution do to ensure that the institutions that pledge money do in fact send the full amount to Mosul and other reconstruction efforts?

4. How will the resolution handle the controversial role of PMFs in the reconstruction effort?

PMFs can either be a very good tool for reconstruction in Mosul, but they can also be a threat to citizens if their activities are not kept in check. This resolution should develop a plan from dealing with how PMFs can exist in society, and how their power can be harnessed to help rebuild Mosul.

5. What actions can be taken to reinvigorate Mosul’s economy?

Mosul is the economic powerhouse of Iraq and has many resources and the potential to have a strong economy once again. A booming economy is a major step towards stability and prosperity in the region. This committee must decide how the economy in Mosul can be stimulated and must strike a balance between foreign and local government intervention.

6. How can terror groups like ISIS be prevented from regaining power and status in Mosul?

This issue is one of the most hotly debated issues in the Middle East, as the region is still very susceptible to the rise of another terror group. It is of great importance that this committee develop a plan for preventing terror groups from recapturing the area and for protecting the citizens of Mosul if any such insurgency does occur.

7. *What can the committee do to address the post-war trauma and reconstruct the spirit of citizens in Mosul?*

UNESCO's main goal for this venture is to "revive the spirit of Mosul" in a way that makes citizens proud to be from a city of rich heritage. By collaborating with educational and cultural institutions, it is imperative that this committee rebuild the spirit of Mosul alongside the infrastructure.

8. *How much of a role will religion and spirituality play in helping to revive the city of Mosul?*

Most citizens in Mosul belong to the Sunni faction of Islam, but there are a handful of minority groups in the city that belong to other religions. Because of this, using a targeted religious approach and appeals for reconstruction may not go over well with the minority population or with foreign organizations who have pledged money. The committee must decide the role of religious appeals in the efforts to rebuild Mosul.

Bloc Positions

- *Middle Eastern/Arab Nations*

The Middle Eastern bloc, which includes Iraq, is arguably the most influential voting bloc on this topic of Reconstruction in Mosul as they are the nations that have the most stake in Mosul's success. Because of Mosul's central location and economic powerhouse status, the Middle Eastern nations, regardless of religious and historic divides, are committed to helping the city rebuild and bring prosperity to the Middle East.

- *Eastern European*

Russia and several other Eastern European nations have massive oil stakes and other political interests in Iraq. Therefore, the involvement of this bloc is closely related to Mosul's economy and investment in companies and businesses that will be sure to help Iraq's oil production and business grow.

- *Western European and North American Nations*

As the nations that have intervened so frequently in Iraq, this bloc has a responsibility to clean up the political (and literal) mess that they have brought to the Middle East. The European Union and the United States in particular are major players in Iraq, but as the US is not officially in this bloc (it does not have membership in UNESCO), its interests will have to be upheld by the other members of this bloc.

- *African Nations*

Being neighbors to the Middle East, African nations also have a major interest in the economy and growth of Mosul. Since some African nations also have cities undergoing reconstruction, they can set examples for how cities can grow and provide resources on rebuilding.

- *Latin American and Caribbean Nations*

During the fight against ISIL, Venezuela, a prominent member of this bloc, was temporarily voted to the UNSC as a voting member to represent Latin America and the Caribbean on the world stage. A large part of the bloc also condemned the 2003 invasion of Iraq, opposing many US-led proposals, and this has caused many of these nations to take a back seat to politics and growth in the Middle East.

- *Asia and the Pacific Nations*

Major nations of this region like China, India, and Japan have invested in Iraq's oil industry for years and have also pledged their support for rebuilding Iraq since the war in 2003. Nations like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, that share a common religion with Iraq and people in Mosul, have also shown their solidarity for Mosul by leading prayer services for those suffering from poverty, homelessness and trauma after ISIS.

Conclusion

Mosul has existed for thousands of years, but the brunt of the damage to the city has only occurred in the last fifteen years. Just in that short span of time, the city has survived foreign invasions, economic crises, religious divisions, and the reign of ISIS. It is evident that reviving the spirit of Mosul is going to be a hefty task that requires a multifaceted approach. Potential solutions must include plans for rebuilding not only infrastructure and institutions, but also citizens' faith in the glory of their city. The resolutions should address economic, social, political and moral aspects of this issue, and what measures can be implemented to ensure a lasting and sustainable solution.

Many nations have pledged their support and invested money into helping Mosul (and all of Iraq) recuperate from the rule of ISIS, and countless other NGOs have also promised to aid in reconstruction. The Iraqi government, while dealing with corruption, is also hopeful that it can garner the resources to clean up the city. Youth groups and religious organizations are also among the supporters that have pledged to rebuild Mosul.

Unfortunately, the reconstruction efforts have their own set of challenges as well, from corruption, to violent paramilitary forces, to lack of funding that make it increasingly difficult to develop an effective plan to rebuild. However, a potential resolution has the ability to properly handle corruption in the Iraqi government, harness the passion and manpower of PMFs, and ensure a feasible amount of funding through accountability clauses.

Delegates are advised to explore all the resources that UNESCO, ITU, the UN, and other various affiliated agencies have to offer, and to understand the powers that this committee has so it can effectively develop a plan. The UN also has a handful of clauses from previous UNSC resolutions and rules that may also come in handy when address issues of terror groups, NGOs, or funding, as these topics are constantly on the table for the UNSC and other UN committees.

This background guide is meant to be a stepping stone to further, more nuanced research as delegates prepare to tackle the reconstruction of Mosul. Delegates should be mindful of the "Questions a Resolution Must Answer" and ensure that their position papers and working papers include plans that address these points. While it is not realistic that any one resolution is going to be enough to restore years of trauma, developing a comprehensive baseline is the first step towards an effective solution to "Revive the Spirit of Mosul."



Topic B:

Emergency Communications Around Natural Disasters

Introduction

The ITU, created in 1865, is responsible for safe international connection and communication through telecommunication networks. ITU is responsible for distributing the world's radio signals and satellite connections to create international communication channels. The organization also focuses on improving the satellite coverage and communicative technology in underprivileged areas. With an emphasis on the collaboration between governments and private companies, the ITU has an international presence and work on everything from cybersecurity to emergency telecommunications.⁴⁹

Initially an effort by the ITU, telecommunication before and after natural disasters has proved to be a challenge that would benefit from the support of UNESCO, especially from the Strategic Planning committees that handle disaster preparedness and organize international response and relief to areas struck by tragedy.⁵⁰

Natural disasters include, but are not limited to, earthquakes, tsunamis/cyclones, fires, and other issues caused by climate change. The first step of this issue is to address the preventative measures that can be taken to mitigate the damage and loss of

life from natural disasters. Effective communication before a disaster is necessary to developing a working and feasible system. Putting preventative measures in place will especially benefit underprivileged areas, since it will reduce the amount of post-disaster reconstruction that will be needed, saving money and resources.⁵¹

Especially in areas with limited access to resources and aid, it is imperative that the ITU-UNESCO partnership be able to devise a plan for disaster communications. Underdeveloped communities and third world nations already feel the brunt of natural disasters because of the poor infrastructure, so the lack of effective communication after disasters is compounded. Even the most basic framework for emergency communication is not suitable for underprivileged communities because it requires working internet and telephone lines, which some towns and villages still do not have access to. Many of the plans are focused on immediate relief efforts rather than long-term support for the areas that need it. The aftermath of a disaster can be worsened by time, and by then, many communities no longer have the help they need.⁵²

⁴⁹"About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)." ITU. International Telecommunication Union, n.d.

⁵⁰"UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations. United Nations.

"UNESCO in Brief - Mission and Mandate." UNESCO, August 12, 2019.

⁵¹Medford-Davis, Laura N, and G Bobby Kapur. "Preparing for Effective Communications during Disasters: Lessons from a

World Health Organization Quality Improvement Project." International journal of emergency medicine. Springer, March 19, 2014.

⁵²Tagliacozzo, Serena, and Michele Magni. "Communicating with Communities (CwC) during Post-Disaster Reconstruction: an Initial Analysis." SpringerLink. Springer Netherlands, August 29, 2016.

Overall, this committee must introduce a way to mitigate the impact of a natural disaster through the development and improvement of emergency communication systems.

Historical Background

As climate change becomes more prevalent, natural disasters are becoming more frequent and more deadly. This means that the future of effective communication about natural disasters is becoming more and more imperative. Meteorology is becoming less accurate as climate becomes more unpredictable, so we need some system in place to account for the inaccuracy and to support the last-minute changes and communication.⁵³

Before conditions worsened, the main issues contributing to ineffective communication after natural disasters included physical damage to network components, an overload of people accessing the networks to inform family and watch news reports, and failure of recovery systems.⁵⁴

Historically, much of the technology implemented for communication has not been able to withstand the impact of natural disasters. The physical damage to components like radios, wires, electrical lines, and servers have prevented the proper spread of information to people. In 2015, major storms hit the southwestern United States, knocking out much of the communication infrastructure. Strong winds, floods, fires, and various other effects from disasters all put extra constraints on how communication systems can be built--

the materials need to be able to hold up in a storm or other disaster.⁵⁵

In areas where purchasing emergency generators and stronger infrastructure for communications systems is not feasible, natural disasters and the effect they have on post-disaster communication is compounded. Cyclone Eline in 2000 hit much of Zimbabwe with such brutal force that nearly every channel of communication was blocked for several weeks. Relief organizations were unable to gauge the extent of impact to send aid, and the outside world was cut off from any information about loved ones.⁵⁶

The 2011 Earthquake Tsunami in Japan is also a catastrophic example of what happens when networks are physically damaged. A study was done to measure the impact on devices and internet, and the results showed that people were completely cut off from communication since the internet was inaccessible, phone lines were destroyed, and devices were broken.⁵⁷

When there are too many victims of natural disasters trying to inform family and friends of their status, it also burdens communications networks. There have been multiple instances of networks crashing because of population overloads. This overload prevents emergency rescue teams from reaching victims and coordinating relief. In some areas, expanding server networks is too expensive or logistically unfeasible, so the committee must keep in mind how to find a solution to system overloads.

It is also very important to consider the involvement of the media and news

⁵³“Why Radiocommunications Are so Crucial for Natural Disaster Management: Mario Maniewicz.” ITU News, September 11, 2019.

⁵⁴Richards, Christina. “When Communications Infrastructure Fails During a Disaster.” *Disaster Recovery Journal*. Accessed November 10, 2019.

⁵⁵*Ibid.*

⁵⁶*Ibid.*

⁵⁷Medford-Davis, Laura N, and G Bobby Kapur. “Preparing for Effective Communications during Disasters: Lessons from a World Health Organization Quality Improvement Project.” *International journal of emergency medicine*. Springer, March 19, 2014.

outlets. There is very limited coverage of natural disasters and emergencies in areas without working internet and telecommunication, so many of the disasters go unnoticed by nations and organizations that may be able to provide aid. Expanding this coverage and ensuring that people and groups around the world are aware of the ongoing disasters in less well-known areas.

When a disaster strikes a large area, the first instinct of many victims is to turn to news outlets and media channels to get more information on evacuations, relief, and the status of their loved ones. This also strains networks and servers, but in many instances, social media has been a great resource for victims to communicate with authorities and family members. In 2011, Turkey suffered an earthquake that knocked down many power lines and destroyed buildings and infrastructure. Many victims used social media platforms to look for missing people, post about safe shelters, and contact authorities. This surge in media activity also helped emergency responders to find the areas in need of the most attention and distribute resources accordingly.⁵⁸

A 2008 earthquake in Wenchuan, China, is a prime example of the issues that arise when communication systems are overloaded. A study done on communications after the earthquake indicated a sharp uptick in telecommunications after the disaster. The network servers were overloaded with information and messages, and the system eventually shut down.⁵⁹

Another lesson about managing communications that some regions have learned the hard way is the necessity of a

pre-disaster preparedness plan for effective communications. Oftentimes, plans for evacuation, strengthening infrastructure, and protecting assets are made, but governments and regional authorities tend to neglect preparation for communication. Too many disasters have affected communities where victims lose contact with the outside world and cannot be informed of emergency procedures.⁶⁰

Coordinating communication between relief agencies, hospitals, governments and victims is essential as communities prepare for impact from natural disasters. The tragic Japanese earthquake and tsunami was an unfortunate instance where more lives could have been saved had there been a more concrete plan for post-disaster communication.⁶¹

Historically, there are too many examples of disasters that were particularly damaging not only because of their severity, but also because of the lack of effective communication before and after the disaster had occurred. The goal of this committee remains to develop some communication guidelines and plans in order to make the systems already in place stronger, and create new systems for areas that currently lack any communication networks.

⁵⁸"How Social Media Communication During and After Turkey's Earthquake Is Changing How Emergency Managers Respond." IEM, June 26, 2019.

⁵⁹Considerations and suggestions on improvement of communication network disaster countermeasures after the

wenchuan earthquake - IEEE Journals & Magazine. Accessed November 10, 2019.

⁶⁰Ibid.

⁶¹"Communicating Tsunami Evacuations Effectively." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, April 18, 2017.

Contemporary Conditions

I-REACT

I-REACT (Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies) is a 3-year project by Horizon 2020, the largest European Union Research and Innovation program ever⁶², that aims to use social media, smartphones, and other technology to improve disaster risk management⁶³. It was ultimately developed with the support of the European Commission and the funding of Horizon 2020 program to integrate emergency management data from multiple sources and create a system that is able to produce information faster and allow citizens, civil protection services, and policymakers to effectively prevent and react against natural disasters⁶⁴. This would be the first European-wide platform to integrate emergency management data from multiple sources. UNESCO, being a contributor to I-REACT, has facilitated the interface of its technological and institutional-policy components, as well as helped select the international advisor board of experts.⁶⁵

Panel for Emergency Telecommunications

The ITU Secretary-General created and appointed a High-Level Panel for Emergency Telecommunications, which has become a platform for numerous partnership agreements between ITU and other organizations to ensure rapid rehabilitation of communication links in the event of a natural disaster. Additionally, several mobile satellite service operators

have provided equipment and satellite airtime as valuable assistance in disaster relief and management.⁶⁶

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is a network of organizations designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and led by the World Food Programme (WFP) of the UN that work to provide communications services in various humanitarian hazards and emergencies, including natural disasters. Within 48 hours of any disaster, the ETC is able to provide security communications services along with internet and voice connectivity to assist in their disaster response operations. Additionally, within four weeks, their services expand for long-term emergency assistance. The ETC is currently looking to develop into a “broker, facilitator and convener of technology in emergency response” along with their current responsibility of being service providers through their ETC2020 strategy.⁶⁷

Hurricane Maria

The most recent ITU assistance with natural disasters was February 20, 2016 when category-5 Cyclone Winston crashed into the Fiji Islands and caused destruction to infrastructure, including telecommunications. In response, ITU deployed emergency telecommunication equipment in response to the Government of Fiji for assistance and provided satellite phones, satellite broadband terminals and accessories, all used to support relief and coordination efforts.⁶⁸ In 2015, ITU provided similar aid in response to natural disasters in the Commonwealth of Dominica and

⁶² Kugleta. “What Is Horizon 2020?” Horizon 2020 - European Commission, March 15, 2017.

⁶³ “I-REACT: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.” I-REACT | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

⁶⁴ “Early Warning Systems: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.” Early Warning Systems | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

⁶⁵ Ireact. “Home ” I-REACT.” I, May 17, 2019.

⁶⁶ “New ITU Standards Enhance Satellite Communications for Emergencies - Chile.” ReliefWeb. International Telecommunication Union, March 10, 2010.

⁶⁷ “About the ETC.” Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).

⁶⁸ “Country Profiles.” Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).

Myanmar. There have been no significant policies enacted anytime recently after the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction specifically for emergency telecommunications. Additionally, the majority of the UN's efforts have been focused on early warning systems, disaster prevention, and immediate and temporary response rather than finding somewhat long-term solutions to ensure communities are properly recovered, leading to impacted areas to be in long-term disaster recovery. For example, 62% of Puerto Rican inhabitants still lacked power and communication services for over a month after Hurricane Maria struck.⁶⁹

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

In the last few years, the ITU has focused on improving technologies involved in climate change, whether it be devices used to communicate after a major disaster, or measurement tools used in predicting the severity of disasters or impending climate change. These technologies are categorized as ICTs. The ITU is committed to finding the most effective ways to help communities affected by such disasters.⁷⁰

The ITU sends temporary ICTs to areas with limited or no access to internet or other telecommunication so that authorities in those areas can coordinate with relief organizations. The committee has put an emphasis on radio communications, as using radio frequencies is an effective way to coordinate aid and deliver emergency messages.⁷¹ Various groups are doing

studies on radio communications and their relative efficacy when used in various conditions.

Standardization

The ITU has continued to develop its "Recommendations" for governments and other agencies regarding communication on the local and national levels when a natural disaster occurs. These Recommendations are set forth in the "Standards" section on the ITU website and provide comprehensive guidelines for effective emergency communication. The guidelines include information on emergency warning systems, post-disaster recovery of systems and coordination of relief.⁷²

ITU has been consistently working with global partners that are responsible for much of the implementation of the ITU Recommendations. The main partners are Iridium, Inmarsat, Thuraya, Marlink, and Ultisat. Each company focuses on a different sector of communication, from building devices to installing network systems. With the help of these companies, the ITU has successfully been able to reach and connect historically underserved areas with the proper authorities.⁷³

The ITU Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies has also been designed to facilitate aid between ITU, its partners and affected areas. Developed in 2002, it sets up steps for deploying simple, efficient, and portable communication systems that are used 24 to 48 hours after a disaster occurs.⁷⁴ The framework ensures that any area, regardless of economic status or danger level, has access to their devices and can

⁶⁹ Severino, Kathya. "Policy Recommendations for a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Package." Policy Recommendations for a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Package | Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños.

⁷⁰ ICTs, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change. Accessed November 10, 2019.

<https://www.itu.int/en/action/climate/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Partnering for Disaster Reduction. Accessed November 10, 2019.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

have contact with the outside world. Unfortunately, these devices have their limitations as they are not very powerful or long range. The main issue, however, is that these devices are only available in the immediate hours after a disaster, and some areas need much more support than can be provided in a few days.⁷⁵

Past United Nations and International Actions

Hyogo Framework

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is one of the United Nations' earliest attempts at addressing the issue of disaster prevention. Initiated in 2005 by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the HFA was the first plan to thoroughly explain and describe the work necessary from various sectors to minimize losses from natural disasters. It has five priority actions, one of which is to "identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning [systems]." Though the Hyogo Framework is a very comprehensive disaster response plan, certain aspects of the plan address the issue of communication services regarding natural disaster preparation and response. The Framework calls upon member nations to "support the improvement of scientific and technical methods and capacities for risk assessment, monitoring and early warning,...promote the engagement of the media in order to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience,...promote the use, application and affordability of recent information, communication and space-based technologies and related services...to support disaster risk reduction,...protect and strengthen critical public facilities and

physical infrastructure, particularly...communications and transport lifelines, disaster warning and management centres...in order to render them adequately resilient to hazards,...[and] strengthen...and create or upgrade regional policies operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response."⁷⁶

Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster, successor to the Hyogo framework, also addresses the issue of communication and early warning systems regarding natural disasters. The Framework was the outcome of consultations beginning in March of 2012 and intergovernmental negotiations held from July 2014 to March 2015, making it the most recent UN action dealing with specifically emergency communication in natural disasters. UNDRR has been responsible for supporting the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Sendai Framework. Though the Sendai Framework is another comprehensive natural disaster preparedness and response program, the most significant aspect of the Framework relevant to emergency communications is that one of the targets is to substantially increase the availability of and access to early warning systems to people by 2030.

In 2005, along with the initiation of the Hyogo Framework, the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations came into force on January 8th of 2005.⁷⁷ This UN treaty specifically focuses on the telecommunication aspect of both natural disaster preparedness and response; it is

⁷⁵Ibid.

⁷⁶"Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)." UNDRR News.

⁷⁷"UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations. United Nations.

meant to simplify the use of life-saving telecommunication equipment and with the goals of faster and more effective rescue operations. It requires member nations to make an inventory of their resources available for to decrease loss from disaster, aid in relief, and to develop a telecommunication action plan that identifies the steps necessary to deploy those resources. The treaty also calls on member nations to facilitate the supplying of prompt telecommunication assistance to minimize losses due to the disaster and covers both the installation and operation of reliable, flexible telecommunication services. The ITU has also agreed to assist in fulfilling the objective of the Tampere Convention. Article 3 states that the 'States Parties shall cooperate among themselves and with non-state entities and intergovernmental organizations...to facilitate the use of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief.'⁷⁸ It further goes on to specify that State parties must also cooperate in the deployment of equipment to predict information about natural disasters, the prompt distribution of telecommunication assistance to lessen the impact of a disaster, and the installation and operation of telecommunication resources to be used by humanitarian relief and assistance organizations.⁷⁹

ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

In March of 2005, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group of ITU established an ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Action Plan for Standardization on Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Early Warning. Prompted by the identification of the need for new telecommunication standards after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the Action Plan was created. The plan entails four main action points: to identify existing ITU-T resources in support of Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Early Warning, identify areas for extension of existing systems, initiate the promotion of the existing resources and of future activities, and encourage the participation of users in ITU-T standardization work.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ "UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations. United Nations.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ "ITU-T Action Plan for Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Early Warning." ITU-T, 18 March 2015.

Questions a Resolution Must Address

1. *How can this framework be adapted to be used in the event of non-climate related emergencies (riots, invasions, terrorist attacks etc.) that also cause substantial damage?*

While the focus of the committee will be post-natural disaster communications, it is also important that the committee develop a sustainable and adaptable solution to deal with communication after other tragedies.

2. *Most of the resolution will focus on the damage from quick but impactful natural disasters. How can this paper be used to communicate for long term issues like extremely hot weather, droughts, and poor air quality?*

Disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, or tornadoes cause severe damage, but the brunt of the issues are resolved within a few weeks after the disaster. However, certain climate change issues and other long-term problems are slower to set in, but will require perpetual attention from the ITU in order to effectively communicate changes to areas who do not have access to media outlets.

3. *How does the resolution expand media coverage of the areas that have faced substantial damage?*

When communities are hit by natural disasters, power lines, electricity, internet, and many other means of communication are shut down by the damage. The committee must devise a way to alert communities that have very limited (or no) access to the media about any other impending disasters.

4. *Since communication after a natural disaster is vital to reconstruction after the damage has been done, what can the resolution do to facilitate reconstruction efforts with respect to communication between relief agencies and affected areas?*

The affected areas will need to be cleared of debris and rebuilt, so the resolution must address the role of communication in reconstruction efforts as part of a long-term solution.

5. *What does the resolution do to put fail-safes in place in case the emergency communication systems that are already in place do not work?*

Many nations already have strong plans for emergency preparedness and communication BEFORE a disaster, but what can the resolution do to create fail-safes in the event that the system backfires or is not effective?

6. *What does this resolution provide that is different than the guidelines set forth in the Hyogo and Sendai Frameworks?*

The Sendai framework was meant to be a successor to the Hyogo framework, strengthening the guidelines established and the plans created. How does this resolution provide an even more comprehensive plan for communication, and is there anything from either of the frameworks that has become obsolete?

Bloc Positions

- *Africa*

Particularly in East and Southern Africa, inconsistent rain seasons and poverty are worsened by political and economic instability. However, there are efforts to fight against these natural disasters. In Somalia, the government works with the Somalia Disaster Management Agency, responding to those affected by drought and flooding.

- *Asia and the Pacific*

Asia-Pacific nations are incredibly vulnerable to natural disasters, experiencing 55 earthquakes, 217 storms, and 236 cases of flooding, affecting 650 million people. Within these nations, there are large, quickly growing populations, with many living in poverty. Due to a lack of resources, poor communication, and planning, many in the region have not received proper warning of these natural disasters. However, it should be noted that communication networks have improved greatly. Since the 2004 Tsunami, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System was created, warning national centers within 10 minutes.

- *North America*

North America is quite affluent and has the resources and programs to deal with both national and international response to disasters. The United States is fairly prone to natural disasters, including blizzards, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, and tornadoes. So, the US government established the Federal Emergency Management Agency, handling all emergency situations, with smaller subgroups to manage natural disasters much more efficiently and easily. Similarly, in Canada, the government has Public Safety Canada, mandating, by law, that every province has an emergency measures organization.

- *Europe*

Europe has relatively low natural disaster risk, with high levels of access to national disaster relief. For example, the United Kingdom has the Civil Contingencies Secretaries to promote disaster preparedness. Additionally, the National Crisis Management Center handles New Zealand's disaster management system.

- *Latin America and the Caribbean*

While the Caribbean and Latin America are quite vulnerable to natural disasters, exacerbated further by climate change, the countries often rely on foreign aid. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) was established to respond to natural disasters within the Caribbean.

Conclusion

Any emergency requires effective communication between authorities and victims to lessen the aftereffects and prevent any further danger. This ITU-UNESCO joint committee will be focusing on weather-related and natural disasters as emergencies, and how disaster-preparedness plans must include communication.

As the climate conditions around the world worsen and more and more communities begin to feel the stress of poor communication, it is imperative that this committee work together to develop an effective way to communicate before and after natural disasters. The ITU has many resources available to make this plan a reality for communities and combined with the support of UNESCO and the access it has to underserved areas and other aid, effective communication is only one comprehensive resolution away.

The committee should focus on how we can use the media to our advantage, what we can do to strengthen physical infrastructure of communications networks, and how underserved communities can get long term support. The goals of this joint committee are in line with each of the missions of the ITU and UNESCO, both organizations are committed to developing sustainable solutions for the future. Since different regions suffer from different types of natural disasters, it is especially important for the committee to discuss how to make this resolution adaptable to various situations, whether they are different weather conditions, or other non-natural disaster emergencies.

The committee also has a responsibility to work with poorer communities who may not be able to afford the more technologically advanced communications networks. These areas are

equally, if not more, affected by natural disasters than other parts of the world, and so we must devise a way to improve the communications infrastructure and efficiency in those regions.

As mentioned throughout this topic guide, it is of utmost importance that we devote time to discussion communication before and after natural disasters. Communication before such a disaster includes warning systems, evacuation procedures, or weather predictions, all of which must reach a large base of people in a timely manner. After a natural disaster occurs, informing victims of missing persons, safe shelters, damage to certain areas, risk of aftereffects, are all important messages that must be spread, and the best way to do this is through an effective channel for communication.

The purpose of the ITU-UNESCO partnership on this topic of effective communication surrounding natural disasters is to provide a comprehensive solution that will be useful to all regions of the world, communities with varying economic and technological degrees, and will be a sustainable way to communicate for the weeks or months after a major disaster.

Bibliography

- "A Year after Kuwait Conference, Iraq Is No Closer to Reconstruction: Nazli Tarzi." AW. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- "About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)." ITU. International Telecommunication Union, n.d.
- "About the ETC." Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).
- "About Us." National Institute for Human Rights. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- Administrator. "Consequences of the War and Occupation of Iraq." Consequences of the War and Occupation of Iraq. Global Policy Forum, n.d.
- Alsaafin, Linah. "One Year after Battle for Mosul, a City Lies in Ruins." Iraq News | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, July 10, 2018.
- al Nashimi, Fadel. "Mosul Rages over 'PMF' Takeover of Arqam Mosque." Awsat. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- Bulos, Nabih. "The People of Mosul, Iraq, Find There's Life after Islamic State, but It Isn't Easy." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2019.
- Alive, MNI. "Latest News." UNESCO Organizes First International Meeting on its "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" Initiative. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- Carey, Jesse, and Jesse Carey. "5 Organizations Helping the People of Iraq and Syria." RELEVANT Magazine, December 27, 2017.
- Chmaytelli, Maher. "Allies Promise Iraq \$30 Billion, Falling Short of Baghdad's Appeal." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, February 14, 2018.
- "Communicating Tsunami Evacuations Effectively." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, April 18, 2017.
- Considerations and suggestions on improvement of communication network disaster countermeasures after the wenchuan earthquake - IEEE Journals & Magazine. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- "Country Profiles." Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).
- Curry, Andrew. "Here Are the Ancient Sites ISIS Has Damaged and Destroyed." National Geographic. National Geographic Society, July 27, 2016.

- Dodge, Toby. "Is There Hope for Reform in Post-Election Iraq?" *Foreign Affairs*. *Foreign Affairs Magazine*, October 17, 2018.
- Down, Aisha Kehoe. "Iraq Issues Warrant for Mosuls Provincial Governor Over Corruption." *Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project*. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- "Early Warning Systems: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization." *Early Warning Systems | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*.
- Editor. "'Forget the Donations, Stupid': New Dynamics in Funding Reconstruction." *Iraq Business News*, June 15, 2018.
- "Guterres Pledges UN Support to Iraqi Government, People in Mosul; \$562M Needed in Aid | UN News." *United Nations*. *United Nations*, July 10, 2017.
- "How Social Media Communication During and After Turkey's Earthquake Is Changing How Emergency Managers Respond." *IEM*, June 26, 2019.
- "Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)." *UNDRR News*.
ICTs, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- "Iraq." *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*. Accessed November 10, 2019.
- "Iraq's Leading Lawmaker Warns Aid Needed to Finish Off ISIS." *United States Institute of Peace*, April 3, 2019.
- "I-REACT: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization." *I-REACT | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*.
Ireact. "Home " I-REACT." I, May 17, 2019.
- Kugleta. "What Is Horizon 2020?" *Horizon 2020 - European Commission*, March 15, 2017.
- Laipson, Ellen. "What Iraq's Reconstruction Conference Revealed About Its New Friends and Partners." *World Politics Review*, February 20, 2018.
- McDonell, Nick. "This Is How the City of Mosul Could Be Rebuilt." *Time*. *Time*, December 7, 2018.
- Medford-Davis, Laura N, and G Bobby Kapur. "Preparing for Effective Communications during Disasters: Lessons from a World Health Organization Quality Improvement Project." *International journal of emergency medicine*. Springer, March 19, 2014.

"Members - (NCCI): NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq." Members - (NCCI) | NGO

"More Than Militias: Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces Are Here to Stay." War on the Rocks, April 4, 2018.

"Mosul: ISIL's Economic Engine." National Security Research Division. RAND Corporation, n.d.

"New ITU Standards Enhance Satellite Communications for Emergencies - Chile." ReliefWeb.

International Telecommunication Union, March 10, 2010.

Partnering for Disaster Reduction. Accessed November 10, 2019.

"Policy Recommendations for a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Package." Policy Recommendations for a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Package | Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños.

Richards, Christina. "When Communications Infrastructure Fails During a Disaster."

Rwanduzy, Mohammed. "Political Rivalry Bigger Threat to Mosul than ISIS ." rudaw.net,

S/RES/2367 (2017) - E - S/RES/2367 (2017). Accessed November 10, 2019.

"Security Council Resolution 1483 on the Rebuilding of Iraq." ASIL, June 6, 2003.

"Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction." UNDRR News, Severino, Kathya.

Tagliacozzo, Serena, and Michele Magni. "Communicating with Communities (CwC) during Post-Disaster Reconstruction: an Initial Analysis." SpringerLink. Springer Netherlands, August 29, 2016.

Tarzi, Nazli. "A Year after Kuwait Conference, Iraq Is No Closer to Reconstruction." Arab Weekly . Accessed November 10, 2019.

Tharoor, Ishaan, and Laris Karklis. "The History of Mosul, in Five Maps." The Washington Post. WP Company, October 21, 2016.

Tharoor, Ishaan. "How Almost Everyone Wants a Piece of Mosul." The Washington Post. WP Company, October 18, 2016.

The Intercept. "To Defeat ISIS, the U.S. Helped Turn Old Mosul Into Rubble - but Won't Help Rebuild It." The Intercept, April 22, 2018.

"The Iraq War." Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.

Al Jazeera. "The Rise and Fall of ISIL Explained." ISIL | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, June 20, 2017.

"The Situation of Minorities in Iraq after ISIS." UNPO. Accessed November 10, 2019.

"UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations. United Nations.

"UNESCO in Brief - Mission and Mandate." UNESCO, August 12, 2019.

"UN Resolution 2367." S/RES/2367 (2017) - E - S/RES/2367 (2017). Accessed November 10.

"UNAMI Mandate." United Nations Iraq. Accessed November 10, 2019.

Wachman, Richard. "China Pushes for Bigger Role in Iraqi Reconstruction." Arab News. Arabnews, March 2, 2018.

Watkins, Kevin. "Iraq's War-Damaged Children Need Specialist Help to Heal Their Trauma | Kevin Watkins." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, August 3, 2018.

"Why Radiocommunications Are so Crucial for Natural Disaster Management: Mario Maniewicz." ITU News, September 11, 2019.

Yan, ed. "UNESCO Holds Int'l Meeting to Revive Iraq's 'Mosul Spirit.'" Xinhua. XinhuaNET, September 11, 2018.

"Youth and Local Communities at the Heart of the Rebuilding of Mosul." UNESCO.org. United Nations, March 5, 2019.

Zaya, Gevera, Gevera Zaya, Saddam Hussein, Saddam Hussein, Assyrian Democratic Movement, and Nineveh Provincial Council. "Is Mosul Headed for a Second Fall?" Is Mosul Headed for a Second Fall? - The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Accessed November 10, 2019.