

Name: _____

Tsunami Role Playing Student Worksheet

Tsunami Funding from the UN

Your teacher will assign you one of the following groups. Please read through ALL group descriptions so you know who your competition is. The UN has been given \$1 billion dollars to spend on tsunami recovery efforts and tsunami mitigation. You can see not every program can be funded in full (a very real-world problem!). After each group's name, it will tell you the amount of funding the group is arguing for and what that funding will buy. In the debate, all groups will try to secure full funding for their group, and must argue their case to do so.

United Nations (UN)—this group represents the major funding source, and has \$1 billion in funds to aid in both recovery efforts for those affected by past tsunamis and in establishing systems that will help reduce the impact of future tsunamis in these coastal areas (mitigation).

Group #1—Major world aid organization (e.g., Red Cross) that is primarily focused on providing humanitarian aid (shelter, clean water, food, and other basic needs for those affected by a past tsunami. Helping the residents of the affected zone rebuild their lives and homes will cost roughly \$600 million dollars, but would offer no additional protection in the region for future tsunamis.

Group #2—Organization of coastal communities aiming to construct breakwaters, build other structures in and near the water, plant trees, dune grasses and possibly mangrove trees along the coast. Building manmade structures and shoring up natural defenses will dramatically reduce the impact of future tsunamis. They estimate that \$200 million dollars invested now can reduce the impact of future tsunamis by at least 30%.

Group #3—National governments of countries affected by the tsunami who are asking for the UN to help them establish a tsunami early warning system. This system would be based on a widely dispersed set of seismic sensors that can detect the undersea earthquakes that cause tsunamis and provide the residents of coastal regions with early warning of tsunami up to 4 hours before the first major waves strike land. This system will be a multinational effort, and will cost roughly \$100 million.

Group #4—Provincial and local governments of countries affected by the tsunami who are asking for international help in reestablishing basic infrastructure (hospitals, schools, community centers, police/fire departments) in towns and villages destroyed by the tsunami. They are asking for \$200 million, which would be used to restore order and accelerate rebuilding efforts in affected regions; they estimate that with UN aid, they can cut rebuilding time in half. This group would work closely with local city planners, so that along with restoration, cities would be rebuilt to withstand future tsunamis.

Group #5—International health organization (e.g., Doctors without Borders) that is asking for UN support in establishing basic health clinics that will provide medical care for residents of affected areas and also work within the refugee communities to prevent infectious disease outbreaks that would otherwise begin to occur because of

contaminated water sources. This group estimates that with \$100 million, they can provide enough medical care to save more than 100,000 lives that might otherwise be lost to infectious diseases like cholera, typhoid, and dysentery.

Group #6 — Educators - This non-profit group will work with local coastal communities to educate local residents about tsunami safety. This will greatly increase response to early tsunami warnings and will help in establishing safe and effective evacuation routes. This education group is asking for \$50 million to pay and train educators, provide continuing tsunami education to local residents, and for money for materials such as radios for communities and community centers, literature about evacuation and tsunami safety, and money for helping to repair and even create evacuation roads across large areas.

Group #7—Association of Building Engineers - This group is asking for funding to improve the structural integrity of existing structures in coastal areas and for funding to build tsunami-resistant future buildings. They are asking for \$400 million that would aid large areas of coastal cities in tsunami mitigation.

Debate preparation

1. Research your given group's topic within the class period you have. Use internet search engines (ex: google.com) to learn about how your group would help areas recover from tsunami damage or how your group would help protect against future tsunami damage. Jot notes here (each student should have their own notes). The UN group should have notes here on the tsunamis in general, plus any info they can find about tsunami recovery (groups involved, dollar amounts involved) and tsunami mitigation.

2. Within your group, decide who will give the opening argument on behalf of your group. Using the notes from each student in the group, write an opening argument that is meant to convince the UN group that your group deserves full funding. You have only two minutes to deliver this opening argument – so practice it beforehand! (Each group need only have one written opening argument).

The UN funding group doesn't need to have an opening argument. Instead, that group should write here a two-three sentence summary of each group's issue to show that they are versed in that issue and can make an informed, final, unanimous decision. The UN group should choose a chairperson who will lead the class discussion (others in the UN group can speak and ask questions, but must be recognized by the chairperson). Remember the UN has \$1 billion to distribute. Groups may be given full, partial or no funding.

3. Write questions you have for other groups (be sure to note which group given questions are for). These might respectfully expose the weaknesses in their requests for funding. Remember, all are fighting to help coastal areas recover from tsunamis or protect against tsunamis.

4. Write down here what the final decisions of the UN funding group were. Was your group happy with the results? Explain.

5. How is this exercise like the real world? How does it differ?

6. If the UN were given \$2 billion instead of the \$1 billion, how would you allocate the money? Explain.

7. What if the UN was only given \$500 million? How would you allocate the money? Explain.

8. There are many different organizations presented in this exercise and there are many different career options available that in real life could work for such organizations. Some examples are a politician, non-profit leader, building engineer, city planner, seismologist, construction worker, public health educator, doctor, etc. Choose just one of these career options that interests you (or another related to this exercise) and tell what education and training you would need to achieve this position. Why does this career option interest you? Use the internet to do research for your answer as necessary.