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Climate War Games: Individual Reflection #1

The Climate War Game experience was definitely enriching for me. Individually, my task was to investigate healthcare international policies on climate change in India. It was not much of a difficult task to research international policies in the healthcare sector, or to find information on international policies on climate change, but to connect healthcare, international policies, and climate change together was much harder than I expected. However, when I came across different articles on foreign direct investments (FDIs) for healthcare, I was able to start looking at several solutions for the climate change issue specifically for my sector. What was so great was that my team agreed with FDIs as a premier objective for our overall game plan, as it connected with capacity development, philanthropy, and standardization of care. This may be quite a stretch to say this, but I felt somewhat like an international policymaker. It was a great experience to look at what the problem truly is for a specific country, and to be able to think of different ways to view and solve it.

Working in the healthcare sector was phenomenal. Everyone in my group worked extremely well with each other, and we all took our roles seriously. Prior to the War Games, I had little to no background experience on healthcare in India, but thanks to my team, I feel that I've learned so much. Mari taught me about how certain infectious diseases and the risk of these diseases can increase due to climate change. Joyce informed me about how engineering solutions can be adapted to solve the climate issue, such as green roofs, toilet blocks, and more. Matt's section gave me insight on how weak certain aspects of India's health infrastructure is, especially for hospitals and the risk of natural disasters in certain cities like Mumbai. Rose's section enlightened me on how diversifying global stakeholder representation in investments and human capacity (the capital and the "know how") are very important when discussing international

solutions. I loved how we were able to take in all of our different suggestions and solutions to come up with a game plan that suited all of our needs. The process for this really did not involve much debate, and coming to a group consensus was not hard at all. I was very grateful for the smooth process.

For the War Game experience itself, I think what I found the most interesting was how truly difficult it is to create policies that favor different sectors within a country, and certain ideas that I thought I would never agree with, I ended up voting in favor for them. For example, as a member of the healthcare sector and from my own personal ideology, I did not expect to approve GMO research and implementation for the agriculture sector, and I definitely did not expect to agree with the construction of nuclear energy reactors for the energy sector. However, I've learned how in theory, I don't really agree with these ideas, but in collaborative practice, things aren't as black and white, and it's important to dig a little deeper and widen my perspective on topics I don't agree with. For example, GMOs can be potentially dangerous, but as the agriculture sector commented, it can be much more efficient for agricultural production than organic farming in more urgent and serious situations. Also, although nuclear energy reactors can be enormously perilous if an accident occurs, it is one of the only cleaner renewable energy sources that do not emit carbon into the atmosphere, as well as can be implemented on a large scale in comparison to smaller-scale, less efficient renewable sources, such as solar, hydroelectric, and wind power. So, that experience made me realize that making cleaner and better decisions for climate is not as easy as I previously thought, because in practice of international and national policies, we have to consider efficiency, cost, agreements, and so much more.