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Reflection on War Game 1

Overall, I found the first war game of this Dialogue of Civilizations program to be beneficial to the course and my understanding of the problems and solutions associated with climate change. I learned a lot about my sector, healthcare, and how it affects and is affected by climate change as well as some of the solutions that have been proposed to mitigate the effects of increasing climate change. However, I found the format and the overall application of the war game to be frustrating and less than ideal in terms of negotiating solutions. As someone who comes from a social science background, debating and negotiating these types of policies are something I am very familiar with and I believe that there could have been more guidance for those students who come from science backgrounds and might be less familiar with war games and policy, in general.

On an individual level, I really enjoyed researching and learning about US-India relations in terms of healthcare. I hope to go into diplomacy as a career and briefing myself on the relations between the US and another country will be something I will have to do on a frequent basis, and this project gave me the opportunity to gain experience with that. It was important for me to think critically about what relations between two countries might mean for an issue like climate change and I believe that I was able to further my personal knowledge about this kind of thinking, which will be helpful as I finish my academic studies and continue on to my future career.

I also really enjoyed working with my healthcare team. We worked very well together and were able to share our personal knowledge and experience to better our overall understanding of the intersection between healthcare and climate change. Since we all come from different academic backgrounds, we were able to balance the science and policy in our research and overall understanding. During the war game itself, we understood our assigned roles and stuck to them, allowing each person on the team to play an equal role in the war game. Even though we had these assigned roles and stuck to them during the presentation and negotiating sessions, we also very were god about supporting each other in their roles. For example, during the presentations some of us took notes on the talks so that we could support the negotiator and team leader 2 during the meetings and discussion. We were then able to present each other with extra information to back up our arguments during these meetings and discussions to better help our overall goals.

During the war game, I personally took detailed notes during the presentations and took down questions so that we could ask these questions during negotiations and discussion. My assigned role was the negotiator and I think I performed this role very well. My team was able to compromise and negotiate with other groups to overall get everything that we had originally set out to do. We also did not anger any other teams and this is a very important aspect of negotiations. It is better not to alienate any one sector, as you never know when your sector might need cooperation from them. I worked very hard to not insert myself into the discussion/debate portion of the war game as it was someone else's role to be the team leader for this section. Instead of being the one who did the debating with the other sectors during this portion, I supported our team leader with questions, facts, and information I had taken down during the first presentations and negotiations. Our team leader 2 was very appreciative for my

support and did ask me towards the end to become more involved as she welcomed the support for our sector.

The frustrations I felt with the war game were not due to the functionality of it to the course, but instead due to the format and instructions. As many of our students in this program are not social science students, there is a good chance none of them have ever done a war game or policy debate before, I would have liked to have seen a little more instructions on what the goal of negotiations was as well as why these type of negotiations are important to the international community. I got many questions from other students about what resources we were negotiating for as well as why it wouldn't work to just divide all the resources evenly between the five sectors.

As for the format of the war game, I would have liked it if we had stuck to the original proposed format with presentations first, then discussion, and lastly negotiations. By switching the discussion and negotiations, I found that most of the short negotiations we filled with asking the follow-up questions we were not allowed to ask during the presentations. I believe that those questions could have been answered group-wide during a short group discussion before the negotiations.

Overall, I did enjoy the war game and think that the second one will be more successful since many of the frustrations I felt with the first one will hopefully be gone now that we have all done one war game. These kinds of simulations are so important in policy discussions and I am glad to see that we incorporate it into these engineering courses.