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War Game Two Reflection

For the second war game I was a member of Team India and I focused on researching India's climate change and energy policies. Prior to this dialogue I was aware of some major international climate change and energy policies that involved India but I did not know any of India's domestic policies. During my research I learned a great deal about India's National Action Plan on Climate Change. The government's plan focuses on 8 core National Missions, most of which are centered around renewable energy and mitigating climate change. It is admirable that India is trying to become a global environmental leader by trying to use renewable energy while growing its economy and taking care of their people.

Before coming on this dialogue, I was set on the idea that India needed to set a cap on their emissions level because they are a major contributor to emissions. However, after learning more about India as a developing nation and traveling around I understand why India has not agreed to set a binding agreement on carbon emissions. With their growing demand for energy, it is hard to set a limit on emissions especially when not all their people have electricity, clean drinking water or a place to go to the bathroom. I also learned a great deal about the relationship between the United States and India in regards to reducing carbon emissions and addressing the issue of climate change. The U.S. has offered to help India promote renewable resources of energy with research and development in new technology and support. Now I understand why they have not set a cap on carbon emissions. It is not because they don't care about the world, in fact, it is quite the opposite; they are aware of global warming and want to help reduce global emissions while simultaneously growing its economy and addressing the needs of its population. However, India needs to take a different approach than other developed nations.

As a group, I think we all worked well together and learned from each other. We shared similar thoughts and opinions about what we thought was good for India. We shared the idea that India needs to become a more developed nation and take care of its

people before agreeing to other policies such as an emissions cap. We also agreed that in order for India to continue to prosper, India needs support from other developed nations. From my own group I learned more about India's developing economy and how their gross domestic product is rising and that Modi's vision is to make India a manufacturing hub through the Made in India campaign. I also learned more about the informal sector and how that influences the economy, such as providing services in the leather and textile industries.

For my group I was the negotiator. My role was to help lead the discussions during the small negotiations. During the negotiations at times it was difficult to keep the discussion on track because everyone wanted to make sure their opinions were heard in the short amount of time that we had to talk. As a negotiator, I felt it was my responsibility to make sure by the end of the discussion that both groups had the same understanding and goals. Although it was a difficult task I think overall I was successful in keeping the discussions on track, and researching the matter to come to a compromise between nations.

From listening to the larger discussion, I gained a greater perspective about how difficult it is to come up with policies since each nation is looking out for themselves while working to maintain strong relationships with other nations. It is even more difficult to come up with policies that will satisfy both the developed countries and the developing countries. I found that I was learning new things as the war game went on about each nation and different policies that they had already had in place or what they plan going forward.

Additionally, one thing I learned that really struck me was the degree to which south Asia was affected by climate change. I was surprised to learn that in the next four years the Maldives Islands will be completely under water if the water level keeps rising at the current rate. While the Maldives government is buying up land to help its people, people will ultimately lose their homes and have nowhere to go. This is just one example of why it is so important to address climate change sooner rather than later because some nations, both large and small, are facing dire circumstances. Most importantly this example illustrates the dire human consequences and sometimes irreversible damage to the planet's ecosystems.

The sheer complexity of the topic created challenges during the course of the war game; while I researched India's policies, I found an overwhelming amount of information and was constantly learning more information on so many levels as we went through the war game process. The negotiations became challenging because only a few selected nations were represented and there was only one developed nation. If there had been more developed countries were represented, I think the nature of the negotiations would have changed because of the wealth and technology of the developed nations could have been utilized to push for more far-reaching agreements as many of the wealthier nations understand that they have a large role to play in moving forward. I also thought some of the negotiations that were going on were a little more unrealistic than the other war game. For instance, everyone agreed to a global cap-and-trade program, but unfortunately I don't think that the world is ready for that.

After listening to all the presentations, it is clear the combating climate change, and protecting and allocating resources is not an easy discussion to have with diverse interests. I found the debate fascinating to listen to and hear all the thoughts and opinions expressed by the representatives of the nations. It was apparent that all nations want to reduce their emissions and make positive changes but the ideas on how to proceed were extremely complex. While one nation may think it has a simple solution, another nation may totally disagree and that became very apparent in the war game. While one nation believed it had an excellent plan, the other nations disagreed. If this was something I noticed in our war game with only five nations, I can't imagine what it would be like when all the nations meet together to try to devise a plan for working toward concrete solutions.