

32nd Annual

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS **CONFERENCE**

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SECRETARIAT

Esteemed Delegates,

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Kara Molnar Org'n of American States

Jarrod Smith Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Rev. Conf.

Dallyn McCracken **United Nations** Environmental Assembly

Alix Hess United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Isabella Errigo World Health Organization

> Kelsey Eyre-Hammond Secretary General

> > Alix Hess Director General

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DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL **STUDIES**

> Cory Leonard Assistant Director

Bill Perry MUN Instructor

Welcome to the 32nd annual Diplomacy Camp hosted by Brigham Young University Model United Nations Conference (BYUMUN). My name is Isabella Errigo, and I will be your World Health Organization (WHO) director. Currently, I am a master's student at BYU studying Environmental Science. As an environmental scientist, global perspectives and international relations have always been important to me, after all everybody shares the same earth!

However, it wasn't until I began participating in MUN in 2018 that international politics and relations became more accessible and understandable to me as a student. I have now had the opportunity to compete in NMUN competitions in Xi'an, China; New York City, New York; and Salt Lake City, Utah (remotely); as well as speak at the podium of the general assembly hall of the United Nations headquarters in New York. These experiences have expanded my knowledge and understanding of the nuances and importance of international cooperation and make me excited to move forward in an international career.

This year, the World Health Organization will focus on the following topics:

- I. Enabling safety protocols to prepare for pandemics and epidemics; and
- II. Improving water sanitation infrastructure in the global south.

The world has never experienced a pandemic during a time of such great global connectivity and communication. As the world continues to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) seeks to understand what we did wrong (and what we should have done) as a global community in order to better prepare for future pandemics and epidemics. As WHO is at the center of COVID-19 relief, it would be beneficial to record our current knowledge of outbreak prevention and create future protocols and plans of action. One epidemic that continues to affect millions is polluted water. Access to clean water is one of the most basic human rights, without clean water we cannot survive. It is important to develop and distribute improved infrastructure that will allow everyone to access safe drinking water.

This background guide will serve as an introduction to the committee; however, it is not to be used as a replacement for individual research. Coming prepared with innovative ideas that have been thought out and researched thoroughly will help you have the best conference experience. Feel free to contact me with any question you might have.

Sincerely, Isabella Errigo Director, World Health Organization ierrigo95@gmail.com

Committee History

"I envision a world in which everyone can live healthy, productive lives, regardless of who they are or where they live. I believe the global commitment to sustainable development — enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals — offers a unique opportunity to address the social, economic and political determinants of health and improve the health and wellbeing of people everywhere."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

The World Health Organization, known as WHO, was established on 7 April 1948, now known as World Health Day. At the conclusion of World War II, the United Nations was organized. As the world found itself in a health crisis due to the war, the United Nations immediately sought a global solution. Thus, the beginning of the World Health Organization. WHO's priorities focused on urgent responses to emergencies around the world. Although immediate aid was necessary, world health leaders looked to the future when they could treat and prepare for health crises around the world. Today, WHO has touched over 150 countries with aid to increase global health. This organization, along with UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNEP strive to accomplish the overarching goals of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). These agencies work together to improve development through the United Nations. The WHO organization is open to any member state that is willing to sign their constitution.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, WHO leads out on health throughout the world. Their current objectives of the WHO are laid out in a Six-Point Agenda: (1) promoting development, (2) fostering health security, (3) strengthening health systems, (4) harnessing research, information, and evidence, (5) enhancing partnerships, and (6) improving performance. The Health Assembly appoints the Director-General to oversee the finances contributed by member states and other outside donations of the organization. The current Director-General is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The WHO is expected to use funds to accomplish the six-point agenda that is voted and agreed on by member states.

 $\underline{https://www.who.int/news/item/15-05-2007-world-health-assembly-opens}.$

¹ "WHO History." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/history.

² "What We Do." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do.

³ "About the UNDG." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://unsdg.un.org/about/who-we-are.

⁴ 5 Constitution of the World Health Organization, Basic Documents, 45th edition, Supplement, 2006. https://www.who.int/governance/eb/who constitution en.pdf.

^{5 &}quot;World Health Assedmbly Opens. Accessed July 26 2021.

⁶ "Director General." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/director-general.

The other governing body of WHO is the Executive Board, comprised of 34 members in various health fields that are elected for a 3-year term. In addition to the 34 members, Member States and Associate Members can attend committee meetings if approved by the Director-General. From the executive board, the WHO meets together as the World Health Assembly for all major decision making.8 "It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland." WHO has six regional offices: Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia, Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific, and the Americas. Each region has a regional committee that meets annually. 10

Conclusion

WHO is one of the most influential and important decision-making committees. As we continue in a year of a pandemic, many around the world look to the WHO to find solutions and strategies against COVID-19 and other strains. Delegations look to hold the World Health Organization accountable for the investigation of COVID-19 origins. As the WHO continues their six-point agenda, they will lead to solutions and be a leader in the fight against pandemics and epidemics.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "World Health Assembly." Accessed 26 July 2021.

https://www.who.int/about/governance/world-health-assembly.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Working with the regions." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/regional-offices.

Annotated Bibliography

Constitution of the World Health Organization, Basic Documents, 45th edition, Supplement, 2006. http://www.who.int/governance/eb/who constitution en.pdf.>

This document outlines the legal framework and language that WHO works under. It gives definitions and rights to WHO and how they may function within certain member states and with other organization to increase world health.

"About the UNDG." United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Accessed 26 July 2021. https://unsdg.un.org/about/who-we-are.>

A summary of the UNDG's goals that WHO works toward annually. These overarching goals should be at the center of resolutions.

"How WHO is Funded." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/about/funding.

WHO has a complex system of finance that is headed by the Director-General. Please note the countries that fund the majority of WHO and what non-profits and other organizations contribute financially as well.

"Our Values." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021.

<https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/our-values.>

This document outlines the major goals and values of WHO. WHO expects that their values are at the center of their initiatives and missions.

"Director-General Vision." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/director-general.>

The Director-General's vision helps to drive WHO and their priorities. A great place to start research on major initiatives that the Director-General is leading out and focusing on and gives a great indication to what is to come.

"WHO Regional Offices." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/regional-offices.>

This document outlines how WHO functions in different regions throughout the world. Depending on the region, WHO will support and give different aid as a response to area-specific health problems.

"What We Do." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021.

<<u>https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do</u>.>

This document details what exactly is under WHO's jurisdiction. It outlines the basic work that WHO does around the world and what project they are focusing on.

I. Enabling Safety Protocols to Prepare for Pandemics and Epidemics

"Asking the question 'are we doing enough' regularly and repeatedly is critical."

- Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead, World Health Organization, infectious disease epidemiologist.

Introduction

At the beginning of 2020, the world began to experience one of the largest pandemics crossing all borders and effecting every person in one way or another. From financial ruin to lack of resources, the world seems in shambles due to our lack of protocol and preparation. WHO had reported 196,553,009 confirmed cases and 4,200,412 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.¹¹ In the spotlight, the World Health Organization was at the center of the health crisis, and many looked to them for solutions to lead out on protocols that would help to stop the spread. Although WHO was involved in the complete eradication of the smallpox and involved in other epidemics¹², COVID-19 taught the world that effective and comprehensive plans need to be in place.¹³ The world and WHO continue to learn from this deadly pandemic and look to update and expand on current safety protocols.

Existing Framework

"Standard Precautions are basic infection control precautions in health care that should be applied routinely in all health-care settings when providing care for all patients", reports WHO. "If these basic precautions are not in place, additional specific precautions will not be effective." WHO continues to lay out basic health precautions with treating patients in separate rooms, a reality that many cannot obtain because of the immense number of cases. They continue, "During this period, early detection, isolation, and warning are crucial." These basic procedures are the foundation of WHO's plan of action across the world for pandemics and epidemics.

¹¹ "Coronavirus Disease Pandemic." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019.

¹² "Strategy and Planning." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/strategies-and-plans. ¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Infection prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone acute respiratory diseases in health care. WHO Interim Guidelines." Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO CDS EPR 2007 6c.pdf?ua=1.

¹⁵ Ibid.

"Policy-makers and health administrators should identify strategies with favourable cost–effectiveness ratios based on the HCF characteristics and the potential for sustainable and progressive improvement." ¹⁶ These recommendations by WHO are to all states that can enable their governments to create localized policy for specific pandemic consequences.

Current Problems and Areas of Action

The Harvard Business Review posited: "Should a pandemic emerge, it would become the single greatest threat to business continuity and could remain so for up to 18 months. Companies need to develop rigorous contingency plans to slow the progress of a pandemic and limit its impact on employees, shareholders, partners, consumers, and communities. This will require more than simply double-checking the soundness of existing business continuity plans."

As the pandemic continues to spread, the effects of the disease reach beyond health problems. Although this viral pneumonia is affecting our hospitals the most, many businesses continue to falter.¹⁷ Safety protocols must be just as concerned with job loss as they are health. Policy that can be enforced for the good of all should be considered and led out by the WHO general council and assembly.¹⁸ WHO must coordinate with governments around the world because of their lack of sovereignty and jurisdiction to implement policy that will ensure that member states are not only protecting their own citizens, but also stopping the spread to other nations.

Conclusion

Although there are certain safety protocols in place due to past pandemics¹⁹, COVID-19 has demonstrated that basic health reminders are not sufficient. There need to be materials that can be used in the prevention of such diseases and a joint effort by all countries to stop the spread of any pandemic or epidemic. Safety protocols must also account for all consequences within their health guidelines, including economic effects, and ensure that all are prepared for any pandemic or epidemic.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "Disease Outbreak News." Accessed July 26 2021. https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news.

Questions to Consider

- 1. What safety protocols could be prepared through means of technology that would ensure each member state vital information?
- 2. What types of safety protocols, outside of vaccines, could be used in the stop of pandemics or epidemics?
- 3. What can WHO do to ensure that developing countries have access to the same safety protocols as developed countries?
- 4. What does the implementation of safety protocols look like and how do we ensure that they stay updated?

Annotated Bibliography

Infection prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone acute respiratory diseases in health care WHO Interim Guidelines. Accessed July 26 2021. https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CDS_EPR_2007_6c.pdf?ua =:>

This document is a comprehensive health care guide for all member states about basic infection prevention and control. Although it focuses on acute respiratory diseases, it is a basis for all pandemic safety protocols.

"Coronavirus Disease Pandemic." Accessed 26 July 2021.

< https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019.>

This site is the main source for all WHO related statistics and information regarding the COVID-19 disease. It includes many resources that all have access to for disease prevention and ongoing research.

"Disease Outbreak News." Accessed July 26 2021.

< https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news.>

This database is a comprehensive list of all diseases recorded and recognized by the World Health Organization. It is updated frequently and is a global list. Situation reports are found with the list.

"Strategy and Planning." World Health Organization. Accessed 26 July 2021. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/strategies-and-plans.

This summary and introduction provide several documents that can be used for specific COVID-19 related plans set out by the WHO. The WHO continues to update these and hopes that all member states will be able to use and gain access to these resources.

"WHO Interim Protocol: Rapid operations to contain the initial emergence of pandemic influenza." Accessed 26 July 2021.

< https://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/RapidContProtOct15.pdf.>

This resource is for initial responses to a pandemic influenza set out by WHO.

II. Improving Water Sanitation Infrastructure in the Global South

"Because no matter who we are or where we come from, we're all entitled to the basic human rights of clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and healthy land to call home." -Martin Luther King, III

Introduction

The 25th of September, 2015, world leaders met together to create and support a series of 17 goals to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure a life of prosperity and security for everybody. This series is known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are expected to be met by 2030. SDG 6, "Clean Water and Sanitation for all", talks about promoting the access to clean water world-wide¹². It is critical that all Member States unite and work together to achieve this goal eliminating waterborne pathogens and preventing millions of illnesses and mortalities annually.

In the recent past, there have been many successful movements carried out to preserve the earth's fresh water. For example, 2.1 billion people have received improved access to clean water since 1990. Even though we achieved the Millennium Development Goal to reduce the number of people without access to clean water by half, the reduction of available clean water due to increased pollution and global climate change is causing the issue to worsen. Presently, water shortage affects 40% of the world, with 844 million people lacking access to clean water and 2.3 billion people lacking access to some form of plumbing. Due to the lack of sanitation and potable water, approximately 1 million people die annually world-wide. If

The United Nations General Assembly has recognized access to clean water and sanitation as a human right, acknowledging that access to these things are essential to the realization of all human rights²⁰. Some examples of human rights that are impeded by the lack of access to clean water are the right to personal integrity, the right to equality, and the right to life. These rights are critical to the human race because without effective sanitation we wouldn't have clean water and without clean water we wouldn't survive.

Existing Framework

According to the WHO, safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (referred to collectively as WASH) are crucial to human health and the creation of resilient

²⁰ United Nations General Assembly. Resolution 64/292. Accessed 3 October 2021. https://www.undocs.org/en/A/RES/64/292

communities that live in healthy environments.²¹ In order to support the work of the SDGs, the WHO has formulated the "WHO Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Strategy 2018-2025."²² That Strategy lays out a framework for action that the WHO should follow in improving access to safe WASH. Specifically, the WHO has a set of principles and strategic approaches that ought to be considered best practices when designing solutions

The WHO strongly endorses the following types of strategies:

- 1. Develop & disseminate norms, tools, and standards;
- 2. Empower countries through technical cooperation;
- 3. Provide monitoring and research to inform policies and programs;
- 4. Coordinate with partners;
- 5. Promote integrating WASH into other programs; and
- 6. Respond to emerging issues.²³

Currently, more than 30 organizations within the UN system work on various elements of improving water, but few of them focus exclusively on WASH. The WHO seeks to improve collaboration across these organizations to improve cross-sectoral approaches to creating better WASH, part of which it achieves as a member of UN-Water, the coordinating mechanism for freshwater efforts by the UN.²⁴ However, a focus on WASH covers more than is considered by UN Water. It incorporates not only management of water but also a focus on pollution and pathogens, changing microbes and antimicrobial resistance, and differences between WASH needs in urban and rural settings.

Current Problems and Areas of Action

The first success in providing clean water for the world occurred in 2010 when the UNGA passed resolution 64/292²⁵. This resolution recognized that "the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights"²⁶. As a result, the WHO continues to focus on the sustainable management of water resources as a central theme that unites all Member States.

²¹ World Health Organization. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Accessed 3 October 2021. https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash

²² WHO Water, Sanitation and Hygiene strategy 2018-2025. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (WHO/CED/PHE/WSH/18.03). Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Available for download at https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-CED-PHE-WSH-18.03.

²³ *Id.* at p. 17.

²⁴ *Id.* at p. 9.

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly. Resolution 64/292. Accessed 3 October 2021. https://www.undocs.org/en/A/RES/64/292

Working towards these goals, universal access to basic drinking water sources is seemingly achievable. Universal access to basic sanitation, however, has proven to be more challenging for the various committees and Member States within the UN. Growing cities (sometimes reaching the status of "mega cities" due to their large population densities) with precarious or non-existent sewage and plumbing and large populations of urban poor are a hub for polluted waterways and waterborne pathogens.²⁷ This phenomenon also exposes the environmental injustice of polluted waters when sewage is removed from wealthier households and communities, only to be reverted to and discharged in storm drains, waterways, or landfills near poor, residential areas²⁶.²⁸

While in the past there has been a focus on finding new medications to deal with some of the diseases that lack of WASH can cause, increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), has caused WHO to recognize that a lack of safe WASH cannot be made up for simply with medications. AMR is when "bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As a result, the medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spread to others." Providing clean, safe water can help strengthen communities by decreasing the levels of these pathogens people come into contact with in the first place, thus reducing their need to rely on medications that may be losing their effectiveness against medication-resistant pathogens. 30

Another way environmental injustice is displayed is indirectly with women and young girls. Women and girls are usually those responsible for collecting water, especially in poor and/or rural communities²⁷. As clean water sources become increasingly polluted and/or dried up those in charge of collecting the weekly water supply must walk further and take more time to complete this task. Not only is this more dangerous for these women and girls (risking kidnapping and rape), but it also prevents them from completing tasks important for their development and education (such as working on homework and attending school)²⁸.

The Future of Clean Water and Sanitation

Wastewater, if treated properly, can be utilized as a resource rather than an inhibitor of healthy growth. However, in order for this to be true, it requires:

- management practices to ensure wastewater is sufficiently treated and cleaned, as well as safely reused;
- institutional oversight and regulation; and
- public education campaigns to inform people about wastewater use and its dangers if used improperly.

²⁷ https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sanitation

²⁸ Id.

²⁹ https://www.who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance

³⁰ WHO Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Report 2019. See p. 2. Available at: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/336582/9789240013391-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

On the other hand, experts estimate that if there isn't a significant change to our sanitation by 2050, 1 in 4 people will live in a country with a chronic or recurring lack of clean water access²⁹. It is important for the WHO to find ways to support and motivate Member States to work towards improving the water sanitation infrastructures in their countries and that they especially focus on providing underserved populations with access to clean water. Doing this will ensure better quality of lives to the global community.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What are Member States already doing to address water sanitation issues and to improve sanitation infrastructure in their countries and world-wide? What more can they do to ensure the future generations have access to clean water (think in terms of climate change and infrastructure)?
- 2. What successes have individual Member States seen when implementing policies to reduce water pollution and improve sanitation infrastructure? What failures in the same areas have they seen?
- 3. Are youth participating in this movement? How? If not, how can we motivate them to do so?
- 4. How does clean water relate to the SDGs?
- 5. What must be done to achieve the SDGs (specifically SDG 6) in terms of water quality and sanitation by 2030?

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations General Assembly. Resolution 64/292. Accessed 3 October 2021. https://www.undocs.org/en/A/RES/64/292

UN Resolution addressing access to clean water.

WHO Water, Sanitation and Hygiene strategy 2018-2025. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (WHO/CED/PHE/WSH/18.03). Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Available for download at https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-CED-PHE-WSH-18.03.

Sanitation and hygiene strategy set forth by the World Health Organization.

WHO Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Report 2019. See p. 2. Available at: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/336582/9789240013391-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

World Health Organization. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Accessed 3 October 2021. https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash

WASH protocol and best practices are contained within this document.

World Health Organization. (2021). *Omani doctor on a mission to combat antimicrobial resistance*. World Health Organization. Retrieved October 6, 2021, from https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/omani-doctor-on-a-mission-to-comba t-antimicrobial-resistance.

Additional source detailing the work done by an Omani doctor relating to antimicrobial resistance.

World Health Organization. *Antimicrobial resistance*. World Health Organization. Retrieved October 6, 2021, from https://www.who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance.

Information regarding the risks of antimicrobial resistance and general information.

World Health Organization. Sanitation. World Health Organization. Retrieved October 6, 2021, from https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sanitation.

General information from WHO about sanitation and its importance.