



WHO

World Health Organization

President: Samuel Castillo Enciso.

Moderator: Laura Valentina Acuña Jimenez.

Conference Officer: Dafne Ivanna Medina
Rodriguez.

WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES.

Distinguished delegates, on behalf of all WHO chair members, it is certainly a pleasure to receive each of you on this committee. By entering the committee, we expect all its members to understand the importance of being a delegate.

MUN goes far beyond just a representation of the actual United Nations; it is a means of disclosing our own assessment of relevant international incidents that may unfold, affecting us without exception. The effort done in each session will not go unnoticed; it is our own approach to speaking up and significantly participating.

Every idea deserves to be taken into consideration. These models provide each of us with an opportunity to share and gain knowledge through perspectives as diverse as the cultures of countries around the world.

Take this practice as an opportunity to continue gaining knowledge and abilities. These types of models are amazingly constructive for a variety of qualities, including lots of social and communicative skills and improving your capability of reasoning and negotiation in a formal context while using foreign terminology; therefore, I encourage you to completely get the most out of this occasion.

It is surely our utmost intention to accompany you at every step throughout the duration of MUNMX. We hope you, as a delegate, can find this occasion nurturing for your academic and personal career.

I sincerely thank you for your decision to enter this committee and your drive and initiative in taking part in a MUN. We hope you find this experience as fun and entertaining as it was for me in my first United Nations Model.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Samuel Castillo Enciso".

President of the World Health Organization Committee.

Samuel Castillo Enciso.

REGARDING THE COMMITTEE.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency assigned to the coordination of international efforts to promote public health and respond to health emergencies by supporting the nations in strengthening their healthcare systems and improving overall health conditions. WHO acts as the directing entity on international health work, combining with the United Nations system; it aims to ensure all people have access to quality health services and protection from health threats.

Since April 1945, when a conference was held in San Francisco, it was proposed that the creation of an international health organization be discussed. Later, a constitution was established in another conference led by the Social Council and the UN. Followed by a reunion that took place in Paris, the draft proposals for the constitution were submitted to the International Health Conference in 1946, where they were adopted and formalized as the Constitution of the World Health Organization, signed on 22 July 1946.

WHO presently collaborates with more than 800 centers in over 80 member states, leading efforts in occupational health, infectious diseases, nursing, nutrition, mental health, chronic diseases, and health technologies. Operating their main office in Geneva, Switzerland, the impact the WHO holds goes beyond international health regulations, as it is the leading global health authority, as it counts with achievements like eradicating smallpox and advancing vaccination through campaigns.

However, in order to safeguard against global health emergencies, WHO advanced global preparedness by leading the 2025 Pandemic Agreement, ensuring access to vaccines, diagnosis, and treatments, and strengthening cooperation through data sharing, the creation of a fund specifically for pandemics, and the Global Health Emergency Corps. This organization is an authority that, besides guiding, shapes the healthcare assistance for the future; through its cooperation with countries and equipment assistance, it plays a vital role in the health mysteries we might encounter in the future.

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TOPIC A: International Protocols for the Prevention and Response to Future Pandemics: Strengthening Health Systems and Controlling Infectious Diseases.

Recently, worldwide wellness and healthcare quality were threatened by the Coronavirus Disease of 2019; between 2019 and 2021, life expectancy fell by 1.8 years, exhibiting the greatest drop in recent history because of the astronomical number of reports on infected individuals in relation to the global population, with approximately 704,753,890 reported cases of the disease and 7,010,681 documented deaths.

The pandemic compelled healthcare systems into a mobilization and reorganization not previously seen in the international scope because of the overwhelming cases and uncontainably rapid advance the plague portrayed since its initial propagation, exposing medical equipment, supplies, and infrastructure managing flaws the system had sooner than the arrival of Covid-19, creating an inequality breach between each region's economic capability and managing of resources, most likely disturbing any attempt at creating any feasible solution.

The difficulties in proposing a reliable, internationally acknowledged protocol for early detection and response to pandemics and outbreaks are clear: complications in late detection, variation in political responses, insufficient testing and surveillance, and delayed partial lockdowns are merely insignificant components of the substantial dilemma that each represents while trying to strengthen global protocols.

Although initially the pandemic proved healthcare and national guidance organizations to be lacking in impact as of their actions and capabilities or management, the guidance and cooperation made by these same organizations ultimately resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of human casualties; COVAX, for instance, delivered nearly 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to 146 countries, mostly low- and middle-income, that might otherwise have had little to no access to vaccines.

International organizations played a central role in the global response to health, focusing especially on health governance, coordination, and policy implementation. Their roles included providing scientific guidance, setting norms and standards, coordinating international responses, and facilitating equitable access to health technologies such as diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

This experience highlighted not only the vulnerabilities of global health systems but also the power of international cooperation when faced with a common threat. The pandemic served as both a warning and a lesson: stronger preparedness, equity in healthcare access, and unified action are essential to protect humanity from future crises. Ultimately, COVID-19 reminded the world that health is a shared responsibility and that resilience depends on solidarity across nations.

Key Questions:

1. How can your country build on past international collaborations, such as those in response to previous health crises, to enhance equitable access to critical resources for future pandemics?
2. What steps have been taken to improve early detection and surveillance systems, and how can your country share these advancements with other nations to create a more effective global response to emerging health threats?
3. How has your nation supported the strengthening of healthcare systems in developing nations through international aid, and what more can be done to increase healthcare resilience globally?
4. In line with existing international frameworks, how can your country ensure fair and efficient distribution of medical supplies, such as vaccines and protective equipment, during health emergencies?
5. What actions has the government taken to promote sustainable healthcare practices internationally, and how can it further support the creation of long-term health systems in underfunded regions?

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TOPIC B: Addressing the Mental Health Crisis Among Adolescents in Post-Pandemic Educational Systems.

The COVID-19 outbreak led to a global-scale pandemic, affecting millions of people worldwide and disrupting the development of young populations, leaving a significant negative impact on adolescents' mental health and brain development. This pandemic triggered an immense crisis that extended widely into many fields of human interest, and even though COVID has been controlled, the damage it left behind continues to target adolescents.

Adolescence is a fundamental development period for society. During this time, young people must build their identity by forging key relationships, accompanied by developing coping mechanisms for adulthood. This global crisis disrupted daily routines, isolated young people from their social support systems, and exposed them to prolonged uncertainty and stress. Even years after the outbreak, its aftereffects can still be displayed. The disruptions caused by the pandemic, such as limited peer interaction, school closures, and increased family stress, have interrupted these developmental processes, leaving many adolescents vulnerable.

Unsurprisingly, the pandemic intensified symptoms of depression and anxiety among youth, especially older adolescents and girls, compared with pre-pandemic surveys. A review of 116 articles specializing in the mental health impacts of COVID-19 on youth found that youth were experiencing significantly more depressive and anxiety manifestations, even involving suicidal and self-destructive behaviors, compared with pre-pandemic.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in seven adolescents globally experiences depression, mental disorders, anxiety, and behavioral disorders, among others. Post-pandemic data shows a sharp rise: the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2023 that 42% of high school students felt constantly sad or even hopeless during that year, reflecting a crisis that cannot be overlooked.

Addressing this issue goes far beyond statistics—it requires acknowledging the lived experiences of adolescents who lost crucial moments of growth, connection, and discovery during the pandemic. By listening to their voices and prioritizing their mental well-being, society has the opportunity to heal the scars left by COVID-19 and provide young people with the tools to thrive. Supporting adolescents now means investing in a healthier, more resilient future for everyone.

Key Questions:

1. What responsibilities should educational systems take in addressing the adolescent mental health crisis in the aftermath of the pandemic?
2. What policies or programs has the government implemented to address the problem of mental health in educational settings after the pandemic?
3. How accessible are mental health services for youth within schools across different regions of the country?
4. How much funding has the government intended for adolescent mental health in education since the pandemic?
5. Are there non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, or international agencies active in supporting student mental health in the country?

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Upload your position paper via the following link.

Deadline: October 8th.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-vCbO-3VY9Zna9KE5tVEsgaNXAfdpCao?usp=sharing>

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