



WHO

ATIDMUN 2021

*Drafting Guidelines on the Prevention and
Containment of Global Communicable
Diseases*

Chair Letters

Dear delegates,

Welcome to AtidMUN 2021! My name is Amit Ram, and I will chair the WHO Committee. I'm currently in the 10th grade, and I'm studying physics and computer sciences as my majors.

My MUN experience started in the 8th grade; I fell in love with MUN in my first conference; I was excited to learn more topics and to cooperate with delegates in the committee. Since then I've participated in 15 MUN conferences and I don't intend to stop there.

This will be the second time I'll be chairing a committee, and I'm very excited to chair you all. I look forward to seeing you all debating, finding solutions to the problem, cooperating, and most importantly, enjoying the committee!

If you have any questions about the committee or the topic, I'll be happy to answer you via my phone (0533380378).



Dear delegates,

My name is Netta Budniski, and I have the pleasure to chair the World Health Organization committee at the upcoming Atid MUN conference!

I'm a student in the 11th grade at Atid Lod High School for Science, and I am majoring in physics and computers and taking the first degree courses at the Bar Ilan University. I've been doing MUN for three years, and this is going to be my 7th conference. During my MUN experience, I have made a lot of new friends, improved my English, learned a lot, and mostly- had lots of fun!

The topic of our committee is extremely interesting and relevant to our interesting time we live in, and I think (and know) that our committee will be the best at the conference. I believe that despite all the Covid 19 restrictions, we're going to have an interesting, fun, and unforgettable time together. Moreover, if you have any questions about the committee or about anything, you can send me an e-mail to the address: nettabud@gmail.com, and I'll respond as soon as possible.

Can't wait to see you!

Netta



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Introduction to the Committee

The creation of the World Health Organization (WHO) took place on April 7th, 1948. The committee's purpose in the United Nations was to improve global health. The World Health Organization was born in 1946 from the remnants of the Health Organization of the League of Nations after it failed. The aftermath of WWI and WWII has proven to countries that maintaining health in a society is essential to recovery from crises.

In order to face the problem a new institution was created, the WHO, which aimed to fully replace the Health Organization. However, its mission was not only to take on the responsibility of the Health Organization by coordinating international responses to public health crises but to serve as a credible source that collects international data.

Currently, WHO is considered as the highest authority in public health and is considered to be "the first inter-governmental institution" that has the word "world" in its name. The significance of adding this word was to imply that multinational health problems must be confronted and vanquished collectively. Indeed, the protection of the health of each country's citizens is crucial to saving the citizens of other countries as well.

Therefore, the WHO keeps a low profile when it comes to conflicts, in order to maintain peace between the organization, and its members. The World Health Organization's constitution is considered as the basic health theory that defines health in the modern context post-World War II world. In the past, health was considered a physiological condition, yet, health was defined as a "multidimensional state" of absolute physical, mental and social well-being in WHO's constitution.

Furthermore, this comprehensive definition of health was stated as a fundamental right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issued by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Presently, it is mandated in WHO's constitution to tackle diseases in the world, among Global Communicable Diseases. Given our current state, responsibility, and as of taking part in the WHO committee, delegates must come together with an aim to create an original solution to such detrimental conflicts.

Background

The Black Death

The black Death\ The Plague was the most fatal pandemic that humankind had faced at the time. The disease took place in Afro-Eurasia in the years 1346-1353. The epidemic resulted in 75-200 million deaths from people in North Africa and Eurasia. The black death started what is known as “the second plague pandemic”. Due to the pandemic, religious, social, and economic upheavals, profound effects were created on the course of European history.

The territorial origin of the black death is controversial. The plague originated in Central Asia or East Asia, but its first final appearance was in Crimea in 1347. From there, it was carried by fleas living on black rats that rode Genoese merchant ships. Later, it spread throughout the Mediterranean basin and reaching Africa, West Asia, and the rest of Europe via Constantinople, Sicily, and the Italian Peninsula. Recent evidence suggests that once it arrived in the country, the black death was largely spread by human fleas - causing the epidemic of pneumonia - and human-to-human contact through aerosols that a pneumonia epidemic allows. The main spreaders were fleas in rats causing a bubble epidemic, which justifies its rapid spread that was severely faster than expected at the time.

The Black Death was the second catastrophe to hit Europe in the late Middle Ages. 30-60% of Europe's population were estimated to have died due to the disease. As for world worldwide population, it is estimated that it killed more than 100 million people. further outbreaks occurred in the late Middle Ages and continued until the mid -19th century.

The European economy in the late Middle Ages fundamentally differed from the European economy before the pandemic. The economy of every country in Europe suffered from extreme hyperinflation. great trading Challenges were created and procuring goods was very dangerous because of the pandemic. Moreover, given the fact that the pandemic took many lives, the lack of workers had a significant role when attempted to revive the economy.

https://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/plague/effects/social.php

Ebola

The Ebola virus is a deadly, highly contagious disease. The first time that the Ebola virus appeared, was in 1976 in spontaneous outbreaks. The first place it appeared was in South Sudan and the second one was in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The largest Ebola outbreak occurred during 2014-2016 in West Africa. The virus was seen first in Guinea and then spread to Sierra Leone and Liberia. In 2018 an outbreak occurred in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Fruit bats from the Pteropodidae family, which host viruses, are thought to be natural Ebola transmitters. The Ebola disease spreads to people through chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, or through the secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as fruit bats, forest antelope, or porcupines. The virus passes between carriers and objects that were exposed to the virus.

Health care workers often became infected while treating patients with Ebola. This outcome is a result of close contact with patients and a failure to practice strict infection control precautions.

Although the disease mostly affected Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, the world bank stated that in 2015 2.2 billion dollars were spent to stop the outbreak.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/history/2014-2016-outbreak/cost-of-ebola.html>

Sars

The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is caused by SARS CoV (SARS coronavirus) which is known to infect both animals and humans. Two life-threatening outbreaks of SARS occurred in the past, they both happened in 2002 and 2004. Since the last outbreak in 2004, there have been no reported outbreaks. WHO dedicated great resources to supervise countries all over the world in order to ensure the prevention of future fatal outbreaks. As the first outbreak occurred in China in 2002, it is estimated that it started due to small mammals that were mutated. After the outbreak, the virus rapidly spread to more Asian countries near China. Additionally, there were a small number of reported SARS cases in other countries,

such as the UK and Canada. In July 2003 the authorities managed to take control of the virus. die to the outbreak, 8098 got infected from SARS, and 774 lost their lives to it. Meaning, one out of ten people died from the virus. Moreover, researchers estimate that 12-18 billion dollars were lost by the Asian countries while battling SARS due to decreased tourism and retail sales.

<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/jeph/2018/2710185/>

Current Situation

COVID-19, a type of coronavirus estimated to have been transmitted from infected animals to humans, has caused a global crisis with a verified infection of more than 100 million and over two million deaths. The plague first broke out in December 2019 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and by mid-February 2020 it began to swiftly spread around the world causing a state of panic accompanied by a vital economic crisis.

Countries around the world were unready to battle the outbreak and responded to the pandemic with guidelines to maintain social distancing, impose restrictions on movements, gatherings, closures, and curfews. Specific efforts have also been made to locate and isolate patients and carriers, protect medical personnel, and rapidly increase inpatient capacity, including the construction of special inpatient facilities for Covid-19 patients. During the pandemic, 2.6 billion people had to remain in homes under lockdown conditions to prevent the spread of the disease. These measures greatly hurt our lives, economy and may have been less severe had we been more prepared for this kind of scenario.

The coronavirus is transmitted from person to person through respiratory droplets, as well as airborne aerosols, which are transmitted by coughing, sneezing, bodily secretions, breathing, or touching much like the seasonal flu. The incubation period of the virus is usually five days but can last up to fourteen days. During this period, the carrier of the virus can infect others. This is one of the reasons that the containment of the virus has been extremely hard – people carrying the virus-infected others while being unaware that they themselves were carrying the virus.

Symptoms of the disease are usually fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other disease-specific symptoms in addition to influenza have also been reported, such as temporary loss of taste and smell and bleeding from the fingers. Complications may include pneumonia, accumulation of blood clots, and renal failure. Patient care focuses on relieving symptoms and

providing supportive care as there is currently no cure for the disease which has killed many over the age of 65 or those with weak immune systems. Protective measures include maintaining personal hygiene, staying away from others, and 14 days of self-isolation for people who have been in a sick environment. The exact mortality rate is unclear and is estimated at 2%. The 2% estimated mortality rate isn't as high as the same rate of other diseases but it is important to remember that after more than a year since the outbreak of the virus, only around 100 million people, which make up a bit more than 1% of the world's population, have been infected with the virus. According to this estimated mortality rate, if the entire world's population contracted the virus, over 150 million people would be dead.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft was one of the biggest advocates of preparing for a global pandemic like the one we're suffering from right now. Several years ago, before anyone even imagined we would be in the midst of a pandemic today, Gates warned that the world was not prepared for a pandemic such as this one. In 2015, Gates told Vox Media: "I rate the chance of a widespread epidemic, in my lifetime, as well over 50 percent. Something like the Spanish flu in the modern-day — health systems are far better, so you think, okay, that wouldn't be very bad. What we showed [when infectious disease researchers working with the Gates Foundation modeled the scenario] was that the force of the infection, because of modern transport ... within days, it's basically in all urban centers of the entire globe." Back in 2015, many may have thought that Gates was being hyperbolic but 5 years later, it's clear that he was very prescient. The current pandemic is far from being over but Bill Gates is already stressing over a future one.

Gates and his spouse Melinda recently issued a letter in which they stated that while everybody wants the world to return to "ordinary" after COVID-19 is managed, the world cannot afford to return to its past smugness regarding pandemics. "Pandemic preparedness must be taken as seriously as we take the threat of war", Gates said and explained that even though stopping a future pandemic would mean investing tens of billions of dollars on an annual basis, this investment would not be in vain as it would prevent a worldwide infection like the current one in which trillions of dollars and a great many lives would be lost.

Gates explained that we should invest money in pandemic readiness which would include building a worldwide framework that would have the ability to spot sickness increments in infections when such occur, no matter the place of infection. In addition, nowadays many nations still do not have the ability to test all suspected of carrying the coronavirus and which

is considered a major obstacle while confronting the virus. The inability to properly diagnose those carrying the disease has severe ramifications as people aren't aware of their sickness and continue their daily routines while infecting many others. This issue should not be downplayed – one of the reported reasons for South Korea's success in handling the coronavirus was its capacity to test large quantities of people for the virus in short periods of time. That is why Gates says we should make sure that by the next time a pandemic hits us, which it undoubtedly will according to him, we have many diagnostic machines around the globe accompanied by trained epidemiologists.

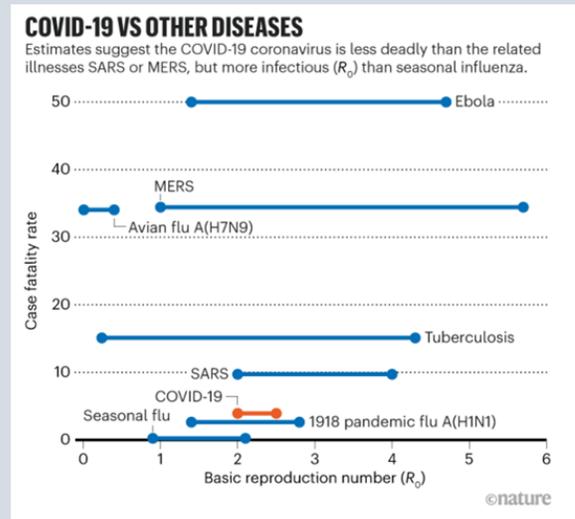
Furthermore, Gates has been adamant about the need for investing in research and development regarding mRNA in order to ensure that we will be capable of creating large quantities of it in factories all around the world. This is vital in order to vaccinate the world's population quickly, which is the ultimate means of eradicating a pandemic. Today, coronavirus vaccines have been around for several months but because of the time it takes to make the vaccines, distribute them, and administer them, countries like the United States, which has several great factories for vaccines, is still only capable of vaccinating its entire population in 6-12 months instead of 6-12 weeks or less. Until vaccines against a pandemic are created, prevention of infection through social distancing and lockdowns may be the only viable solution to curtail the progress of the disease. Vaccines change the entire picture. That is why it is of paramount importance to ensure that we are able to produce, distribute and administer vaccines quickly in case of any future pandemic.

Another suggestion by Gates is having groups of pandemic specialists across the globe which would act as first responders in case of a new infectious disease somewhere in the world. Gates describes these first responders as firefighters who would have the necessary logistics to initially tend to an outbreak of a novel virus and stem its progress in early stages.

Conclusion

Despite its great advancements in technology in recent years, the human race has proven that it is not ready for a pandemic. It is pivotal to remember that despite Covid-19's dangers, it still isn't the deadliest nor most infectious virus the world has dealt with. A virus with the combination of both being deadly and greatly infectious could result in truly devastating death tolls. We currently do not have the ability to identify nor obstruct the spread of a novel virus.

Furthermore, once spread, we are also not able to effectively and quickly test large quantities of people and diagnose them. Lastly, even when we are able to create a vaccine, we don't have the capacity to inoculate all in a short amount of time which extends the duration of the pandemic. Thus, the pandemic continues to take more lives and damage economies for a longer period. The world is currently not ready for the next pandemic, especially one that is



deadlier or more infectious than the Coronavirus and it is up to you as delegates to suggest courses of action through global cooperation in order to ensure we come prepared for the next pandemic. Remember, we must save as many lives as possible and keep the economies thriving.

Questions to Consider

1. How has your country handled the coronavirus?
2. Has your country favored the continuation of the economy and avoided lockdowns as much as it could?
3. What kind of problems has your country faced during the coronavirus crisis?
4. What actions could your country do in order to deal with a future pandemic?
5. Is your country able to aid in research and development or in manufacturing?
6. How should WHO adjust and revise its guidelines on the prevention and containment of global communicable diseases?
7. What is the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases?
8. What are the WHO regional and national main control strategies on the prevention, containment, and eradication of global communicable diseases?

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