

HUMUNITED 2020

Background Guide: World Health Organization I

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A welcome letter by the Secretary General and PGA

Honorable delegates,

Welcome everyone to the first edition of HUMUNITED ONLINE! We are thrilled to have you participating in your respective councils in order to discuss such a pressing issue in our current society, and are very thankful for your dedication and willingness to partake in a conference as special as this one.

We had hoped to see you all in person at this years HUMUNITED, however, we had to adjust and adapt to our current situation and, as the famous scientist Charles Darwin said: “It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change.” And, as we all know, when the music changes, so does the dance. Hence, we put our best efforts into making this event possible and are hopeful that our goal was achieved.

Taking part in MUN conferences has allowed us to enlighten ourselves in many ways that are indescribable, and we are honored to provide all these feelings and experiences for you! Thus, we welcome you to your councils’ Background Guide, knowing how much thought your chairs put into doing their best for you to have more ways to deepen your knowledge in this specific topic.

We wholeheartedly believe that HUMUNITED brings such knowledge to those who participate in it and, therefore, we urge you to enjoy every second of it and truly make the most of your time debating, researching, and allowing yourself to get to know a different perspective on the topic, as well as learning from those who are in your council. Getting to have such an experience is truly something that changes your viewpoint on many subjects and that you hopefully keep seeking knowledge and change because it is honestly essential to humankind.

Yours truly,

Thomás Danelon
Secretary General

Isabella Mazanati
President of the General Assembly

Greeting letter



Topic: the social impacts of precarious healthcare systems in combating the new COVID-19 pandemic

Dear delegates,

It is a great honor to introduce ourselves as your chairs in this Mini Online Humunited. Both of us are students from 12th B at the Colégio Humboldt with experience as delegates at MUN conferences. This is our first time chairing this conference and we are so very excited to be able to share this experience with each and every one of you. We know these are hard times for many of you and that the current situation has taken away from us the opportunity of a face-to-face HUMUNITED2020 for now. However, we hope to bring some joy to this time of isolation, and hopefully, our previous MUN experience will allow us to guide all of you through this unique simulation. Our goal is to have a great debate with different perspectives, but also filled with respect and always aiming towards a resolution.

We are so, very pleased to be joining the World Health Organization with you, especially during the pandemic caused by the new Coronavirus. In these times, the WHO has shown its huge importance in the fight against the Virus. The Council was created in 1948 and has gathered a total of 194 States, of which 15 you will be representing at this debate. This council has a whole history of success in improving human health. For instance, in 1980, after a lot of effort was put to fight the Smallpox all around the world, the WHO was able to certify its global eradication. Hopefully, this debate will take us one step closer to achieving the same regarding Covid-19. As members of this council, and representatives of these countries, we would like you to keep in mind, that during this Pandemic the WHO council is playing a leading role in curing this disease, and so will you.

Lastly, keep in mind, that the objective of this debate is not to discuss to disagree, but to discuss in order to find an agreement. We aim everyone's full collaboration and dedication in order to maximize the limited time we have to discuss such an important issue. Under the circumstances, we are committed to doing our best to have a great and fruitful debate with all of you. We hope to be as helpful as possible and are so going to be available 24/7 to answer any questions you might have before or during the conference.

Sincerely,

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About the topic

Towards the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, cases of a disease similar to pneumonia were reported in China. Not much later, cases with the same symptoms were reported all around the world. The virus which caused the disease was classified as the new Coronavirus and named “Covid-19”. The impacts of the new pandemic have been evident all around the world, and because of the high rate of infection that the Covid-19 Virus presents, it has led to a Global Pandemic.

Many infected people by this disease need medical assistance and specific equipment to be treated, which has overwhelmed most healthcare systems. The overload of patients has led to a lack of treatment, mostly to those who depend on the public healthcare systems or are in the high-risk age gap.

This lack of treatment has brought death to those who could not get the needed care and caused the spread of the disease, leading to more infection. Many countries have faced or are facing complications such as the lack of hospital beds and equipment as well as medical staff, and have to now join forces in order to improve their situation and expand their resources. The impact the virus has on healthcare systems and measures in order to diminish it are going to be discussed in this council.

Guiding Questions

1. How has your country been affected by Covid-19?
2. How does the public healthcare system in your country work?
3. How is the public health system dealing with the current situation?
4. How is the current situation regarding Covid-19 cases in the world?
5. How is the current situation regarding Covid-19 cases in your country?
6. Are there enough resources in your country to be able to provide good treatment to everyone infected with Covid-19?
7. Is your country offering or receiving help and resources to or from other nations?
8. What does your country need to diminish the Covid-19 impact?
9. How can your country contribute to better healthcare around the world?
10. Were there any measures taken in your country that helped the current situation that could be taken in other countries?

Further Research

- [COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak - Strengthening the health system response to COVID-19](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Situation Reports](#)
- [What is the role of Primary Health Care in the COVID-19 pandemic?](#)
- [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Covid-19 — The Law and Limits of Quarantine | NEJM](#)
- [Everyone Included: Social Impact of COVID-19 | DISD](#)
- [Countries With the Most Well-Developed Public Health Care Systems](#)
- [The Best Global Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Comparing Six Health-Care Systems in a Pandemic](#)
- [Ensuring health equity during the COVID-19 pandemic: the role of public health infrastructure](#)
- [What COVID-19 is teaching us about inequality and the sustainability of our health systems](#)

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