Background Guide
Chair: Michael Barr
Secretary: Nyla Harris

Introductions

Hello esteemed delegates and welcome to the Limun XXXII WHO committee! My name is Michael, I am a senior at LAMP high school, and I will be serving as WHO (World Health Organization) chair this year. First, a little bit about me. I've competed in mock trial competitions for the past 3 years, I've been on LAMP's MUN team for 4 years, and I have worked on two campaigns, so if you want to talk politics and policy, I'm your guy. In my free time I enjoy painting and listening to records while I ponder the meaning of life.

I will be looking for delegates who are not afraid to discuss controversial topics or aspects of topics. I challenge each and every one of you to focus more on discussing the potential ramifications of certain policies and practices rather than solely focusing on passing resolutions. I am looking for delegates who will engage in deep and meaningful ways with the topics. Also remember that MUN is an environment where all opinions can be heard but must be discussed in a respectful manner.

I really cannot wait to get started, and I will see you in committee!

Michael Barr
Chair of WHO Committee

Hello friends! My name is Nyla Harris and I am a senior at LAMP. I'm very excited to be the secretary of WHO this year and I cannot wait to hear all of your amazing ideas and resolutions. I have participated in LIMUN the last three years and bounced between both SH and WHO, I'm glad I get to finish that pattern this year. To say something about myself in a sentence: I love penguins, memes, music, writing, bad puns, finger guns, and jazz hands. As I said before, I cannot wait to hear all of your ideas shared and challenged. Here's to amazing year at LIMUN that will leave you knowing WHO the best committee is!

Nyla Harris
Secretary of WHO Committee

History Of The WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency that concentrates on international public health. Upon the suggestions of the delegates from China and Brazil in 1945, this body was established on 7 April 1948 at the founding UN conference in San Francisco. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. A committee of eighteen members met in Paris from March through April 1946 in order to establish the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which was founded to address issues focused on "economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters." This committee outlined the constitution of the proposed World Health Organization. An interim commission of eighteen members was created, and once 26 members of the United Nations accepted the constitution, the World Health Organization was officially founded.

The WHO was established for the purpose of having an organization that could be successful in "providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends." The WHO has been divided into the World Health Assembly (WHA), the Executive Board, and the Secretariat, with the WHA having the most authority over matters of public health.

The WHA decide the problems that the WHO will take interest in and how they will go about tackling the issues at hand. The WHO's constitution mandates that no more than two delegates shall act for each member state of the WHO. One of these delegates has the right to be appointed as the head delegate. Any member of the UN may be a member state of the WHO by adopting the constitution. At this time, there are 194 member states in the WHO.

The Executive Board meets biannually and plays the role of the executive organ of the World Health Assembly. Their main function is to represent those common interests of the member countries of the WHO.

The organizations budget is controlled by the Secretariat.

With its constitution outlining the goal of "the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health," the WHO has established more than 50 programs with a main focus on humanitarian health assistance, education on different aspects of health, and global programs to eliminate communicable and non-communicable diseases. The WHO and its documents are also the standard for international policy.

Position Papers

Each delegate seeking consideration for awards at LIMUN must submit a position paper on each of the topics on Wednesday night. These papers should consist of brief background information on the topic, a summary of the nation's stance on the issue, and an overview of the delegate's ideas for resolving the issue. The position paper should not be a resolution, but rather a general statement of the nation's stance regarding the topic at hand. Position papers should be single spaced and approximately one-half page long per topic, and include a header with the country name, committee name, and topic. DELEGATES MUST SUBMIT A POSITION PAPER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARDS. Good luck! An outline of a paper may be as follows:

 A. Background to the issue
   a. History of a conflict
   b. Previous attempts at resolution
 B. Nation's stance on the issue
   a. Prior action by the nation
   b. Country's current stance
 C. Ideas for a solution

How to Participate and Win Awards

I expect you to be well versed in parliamentary procedure and speak/act rather formally throughout the course of the conference. If you are seeking an award, I am looking for critical thinking skills more than your ability to recite past resolutions. It does significantly help to be well researched, but I am also looking for original and unique ways of approaching these topics. I want to see delegated address these topics from all angles, whether that be from a purely health, political, social, or economic based perspective. I want to see delegates engaged heavily in discussion and debate throughout the entire conference. I am looking at delegates from a holistic point of view: everything counts.

Simplified Parlimentary Procedure: https://outreach.un.org/mun/content/rules-procedure

Topic A. Addressing Mental Health Treatment, Facilities, and Stigmas

Mental health is an integral and essential component of health. The WHO constitution states: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." An important implication of this definition is that mental health is more than just the absence of mental disorders or disabilities.

Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.

Mental health is fundamental to our collective and individual ability as humans to think, emote, interact with each other, earn a living and enjoy life. On this basis, the promotion, protection and restoration of mental health can be regarded as a vital concern of individuals, communities and societies throughout the world.

This topic covers discussions around mental health disorders, the definition and treatment of mental health, mental health in disasters, differing mental health among separate age groups, and the varying stigmas and reactions to mental health problems.

I expect the committee to address:.
  a. Why do we care about addressing mental health in the first place?
  b. Who is most affected and how to we help them (or not help them)?
  c. What treatment facilities exist or should exist, and what is the quality of current treatment? How could we make it better or is better treatment necessary?
  d. What stigmas exist against people with mental illnesses? How can we or should we address these stigmas?
  e. How do we react when a mass shooting or terrorist attack happens? Why do we blame it on mental illness? Should there be emphasis on early detection of mental illnesses?
  f. How does PTSD affect not only soldiers, but also refugees?
  g. Is there a physical aspect to mental health?
  h. How do we pay for the treatment of mentally ill people? Should we?
  i. Are mentally ill people that are put in homes for the elderly a danger to the elderly?
  j. Should we try to integrate mentally ill people back into society?
  k. How do we determine the severity of mental illness and the right ways to treat it? With medication, therapy, homeopathic 'medicine'?

Topic B. Addressing How Climate Change Affects Health

Although global warming may bring some localized benefits, such as fewer winter deaths in temperate climates and increased food production in certain areas, the overall health effects of a changing climate are likely to be overwhelmingly negative. Climate change affects social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.

Rising sea levels and increasingly extreme weather events will destroy homes, medical facilities and other essential services. More than half of the world's population lives within 60 km of the sea. People may be forced to move, which in turn heightens the risk of a range of health effects, from mental disorders to communicable diseases.

Extreme high air temperatures contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, particularly among elderly people. In the heat wave of summer 2003 in Europe for example, more than 70,000 excess deaths were recorded.

Malaria is strongly influenced by climate. Transmitted by Anopheles mosquitoes, malaria kills over 400,000 people every year – mainly African children under 5 years old. The Aedes mosquito vector of dengue is also highly sensitive to climate conditions, and studies suggest that climate change is likely to continue to increase exposure to dengue.

I expect the committee to address:
    a. Why should we address this issue?
    b. How do we raise awareness about this issue? Are people ambivalent to the effects of climate change?
    c. How do we effectively address climate change and slow it down? Can we?
    d. How do we disseminate vaccines to developing countries where little infrastructure exists?
    e. Even in some developed countries people don't get vaccinated. How is this an issue and how do we address it?
    f. What steps can be taken to decrease the lethality of mosquito borne illnesses?
    g. How do we improve the infrastructure of coastal cities to prevent deaths and injuries?
    h. How do we fund projects committed to improving infrastructure and preventing illnesses?
    i. What sort of evacuation plans exist in floods and how can they be improved?
    j. What can be done to mitigate the effects of increased mosquito territory due to Climate Change?
    k. How are storms affected by climate change and what can we do to prevent damage

Topic C. Addressing Effects of Alcohol Use/Abuse

The harmful use of alcohol can also result in harm to other people, such as family members, friends, co-workers and strangers. Moreover, the harmful use of alcohol results in a significant health, social and economic burden on society at large.

Alcohol consumption is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions. Drinking alcohol is associated with a risk of developing health problems such as mental and behavioural disorders, including alcohol dependence, major noncommunicable diseases such as liver cirrhosis, some cancers and cardiovascular diseases, as well as injuries resulting from violence and road clashes and collisions.

A significant proportion of the disease burden attributable to alcohol consumption arises from unintentional and intentional injuries, including those due to road traffic crashes, violence, and suicides, and fatal alcohol-related injuries tend to occur in relatively younger age groups.

The latest causal relationships are those between harmful drinking and incidence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis as well as the course of HIV/AIDS. Alcohol consumption by an expectant mother may cause fetal alcohol syndrome and pre-term birth complications.

I expect the committee to address:
a. What are the social effects of alcohol use/abuse? What are the signs of dependence and how does dependence effect the person and people around them?
b. What are the economic effects? Think about worker productivity and unemployment.
c. Are minimum pricing requirements on alcohol necessary or helpful? Will someone already dependent on alcohol sacrifice light and heating to get their next drink?
d. How does culture affect alcohol use?
e. What are the effects of prohibition?
f. What policies are being considered in Scotland to curb alcohol use?
g. Should there be increased luxury taxes on alcohol?
h. What percentage of alcohol should be the maximum in alcoholic drinks? How does one come to a certain number conclusion? Should there even be limits at all?
i. Discuss deaths under the influence and diseases.
j. Does lowering the drinking age make alcoholism less likely?

Here are a bunch of resources for everything

Topic A
https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/international/global-mental-health
https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/why-we-worry/201308/mental-health-stigma
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4318286/
http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders
http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-in-emergencies
http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-of-older-adults
http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response

Topic B
http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health
https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights/report-findings/infrastructure
https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/adaptation/what/docs/swd_2013_137_en.pdf
http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/en/chapter6.pdf

Topic C
www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol
https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Services/Alcohol
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-41981909
https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/
https://www.addictions.com/blog/drinking-around-the-world-alcoholism-rates-by-country/