World Health Organization Chair Report
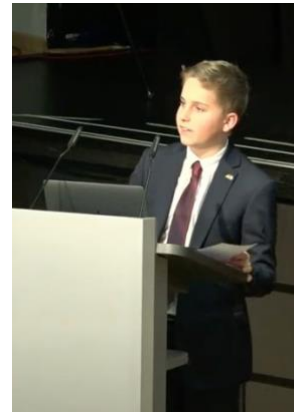
Pandemic Preparedness and Response: Strengthening Global Health Systems

Chair: Theodor Hellauer
Deputy Chair: Joseph Whitener

Personal Statements

Chair – Theodor Hellauer

Most Esteemed Delegates of the World Health Organization, my name is Theodor Hellauer, and I will be serving as one of the Chairs of this Committee at MUNISS 2024. I am currently in ninth grade at Frankfurt International School, and I am 14 years old. MUNISS will be my twelfth conference, and my second time as a chair. Over the years, I have had the honor of serving in multiple committees and positions, such as being an Advocate in the International Court of Justice or being a panelist at THIMUN. I am certain that all of you can recall the COVID-19 pandemic, or formally SARS-CoV-2, and how it halted society immediately. As delegates of this committee, you will have the possibility to come up with solutions that will have a clear goal to create partnerships between nations and to be better prepared if there is another outbreak of such a pandemic. You will consider how to limit casualties and efficiently deliver much-needed aid. Furthermore, on our planet, there are countless examples of diseases like Cancer, Diabetes, or heart disorders, and this committee allows you to explore solutions with a goal to prevent suffering on a global scale. Finally, in so-called More Economically Developed Countries, (MEDC'S), we tend to take food for granted, whilst there were millions of deaths in LEDCs which can be traced back to malnutrition. In this committee, we urge you to find sustainable solutions to all these varied and vital issue. To our first- time delegates, don't hesitate to speak up! Your contributions are invaluable and we're here to support you every step of the way.
Thank You!

Deputy Chair – Joseph Whitener

Hello everyone, I am Joseph Whitener. This is my second MUN conference, first time as a chair, and I look forward to chairing you all. I am also 15 years old, and my hobbies mainly consist of football. I currently attend ISS and look forward to welcoming you all to our school through MUNISS. I think you'll enjoy it here. This committee focuses on addressing critical global health issues under the purview of the World Health Organization (WHO). Delegates will delve into three primary topics: Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and Nutrition and Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Introduction

The first Issue of this committee: "Pandemic Preparedness and Response: Strengthening Global Health Systems". Focuses on preparing for future pandemics, and already planning responses, with a main purpose of having responses prepared for when there is another outbreak.

According to the National Health Institute, this issue means "Strengthening of health systems is a necessary component of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, supporting essential public health functions including robust health infrastructure, trained and protected health-care workers, adequate funding, reliable supply chains, and evidence-based planning and coordination. (Lal, Arush)"

Therefore, finding a solution that can be supported by all sides is vital to not have more casualties.

In addition to that, our societies tend to have pandemics approximately every 20-30 years, with the one prior to COVID-19 being one of the Influenzas pandemics. Pandemics do not only risk the lives of millions, but also put politicians under unforeseeable pressure, and are supposed to follow the opinions of their voters and supporters, and do what is most likely best for the future of the individuals and the nations, which tends to make them unpopular.

Glossary

Pandemic:

An outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area (such as multiple countries or continents) and typically affects a significant proportion of the population : a pandemic outbreak of a disease.

LEDC's:

Less Economically Developed Countries

MEDC'S:

More Economically Developed Countries
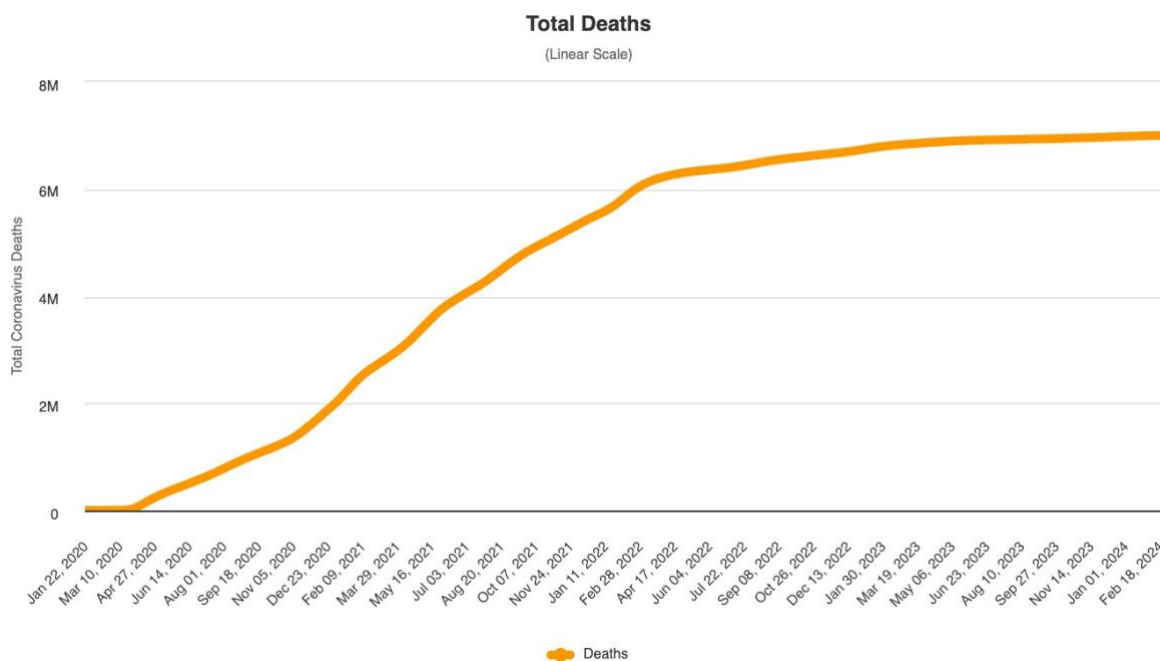
Lethal:

Very harmful or destructive.

Conservative Groups:

Conservatism is a cultural, social, and political philosophy that seeks to promote and to preserve traditional institutions, customs, and values. Also known as far-right parties in a government.

Issue Explanation

To further unpack this issue, Pandemic Preparedness and Response: Strengthening Global Health Systems. Over the past years, we have faced one pandemic, which was mutated and spread on an international scale, meaning that the damage could have been mitigated if there were countries would have effectively closed their borders prior to being infected. During this crisis, nations were forced to rapidly come up with regulations, as well as come up with different facilities not only for treatment, but also for testing. Many LEDC's did not have the financial recourses to aid citizens, whilst most MEDC's, were able to save enough to allow citizens to get their covid tests as well as their vaccines.

Total Deaths
(Linear Scale)

Deaths

As you can see in the graph above the casualties grew at an exponential pace, killing at least seven million people and infecting at least 700 million individuals, simply proving that this still is a lethal pandemic.

The pandemic brought fear over individuals, specially creating conflict over individuals who were frightened to become infected because they are at risk, due to their age, or other medical conditions, and individuals, such as politicians and conservative groups who were in denial of the existence. Therefore, politicians were forced to decide which side they will support, generally they decided to release reforms before the pandemic was completely over. Furthermore, the regulations were created on a state-by-state basis, allowing citizens to simply drive to another state to do their desired activity, which is clearly a violation of the spirit of the regulation.
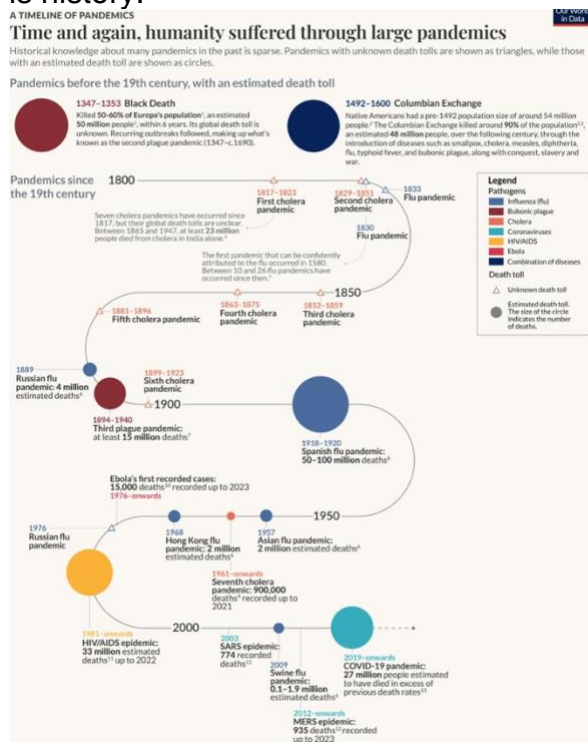
Before anything officially was declared by most nations, the World Health Organizations (WHO), already discovered symptoms, and has set up methods of prevention causing many citizens to buy supplies such as but not limited to medication which might help, such as ibuprofen, masks, disinfectants and many more things on the black market, mainly from stockpilers, whilst paying a premium. Furthermore, governments attempted to set up testing facilities which were free of charge, for individuals, so they could still attend do certain things. As delegates of this committee, you oversee finding solutions to prepare so this does not happen again, as well as finding agreeable solutions to limit the casualties.
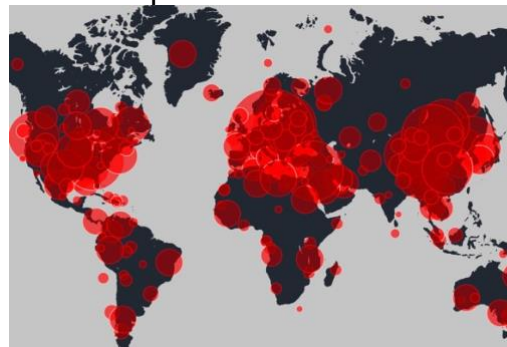
History of the Topic

When looking at the History of Covid19, there are a few important dates to remember, such as the November of 2019. On the 16th of that month, there was a fatal error in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been conducting a multitude of experiments about this since 2005. There is no official theory which could explain the outbreak, nevertheless the most common speculation is the so-called Lab-leak theory.

The Lab-Leak Theory is highly debated, and therefore controversial, there are two different versions, firstly, one version was created by former president Donald Trump, this is quite vague, and does not provide specific evidence, therefore BBC calls it a "a deliberate, even xenophobic attempt to deflect blame for his administration's own handling of the pandemic." Nevertheless, the most common theory is that there was a spill in the Lab, and therefore people got infected. The rest is history.

There were quite a few lethal pandemics in the past, furthermore there is one approximately every 40 years. In other words as a society, we have forgotten how to handle a pandemic efficiently, and did not have a plan to start with, or at least a rough draft of what needs to happen in order to save the lives of many.

A study from the Imperial College in London has shown which areas are generally more affected than others if there is a pandemic.

As you can see in the diagram above, the United States of America are generally affected, as well as Southeast Asia and Europe. Reasons explaining this are population density, and climate, seen as a virus cannot spread has difficulties spreading in hot and cold climates. In the table below, you can see which pandemics have been especially lethal in the past.

Rank	Epidemics/pandemics	Disease	Death toll	Global population lost	Regional population lost	Years	Location
1	Black Death	Buboni c plague	25–50 million	17–54%[a]	30–60% of European populatio n[5]	1346–1353	Europe, Asia, and North Africa
2	Spanish flu	Influenz a A/H1N1	17–100 million	1–5.4%[6][7]	–	1918–1920	Worldwi de
3	Plague of Justinian	Buboni c plague	15–100 million	7–56%[a]	25–60% of European populatio n[8]	541–549	North Africa, Europe, and Western Asia
4	HIV/AIDS epidemic	HIV/AI DS	43 million (as of 2024)	[b]	–	1981–presen t[9]	Worldw ide
5	COVID-19 pandemic	COVID-19	7–35 million[10][11] (as of 2024)	[b]	–	2019–presen t[12]	Worldw ide

(List of Epidemics)

Any Previous Attempts

1. Putting people into quarantine areas, for the Black Death, Venice was used for this purpose, and people were not allowed to leave if they were sick.
    a. Citizens do not like to be forced to stay at a certain point, and somewhat infringes their personal sovereignty.
    b. Has Successfully slowed the spread of the virus,

2. Wearing masks to protect the spread of fluids.
    a. Citizens despise being forced to wear a mask, furthermore it makes breathing quite hard.
    b. Has proven to stop the spread of viruses in the past.

3. Making tests mandatory to do certain things.
    a. Mainly used during covid, and people used this to steal money from the government. People did not like to be tested fand claimed they were useless for a multitude of reasons. They also took time to develop, and ensure that they are accurate,
    b. They were able to see if one has been affected, and were cheap to use, therefore they were successful.

4. Developing Vaccines or medicine.
    a. Expensive to manufacture and not necessarily accepted by citizens. Slow to produce and did have many side effects.
    b. Did save many people's lives, which is backed up by evidence, and therefore was a success.

5. Essentially waiting for the Virus to stop
    a. Kills a multitude of citizens because the government does nothing.
    b. People are not forced to follow any mandates.

6. The creation of Studies to inform people.
    a. Illiteracy is unfortunately still a problem in most LEDC's.
    b. People can understand what is happening at a better level and are better informed about symptoms.

"Lockdowns are thought to be most effective at containing or preventing COVID-19 community transmission, healthcare costs and deaths when implemented earlier, with greater stringency, and when not lifted too early. (COVID-19 Lockdowns)".

The concept of a quarantine was invented during the black death, where Venice was used for quarantine purposes for more than 100 years beginning in 1776.

Any Nations and Their Related Companies

The United States of America:
The United States have had over 111 million registered cases of Covid19, which is more than any other nation, in addition to that, they also aided the production of Pfizer. The American population is not that concerned of the effects. 28% have been fully vaccinated and "A new Pew Research Center survey finds that just 20% of Americans view the coronavirus as a major threat to the health of the U.S. population today

and only 10% are very concerned they will get it and require hospitalization. (Nadeem)" This might be because a vast majority of Americans do not recognize covid (mainly the conservatives) or are simplified up with the lockdown.

The Russian Federation:
Over 30% of the adult citizens of the Russian federation do not acknowledge the existence of COVID 19. "Descriptive data showed that 21.2% of respondents reported high vulnerability to the coronavirus, and 25% expressed fear. Moreover, 38.7% of the surveyed individuals reported low trust in vaccination efficacy, and 57.5% were unwilling to take a vaccine, which was much higher than the official data. (Health Behavior in Russia During the COVID-19 Pandemic)" Additionally, the Russian Federation was the first nation to claim to have developed a COVID19 vaccine.

The Peoples Republic of China:
From all nations, China has made the largest lockdown. It was harsher and longer than anything seen before, and The Guardian describes it as a mass imprisonment campaign. As the nation where COVID19 originates from, the PRC originally claims to have not had a single death. After being interrogated by journalists, Xi Jinping, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party, slowly starts admitting that there were countless deaths.

France:
The French kept the virus under control to a certain extent, because of an early mask mandate, and other incentives for testing. When surveyed, half of the nation is split in the French general population, if mask mandates should have continued longer, and if COVID was as dangerous, however the debate might become politicized.

Germany
The Germans bureaucratic approach of doing everything equally, and each state deciding independently, made the disputes interesting. Germany was fortunate enough to have BioNTech help them rapidly gather vaccines, which still got refused by a multitude of the population. Approximately 23% were strongly against getting the vaccine because of health concerns, or simply claiming it violates their personal sovereignty.

The Republic of India
"COVID-19 has impacted every sector in the country including healthcare. Indian healthcare system crumbled under the massive burden of the global pandemic highlighting the gaps and challenges in the existing health delivery system. (Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare system in India: A systematic review)" Additionally there were horrifying scenes in India, where bodies were burnt in the park because there were no more available locations to be buries.

The European Union
"Three out of four respondents across all countries surveyed say they have heard, seen or read about EU measures to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic; a third of respondents (33%) also know what these measures are. At the same time around half (52%) of those who know about EU action in this crisis say they are not satisfied with the measures taken so far.
Nearly seven out of ten respondents (69%) want a stronger role for the EU in fighting this crisis. In parallel, almost six out of ten respondents are dissatisfied with the solidarity shown between EU Member States during the pandemic. While 74% of respondents have heard about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the pandemic, only 42% of them are satisfied with these measures so far."

Pfizer and BioNTech (US and German Company)
The united vaccine is called Comarity. BioNTech is originally a company attempting to find solutions for Cancer, and relied on funding by investors, however. "With the decreases, Pfizer is guiding to a revenue window of $67 billion to $71 billion in 2023.
The projections—which fell short of analyst expectations—put a damper on what might have been a day of celebration as Pfizer reported $100.3 billion in revenue for 2022, after generating $81.3 billion in sales in 2021Pfizer expects sales of $13.5 billion for Comirnaty in 2023 after generating revenue of $36.8 billion in 2021 and $37.8 billion in 2022 from the vaccine. The analyst consensus projected 2023 sales at

$14.4 billion. (Pfizer Warns Comirnaty Sales)"

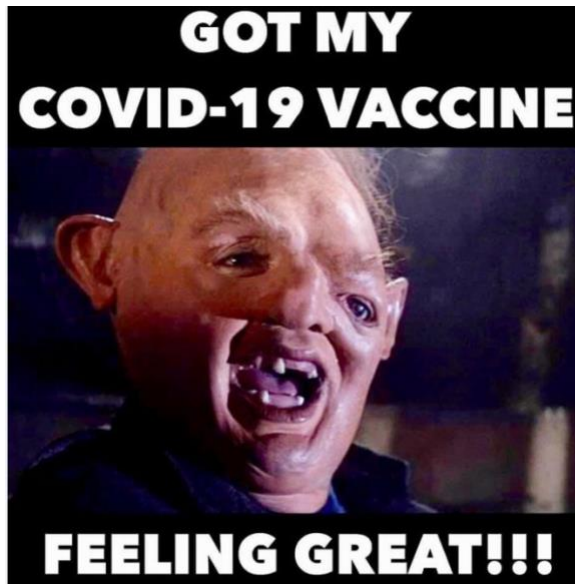**Sinopharm BIBP Vaccine (Chinese)**
This is the Chinese Vaccine, it is not necessarily accurate, according to the world health organization" A large multi-country Phase 3 trial has shown that 2 doses, administered at an interval of 21 days, have an efficacy of 79% against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection 14 or more days after the second dose. Vaccine efficacy against hospitalization was 79%. The trial was not designed and powered to demonstrate efficacy against severe disease in persons with comorbidities, in pregnancy, or in persons aged 60 years and above. Women were underrepresented in the trial. The median duration of follow-up available at the time of evidence review was 112 days. (The Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine)"

Sputnik V(Russian)
Of course, the Russian Federation has had to develop their own vaccine. Though it is not recognized by western nations, this is because the effectiveness is debatable, additionally the production times were far too long to have a success. "Unfortunately, Sputnik V's defenders have yet to acknowledge that there might be any actual safety or efficacy issues with the drug, let alone provide adequate data to satisfy the regulators that have flagged concerns. This stance undermines public faith in the vaccine at home and abroad. In comparison, Chinese health regulators have admitted that "current vaccines don't have very high protection rates." Sputnik V clearly provides some protection against severe disease, but independently verified data remain hard to come by. And breakthrough cases involving individuals vaccinated with Sputnik V have been widely reported, including an outbreak in the Kremlin allegedly caused by senior officials failing to get booster shots (presumably Sputnik V) on time. (Stronski)"

Media Contribution

Stopping a pandemic is always a strenuous task, especially in the 21st century, where one can always rely on the internet, especially social media platforms, to spread their unfounded information, including the unique assumptions to convince large groups of people of their respective beliefs using media platforms.
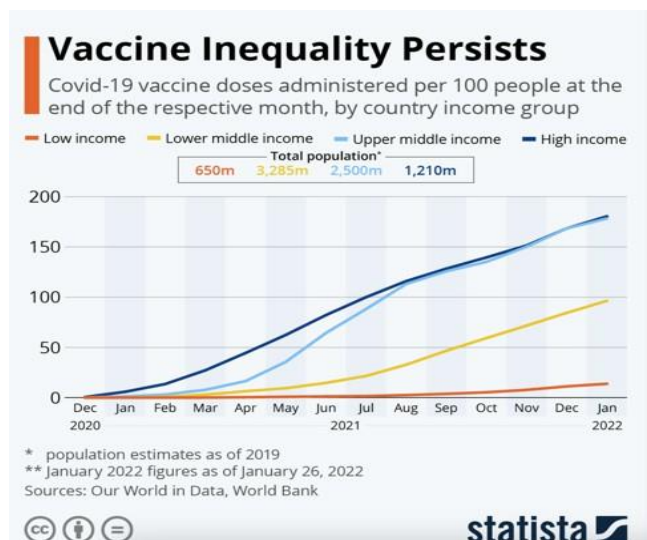

(Got my COVID-19)

Unfortunately, the image on the left is one of many. Memes with a purpose to convince people to not get their vaccine. Whilst this may seem humorous, Memes, or exaggerated images can spread harmful narratives, leading to real-world consequences. In our case, can lead to citizens not getting their vaccines, because they trust the memes.

To this conflict, there are two sides. Firstly, the opposition, which does not believe in constructive amendments, and is a firm believer of Personal Sovereignty. Nevertheless, there are firm believers in

using the vaccine. Furthermore, there is an inequality between the household income which also sparks the debate, leading people to not get the vaccine. On the graph below, one can see prejudice when deciding who gets the vaccine, this is a concept which still exists from the past but can be amended. The general point of view from the public is that "70.6% of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. (Coronavirus (COVID-19))". And there are 30% who cannot/refuse to get a vaccine.

(Richter).

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