



RichMUN '21
Study Guide.

The World Health Assembly.



Message from the Head Table.

Dear Delegates,

We as the Head Table of the World Health Assembly would like to welcome you all to the virtual experience of RichMUN 2021. In ordinary circumstances the conference would be held with the gathering of all delegates at one location with the traditional MUN procedure taking place throughout the duration of the conference.

But due to the worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic we have been forced to rethink our strategy in bringing the conference experience to you. And thus with the embracing of the new normal the organizing committees has decided to present to you RICHMUN 2021 in the virtual environment.

The more things change the more they stay the same. Even though we are unable to meet face to face as traditional Model UN conferences over the past years have done so the role of the delegate has remained unchanged. We present this study guide to you in the hopes that it will aid you in the quest in bringing about creative and innovative solutions to one of the most pressing global challenges faced by humanity.

We as the head table will expect to see the delegates up to date on their research with regards to the conference topic and showcase their talents in speech. We would also like to see the delegates bring about creative and innovative, in essence “out of the box” solutions through their speeches and resolutions throughout the proceedings of the conference.

We as the head table of the WHA ensures that we will do our very best to make your delegate experience a truly memorable one in essence keeping the spirit of MUN alive no matter what obstacles that may come.

We hope to see you all at the conference, until then stay safe and research well!

Chaveendra Dunuwille

President

Mihin Senath

Vice President



INTRODUCTION

Human civilization has undergone drastic changes through the ages and time & time again disputes between nations and empires arose, if diplomacy was considered to be a non-determining factor in the outcome the likelihood of nations going to war was very real. Warfare has evolved from the first recorded war in 2800 BCE to the World Wars that changed the fate of the human race to the modern day asymmetric warfare against terror proving to us that something's remain the same no matter how much time passes.

Even as the years go by with 2021 bringing a sort of fresh start to rethink and reevaluate our goals for the future nations such as the Central African Republic, Afghanistan and most notably Syria have been caught in bitter conflicts that are yet to see resolution.

Apart from wars raging in 2019 the world was exposed to a threat that would seem to appear once every century. Keeping with the pattern the world saw the spread of the novel Coronavirus from Wuhan, China. It wasn't long before this virus spread to all 4 corners of the globe leaving no one unaffected.

The potency of the virus was left for the world to see as it ravaged all over Europe, North America, Asia, South America arguably developed and elite nations with the world's most premier healthcare struggling to cope with the rate of infections to almost the total collapse of the system. In the United States of America alone the victims of the Coronavirus numbering almost 500 000. To put into reference that is considerably more than the total number of casualties suffered by the United States in World War 2.

When countries such as the USA struggles to keep things under control it begs the question... what of all those war torn nations, how will these nations take action to stop the spread of the virus? We all wish with the start of 2021 that all our problems would go away and things can go back to the way they were, for the most part they have. But we must not forget that even in this New Year things such as war and the Coronavirus still remain as significant threats to our survival.

In RichMUN 2021 we hope to dive head long into the issue of the access to health care following the emergence of the Coronavirus which has forced us to rethink many of our policies.



TOPIC: ASSESSING THE “ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE” OF THE CIVILIANS IN WAR TORN AREAS DUE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC

"I am really scared of COVID-19 as it is a dangerous disease. If Coronavirus hits here the situation will be more difficult. You can implement measures to prevent the spread of the virus in certain places but here it will be challenging as a lot of people are living in one place. Should any of them get the virus then all of us will get it."

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Nyawal from South Sudan

Unexploded ordnances, indiscriminate fire, coordinated air and naval attacks, sniper fire, these are some of the few dangers that plague conflict zones all around the world. This is on full display in nations such as Syria, Yemen & the Central African Republic. Along with the hazards of weapons conflict zones throughout history are notorious as some of the unhealthiest & unhygienic locations in the world and the poor health conditions have done it fair share of damages spreading infection among the soldiers. In terms of historical context we need not look further than the western and eastern fronts of the First World War. The war slowly converted itself into static combat with repeated incursions of one side trying to break through the others defenses. In between these major offences diseases such as typhoid, diarrhea, trench foot ravaged soldiers contributing to the overall death toll of the war.

World War One also showed us the soldiers & those in combat zones are extremely vulnerable and can easily contract & spread infections. Soldiers in active combat following the conclusion of the war resulted in the Great Flu pandemic of 1918. The soldiers acted as carriers of the flu as they returned home effectively contributing to the world wide spread of the flu at the time

Eerily enough in the present day we too face a similar situation with the rapid spread of the novel Coronavirus around the world from the epicenter in Wuhan, China. We were able to observe how this virus spread from one person to another and from another to many more in such a short time in what we consider as relatively safe society. Understanding the impact the virus had on modern society it is a relatively straight forward conclusion to assume that areas where armed conflict takes place are more vulnerable than ever.

In order to understand the effect of Corona in war torn nations look no further than the nation of Yemen where the civil war had destroyed much of the nation's infrastructure has left the nation in an extremely vulnerable state. Further fueling the flame is the fact that without an established system it is impossible for international organizations to



determine the exact number of deaths making an effort to respond to the crisis almost impossible.

What We Expect?

We as the head table of the WHA expect the following from the delegates

- Good understanding of the topic that is to be discussed in the committee
- Understanding the foreign policy of the nation that the delegate will be representing
- Identification of the key areas of discussion
- Presenting of creative and innovative solutions with regards to the problems that need to be addressed within committee.
- Diplomacy



Helpful Links

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/covid-19-conflict-zones-visual-story>

<https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/worst-virus-fears-realized-poor-war-torn-countries>