



**Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
***“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”***

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**Topic Synopsis**

WHO, Healthcare In Third World Nations

**I. Background of Topic**

Health is a fundamental human right according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The right for people to receive health care, education and food is necessary for any nation. Health is crucial for a nation's growth and stability. Because they are overpowered by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank, many third world nations do not receive the basic right of health. Most people, of the Third World nations, die of curable and preventable diseases such as Malaria or tuberculosis. These diseases alone claimed 6.1 million lives in 1998. Each year over 8 million children under age 5 die from a treatable disease or malnutrition. These statistics prove that health care in third world nations is a major issue that still lingers in most parts of the world. Almost one billion people lack access to health care systems. Many disease affect the populations in third world nations but the media has been concentrated on only one; HIV/AIDS. Ironically it is one of the few diseases that pose a threat to most first world nations. Among these diseases poverty has become the number one health threat. Debt and increased poverty result in forced cutbacks in education and health.

Consequently these are the two things that are needed for a nation to minimize such traumatic impacts. Most people currently suffering are not facing a death sentence because the drugs to treat them do not exist but because governments have questionable will to put human life above corporate profit. A direct result of drug company's actions are high prices that make it difficult for people to receive the drugs they need, thus they continue to get sick. Everyone is indirectly involved with this issue however third world nations fall victim to lack of health care. This is a



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problem to the world because every couple of seconds an innocent life is lost to a preventable disease that could not be cured due to lack of health care resources.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The UN recognizes health care as one of the most important necessities for the people. The Declaration of Alma Ata was based on the international conference on Primary Health Care meeting on September 12, 1978. It expressed the need for urgent action by all governments and the world community to promote and protect the health of all people. The UN saw this issue so pressing that they created the World Health Organization. WHO (The World Health Organization) was established on April, 7, 1948 it is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) that acts by coordinating authority on international [public health](#) issues. Better health for all is the goal of health care. The World Health Organization has determined five elements that will help achieve this goal. The first step is reducing the social differences in health by universal coverage reforms. Next service delivery reforms to organize health services around peoples needs. Then integrate health into all regions by public policy reforms. Leadership reforms to effectively communicate policy and finally increase stakeholder participation. Currently WHO is pushing for a renewal of primary health care.

## **III. Possible Solutions**

Some possible solutions include providing easier access to common drugs, or finding a cheaper way to both manufacture and distribute drugs without compromising the product. Furthermore the Government policies and procedures in these regions should be questioned. Public health expert Ramanan Laxminarayan stresses that “having a single, unified picture on



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what the country wants for its health would actually be a good way on focusing resources on its priorities.” Instead it is common that most governments are concentrating on financial gain. Maintaining the flow of money is another priority. Companies raise the price for medicine that they are aware the poor cannot afford thus the poor are spending more money on medicine than on essential things like food. Which can lead to the number one health problem, malnutrition. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers make the governments outline their development strategies and ideas for the future. This stands as a good solution because as poverty decreases so do the hazardous health conditions. As for World Bank and IMF, if controlled properly they could have a positive affect on health care in third world nations.

#### **IV. Bloc Positions**

##### Asian Bloc

The Asian Bloc has many third world countries. Government is open to reforms of health care in third world nations.

##### Latin Bloc

The Latin Bloc also has many rural third world countries. The need for better health care is crucial however politics may get in the way of any aid that is offered.

##### European Bloc

The European Bloc has fewer third world countries and is already undergoing reforms in health care.

##### African Bloc

The African Bloc is the hardest hit, with the most third world countries. Most governments are not open to reforms depending on the region.

##### Middle Eastern Bloc

The Middle Eastern Bloc as well has many third world nations and is willing to undergo reforms to improve health care.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

1. Is the Declaration of Alma-Ata still relevant after all these years?
2. If you're representing a third world country how have the IMF and World Bank affected you?



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3. If you're representing a first world nation what are some ways you can help out third world nations?
4. Should incentives be used to gain access to desperate third world nations with uncooperative governments?
5. Should a universal health care system standard be set?