



Topic Synopsis

Plenary, Effects of HIV/AIDS

I. Background

AIDS has been considered an international issue since the 1980's. HIV was discovered in 1959, though it is questionable as to how the disease was conceived. After long tracing it has been decided that animals were the first carriers of this virus that was past later to humans. The AIDS epidemic is one that has silently swept across the international community infecting up to 60 million civilians. Because its target is the average young adult, and HIV tends to weaken workers, paying taxes has become a problem for all nations. This seemingly minor problem has become a large issue because without consistent payments on taxes from the public, there is little to no funding to be devoted toward research for AIDS. Generally governments work to provide basic amenities to those suffering from the effects of HIV/AIDS, but as time lapses while carrying the disease a person becomes unable to perform very basic tasks and furthermore cannot contribute to a nation's economy through the workforce. Consequently, children have been unable to play active roles in society or gain an education because of their families' personal economic situations.

Nations rely heavily on volunteer medical services, which receive little funding to be sustainable. The international community has become divided in its spending between research to cure HIV/AIDS, public works projects to prevent the spread of the disease, treatment centers, welfare programs, and testing centers; all of which are costly to run.

Because HIV/AIDS is a problem that impacts the very roots of society, economists have seen and predicted further trends in a downgrading financial circumstance. It is an issue that has worked its way up through civilizations and influenced all areas of the economy.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has recognized the HIV/AIDS epidemic to be one of the largest areas of concern throughout the world because of the mass repercussions in the economy and in sectors that have yet to be foreseen. UN AIDS, established in 1996, has been the leading program in combating all destruction resulting from the spread of diseases. This institution seeks to dramatically decrease the spread of HIV/AIDS, provide basic care for those affected, strengthen government laws surrounding the subject, and further research in potential cures while also bolstering communication and understanding among those at risk.

UN AIDS has made its place into all of the regions of the world and made progress with the assistance of the cosponsors UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNODC, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank. UN AIDS has managed to gain support from a vast variety of UN bodies, which have assisted in relieving nations of economic troubles that have resulted from the spread of disease.

The UN AIDS Department of Financial Management and Accountability works to enhance and adjust the Unified Budget and Workplan, "which continues to evolve to meet the changing demands of the response to HIV at global, regional and country levels," with the assistance of the UN bodies that work in conjunction in combating AIDS according to UN AIDS.

AIDS is constantly discussed on the floor of the UN. Countless resolutions such as A/54/238 have been established to commit the time and resources necessary to relieving the



world of the impacts from the spread of disease. Inclusive reviews and goals of reduction have been made countless times, however, the United Nations has been unable to take a firm hold on the situation at hand.

III. Possible Solutions

At this time there is no feasible system of managing the mass impacts that have resulted from HIV/AIDS. UN AIDS has been the United Nations' strongest body that has worked to make the most change, however the program may be in need of reform or allotted a greater authority within nations so that it may work more efficiently toward its 2015 goals.

Since the issue of HIV/AIDS began at the very basis of society, perhaps the solutions should be implemented here as well and then spread to a larger scale. On an economic level, funding must be continued to support those in need of sustenance and assistance for survival. On another note, occupations modified for those suffering from HIV so that these citizens may continue to participate in society, pay taxes, and support themselves and their families, should be created and made readily available. These new jobs would allow those affected by disease to remain active and contribute to the economy. This involvement would reduce issues involving stagnate workers as well as children's education.

As always, further funding for research and education is a necessity to reduce the spread of disease and eventually close the eyes of the world from its atrocities.

IV. Bloc Positions and Status of HIV/AIDS

Asian: HIV has no longer been labeled as an epidemic within the Asian bloc, however, the problem has been accentuated in smaller, indigenous groups that have little access to supplies or society and live in very poor regions within Asia. There has been dramatic falls in the number of children who have been impacted by HIV in recent years, which has allowed for a future projection of economic growth within the region. UN AIDS has had great progress within Asia.

Latin: There is very little education or active government involvement in the issue of HIV/AIDS among the Latin American countries. The numbers continue to escalate and are focused around homosexuality and drug abuse in the poorer sections of the region. Social disapproval within society has resulted in little progress or improvement in the conditions surrounding the circumstance. Little economic stimulus has been extended to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

European: Europe is largely affected by drug abuse and infection resulting from unclean materials in impoverished regions. Due to lack of communication between governments and civilians, the numbers continue to rise in those affected. Ukraine and Russia stand at the front for the highest rates of HIV affected citizens.

African: Southern and eastern Africa has suffered the most from AIDS. Unprotected intercourse has been the main cause of the spread of HIV along with mother to child transmission. Western and central Africa has been relatively untouched by HIV/AIDS in comparison to the lower regions of the continent; however, it does still remain as an important issue caused primarily by lack of education concerning protected sex and prostitution. Africa is in the most need of financial assistance in order to continue to sustain economies.



Middle Eastern: Unreliable data within the Middle Eastern regions has resulted in



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inconsistencies surrounding HIV/AIDS. It is currently not considered to be an epidemic, however it is still a problem that affects a large sector of the population. Most carrying HIV received their disease through drug abuse, sex workers, or unprotected homosexual intercourse.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How is your nation affected on an economic basis by the spread of HIV/AIDS?
2. What are the future projections on your country's economic stance as a result of HIV?
3. What programs have played a role in the reduction of HIV/AIDS within your nation's borders?
4. What is the main cause for the spread of disease within your nation?
5. What methods of prevention have worked in your nation? Can these be applied in others?
6. How has the work force been impacted by the spread of HIV/AIDS?