

Committee: UNDP

Topic: Increasing Access to Healthcare in Latin America

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

Access to quality healthcare in some Latin American countries is very limited, leading to an excessive amount of unnecessary and easily preventable deaths. Different countries across the world offer various innovative forms of healthcare that aren't available in Latin America. Delegates should pursue the establishment of modern healthcare solutions in this region. This committee hopes to build the infrastructure necessary to properly care for people in Latin America in an affordable and effective fashion.

III. Background of the Topic

Healthcare refers to any care given with the purpose of preventing or treating illness. In many countries, public insurance is widely accessible and paid for by the government through taxes. Private insurance is paid for in part or full by the person being covered and gives more coverage to the consumer. In various Latin American countries, health care is of low quality and access is limited. Healthcare companies are often undersupplied, understaffed, and offer overpriced products. There has been an expanded effort to improve the healthcare system and make quality healthcare more accessible in Latin America since the early 1990s. WHO⁴, the UN

committee that focuses on world health issues around the world, such as water and food safety, air quality, and world health care, recently established a goal to implement Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The implementation of UHC would result in worldwide access to high quality and equal healthcare without financial struggles⁵. UHC2030, a mission for UHC, has worked to improve the coordination of health systems and has strengthened efforts on a global level³. Chile implemented the National Health System (NHS), a program that covers formally unemployed persons and uninsured persons, while all other citizens receive insurance through the Social Security Institute or their employers.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Latin America has a serious lack of healthcare; many people in this region do not have proper coverage and suffer because of it. Some countries, such as Guatemala, guarantee health coverage for all their citizens, but many families struggle with accessibility to this care, due to a lack of quality hospitals¹. In Latin America and the Caribbean, about 30% of the population does not have access to healthcare for economical reasons while 21% do not have access due to geographical barriers². Without healthcare, simple injuries and illnesses can quickly lead to death, but with high-quality healthcare becoming accessible in these countries, a large amount of the population will benefit greatly. A lack of funding for healthcare initiatives in the past has led to certain areas to fully develop their abilities to provide quality care. This has caused healthcare to not be widely accessible and affordable. Though some countries in Latin America have health coverage, oftentimes it is not supplied properly nor is it of good quality. Recent funding into healthcare sectors from governmental programs has allowed medicine to slowly advance in these countries, which has made access to quality healthcare easier. Delegates should take advantage of this positive momentum and continue to procure solutions that enable countries in Latin America to provide quality healthcare to their citizens.

V. References and Research Resources

1. CDC. (n.d.). Healthcare Access and Conditions in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador

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<https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/profiles/central-american/healthcare-diet/index.html>

2. Ramirez, J. A. G., & Bive. (n.d.). These are the 5 health challenges facing Latin America. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/06/these-are-the-5-health-challenges-facing-latin-america/>
3. UHC2030. (n.d.). Our mission. Retrieved from <https://www.uhc2030.org/our-mission/>
4. WHO. (n.d.). About WHO. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/about>
5. WHO. (n.d.). Universal health coverage (UHC). Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage->

VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings delegates! My name is Galilea Cervera, and I am one of the two United Nations Development Program Co-Chairs at the MUNSA XXIV conference. My Co-chair's name is Evan Wiedenhofer. If you have any questions regarding the background papers or about the conference itself, please feel free to contact Evan or me at our emails; gcervera7533@stu.neisd.net or ewiedenhofer4229@stu.neisd.net. We are so excited to see you at MUNSA XXIV!

VII. Director General Contact Information

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