

**Committee: World Health Organization****Topic: Addressing the Impact of Antibiotic Resistance and Anti-Vaccination Ideals****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**

The impact of antibiotic resistance, anti-vaccination ideals, and the potential effect on the global community with the viral spread of the disease has become a pressing issue. Vaccination skeptics are prominent in America and Europe; however, the whole world is at risk if these ideas spread. The recent rise of preventable diseases has been caused by vaccination hesitancy. This hesitancy has been promoted through misinformation campaigns that grossly misconstrued vaccinations, a medical triumph that WHO considers vital to public health. This committee hopes to manifest a future in which the most effective public health measures are available to and used by all.

**III. Background of the Topic**

The anti-vaccination movement has recently experienced a huge rise in popularity. Anti-vaccination sentiments date back to 1763 with the banning of inoculations by the French Parliament, despite outcry from progressive thinkers.<sup>5</sup> Vaccination hesitancy was very prevalent during the invention of the smallpox vaccine from clergy members, doctors, and civilians due to risks involved with sterilization. Several misconceptions about vaccines have been spread with

the rise of the modern anti-vaccination movement, including the assertion that vaccines cause autism, HIV/AIDS, and other illnesses. These claims, however, are based on illegitimate evidence. Vaccinations for viral diseases were implemented around 1955. These vaccines decreased cases of polio from 15,000 per year to 10 per year while improving public opinion of other vaccines.<sup>2</sup>

In 2019, the World Health Organization declared vaccination hesitancy a top threat to global health.<sup>10</sup> Due to the rise of the anti-vaccination movement, United Nations Children's Fund launched a campaign in April of 2019 titled “#VaccinesWork” to emphasize the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.<sup>8</sup>

#### **IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic**

Recently, the anti-vaccination movement has been growing rapidly due to the development of the internet and the ease of access to false information. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Protection, the United States eradicated the measles infection in 2000 due to successful vaccination efforts; however, due to international travelers and the anti-vaccination movement, there is currently a measles resurgence in the US as of 2013.<sup>1</sup> Albania, Czech Republic, Greece, and the United Kingdom lost their measles free status as of August 23, 2019. As a result, the German government passed a law stating that all children must be vaccinated before attending school or they will risk a €2,500 fine. In the first half of 2019 alone, there have been 90,000 cases of measles in Europe, which is an exponential increase compared to the 84,462 confirmed cases of measles throughout 2018.<sup>3</sup>

Currently, governing bodies have been working towards distributing factual and scientifically proven information about inoculations to the public. The World Health Organization has declared the measles resurgence a Grade 2 emergency.<sup>11</sup> In an effort to combat this crisis, the World Health Organization partnered with the European Commission to hold a Global Vaccination Summit on September 12, 2019, to forward global action for preventing vaccine-preventable illnesses. A plan was composed to increase vaccine confidence, research, development, and innovations to promote the general welfare in regards to health, security, and prosperity through immunizations. This committee aims to mitigate the spread of

vaccine-preventable diseases and to educate the population about the benefits of proper inoculations.<sup>9</sup>

## **V. References and Research Resources**

1. Centers for Disease Control and Protection. (2019). Measles Cases and Outbreaks. Retrieved from September 5, 2019 from <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Protection. (2019). Polio Elimination in the United States. Retrieved from September 5, 2019 from <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/us/index.html>
3. Guy, Jack. (2019). Four European countries lose measles-free status as anti-vax movement drives outbreaks. Retrieved September 6, 2019 from <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/29/health/europe-measles-outbreaks-scli-intl/index.html>
4. Lyn Pesce, Nicole. (2019). This is the most anti-vaxxer country in the world. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/this-is-the-most-anti-vaxxer-country-in-the-world-2019-06-19>
5. Measles & Rubella Initiative. (2015). The anti-vaccination movement. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from <https://measlesrubellainitiative.org/anti-vaccination-movement/>
6. United Nations News. (2019). Misinformation and growing distrust on vaccines, 'dangerous as a disease' says UNICEF chief. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1041571>
7. United Nations Children's Fund. (2019). UN Headquarters to host groundbreaking discussion on vaccine misinformation and growing distrust. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/un-headquarters-host-groundbreaking-discussion-vaccine-misinformation-and-growing>
8. United Nations Children's Fund. (2019). UNICEF launches #VaccinesWork campaign to inspire support for vaccines. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from UNICEF launches #VaccinesWork campaign to inspire support for vaccines. Retrieved September 6, 2019

from

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-launches-vaccineswork-campaign-inspire-support-vaccines>.

9. World Health Organization. (2019). Global Vaccination Summit. Retrieved September 6, 2019 from  
<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>
10. World Health Organization. (2019). Ten threats to global health in 2019. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/ten-threats-to-global-health-in-2019>
11. World Health Organization. (2019). Vaccination against measles increases amid ongoing measles outbreaks in Europe. Retrieved September 6, 2019 from  
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/emergencies/pages/news/news/2019/7/vaccination-against-measles-increases-amid-ongoing-measles-outbreaks-in-europe>

## **VI. Note to the Delegates**

We are pleased to have you as part of the World Health Organization committee. We wish to facilitate an engaging and progressive discussion, as well as achieve a consensus to further global health. We encourage you to participate in and enjoy *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* with us. It is a privilege to be partaking in this Model UN Conference with you! Please feel free to contact any of the chairs through email:

Audrey Michel, [amichel7331@stu.neisd.net](mailto:amichel7331@stu.neisd.net)

Diego Escobedo Ruiz, [descobedoru9730@stu.neisd.net](mailto:descobedoru9730@stu.neisd.net)

Isaiah Bosmans, [ibosmans1619@stu.neisd.net](mailto:ibosmans1619@stu.neisd.net)

Malachi Brand, [mbrand8450@stu.neisd.net](mailto:mbrand8450@stu.neisd.net)

---

## **VII. Director General Contact Information**

Joseph Ruelas - [jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net](mailto:jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net)

Dana Marion - [dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net](mailto:dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net)