

Committee: African Union

Topic: Terminating the Spread of the Ebola Virus

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

This committee hopes to create open discussion between countries and discover solutions to stop the transmission of the Ebola virus and prevent future outbreaks. Ebola is a deadly filovirus that causes severe hemorrhagic fever in humans and primates. The virus has no cure, and some strains kill about 50% of all victims. In 2014, the virus spread to the US and Europe; however, West Africa suffered the greatest losses: 11,316 deaths, \$2.2 billion dollars lost, and 33-39 weeks of no school¹. This committee hopes for a future in which fear of this virus has been diminished and a cure has been discovered. Through the implementation of research, funding, and experimental cures, this virus can be eliminated so that many will not pay with their lives.

III. Background of the Topic

Ebola first emerged in Sudan and Zaire in 1976 with a mortality rate of 53%⁵. Over the past 40 years, there has been a 15% increase in viral transmission, resulting in a new mortality rate of 68% in 2019. In recent years, prevention and isolation methods have become more organized and streamlined. The UN has increased funding for these prevention methods and training for doctors to effectively deal with outbreaks. The most efficient way to avoid the

contraction of Ebola is isolation from infected areas. Therefore, countries bordering the infected area often increase border security to prevent an Ebola outbreak³. In the past, when an outbreak has occurred, governments involved and the UN have worked together to isolate the infected in order to hinder the spread of the virus. Currently, there is no WHO approved cure or vaccination for Ebola, but scientists have made some headway in experimental trials.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Once a single human being has contracted the Ebola virus, every single country is at risk. Countries in Africa have a greater risk of experiencing an Ebola outbreak due to untrained medical staff and a lack of funding to properly implement prevention measures. The current outbreak has affected the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Rwanda²; however, the virus could easily spread to bordering nations and continents. Transmission of the disease can be deadly, as seen in the 2014-2015 outbreak when travelers carried the disease to their home countries⁶. The UN has repeatedly provided money for prevention, safety, and education of healthcare workers in an effort to treat any possible outbreaks. Finding an affordable cure would prevent any outbreaks in the future and save thousands of lives.

V. References and Research Resources

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2. CDC. (2019, August 29). Travelers' Health. Retrieved August 30, 2019 from <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>
3. Nhamire, B. (2019, August 3). Mozambique Sets Up Checkpoints for Ebola Along Malawi Border. Retrieved from August 5, 2019 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-03/mozambique-sets-up-checkpoints-for-ebola-along-malawi-border>

4. UNICEF. (2019). Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Retrieved from August 23, 2019 <https://www.unicef.org/wca/ebola-outbreak-democratic-republic-congo>
5. Waterman, T. (1999). Brief General History of Ebola. Retrieved August 24, 2019 from <https://virus.stanford.edu/filo/history.html>
6. WHO. (2015, September 1). Ebola in Nigeria and Senegal: stable – for the moment. Retrieved August 24, 2019 from <https://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/ebola-6-months/nigeria-senegal/en/>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings Delegates,

Thank you for participating in this year's conference, MUNSA XXIV, and the African Union committee. We hope you will find this year's topics intriguing and prepare well to be able to participate in the debate. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us by email.

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