

**World Health Organization  
President's Letter  
St. Bonaventure University Model UN Conference  
March 20-21, 2020**

**Chairing Style**

Hello delegates! I am August Fallon and I would like to welcome you to our Model UN conference at St. Bonaventure University. I am absolutely thrilled to be serving as the Chair of this Committee and look forward to the lively and informative debate that you will engage in throughout this conference.

Regarding my chairing style, I do expect you to know and understand the Rules of Procedure. The Rules of Procedure and parliamentary etiquette are the foundations of what it takes to be a well-rounded delegate. I also expect all delegates to do abundant research on the three topics that will be discussed in this committee.

**The Topics**

**Antimicrobial Resistance**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the ability of a microorganism (like bacteria, viruses, and some parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials) from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), antibiotic resistance is “one of the biggest public health challenges of our time.” The WHO has classified 12 priority pathogens that are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics. An example of the urgency of this is multidrug-resistant tuberculosis or MDR-TB. Tuberculosis is making a comeback due to it becoming increasingly resistant. This version of TB is resistant to isoniazid and rifampicin which

are the two most powerful drugs used to cure TB. The WHO estimates that this version kills at least 250,000 people each year. According to a study that was commissioned by the British government; it estimates that by the year of 2020, 10 million people worldwide could die each year from antibiotic resistant bacteria. The likes of this warrants the World Health Organization's immediate action to try and prevent the utter pandemonium that super bugs would create. This issue affects the entire mankind, if nothing is done to combat this or at least control it we could see the rise of more and more pathogens becoming resistant which could lead to a catastrophic global outbreak.

**Questions to consider:**

1. Why shouldn't a person infected with a virus be treated with an antibiotic?
2. What could be done to prevent more pathogens from becoming resistant to antibiotics?
3. How can the WHO provide assistance to researchers trying to combat these superbugs?
4. What guidelines can hospitals and research facilities take to prevent the growth of superbugs?

**Sources:**

1. Could antibiotic-resistant "superbugs" become a bigger killer than cancer? Link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/could-antibiotic-resistant-superbugs-become-a-bigger-killer-than-cancer-60-minutes-2019-04-21/>
2. Deadly superbugs pose greater threat than previously estimated. Link: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2019/11/13/deadly-superbugs-pose-greater-threat-than-previously-estimated/?arc404=true>

3. CDC report identifies two new potentially deadly superbugs. Link:  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cdc-report-identifies-two-new-potentially-deadly-superbugs-2019-11-13/>
4. Antibiotic / Antimicrobial Resistance (AR / AMR). Link:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/index.html>
5. Antimicrobial resistance. Link:  
<https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/en/>
6. WHO Releases List of World's Most Dangerous Superbugs. Link:  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/who-releases-list-of-worlds-most-dangerous-superbugs/>

## **HIV/AIDS**

As we all know, HIV and Aids are still a worldwide threat that could ruin a person's life. Once a person is infected with HIV, they will have it forever. There is this quote from Justin Miller in which he says "HIV still has the ability to strip a person of everything and reduce them to nothing. There are few things like it in the world. To lose your health, livelihood, marriage, and all social connections because of a disease is unfathomable." Statistics from the WHO indicate that there are 37.9 million people worldwide living with HIV in 2018 and 25.7 million of those people are from Africa. While deaths caused from HIV/AIDS have decreased, there is renewed concern that there are rising rates of infection across the globe. And with regards to the UNAIDS' 90-90-90 program, its goal was to have 90% of all people living with HIV to be aware of their status, seek treatment, and have it virally suppressed. However, those efforts have not been very successful yet. A lot more needs to be done to address this still serious and urgent health concern.

### **Question to Consider:**

1. How can we continue the UNAIDS' 90-90-90 program so that it can stay on track for its target date of 2020?
2. How can we help countries that do not have the sufficient health care system combat HIV/AIDS?
3. What can be done to fight the stigma related to living with HIV/AIDS?

### **Sources**

1. GLOBAL HIV AND AIDS STATISTICS. Link:  
<https://www.avert.org/global-hiv-and-aids-statistics>
2. World Health Organization: Data and Statistics. Link:  
<https://www.who.int/hiv/data/en/>
3. World Health Organization: HIV. Link:  
<https://www.who.int/hiv/en/>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: HIV. Link:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/default.html>
5. Explaining HIV and AIDS. Link:  
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/17131.php>

### **Universal Health Coverage**

As defined by the World Health Organization, Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship. This definition includes three

different objectives: equity in access to health services, good enough quality of health services to create benefit, and financial protection when faced with health problems. It is important to take notes of facts such as over half the world has yet to attain full coverage of health services, over 100 million people are living in extreme poverty due to health coverage costs, and over 800 million people spend over 10% of their daily income on health coverage. To understand the significance of this issue, just consider the current debates in the US, maybe the most advanced country in the world, and the passions it generates.

**Question to Consider:**

1. What is needed to achieve universal health coverage? Is this really feasible?
2. Are the most vulnerable people covered? If not, what could be done to fix this issue?
3. Are countries succeeding in implementing universal health coverage? Which ones? How?  
Is this more effective?

**Sources:**

1. World Health Organization: Universal health coverage. Link:  
[https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-\(uhc\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc))
2. What is health financing for universal coverage? Link:  
[https://www.who.int/health\\_financing/universal\\_coverage\\_definition/en/](https://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/)
3. Questions and Answers on Universal Health Coverage. Link:  
[https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/financing/uhc\\_qa/en/](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/financing/uhc_qa/en/)
4. The World Bank: Universal Health Coverage. Link:  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/universalhealthcoverage>
5. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: Universal Health Coverage. Link:

<http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/universal-health-coverage.htm>