



FAMUN 2021
FACAMP MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NEWSLETTER

5 SEPTEMBER 2021

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The century of vaccines

The role of the World Health Organization in ensuring immunization for all

By Victor Pamplona



Photo montage by Fernando Cavaliari

FAMUN 2021 Team vaccinated

Global health governance is passing through new turmoils nowadays. The current COVID-19 pandemic converged with the increase of nationalist movements and mistrust about health measures by some countries. In this regard, the World Health Organization (WHO) is facing unprecedented challenges to enhance cooperation among countries when health diplomacy is needed the most.

One of the main goals of the WHO is to foster initiatives towards global immunization. Although the organization has contributed with several campaigns that raised immunization rates throughout the decades, since 2010, the progress towards this objective has stalled. The lack of political commitment to enhance cooperation is part of the reason why global immunization is still a challenge. This can be related to the international trend of isolationism and nationalism regarding global health issues.

To revert this worrisome scenario, the WHO adopted the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) in 2020. The IA2030 aims at enhancing health diplomacy to tackle the challenges imposed by vaccine nationalism and unilateral policies adopted by several States. Furthermore, the IA2030 also aligns measures on how to reduce climate change effects in the immunization goal, since climate factors influence the outbreaks of new — and even vaccine-preventable — diseases. In this sense, multilateralism is a crucial tool so everyone can achieve the full enjoyment of the IA2030. The political commitment and cooperation must involve not only

States but other actors, such as the private sector and civil society, since no one is safe until everyone is safe.

Cristiana Toscano, Professor of Universidade de Goiás and Advisor of the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, discussed the IA2030 during FAMUN 2021 Interactive Dialogues. She reiterated that the process of building such global immunization agendas involves not only a top-down strategy but also bottom-up initiatives regarding its implementation and monitoring, considering the different realities among countries.

Professor Toscano highlighted there is a historical immunization gap between countries that affects access to health products and technology. This is why multilateralism is so important, as well as an independent stance of international organizations in order to leave no one behind in immunization.

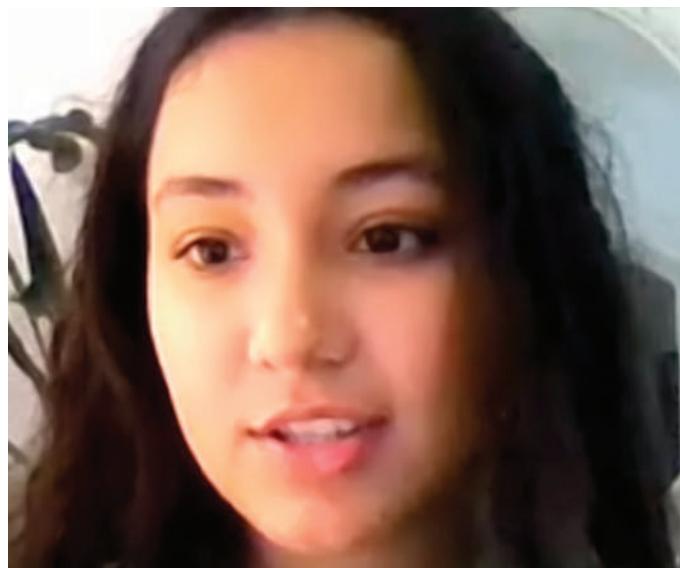
The difficulties in dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic reflect the immunization inequality between States. For example, even before vaccines were approved, England ordered five times more doses of vaccines than would be necessary to immunize its population. In a similar way, the US ordered 800 million doses and declared that they can purchase 1 billion more, while many countries are left behind in distributing the first dose of vaccines for their population. FAMUN Team is committed to raising awareness about the importance of immunization and we stand for COVID-19 vaccines for all!

Highlights from the World Health Assembly

WHA – High School

By Victor Pamplona

The relationship between immunization and sovereignty was the main issue discussed by the American Region and Western Pacific Region group. The US delegation took the lead in the negotiations highlighting its concern with sovereignty, at the same time that it supported the fight against misinformation and fake news. Barbados totally agreed with the US, since the country has not adopted mandatory vaccination. Uruguay expressed its concern with anti-vax movements, defending that it is a world-scale problem that must be approached. Canada brought a people-centered perspective to the debate, emphasizing the need of leaving no one behind in immunization. For the European Region and Eastern Mediterranean Region group, the UK suggested advertisements in social media to engage the young population to get vaccinated. Meanwhile, Israel and France mentioned the importance of including refugees in the access to vaccines. For these countries, companies and nonprofit organizations should support immunization for refugees, especially across borders. For the African Region and South-East Asia Region, immunization must be related to free public health. Burkina Faso and Somalia defended that countries should foster free vaccination through public health programs. When discussing Somalia's proposal, the UK and New Zealand recognized its importance, but for them, this should be treated as a domestic matter. On a similar hand, the Russian Federation disagreed with Somalia, pleading that it did not see the correlation between free public health and IA2030.



Laura Diniz, delegate of the New Zealand

WHA - University

By Victor Pamplona

The atmosphere in the first sessions was marked by disagreements in the positions of the delegates that compose the American Region group. The delegates from the US and Canada highlighted the importance of regional efforts when it comes to immunization plans, as they seemed concerned with the maintenance of their influence in the area. On the other hand, developing countries in the American Region, such as Brazil and Mexico, pointed out the need for research and innovation investments in the health sector in order to increase their capacity to produce and distribute vaccines. They also advocated for campaigns to combat misinformation about immunization programs. In the European Region and Eastern Mediterranean Region, Israel and Syria delegations highlighted the relationship between the immunization of refugees and the spread of fake news. Both countries addressed the need for fortified coordination and liaison between the WHO and national systems, requesting greater dialogue with developed countries so they can agree on this matter. In the African and South-East Asia Region, India expressed major concern about how vaccine patents prevent poor countries from increasing immunization coverage. In the same token, Zambia suggested a request for breaking patents to the WTO. However, when discussing with the whole Drafting Group, the matter was soon repealed by developed countries such as Israel, Canada, the US, and Germany. Instead, those countries proposed to promote technological collaboration and donation of vaccines to countries in need.



Yusuke Sakai, delegate of Zambia

Highlights from the Security Council

UNSC – High School

By Yasmin Almeida and Larissa Lyria

In her speech, the briefer reinforced that the peace process in Colombia faces important challenges, such as the violence against human rights defenders, social leaders, and ex-combatants. The delegation of France drew the attention of Council Members to the increasing violence against minority groups in Colombia, such as women, children, indigenous communities, and Afro-Colombians. Russia reinforced its delegation's commitment to the economic reintegration of former combatants and the importance of rural reform. However, Council Members disagreed regarding measures that should be taken to assure economic reintegration of FARC-EP members. Furthermore, the Members expressed their concerns about the safety of Comunes Party candidates in the 2022 elections. There is a consensus on the part of the Members of the Security Council concerning the respect for Colombian sovereignty and the end of violence against former combatants, social leaders, and human rights defenders. During the stakeout, the delegate of Estonia emphasized the relevant role of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP). She affirmed that the Council is committed to the victims of the conflict, but did not present solutions for this issue. This topic was also mentioned by the President, which highlighted the role of the SJP to speed up the process of reparation to the victims. While France addressed the importance of reinforcing the State's presence in rural areas and also showed concern for the delay with the implementation of the Peace Agreement.



Luigi Vicencio, delegate of Russia

Gisele Bertinato

UNSC – University

By Eduardo Ananiades

During the first session, the briefer signed that despite the advances in transitional justice, especially with the Special Jurisdiction of Justice, the social, economic, and political challenges to the Peace Agreement are persistent. She mentioned that the increasing violence perpetrated by illegal armed groups against former FARC-EP combatants, human rights defenders, and social leaders is a critical problem in Colombia. In the formal debate, the delegation of China stated that land reform is crucial to solve Colombian economic inequality. The delegation of Ireland criticized the slowness of the processes in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. To discuss the amendments to the draft resolution, the United States approached the illicit crops as one of the main obstacles to achieve peace in Colombia. Among the elected members, the delegation of Niger presented its concerns with the proximity of the 2022 presidential elections and the potential escalation of violence in the country. During the stakeout, the press focused on how the Council would approach matters related to the protection of vulnerable groups against violence perpetrated by illegal armed organizations. The delegation of France showed her concerns on the increasing violence against Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations. Viet Nam stated that her delegation's priority was to address the rural reform and the economic reintegration of ex-combatants. Tensions were high when the delegation of Russia criticized Colombia's position regarding Venezuela.



Gabrielle Costa, delegate of Viet Nam

Fernando Cavaliari

Flashes from Delegamer



FAMUN team and delegates playing at Delegamer

Coming up next...



MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

High School

- 09:00 – 10:30 | Session 4
- 10:45 – 11:30 | Head Delegate's Meeting
- 10:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break
- 14:00 – 15:30 | Session 5
- 16:00 – 17:00 | Faculty Advisors' Meeting
- 18:30 – 20:00 | Live Social Event: Rise and Shine

University

- 11:00 – 12:30 | Session 4
- 12:30 – 16:00 | Lunch Break
- 15:00 – 15:45 | Head Delegate's Meeting
- 16:00 – 17:30 | Session 5
- 18:30 – 20:00 | Live Social Event: Rise and Shine

Sing with FAMUN!



GET IN THE MOOD OF THE WHA
WITH OUR SPECIAL PLAYLIST!

VacinaButantan

MC Fioti

The cure

Lady Gaga

A cura

Lulu Santos

Andrà Tutto Bene

Cristóvam

Epiphany

Taylor Swift

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