



Historical Security Council

**Combatting the AIDS Pandemic :
France's Scandal (1980s-1990s) and the
Democratic Republic of Congo**

Chairs:

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Introduction:

Dear delegates,

We, Shivani Nebhwani and Ghita Houssini (ghitahoussini@gmail.com) are extremely delighted to welcome you to Tangier MUN 2021 and to the Historical Security Council. In the upcoming conference we will be acknowledging the topic Combatting the AIDS Pandemic: France's Scandal (1980s-1990s) and The Democratic Republic of Congo.

Topic Introduction:

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, better known as AIDS, is a life-threatening disease. AIDS is caused by HIV or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which attacks the immune system of the human body. HIV majorly transmits in one of the three ways – Blood, Prenatal and Sexual transmission. One should regularly and routinely get tested for HIV.

Multiple awareness drives by the UN, local government bodies and various nonprofit organizations have reduced the risk of spread by making the people aware of AIDS – spread and prevention. Though AIDS is a disease, which cannot be cured or eradicated from society, the only solution to AIDS lies in its prevention and awareness. We must have our regular and periodical health checkup. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the DRC is a large, complex issue. The government is not able to financially assist in the HIV/AIDS crisis due to corruption and lack of spending money. However, the government of the United States has recently become a financial supporter for the DRC.

Moreover, it is essential to highlight the fact that about 36 million people live with HIV/AIDS with more than the $\frac{2}{3}$ located in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite many awareness campaigns, UN involvements and governmental actions, many countries of that area have witnessed their life expectancy rate decline because of the HIV/AIDS issue. UNAIDS for instance, had helped the Democratic Republic of the Congo face many of its challenges caused by the disease.

Europe has also been affected by a scandal that occurred in the 1980s; France's infected blood scandal. The *Centre National de Transfusion Sanguine* knowingly distributed blood products infected with HIV to haemophiliacs. Countries such as Canada, Iraq, the USA... have

been impacted by this multinational HIV outbreak. With little to no involvement from the UN, the US Center for Disease Control has succeeded through a decade-long struggle, in making the French jurisdiction open a case regarding the issue and have trials take place in the 1990s.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the risk of transmitting HIV through blood for the pharmaceutical industry ?
2. Why is sub-Saharan Africa the most affected area ? Did all of the campaigns, involvements etc... help curtail the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate ?
3. What type of action plan governments can set up to help the population get rid of what became a deeply-rooted issue in their everyday life ?
4. Considering the fact that a trial has already occurred and French medical officials have been jailed, according to your country's point of view how should international bodies get involved ?

Key Words:

- **Global Public Health Security:** defined as the activities required to prevent and respond to threats that endanger the collective health of people across different regions and nations.
- **AIDS:** “acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,” a condition that results in serious damage to the immune system. It is caused by the HIV infection.
- **HIV:** “human immunodeficiency virus” a virus that damages the immune system.
- **Prevalence:** measures the frequency of existing disease in a defined population at a specific time. (Percentage of people living with **HIV**)
- **Active Immunity:** the immunity which results from the production of antibodies by the immune system in response to the presence of an antigen.
- **Adherence:** Taking HIV medications exactly as prescribed.
- **Non-Compliance:** Not sticking to a prescribed regimen of medications. The opposite of “adherence.” Non-compliance can make treatment much less effective.
- **STI:** a sexually transmitted infection.
- **Adverse Event:** An unsavory side effect of a medication being used for treatment.
- **Asymptomatic:** A phase of HIV infection in which no outward symptoms or signs of the condition can be observed.

UN Involvement:

Since 1996, its efforts have been coordinated by UNAIDS — the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations family, which brings together the efforts and resources of 11 UN system organizations to unite the world against AIDS.

Requirements:

- A. Substantial research on the topic.
- B. A position paper pertaining to the topic.
- C. Potential solutions to solving the issue.

Both position and resolution papers are due April 25th.

Bibliography/Useful Sources:

- <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/aids/index.html>
- <https://www.healthline.com/health/hiv-aids#diagnosis>
- <https://www.unaids.org/en/frequently-asked-questions-about-hiv-and-aids>
- <https://www.avert.org/professionals/history-hiv-aids/overview>
- <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/national/science/aids/timeline88-90.html>
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- <https://apnews.com/article/b4ed6e4f6251899e1b5347e79189884b>