



# **Security Council**

## **Lockdowns and Essential Services**

Chairs:

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Dear Delegates,

We, Salma Bennani and Ralia Benabbes-Taarji, are delighted to welcome you to the eighth annual Tangier Model UN Conference! During the upcoming conference, the United Nations Security Council Committee will be entertaining the topic of Lockdown and Essential Services.

### **Committee Introduction**

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It is responsible for the peace and security internationally and is constituted of 15 Members, each having one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations every Member State is required to conform to the resolutions taken in the Council.

The Security Council makes decisions concerning possible harm to the peace or demonstrations of hostility by calling upon its Member States to settle it by tranquil methods and suggests solutions for change or terms of the settlement. Sporadically, the Security Council can employ sanctions or even approve the utilization of power to reestablish or maintain international peace.

### **Topic Introduction**

Covid-19 various responses around the world has engendered contradicting views on lockdowns and essential services. Essential services vary depending on the country. Qualified and adapted health systems can still provide permanent access to essential service, while decreasing the spread of the pandemic and mortality.

### **Background**

In 1377, the concept of Quarantine was first introduced in Dubrovnik, Croatia. In 1423, the first permanent plague hospital (lazaretto) was opened by the Republic of Venice. In the Fifteenth century, Venice created a world leading system in an attempt to control the Black Death (The Bubonic Plague killed 30-50% of Europe's population). This infrastructure

focused on limiting movement of individuals suspected of being infected by the disease while authorizing the constant flow of goods and merchandise. Countries attempted to create a balance between restriction and the necessary continuity of economic growth. These measures extremely influenced countries in Europe and the Mediterranean because they were replicated.

The Spanish Flu, also called the 1918 Influenza, was an unusually deadly pandemic that affected a third of the world population and killed 100 million people. Multiple different responses to the pandemic were tried. The ancestor of the World Health Organization, Office International d'Hygiène Publique, played no role in the outbreak unlike WHO's response today. Health authorities in the biggest cities of the Western part of the world set a range of disease-containment strategies, including closing schools, religious infrastructures, and theaters and putting to a stop public gatherings. Such measures were implemented in an aim to contain infection, slow down the spread of disease, minimize terror, death, and maintain the infrastructure of society.

Covid-19 is an ongoing pandemic affecting countries all across the world. The world pandemic of Covid-19 has engendered various responses from countries world wide. This outbreak carried with it some difficulties such as a way to track and empower the progression of essential services in urban communities that are intended to be under lockdowns. To assist countries navigate through these challenges, the World Health Organization (WHO) has updated operational planning guidelines in balancing the need to respond to COVID-19 while keeping essential health service delivery, and decreasing the chance of system collapse. This includes a collection of targeted immediate actions that countries are encouraged to consider at national, regional, and local level to reorganize and maintain access to high-quality essential health services for all. WHO states that countries should determine essential services which will be prioritized in their efforts to take care of the continuity of service delivery and make strategic shifts to confirm that increasingly limited resources still provide maximum benefit for the population. They also must adequately adhere to high precautions, especially in hygiene practices, and the provision of sufficient supplies including personal protective equipment. WHO acknowledges that this needs strong and persistent planning and coordinated actions between governments and health facilities and their managers.

Some samples of essential services given by WHO include: “Regular vaccination; reproductive health services including care during pregnancy and childbirth; care of young infants and older adults; management of psychological state conditions as well as noncommunicable diseases and infectious diseases like HIV, malaria and TB; critical inpatient therapies; management of emergency health conditions; auxiliary services like basic diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, and bank services, among others,”.

## **Topic Discussion**

More than a health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis and a human rights crisis. This crisis has revealed serious vulnerabilities and inequalities within and between nations. A whole-of-society, entire-of-government and whole-of-the-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity is necessary to come out of this crisis.

While many crises have occurred in the world, COVID-19 presents unprecedented challenges. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres suggests that the coronavirus pandemic is rapidly transforming into a "broader crisis of child rights." Media coverage shows that domestic abuse and violence against children are growing. The risk factors for crime, harassment, and neglect are abundantly clear for children under containment. Consequently, Some COVID-19 prevention measures have abruptly cut off children from positive and supportive relationships, including at school, in the extended family, and in the community, on which they rely when in distress.

Concerns about mental health and drug use, including concerns about suicidal ideation, have risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. 41 percent of adults reported signs of anxiety and/or depressive disorder in January 2021, a proportion which has been relatively stable since spring 2020. In a survey from June 2020, 13% of adults reported new or increased substance use due to coronavirus-related stress, and 11% of adults reported thoughts of suicide in the past 30 days. Suicide rates have long been on the rise and may worsen due to the pandemic. Early 2020 data show that drug overdose deaths were particularly pronounced from March to May 2020, coinciding with the start of pandemic-related lockdowns.

Apart from these topics, delegates are extremely encouraged to debate about what are the general qualifications necessary to go into lockdown and which services should be considered essential to the country based on health safety and economic standards. The varied responses to this aspect of the challenge have been widely contrasted with each other. The Kingdom of Sweden Konungariket Sverige's response to COVID-19 has been less intrusive and impactful than the majority of the other country's responses, with no general lockdown. Restaurants, bars, Kindergartens, public areas and schools for students age lower than 16 remained open throughout the pandemic, while schools for older students were closed for three months. Quarantine for infected households was not enforced in The Kingdom of Sweden in the first eight months. Additionally, social distancing was mandatory only in restaurants, bars and when meeting an elderly at a care home, apart from that, physical distancing was only recommended. The wearing of masks was neither compulsory nor recommended to the population. To minimize travel, citizens were urged to work from home, if possible. In making these decisions, PHA may have given more priority to different services and disregarded the lockdown option for varying reasons. On the other hand, the Republic of India, was under the world's largest lockdown.

### **Key Words**

- **Case Fatality Rate** - The case fatality rate (CFR), sometimes called the fatality rate, is the term used to describe the proportion of people who have died from the disease among the total infected population.
- **Lockdown** - a state of isolation or restricted access instituted as a security measure.
- **Community transmission** - Community transmission occurs when a virus starts appearing in people who haven't had any known contact with an infected individual or travelled to an area where it is present.
- **Flattening the curve** - When health officials say they're focusing on "flattening the curve," it means they're putting in place interventions and restrictions to slow the spread of a virus so there isn't a large spike of cases in a short period of time.
- **Essential service** - Essential services are the services and functions that are absolutely necessary, even during a pandemic. They maintain the health and welfare of the municipality. Without these services, sickness, poverty, violence, and chaos would likely result

## **Questions to Consider**

- What are the essential infrastructures, critical business continuity services that should be maintained whilst countries are trying to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus?
- Should regulations vary amongst countries with different economic development and financial stability?
- What is the adequate balance between a safe response to the Covid-19 pandemic and a mentally as well as financially well supported community while incurring economic growth?
- Should lockdowns prioritize the health of the citizens over the overall economy and financial stability when setting lockdown measures.
- What are some policies that can serve to support individuals in domestically abusive situations?

## **Requirements**

- A considerable amount of knowledge on the topic.
- Resolution Paper
- Position papers with the delegations position on the topic.

**Note: Delegates, we strongly encourage you to begin thorough research on the topic as soon as possible, and begin working on your position papers. This information is continually changing to keep up with this changing pandemic. Vaccines may change protocols for different countries. Please ensure that you send us your position paper and resolution before March 24th, 2021, so that we can review them. For your position papers, read the information provided to you above and make sure to faithfully represent your country's position. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us at [salma.bennani\\_ast.ma](mailto:salma.bennani_ast.ma) or [r.benabbes.taarji@gmail.com](mailto:r.benabbes.taarji@gmail.com).**

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