



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, Ralia Ben Abbes Taarji (r.benabbes.taarji@gmail.com) and Maria Erzini (maria.erzini@ast.ma) are extremely delighted to welcome you to Tangier MUN 2022 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.

Introduction to the Committee

The UN Charter created the Historical Security Council as a permanent body tasked with safeguarding international peace and security. The UNSC is the sole body that can compel a country to do something if a Resolution is passed. The UNSC can also form subcommittees to help in its operations and request fact-finding expeditions to gather additional information on a dispute. Our committee will endeavor to revisit HIV and AIDS problems in this instance. The Historical Committee will operate in a similar manner as the Security Council, except that instead of debating current issues, the HSC would debate historical disagreements as they occurred.

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 is generally transmitted in one of the three ways – Blood, Prenatal and Sexual transmission.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a large, complex issue. According to studies, HIV/AIDS originates from HIV crossing from chimps to humans in the 1920s. Approximately 36 million people have HIV/AIDS, over two thirds are located in sub-Saharan Africa. UNAIDS had been involved in assisting the DRC when facing the challenges caused by the disease.

In the mid 1980's France was involved in a major health scandal over allegedly distributing blood contaminated with the AIDS virus knowingly. The scandal involved three French health officials being indicted after being criminally charged for distributing blood

products known to be containing the virus. Approximately 40 percent of France's 3000 haemophiliacs became infected with AIDS.

There have been multiple awareness campaigns as well as UN involvements such as UNAIDS. This is an innovative organisation part of UN's Sustainable Goals that provides "the strategic direction, advocacy, coordination and technical support needed to catalyse and connect leadership from governments, the private sector and communities to deliver life-saving HIV services. Without UNAIDS, there would be no strategic vision for the AIDS response."(UNAIDS)

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the risk of contracting HIV through blood from the pharmaceutical industry?
2. Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region. Did all of the campaigns, involvements etc... help curtail the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate ?
3. What type of action plan can governments set up to help the population get rid of what became a deeply-rooted issue in their everyday life?
4. In what ways are countries responsible for helping highly affected underdeveloped countries limit the spread of HIV/AIDS? Should international organizations become involved?
5. Taking into consideration that a trial has already occurred and French medical officials have been jailed, according to your country's position how should international bodies get involved?

Key Words:

- **Global Public Health Security:** The activities required to minimize and prevent the endangerment of public health across geographical regions and international boundaries.
- **AIDS:** "acquired immunodeficiency syndrome," immunodeficiency virus that is caused by the HIV infection. It is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition.
- **HIV:** "human immunodeficiency virus" a virus that attacks immune system and can lead at AIDS
- **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 medicines every day and exactly as prescribed

- **Non-Compliance:** Not taking HIV medicines with a prescribed regimen.

Non-compliance can make treatment much less effective.

- **STI:** a sexually transmitted infection.
- **Adverse Event:** The negative side effects of a medication being used for treatment.
- **Asymptomatic:** A stage of the HIV infection where no outward symptoms or signs of the condition can be observed.

Requirements:

- A. A considerable amount of knowledge on the topic.
- B. A position paper pertaining to the topic.
- C. Potential solutions to solving the issue.

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 December 30th 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 maria.erzini@ast.ma or r.benabbes.taarji@gmail.com.