



Tangier Model United Nations

**WHO**

**Pharmaceutical Labs: Needs, Finance, Human  
trials**

**Chairs: Maryam Jaebak & Saad El Ouazzani**

Dear Delegates of The WHO Committee,

We, Maryam Jaebak and Uma Joyston-Bechal are very pleased to welcome you to the annual Tangier Model United Nations conference and to the WHO committee. During the conference the WHO committee will be discussing the topic of : **Pharmaceutical Labs: Needs, Finance, Human trials**. We advise you to read through this chair packet carefully and find answers to the questions we have laid out.

If you need any help with anything, do not hesitate to contact us :

(Please send us your phone numbers as we will be creating a whatsapp group!)

Uma Joyston-Bechal - [umajb100@gmail.com](mailto:umajb100@gmail.com)

Maryam Jaebak - [maryam.jaebak\\_ida@ast.ma](mailto:maryam.jaebak_ida@ast.ma)

### **Introduction**

Throughout our time pharmaceuticals have taken all shapes and forms. From ancient Greek medicines to today's vaccinations programs. Pharmaceutical companies are one of the leading corporations in the medical world today. Without them doctors wouldn't be able to properly do their jobs and more lives would be lost. In order to create these medications we rely on pharmaceutical labs that are crucial in identifying, developing and purifying medicines that need to be distributed on a global scale.

In order for these labs to continue protecting our global population they require a level of financing and funding by national governments, which is why the World Health Organization has been aiming to ensure that it gets the funding and resources required to carry out their role.

Along with these labs, human trials are crucial in their work to develop the vaccines and drugs needed to cure global suffering from a number of different ailments. Human trials are a type of research conducted to test new treatments to upcoming sicknesses. Volunteers in different

countries put themselves forward to be tested with different doses, medications etc. After this, they are carefully designed, reviewed and completed until they are approved by a superior screening process like the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We must bear in mind though, that the trial may not develop strictly positive outcomes but it can lead to discoveries in other areas.

As we are living in a world of pandemic and illness we have concrete evidence that these pharmaceutical labs are crucial and are carrying us through the turmoil. Due to Covid-19, labs have been working double-time to create different vaccines that we have today. As we have seen with the new Omicron variant our vaccines may not cover all strains of the virus or any virus. For this reason it is up to pharmaceutical labs and heaving financing to create new vaccines or medications that can combat the virus. The vaccine has not only saved people's lives but it is saving the depleting economy of countries around the world. The WHO has been struck into action during this latest pandemic. Without it, there would be no order or control group to lead us through these hard times, which is why this committee is so crucial at this year's TMUN conference on the topic of health and safety.

### **Topics to Consider**

The WHO committee will be tackling a multitude of topics throughout the conference. These topics will mainly be focused around the following :

#### **Pharmaceutical Finance and Resource Allocation**

The Covid-19 pandemic has been extremely demanding in terms of medical resources. Medical institutions at the frontlines of the pandemic often find themselves running out of critical supplies and in shortage of staff due to the exhausting conditions of the workplace. Although for the most part funding for vaccine development has been relatively generous and vaccine roll-out has been going smoothly, it's important to set guidelines as to how to ration and prioritize resources in the case of an emergency.

## **Vaccine Efficiency**

The speed of the Covid-19 vaccine development is unprecedented in medical history. While standard vaccine development takes around 10-15 years, several Covid-19 vaccines were created, evaluated, and authorized for emergency use within a year of the appearance of the virus. Massive efforts have been put into accelerating the development of the vaccine which has significantly advanced the world towards the goal of achieving herd immunity. On the other hand, the appearance of new Covid strains, such as the recent Omicron variant, pose concern that the vaccines will not be effective against these mutations. This places a lot of pressure on the pharmaceutical companies manufacturing these vaccines to produce vaccines that are effective and safe. Vaccine manufacturers must create effective vaccines that will provide long-term protection against different types of strains that might emerge while ensuring that these vaccines remain completely safe.

## **Vaccine Safety and Hesitation**

Questions about the safety of the covid-19 vaccines are some of the most asked questions on the internet. All currently approved and/or authorized covid vaccines by the WHO go through rigorous processes to ensure they are safe and efficient. However, there is still much speculation and hesitation around the vaccine. This hesitation, be it biased or unbiased, as well as misinformation spread about the vaccine hinders the WHO's mission to reach immunization by vaccinating everyone.

## **Vaccine and Resource Monopolization**

The Covid-19 pandemic and the global recession drove millions of individuals around the world into poverty. But this economic crisis hasn't affected everyone in the same way, and while developing countries, namely African countries, have been disproportionately suffering from it, the privileged seem to be profiting off of it. It is crucial that vaccine production doesn't become an industry that capitalizes on the suffering of people, and that vaccines be equally available to nations all over the world despite their financial status. The WHO has to ensure that developing countries have access to the vaccines and the medical material necessary to control the pandemic while also ensuring that they can properly allocate the funds necessary for its development and production.

## **Vaccine Distribution and Equity**

As of December 2021, over 8 billion vaccine doses have been administered. However, the majority of those doses are being administered to residents of high-income countries. Only about 7% (says WHO) of low-income countries have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and a

large part of those low-income countries are African countries. Not only does this inequity of vaccine distribution put countries at a high risk of contracting the disease and producing mutations of it, but it also sets back the WHO's goals to reach certain percentages of vaccination worldwide. The WHO says that the problem doesn't lie in the supply of the doses, but in their allocation. Manufacturers and distributors must work to prevent the hoarding of vaccines and resources by high-income countries and ensure that they are equitably distributed all around the world. Vaccine equity is an absolute necessity in order to move forward with putting an end to the pandemic.

### Questions to Consider

- How important are human trials ?
- Is it right for pharmaceutical companies to experiment with human trials ?
- Should ethics be considered in the distribution of vaccines ?
- How can the vaccine be equitably distributed/ how to reach mass vaccination in underdeveloped countries ?
- How have pharmaceutical regulations affected the production and distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines ?
- What is COVAX's initiative for the development of the vaccine ?
- How to give pharmaceuticals all the resources needed to carry out?
- What are the economic effects of pharmaceuticals? Positive? Negative?

### Key Terms

- **Pharmaceuticals:** *substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease and for restoring, correcting, or modifying organic functions*
- **Human Trials :** *any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.*
- **Pharmaceutical Labs:** *area in which new drugs to combat certain illnesses are being created.*
- **LDCs:** *Least developed countries.*
- **MDCs:** *More developed countries.*
- **COVAX:** *Covid-19 vaccines global access initiative.*
- **FDA:** *U.S Food and Drug Administration.*

## WHO Key Dates in Response to Covid-19 (not all dates)

- **December 31st, 2019:** WHO's Country Office in the People's Republic of China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, People's Republic of China
- **February 19th, 2020:** Weekly WHO Member State Briefings on COVID-19 began, to share the latest knowledge and insights on COVID-19.
- **March 3rd, 2020:** WHO issued a call for industry and governments to increase manufacturing by 40 per cent to meet rising global demand in response to the shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide.
- **March 25th 2020:** WHO also updated its operational planning guidelines to help countries balance the demands of responding directly to COVID-19 while maintaining essential health service delivery, protecting health care workers and mitigating the risk of system collapse
- **April 4th, 2020:** WHO reported that over 1 million cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed worldwide, a more than tenfold increase in less than a month
- **April 6th, 2020:** WHO issued updated guidance on masks, including a new section on advice to decision-makers on mask use by healthy people in communities
- **May 7th, 2020:** The UN launched an update to the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for \$6.7 billion to minimize the most debilitating effects of the pandemic in 63 low and middle-income countries.
- **September 10th, 2020:** Global leaders, including over 30 heads of state and ministers, committed to: provide sustained political leadership, advocate in support of the ACT-Accelerator Investment Case and work to ensure that all countries and populations have early, affordable and equitable access to the new vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics the ACT-Accelerator is pursuing.
- **December 31st, 2020:** WHO issued first emergency use validation for a Covid-19 vaccination program and vaccine.
- **January 5th, 2021:** WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) gathered to review the vaccine day of the Pfizer vaccine.

- **February 2nd, 2021:** Nomenclature groups, international experts and the Virus Evolution Working Group Explores a mechanism to standardized nomenclature for variants.
- **February 8th, 2021:** COVAX issues a statement on new variants of Covid-19 outline the importance of the vaccine.
- **February 23rd, 2021:** WHO publishes it's COVID-19 vaccine introduction toolkit for all countries to prepare for and implement in the Covid-19 vaccination program. In addition WHO co-hosted the Recovery Plant for the World.
- **February 24th, 2021:** COVAX global rollout began and Ghana became the first country outside India to receive Covid-19 vaccines shipped via COVAX.
- **March 8th, 2021:** WHO held an experiment on using dogs for Covid-19 screening.
- **April 7th, 2021:** COVAX delivered vaccines to over 100 economies, 42 days after its first international delivery.

## Requirements

Please keep these requirements in mind :

- Position Paper
- Research/Knowledge of Topic
- Research/Knowledge of your country and other countries in relation to the topic.
- Resolution Paper

## Useful Links

<https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>

<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/financing-development>

<https://www.ifpma.org/resource-centre/momentum-of-covid-19-vaccine-manufacturing>

<https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/vaccine-development-testing-and-regulation>

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax>