

Model United Nations of Hamburg 2015

Forum	Special Commission (Health)
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Issue	Finding measures to stop the rapid spreading of epidemics in slums

Epidemics Today:

An epidemic is, by definition of Webster's New Encyclopaedic Dictionary something, "affecting many individuals at one time (an epidemic disease)". This is the main subject of this Issue. An epidemic in this context is a widespread disease affecting large amounts of people, especially those without adequate healthcare. Some notable cases of epidemics in history include the [Black \(or Bubonic\) Plague](#) in the years 1347 to 1351, the [1916 Polio Epidemic](#) and the [1918 – 1919 Influenza Pan-demic](#) (Pandemic — an outbreak of disease occurring over a wide area and affecting many people).

Why do epidemics occur?:

Through modern globalisation, the urbanisation of territories and frequent travelling has become a norm in society, especially since methods of travel, for example by airplane, have become far more affordable. This of course leads to the more efficient spreading of a disease, meaning more people are infecting, meaning the disease becomes far more widespread than it might have been. Thus, an epidemic occurs, which continues until it is either contained or a vaccine against this disease is discovered.

Of course, urbanisation plays no minor role in the spread of epidemics. Due to a change in culture and global thinking, far larger amounts of people, poor and rich, want to move out of rural villages and small towns and into larger, urbanised areas. Because of the increase of city inhabitants, the price of the housing within the city itself has risen, as well as that of housing in the suburbs. Those who are unable to afford the apartments in the city, but are unwilling or even unable to leave then build large partly urbanised areas called "slums" (A thickly populated usually urban area marked by crowding, run-down housing, and generally wretched living conditions). These slums are usually densely populated and technologically undeveloped. There is little if any running water or electricity, despite the slums being on the

outskirts of large and advanced cities. Due to their dense population, diseases are able to spread quickly and immediately, and since the inhabitants of the slums frequently leave it, they spread the diseases even farther outside the borders of the slums.

UN Resolutions:

Since epidemics are a serious matter and threaten the lives of millions, the UN has adopted several resolutions on the subject, some having been discussed even by the Security Council. Since for a long time now, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) has been a constant and so far incurable danger, some resolutions have been debated upon and adopted on this matter. One resolution passed that dealt with the matter of HIV/AIDS is Resolution 1983 (found [here](#)), which was passed in 2011.

Another very serious disease that recently struck the world was Ebola. The disease spread very quickly and due to people with the disease travelling to other countries, the disease even spread to other continents. Nevertheless, due to effective quarantine, the diseases did not manage to spread very far in those countries. Health workers and security were able to contain Ebola within the African continent, and the disease was not able to spread very far in those countries. This matter was also discussed by the Security Council, which subsequently passed Resolution 2177 in 2014 (found [here](#)).

As one can see, despite rapid advancements in medical fields, these epidemic diseases still have no cure and pose a considerable threat. Therefore, the UN has struggled to do as much as possible to contain and eradicate these diseases as well as they can.

Prevention of Pandemics:

As the diseases that can develop into epidemics are usually easily transmitted, the disease must be contained as rapidly as possible, and vaccines or medication against the disease have to be found quickly, to prevent the situation from escalating any further.

Preparation for Resolutions:

As a delegate, you will be required to present your opinion on the matter, as well as describing how your country plans to aid other countries with a severe lack of healthcare, or how, if your country is one with poor healthcare, you wish to appeal to more wealthy countries, so that they may help your country develop.

For useful information on Epidemics and Pandemics, you may want to visit the websites of WHO and the UN. (www.who.int and www.un.org respectively.)

Timeline of Reported Diseases in 2015:

(The timeline is dated from most recent to oldest. Sorry)

- 26 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 26 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates
- 23 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 23 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 20 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Thailand
- 19 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 16 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 16 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 16 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates
- 15 June 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 12 June 2015
Measles – Chile
- 12 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 11 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 9 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates
- 9 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 8 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 6 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 6 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 5 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 4 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 4 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 4 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Oman
- 1 June 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 1 June 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

- 31 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar
- 31 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 30 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – China
- 30 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 28 May 2015
Lassa Fever – United States of America
- 25 May 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 24 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates
- 24 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea
- 24 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar
- 24 May 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 18 May 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates
- 17 May 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 15 May 2015
Rapidly growing outbreak of meningococcal disease in Niger
- 14 May 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 13 May 2015
Ebola virus disease – Italy
- 8 May 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Iran
- 8 May 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 29 April 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 29 April 2015
Meningococcal disease - Niger
- 16 April 2015
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 15 April 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 9 April 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 26 March 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 20 March 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 17 March 2015
Typhoid fever – Uganda
- 13 March 2015
Meningococcal disease - Nigeria
- 11 March 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 11 March 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar

- 11 March 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 9 March 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Germany
- 6 March 2015
Measles – WHO European Region
- 6 March 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 26 February 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 26 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 23 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 16 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 13 February 2015
Measles – The Americas
- 13 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – The Philippines
- 12 February 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus – China
- 11 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 11 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar
- 11 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates
- 8 February 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 3 February 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 1 February 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – Canada
- 27 January 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 23 January 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Oman
- 20 January 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 19 January 2015
Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- 16 January 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Oman
- 15 January 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- 5 January 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Jordan
- 5 January 2015
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

Bibliography:

<http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,2027479,00.html> – Notable Epidemics

<http://www.healthcarebusinesstech.com/the-10-deadliest-epidemics-in-history/> - Notable Epidemics

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/> - Recent disease outbreaks

<http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/introduction/en/index5.html> - WHO on spread of diseases

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2011/sc10272.doc.htm> - UN press on Resolution 1983

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11566.doc.htm> - UN press on Resolution 2177

http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/sub_landing/files/20110607_UNSC-Resolution1983.pdf - Resolution 1983

<https://www.ifrc.org/docs/IDRL/UN%20SC%20Res.pdf> – Resolution 2177

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/en/> - Archives of reported possible pandemic diseases.

In case of any questions, send them to this e-mail address: specialcom@munoh.com

In case of you not being able to contact that address, send your question to this one:

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