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## **Introductory Messages from Chairs**

### **Rayden Yap - Head Chair**

Greetings, delegates! My name is Rayden, and I'll be serving as your Head Chair for the United Nations General Assembly. I was always one for public speaking; my journey started back in 2018, with an event known as the World Scholar's Cup. As a pre-IGCSE student in ACS Jakarta, it was no surprise that MUN was an option that came back to me a few years later - my past experiences have proved invaluable since. My passion has brought me to more than 10 conferences with my fair share of awards, one of which being Outstanding Delegate in Yale MUN Asia 2021. I've learnt through experience that you don't have to be the smartest in the room to win - it's all about those who can direct the flow of speaking and stay on their feet when faced with difficulty. These challenges are often accompanied by a lot of 'what ifs'. But after all, that's what brings me to the spirit of MUN. Albeit the experiences that delegates may face, I have constantly found harmony in the memorable moments, passionate debate and tireless determination. Nonetheless, Lavinya and I can't wait for the engagement and unity of all the delegates here. See you soon!

### **Lavinya Ong - Co Chair**

Hello everyone! My name is Lavinya and I'll be your co-chair for SUMUNC'21. You may know me from school, or through my brother but I am a proud former deputy secretary general of this very conference. Our goal from the start was simple, to become one of the first few SMK schools to pioneer the Model UN scene around Subang Jaya to allow our students to think critically, be comfortable with public speaking and be able to interact and cooperate with one another to come up with solutions for the problems around the world. I am proud of my fellow juniors for they are still able to carry out this year's conference, despite all of its setbacks and I thank them for this opportunity to chair their conference. If it's your first time, please do not worry! It is a normal learning process and we are all here to help you build your potential so don't be afraid to speak up and ask questions, or to contact me personally should you require any assistance or guidance.

*We highly encourage delegates to refer to this Study Guide in doing your own research as what is written on this document is topics that the Board of Dais is expecting to hear. Furthermore, by answering the QARMAs through your draft resolution, it can highly benefit you in creating an ideal resolution. All these can help you in delivering substantial discussions, engaging actively, and initiating innovative solutions. Ergo, good luck delegates!*

## **Introduction to the Council**

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, the only one in which all Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote. All 193 Member States of the United Nations are represented in this unique forum to discuss and work together to make decisions on important issues around the world, as covered by the UN Charter, such as those on international law, budgetary matters and such. The most recent session of the General Assembly, held online last year, for the first time in history, was used to discuss global challenges, such as but not limited to the maintenance of international peace and security, promotion of human rights, effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts, etc.



## Position Paper Guidelines

Please note that our council will be done in the Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) format, in line with the Official Malaysian Youth Association for Diplomacy and Policy Standardised HMUN Rule of Procedure. The document can be found via the link below:

[https://2ea44d25-76b0-4aa8-8cae-4567543846f8.filesusr.com/ugd/88a5d7\\_e6ac04be6a484b5197b4cc2217878cd3.pdf](https://2ea44d25-76b0-4aa8-8cae-4567543846f8.filesusr.com/ugd/88a5d7_e6ac04be6a484b5197b4cc2217878cd3.pdf)

Following the HMUN Rules of Procedure, Position Papers for this council will be required for you to be considered for awards. Writing a position paper allows you to think about the information you have researched and helps you to express your ideas concisely and clearly, making you better prepared for the conference. Generally, your position paper will include a background of the topic, position taken by your country and your proposed solution, all based on your country's policy. Please submit your position paper as a PDF document with the title *country\_council\_SUMUNC21* and email it to both of the chairs, latest by the 22nd of April (Thursday).

The content of your Position Paper must contain:

- Your country's past actions relating to the topics of your council.
- Your country's stance on both topics.
- Justifying your country's reason for its particular stance on the matter.
- Steps your country has taken to address any related issues to the topic.
- Recommendations your country would make regarding the matter.
- Any conflicting matters regarding your proposed solution to the matter.

Your Position Paper must have a format of:

- Maximum of two pages (excluding citations/bibliography).
- Font Times New Roman, Size 12.
- Justified alignment with 1.5 spacing.
- Page count on the bottom right of the position paper.
- Citations/bibliography on the last page for both topics.

- Header with the format (Council - Country).

### ***Topic 1 - Background***

#### ***Addressing The Issues Of Ocean Exploration***

Scientists have successfully photographed a black hole, landed rovers on Mars and sent spacecraft to the dark side of the moon. Yet, one of the most familiar aspects of the earth, the ocean remains largely unknown to us. As of now, more than 80% of the ocean remains unexplored, while only 7% of the world's oceans are designated as marine protected areas.

Ocean exploration relates to the investigation of physical, chemical and biological conditions on the sea bed, for scientific or commercial purposes. Exploration is key to increasing our understanding of the ocean, so we can more effectively manage, conserve, regulate and use ocean resources that are vital to our economy and our livelihood. Through ocean exploration, we collect data and information needed to address both current and emerging science and management needs. It also helps to ensure that ocean resources are not just managed but managed in a sustainable way to ensure its continuity for future generations.

The deepest part of the ocean, currently known as the Mariana Trench, with its depth of 10,984 metres, have only been explored by four manned descents and three unmanned descents. This is due to the harsh conditions under the sea. With its freezing cold water, lack of light and extremely high pressure, it makes it almost impossible for humans to dive and explore it without the use of specially constructed steel chambers, bathyscaphe, remotely operated vehicles and such inventions. Somehow, like a miracle, there is still life surviving and we are only beginning to learn about them.

Following the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, one of the 17 goals to be achieved by the year 2030 is life below water - conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. As we know it, the ocean plays an important role in sustaining and regulating human life, in terms of drinking water, climate, coastlines, the food we eat and even oxygen in the air we breathe. In recent years, the state of our oceans are worrying, where there is continuous damage to the ocean shore, ocean acidification which has caused a disruption in the ecosystem, possible threats to biodiversity with a constant pollution problem. In the past year though, the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed the ocean to recover, based on a report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific this is due to the shutdown of activities, reduced human mobility and resource demands during the pandemic.

Figuring out how life is sustainable under those conditions can reveal new sources for medical therapies and vaccines, food, energy and more while even mimicking the adaptations

of deep-sea animals. This will allow us to better understand the earth, providing us with the knowledge to better respond to climate change, earthquakes, tsunamis and other hazards. Many scientists believe that the conditions found in these deep-sea trenches closely resemble the early conditions of our planet and these organisms may resemble early life on earth in some important ways.

## **Past Actions**

### **UNESCO'S Global Ocean Science Report**

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000250428>

### **The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)**

<http://www.51-site.com/download/Implementation%20Plan%20Summary.pdf>

### **National Ocean Exploration Forum**

<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/national-forum/welcome.html>

<https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/mcri/info/>

[the\\_report\\_of\\_ocean\\_exploration\\_2020\\_a\\_national\\_forum](#)

### **Ocean Exploration Vessels (The Okeanos Explorer and E/V Nautilus)**

Okeanos Explorer: <https://cpaess.ucar.edu/okeanos-explorer-in-training-program>

E/V Nautilus: <https://nautiluslive.org/>



## **Areas of Debate**

It is understood that ocean exploration may be beneficial to humankind, but yet we know more about the surface of Mars, than our ocean itself. Marine experts at the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), under the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO who have produced a reference map of the bathymetry of the world's oceans, says it wants nothing more than to see future marine exploration on par with the space race. Hence, the various areas of debate are, but not limited to:

- ***Lack of Resources/Funding***

Based on a report published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ocean research vessels compile charges ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000 a day to operate. The high cost is due to the equipment and devices used for these explorations must be able to withstand all the harsh conditions and for the crew itself, which must be able to sustain their livelihood in the middle of the ocean for a long period of time. There is also a large need to carry out further research to continue to improve these equipment and devices for long term use.

- ***Research of Deep Sea Aquatic Life***

Deep sea creatures almost never survive the trip to the surface of the water. This is due to their bodies being almost immune to the deep sea's high pressure and the trip ascending will cause them to undergo decompression, which will ultimately kill them.

Since ocean water would obstruct a satellite's radio waves, scientists have to use sonar techniques, primarily sound waves to 'see' in the water. Sonar, short for sound navigation and ranging, allows them to develop nautical charts, locate underwater hazards for navigation, search for and map objects on the seafloor and map the seafloor itself. However, sonar may also be a threat to aquatic life, as it can lead to injury and even death by interrupting mating, stopping communication, causing them to separate from calves and inflicting stress.

- ***Conditions of the Deep Sea***

The inability to see the ocean past 100-200 meters, which is the point in which the sunlight penetrates deepest into the ocean, makes ocean exploration difficult. Unlike space exploration

which allowed scientists to use telescopes to see everything in outer space. The pressure in the deep sea is so extreme that it is out of the question for the human body to handle, due to the weight of water pushing down on itself. In most oceans, the water becomes colder with increasing depth, at almost a temperature of 1 to 4 °C.

- ***Lack of Care***

The lack of responsibility from nations governments have proved to be the limitation of ocean exploration. “One of the most common excuses governments have used for not taking action is the lack of information to choose which areas to protect and how to manage them. Also, the opposition of different stakeholders to create new marine protected areas was due to this lack of data.”

By exploring previously unknown areas, we have been able to discover new species and habitats, but to also identify vulnerable habitats or threatened species that were protected ‘on paper’. But due to the fact that nobody knew they ever existed until further research has been carried out, there were no measures put in place to protect them, which may or may not work in their favour.

- ***Safety of Explorers***

It is known to be dangerous to explore a region which is largely unknown to us and this doesn't exclude the ocean. Explorers take up a heavy responsibility to dive deep into the ocean to collect data and information on the deep sea for our benefits. There are obviously risks to this, especially when the data we know is insufficient. Damage to the equipment due to pressure, hypothermia, sudden fire breakouts and freezing to death are few of the many risks. These risks are often a threat for explorers who are keen to explore, but do the benefits outweigh the harm?

In 1960, James Piccard and Don Walsh reached the bottom of the challenger deep in the Mariana Trench, but only stayed there for 20 minutes on the ocean floor due to one of the window panes cracking which caused the entire vessel to shake.

In 2012, James Cameron completed the visit to the challenger deep again, for the first time in history taken as a solo trip. In the Deep Sea Challenger, his vessel was only able to fit himself in solitude where he took the 7 hours round trip to the Mariana Trench and spent three hours exploring the bottom. This just shows that explorers are subject to physical and mental strain, having the need to be in complete silence in a closed confined space for hours on end to carry out exploration and research.

### **Possible Solutions**

- ***Encourage research***

It's a known fact that ocean exploration technology, especially in the deep waters is relatively new, compared to current technology used in other scientific fields. Ocean satellites, scientific buoys, deep sea submarines, and advanced sonar have only been used in ocean exploration for the last 50 years or so. Giving the issue of ocean exploration the attention it deserves by setting up more research centres and focusing on the development of ocean exploration technology can significantly help scientists to discover more of the oceans and map a greater percentage of the ocean's floors.

- ***Allocate sufficient fundings***

Statistics have clearly shown that ocean exploration only receives one-one hundredth of the funds received to support space exploration. Furthermore, it has been spoken out by multiple parties that ocean exploration is far more exciting and beneficial to mankind. Space exploration has expanded in inconceivable ways whereas ocean exploration is still in its snail-pace growth. Allocation sufficient funds will be a necessary first step that can boost the expansion of ocean exploration technology, allowing us to carry out and collect research which will be valuable to us.

- ***Expanding the use of AI in ocean exploration***

As said, fundings is a big challenge in humanity's journey of exploring the depths of the ocean. Artificial intelligence refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that

are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions. With the current development with technology, scientists should maximise its capabilities to the fullest by using such robots and machinery whenever possible. This will prove beneficial in the long run by lowering costs, as well as providing more accurate data and observations.

### **Questions a Resolution Must Answer**

The QARMAs are a set of questions that the Board of Dais are highly in favor of to be answered within the draft resolution as the questions are designated to resolve the crisis in the most efficient way. The set of questions is as below:

1. What are the current ways being used to undergo ocean exploration? In what ways are they being improved on? Is it sustainable in the long run, due to its high complexity and high cost?
2. Is 'bearing witness' or curiosity enough to uphold a continuous effort for ocean exploration? Since it's past efforts have been deemed unsuccessful, will the risk of making the ascent to physically explore the deep ocean be justified?
3. Is it worth using resources to increase deep sea exploration, given the current state of the ocean which is susceptible to problems such as pollution, overfishing, ocean acidification and much more?
4. Is it necessary for ocean exploration to be carried out amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, as more funds should be allocated to the healthcare sector and economy instead?
5. What are the ways to increase ocean exploration in terms of research and technology?
6. What can be done to increase our awareness of ocean exploration and its importance in our daily life?
7. How will ocean exploration affect each country's economic and social development and/or growth?

## Topic 2 - Background

### *Revising Response Methods To The COVID-19 Pandemic*

The social, economical and medical scope of the COVID-19 pandemic has borne an inequitable impact - through acute, chronic, and systemic shortcomings, a global road to recovery needs a clear priority in order to continue. Humanity has previously learnt on the transformational changes of a global pandemic; SARS in 2002, the Spanish Flu in 1918 and the Black Death in 1347. Nevertheless, the declaration of the Coronavirus outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern does not hold as much power.

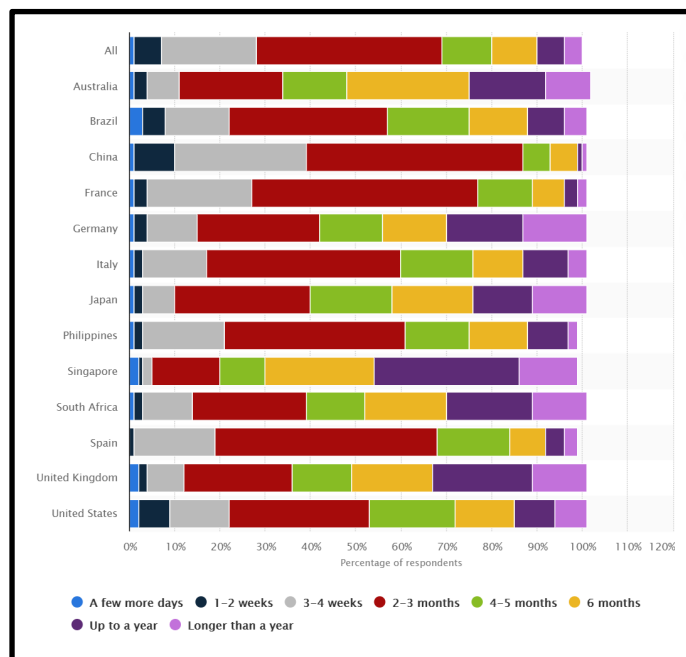
While many across the world were aware of the severities of the Coronavirus, progress on research had originally sparked with caution. Starting from 10 January 2020, the World Health Organization released a worldwide statement for regulations countries were tasked to uphold, as well as the appropriate measures to handle the pandemic. Through research priorities, the Coronavirus had dissented itself from other pandemics due to how quickly it spread - under minutes, countries had encased their borders, shut their citizens into quarantine and facilitated the rapid spread of knowledge on this new contagion.

The origins of the outbreak were first attributed to patients located in Wuhan, Hubei, China. The disease was then titled “COVID-19”, which is short for Coronavirus Disease 2019. Furthermore, it’s scientific connotation, SARS-CoV-2, which stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, was closely related to bat and pangolin Coronaviruses.

Scientific consensus declared that this disease naturally originated from bats, and was attributed towards symptoms that can go as far as death.

All over the world, socioeconomic recovery did not seem to stand as an issue until the pandemic began to last longer than expected; from the above graph procured in March 2020, countries had anticipated for the virus to last for a majority of 2-3 months. Therefore, hidden weaknesses were easily identified within the systematic flows of our world, and that there were to be many inflection points for COVID-19 to strike. Healthcare

workers, supply chain practitioners and politicians alike saw the past agenda as reformable,



and that the power of innovative collaboration can inspire a stage of global recovery.

From the early days of the pandemic, various methods have been carried out by the World Health Organisation, as well as the legislative bodies in respective countries to respond to the outbreak. These response methods in social and economic aspects, both fruitful or not, can be discussed as a step ahead in preparation for future disasters that may strike. The world saw one of its most fateful yet preventable downturns in history, and it is up to the delegates to stabilize all medical, social, and economical sectors to prevent another crisis. In the current expenditure of time, a sustainable, equitable and constant solution must foster growth from the Coronavirus.

### Relevant Timeline

This section serves as the guideline for delegates to overview the development of the issue until recent times. These are only the main ones as further research can reveal a more complete and specific set of timeline.

Date	Event
December 31, 2019	The WHO country office in China notified a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China.
January 24, 2020	A full identification of the cases in Wuhan were conducted, reaping the findings of a Coronavirus that held similar strains to the previous SARS epidemic in 2002.
January 30, 2020	In order to adapt to the changes with travel and disease spread, the WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern - countries were cautioned to avoid travelling to and from China.
February 2, 2020	Outside China, the first Coronavirus death was found in the Philippines, after a 44-year old man had died after contracting the virus.
April 2, 2020	The world's Coronavirus cases had reached over a million people, taking at least 51,000 lives. Moreover, employment started to decline.
May 17, 2020	For the first time since 2015, Japan fell into an economic recession, following the United States, Germany and China as the world's largest economies.
June 4, 2020	Previously spared countries started to contract the virus with more than 100,000 new infections per day - low to middle income countries started to shake under the effects of infection rates, which were originally focal points of correct assessment.
August 3, 2020	Donald Trump released a personal address regarding the death toll of the Coronavirus, stating that 'it is what it is'. A day after, the United States surpassed 150,000 total deaths.
August 16, 2020	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began the development of a Coronavirus vaccine.

October 11, 2020	The world recorded more than 1 million cases in three days, where this sudden resurgence added onto the millions of remaining infections.
December 11, 2020	A vaccine created by Pfizer was authorized, which was a historical turning event that took millions of lives to reach. With its prevalence, it was approved by Canada, Saudi Arabia and other countries.



### Key Terminologies

<b><i>Term</i></b>	<b><i>Definition</i></b>
Pandemic	An outbreak of a disease or illness that is prevalent over a whole country or the world.
Coronavirus	A group of viruses common in humans and animals. Some coronaviruses produce the common cold; SARS and MERS are also both coronaviruses.
Asymptomatic	Someone with a disease or illness but without showing any symptoms (such as fever or shortness of breaths) at all. Despite not necessarily suffering from the same effects as heavily as someone with symptoms, asymptomatic people are still contagious.
Community Spread	The spread of a virus in a certain area without a clear source of how they were infected.
Flattening the Curve	Slowing the rate of new COVID-19 cases; the curve refers to the graph showing the rates of new COVID-19 infections.
Herd Immunity	A form of indirect protection from diseases that happens when a sufficient number of people have become immune to the disease from vaccination, hence reducing the chance of an individual who does not have immunity from getting sick.

Immunocompromised	Someone with weakened immune systems, often due to chronic diseases or smoking. An immunocompromised person is more likely to get sick due to the body's ability to fight off infections being weakened. The state of being immunocompromised can either be temporary or permanent depending on the severity of the damage caused to the immune system.
Incubation Period	The time that it takes for an infected person to start showing symptoms of a disease. The average incubation period for COVID-19 is between 2 to 14 days.
Social Distancing	Physical distance between people in order to reduce infection rates. A recommended distance of 6 feet between each other is recommended for avoiding COVID-19.
Superspreader	An infected person who is able to spread the disease to an unusually large number of people. The 80/20 rule suggests that an estimated 80% of transmissions comes from just 20% of infected people.
Quarantine	The physical isolation of a person who may have been exposed to a disease. For suspected COVID-19 cases, the average time period for a quarantine is 14 days.
Zoonosis	An infectious disease that can be transmitted from an animal to a human.

### **Past Actions**

- **COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX)**

Jointly led by Gavi (a public-private global health partnership), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), COVAX aims to provide equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries. COVAX has raised over \$6 billion for its program with most of the money coming from donations from developed countries, along with contributions from the private sector (such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).

Manufacturing that COVAX handles holds a 7% chance of succeeding. According to their

current vaccine development, they rely on the mass candidate production of vaccines in order to maximize evaluation; on the road to clinical trials, they hold a 20% chance to be developed into an appropriate dose. However, the only probability COVAX holds is that through this portfolio, it will allow for a greater chance for countries to utilize for vaccines. Until the availability of scientific research comes out of stagnation, COVAX limits itself and their utilization.

- **Quarantine Operations**

The preparedness of being able to withstand a virus lies on how the people handle it; the use of Quarantine Operations is classified under the capability to protect the overall health of the populations by containing disease spread. Due to how contagious the Coronavirus is, global restrictions were immediately imposed to quarantine their citizens. This process involves the separation of persons who have been exposed to infectious agents, which can occur in homes, designated healthcare facilities and hospitals.

From implementations that have proved largely unsuccessful, countries have designed Quarantine Operations as ineffective. However, a successful self-isolation requires many factors that other countries were unable to provide. From monetary and humanitarian support, legal precedent and logistical progress, such measures are necessary to maintain the basic quality of life amidst the lack of movement. Most experts feel that quarantine will not stop the outbreak as individuals who are exposed, or likely to be exposed, are not treated as well with the disease. Without the clear definition of communication within the people, the dangers of COVID-19 will continue to elapse.

- **Government Stimulus Packages and Relief Measures**

Primarily composed of a monetary form of support, the short-term rescue of Stimulus packages are issued as compensation for economic stagnation. Due to the threshold of over 138 million cases, The World Bank forecasts that the pandemic will result in a 5.2% contraction in the global economy in 2020, and an estimated 88-115 million people expected to fall back into extreme poverty in 2020. According to Nouriel Roubini, an economist and lecturer from NYU, the world has been shocked with negative supplies that will not be met easily.

Production, manufacturing and employment have been set at a flaccid pace during the pandemic - the stimulus checks that vary with each country have still not been able to combat this. Due to the lack of capability of stimulus checks and how quickly they can be spent on, the recent effects of this hindrance will cause the aggregate supply to decrease. Therefore, the use of stimulus checks is globally ambiguous, as this also stands with it's rate of success.

- **United Nations General Assembly Resolution 274 (RES/74/274)**

The General Assembly, which previously presents a variety of stakeholders within Resolution 274, acts as the first step to foster recovery from member states. Through this resolution, it tackles the problems of preventing repetitions of both the 2008 Financial Crisis and the SARS Epidemic - within this nuance, the General Assembly has previously acknowledged the importance of the pandemic. So far, Resolution 274 is one of the greatest universal expressions on how countries must address sustainable and healthy development.

In order to support all countries and their developments, this resolution was built on the framework of movements consistent with the rate of scientific progress. For those in severely affected industries, alternatives, skillbuilding and the necessary support can be reinforced through this resolution as well. It can be understood that this resolution describes the likes of COVID-19 as a seismic change which has never been in living memory, and that in order for the world to develop the only way forward is through the information on the virus.

### **Areas of Debate**

The pervasivity of the Coronavirus pandemic transcends medical, social and economical levels - a gap in research and development, if untouched, will allow for the virus to create lasting effects on the international community. Following instances such as a shortage of

resources, global death tolls and divides among practicality, such incalculable events determine future performance. The case of COVID-19 will further impact society as a whole, if not assessed further. Hence, the various areas of debate are, but not limited to:

- ***The Scoping of Economic Recovery***

Although seen as irregularities, financial crises happen in a larger magnitude than people believe. Through the course of history, countries have faced myriad challenges in a stable economy - the Great Depression in the 1930s, the Oil Crisis of 1973, the Mexican Economic Crisis of 1994, the Asian Crisis in 1997, the Russian Financial Crisis of 1998, the DotCom Crisis in 2001, and the Financial Crisis of 2008 serve as an example of how uncertain our economy can be. Speculators, investors, and bankers take on risks that would eventually burst, yet a pandemic that brings the world to a halt poses a greater challenge.

In the instance of the pandemic, the world had seen one of its greatest recessions in history; within a quarter of the Coronavirus, the world's top four economies had entered an economic stagnation period. As a result of such occurrences, prices for food and oil soared, more people were unemployed, and capital growth had declined. The public had to pay for the damage caused by these actions, and an unstable economy was continuously led forward. As the virus spreads further to more member states, jobs are increasingly at risk and the loss of economic activity can be destructive. Production and manufacturing has also been largely impacted. As the 'factory of the world', China exports many goods, especially to tech companies, apparel makers, and industrial-equipment manufacturers worldwide.

As the spread of the virus persists, it is clear that the disaster does not only affect the health of its host, but also its host country. The Coronavirus has been named by the OECD as the biggest threat to the global economy since the financial crisis, where the travel restrictions on China deliver more powerful blows to the \$5.7 trillion in revenues and 317 million jobs. While COVID-19 has started to rise up against the curve, the world ponders for a solution for its broken economy. Its vastness, while connecting the entire world whether it be through ports or other passageways, requires a solution that can keep the world going. Failing to consider the dimensions of economic recovery will ultimately undermine economic stability.

- ***Promises of a Publicly Available Vaccine***

As a pivotal moment through history, the discovery of a cure has always been a display of one of science's greatest marvels. On the one-year anniversary of the Coronavirus being declared a global pandemic, it becomes clear that a large portion of the population adopt a mentality chock-full of binary thinking. Under the fears that COVID-19 treatment either leads to full recovery or death, we have forgotten the nuance that epidemics can be controlled

without an effective vaccine, and there is no one right way to do so. During the start of the pandemic, it's similarities to influenza viruses disguised it as being easily treatable, yet it's transmission patterns brought the world in a state of isolation.

The world has little to no choice but to adopt a vaccine, whether expecting a temporary or full recovery. Because of the urgency a vaccine holds, the technologies underlying the vaccine platforms are not fully defined. In the case of this instance, most of the world's population is overlooked when it comes to dosages of the vaccine and where they go. In order to initially solve the pillars of equity when handling the Coronavirus, we are only available to respond to the possibility that a vaccine will only be available to those who can afford it. Furthermore, current vaccine creators such as Pfizer are currently only accessible to certain areas of the world; without the prevalence of a herd mentality, a contagion such as COVID-19 will continue to spread. Due to a rising majority standing vulnerable to the virus, the current vaccine development will be futile.

In a race between death and time, the information we currently have to fight the pandemic is not yet enough. Until we have enough data to define the proper solutions and correlations, the time-consuming vaccine trials will have to continue until appropriate results are found. Before we can confidently advise for vaccine production, it presents an interim that will be filled with self-isolation. Major logistical challenges are still apparent while testing is underway, yet only time will tell where research takes us.

- *Adaptations for a Post-Pandemic World*

Likely the tip of the iceberg of this devastating pandemic, the dominance of the pandemic on our lives seems to be unwavering. Despite over a year passing with the virus, not to mention the growing scientific community tasked to fight against the pandemic, it still remains as entrenched within all facets of life. Our experiences have proved COVID-19 as a pandemic that can bring societies, economies and systems on their knees - it unfolds into our interdependence, where post-COVID-19 development requires the collective effort to fix our medical, social and economical patches.

Within the conditions and processes of the pandemic, multiple challenges can be enacted through the progression to a post-pandemic world. Aforementioned agendas revolve around the constant need for the economy to function, concrete responses to times of crisis, and how scientific evidence must be locked in to reflect a greater understanding. Having COVID-19 revealing the limits of our current models of growth, it opens up the need for plurality in confronting a pandemic – attention must be brought to a mutual solidarity and to enabling precedents.

Achieving total control over a pandemic has started to predicate due to time, and that cases have already settled in at a slower rate than what would have been compared 1 year ago. However, this process was only possible at a global level due to the forced commitment to work together - a health diplomacy of sorts is extremely critical for crises that especially pertains to medical issues. In order to approach the post-pandemic world, the mentality that holds every country accountable for itself cannot be supported. Hence, a General Assembly that is well-rounded in terms of effective capacity and collaboration is paramount to effective global health governance, and will act as a vast bulwark against future epidemics.

- ***Rapid Learning Systems for COVID-19 Recovery***

Lessons learnt from the pandemic centre on the inclination for transformative change; the primary flaw of the pandemic's turbulence was the requirement of information. As predicted through the shock and stress over the capacity of COVID-19, our conventional modalities of development are now deemed obsolete. The assumptions of such a system were flawed from the start of the pandemic - due to how countries were unable to catch onto the complex effects of the disease, global dislocation was observed.

The current crisis has fortunately started to shift, yet it still leaves a completely exposed weakness. Under the questions of social protection, sustainable income, and support for economies are imposed across the world, which are even relevant to the General Assembly itself. Contrary to the promises in the UN Global Goals, a dissatisfactory practice of such was exhibited in their policy agendas that did not allow for progress with scientific research and information sharing within the pandemic. With this, a further deconstruction can be anticipated, hence prioritizing in more equitable sharing of knowledge and resources.

The coronavirus has made a long adage clear enough for us - any crisis that threatens the globe contains problems for any of us. Through exploring the current experiences of COVID-19 and reflecting on past experiences with epidemics, the General Assembly can only strike a feeling of hope. Based on cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels, we will possess a unique opportunity to rapidly learn and build measures to respond to immediate pandemic effects. No country acting alone can respond effectively to health threats in a world that is interdependence; in order to ensure that future epidemics are not nearly as devastating, the practice of information sharing will leave us strengthened rather than divided.



### **Questions a Resolution Must Answer**

The QARMAs are a set of questions that the Board of Dais are highly in favor of to be answered within the draft resolution as the questions are designated to resolve the crisis in the most efficient way. The set of questions is as below:

1. How can the UNGA promote the implementation of past international frameworks and treaties towards the recovery of COVID-19?
2. Under what basis are lockdowns effective? Are strategies and support mechanisms for lockdown accessible enough, whether domestic or international?
3. How can the General Assembly contribute to the eradication of the Coronavirus without the possibility of a definite and accessible vaccine?
4. What possible economic incentives are able to stimulate global economic recovery?
5. To what extent do international agencies and organizations play a role within the recovery from the pandemic, and how can aid be equally distributed?
6. What policies should member states implement to prevent future global epidemics at a larger magnitude?
7. Given the current economic state within the pandemic, to what extent will funding be ethically and safely provided?
8. Will vaccinations and aid programs only be accessible to those who can afford them? How does the General Assembly plan to tackle wealth disparities when accessing proper healthcare?
9. Are warning signs for COVID-19 overlooked? What difficulties in response to the pandemic have been caused due to the lack of proper anticipation, and will operations continue with the appropriate sacrifices?

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