Committee: World Health Organization
Country: United Kingdom
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MITMUNC 2011 Position Paper

The United Kingdom has prioritized nurturing their collaboration with the World Health Organization to ensure they will continue to work together to enrich their national health policies, systems and programs and to anticipate and overcome potential threats to national and global health issues.

Medical Device Technologies

The UK has an appetite for new technology and the progression toward fancier, intricate machines. However, these renovations are costly and the UK simultaneously acknowledges that developing nations should procure the essential medical devices. The UK hopes to strike a balance by encouraging global communication and unifying health practice through single naming system, universally standardized medical devices, and harmonized regulatory processes . This would enable clarification when devices are donated or imported from industrialized countries to low-resource countries. To improve the system, differences need to be recognized so medical devices intended for developing countries and are not identical to medical devices intended for developed countries. Products intended for developing countries must be optimized based on minimum cost, versatility, accuracy, reliability, durability, and portability.. Because hospital space in developing nations is sparse, compact devices would be of an advantage. Other options would be to rely on alternative energy sources such as hydropower, solar, and wind power. This is a worthy investment for all nations. Easy manufacturing is another option because normally developing countries have to make their own devices. Improved education is a necessity for the above options to be of success. Workers in developing countries need to be trained and know how to maintain equipment. In addition, nations as wholes need to increase their general health knowledge. It has to be a communal national project to improve circumstances such as water quality. Along with education, standards and quality control need to be maintained to sustain the transfer of medical technologies.

Antimicrobial Resistance

The UK recognizes that antimicrobial resistance demands procurement of more costly and toxic higher-lined drugs, which develops into a vicious cycle of scrambling to create new adaptations and ending antibiotics as a an option for combating infections. This crisis strains the UK but damages other poorer countries even more dramatically. Proactively, the UK has improvised a resistance strategy in collaboration with the Department of Health. Their objectives have been divided into seven major “action areas.” They have prioritized surveillance as number one by claiming it necessary to monitor trends and determine the main drivers of resistance like the overcrowding and poor sanitation associated with urbanization. Under surveillance also falls the need to monitor antimicrobial use in the UK population. The UK expresses that the people need to know about facts concerning antibiotic resistance and the ramifications of not following through the antibiotic for the prescribed duration. Education is another key strategy where children will be taught in school about prudent antibiotic use, the importance of good hygiene, and the impact of antibiotic resistance on the global community. This was achieved through “e-Bug,”developed by the Health Protection Agency and its European partners and launched in the UK in 2009. Antimicrobial use in animals needs to be dealt with caution too. Also, a regulatory framework should be in place to ensure optimal prescribing by the physicians.. The UK also declares that aid needs to given to other European and non-European nations because the change only one nation can make is limited. The UK is enthusiastic to work with WHO to establish the best practices with well-trained professionals in order to establish and monitor standards, and is willing to share their expertise with other European and non-European nations, because the issue is global. Further, the UK has prioritized the need for information technology to ensure that data from surveillance and prescribing monitoring are taken into account when developing new technology as well as strengthening an effective international co-operation in this field. Lastly, the UK also calls for the need for research into mechanisms of resistance and its spread and as well as applied research to further investigate the factors, impact and best control method for the UK and other nations.