DELEGATE NAME: **YOUSIF ABDOUN**

COUNTRY: **BULGARIA**

SCHOOL: ABQ AZZAN BIN QAIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOUSHAR

TOPIC / AGENDA: *PROVIDING STABLE MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO REGIONS IN NEED.*

*“Life without liberty is like a body without spirit”*

~ Khalil Gibran

The world faces innumerable and countless problems each and everyday. Ranging from economical and social issues to political and leadership complications. Ghastly enough, situations that involve the basic human rights such as medicine and the access to medical care and supplies for children present in regions in need are heavily influenced, causing social determinants of health inequalities; affecting the health and welfare of many around the globe. The United Nations and other world renowned large international organisations such as the WHO (World Health Organisation) have tried to battle this issue from its many deliberate causes for decades, yet the problem is still around and lingering. Due to the awareness of the restricted medical supply chain, the UN, WHO and many international and local organisations have successfully internationalised the world medical supply chain in the past 40 years. This has been done by the evolution of aircrafts and planes, social media, easier worldwide communication, news and TV. Packaging, recycling of plastic waste in medical facilities and managing expiry dates have all been actions taken by the UN and WHO to reduce delay in receiving supplies and increase efficiency in producing and delivering medical supplies and equipment and consuming medicine.

Although Bulgaria has one of the smallest medical device markets in the EU, it’s dedicated and committed to protecting global health equity and addressing disparities in the access to essential medical supplies. This actively demonstrates that the country is largely dependent and reliant on imports. However, the source of medical supplies and devices is very controlled, as the supply chain is heavily restricted in the medical industry. In the midst of such hardships and difficulties, Bulgaria firmly believes that no human being should be robbed of the basic human right necessities such as basic healthcare and access to medicine and medical supplies. Subsequent to COVID-19, The UN and WHO have realised the true reality of this problem. Due to countless pressure by politicians, the media and governments, multiple international organisations / businesses have been modified and improved and have updated research in order for technological advancement in the identification, treatment and eradication of viruses and diseases; notable names such as iLoF, Warsow Genomics and many more. The Bulgarian public healthcare system has very poor facilities, understaffing and a lack of funding. This further contributes to the social status and income inequality issue. This is evident from the fact that Bulgaria has the highest out of pocket health payments in the EU (37.8%), seen by those who are able to afford medical supplies. Making those who are not able to afford medical assistance not get the best quality treatment. However, the Bulgarian government tries to resolve this issue by leasing and purchasing equipment and supplies from international and local medical organisations that could be used by public health care facilities for those who are not able to afford top quality care. Although Bulgaria’s health spending is at around 7.1% of its GDP, which is below the WHO European regional average (7.6%), it is still increasing annually. Other positive developments suggest that the ministry of health is changing the health sector in order for nursing and medical professions to appear more attractive; this will tackle the understaffing problem that the country faces.

The delegate of Bulgaria would like to suggest that for third world countries and such, more UN bases and territories should be established for faster access to medical supplies and equipment; which is a response to delay in the receival of medical supplies for regions desperately in need. In addition to that, the delegate also believes that there should be collaboration between the private and public sectors for the purpose of information sharing. This would eliminate the vague statistics and sayings of the governments and non governmental bodies to free up more room for transparency.

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