



STUDY GUIDE

SC NHI

VENEZUELAN HEALTH CRISIS

IV EDITION

Chair's letter

I expect you to be fine delegates. My name is Jesus Rondón and I am proud of being part of the directive of this chamber which will work as a dialogue between students looking for real solutions to a problem that affects the entire population of Venezuela, which is the health situation in the public sector of the country.

We chose this kind of committee because we want to give you the freedom to express your opinion as the young population of a dysfunctional state. We decided that you are going to represent yourself, ignoring politic or ideological factors, to actually discuss which is the best way or ways, to improve the experience of people that need to treat any type of diseases and cannot do it because they are tied by the incompetence of the institutions that are supposed to ensure their wellness. This topic was done with the objective of minimizing the damage that the economic and political deterioration of Venezuela has caused to the access of the population, to health and well life expectations and not to solve it at all.

You need to try to be as realistic as you can, establishing solutions that can be applied in our communities without an active cooperation of the government, like improving social movements, helping institutions dedicated to the social care, starting programs of medicines distribution, etc. Remember that you will represent an activist population who is not supported by public institutions or private companies and you will not be able to utilize state's resources. You have to minimize the consequences caused by irresponsible directions of our leaders, as a worried community which can look for assistance for its purposes inside the national territory. The future of the medicine in Venezuela depends of you.

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Students Chamber – National Health Issues (SC NHI)

The student chamber emerged from the need of expression of the younger population of the countries. It is normally used to respond and solve conflicts which are related to schools, universities and educational methods. Additionally, we adopted this committee and this topic because students, like all the population, are being affected by the deplorable situation of hospitals and the incapacity of doctors to treat the basic and terminal diseases of the population.

This chamber has multiple functions and one of them is to recommend to the state, private institutions and natural people, ways to improve some aspects of the society by utilizing the points of view of students and, in MAPISMUN, you are going to execute this function allowing a better development of medicine and its services.

All the information contained in this guide is rebuttable, I if any delegate presents evidence confirming that the information is false. Said test must be passed and approved by the chair.

SC NHI



Topic: Venezuelan Health Crisis.

INTRODUCTION

Any individual who belongs to a community directed by a state has rights and duties that must be complied without exceptions or omissions because they represent the main basis of social order. All those statutes and laws that ensure the correct functioning of nations are included in their own constitutions. These documents are dedicated to register all the normative of all the mechanisms that the state uses to offer their citizens, good life conditions by supplying basic needs like access to education, food, medicines and the respect for human rights; but we have seen many times how this document has been violated by the government of Venezuela. Evidence of this is that the economic and political situation of the country has gotten worse in the last 15 years. The leaders of the Latin American country have not offered answers to many institutional problems that have caused a

huge threat to the basic rights of the Venezuelan population.

As we know, Venezuela is going through a very difficult situation with regards to the productive sector; 10 years ago public and private companies of Venezuela were the main production source of inputs but today, because of how unprofitable it is to produce inputs and sell them inside the country, the products that Venezuela is offering to its this implies more costs for the citizens and less possibilities to find them because they are not well distributed through the national territory. It also implies that the prices cannot be controlled or regulated, which causes the proliferation of black markets.

Recent investigations made by “El Caracol Informativo” and the UCV shows that 9 out of 10 medicines that the population of Venezuela has access to, are imported. In addition, 7 of them cannot be found in hospitals. This situation has also decreased the incentives of the workers of any public institution dedicated to the health care because they do not have the conditions to take care of their patients. At present in the whole territory of Venezuela only just 40% of doctors are working, compared with 10 years ago. The Venezuelan Government tried to fight this situation by the implementation of movements like “Barrio Adentro” and others, but recent opinion polls applied to the population say that those movements are not working correctly.

VENEZUELAN HEALTH

The access to health and the capacity of a nation to offer security to their citizens is one of many of the rights



that the directive of a country has to guarantee to its population. As we know, the leaders of the Venezuelan state are obliged by the Constitution to ensure well conditions of living, as the Law states “Artículo 1: El estado tiene como fines esenciales la defensa y el desarrollo de las personas y el respeto a su dignidad, el ejercicio de la voluntad popular y la construcción de una sociedad justa”.

But we watched how human rights in Venezuela are not being respected at all; infant mortality in Venezuela is higher than in Syria and the first cause of it is starvation and bad medical care, also the access to treatments for terminal diseases it is terribly low. Venezuela stopped 47% of its production of medicines in 2017 and 70% of treatments for cancer, SIDA, and neuronal degenerative diseases are imported, because the 30% that is produced in Venezuela is not able to be used or has to be paid when the hospitals have to provide them for free.

In Venezuela it is well known that sanitary conditions of hospitals are deplorable, there is no good health controls. On March 28th, a group of investigators from the National Assembly of Venezuela observed 104 health buildings where there were not basic medicines, catheters, surgeon supplies, or even child food.

78 of them did not have alternative sources of energy, which caused damages in the medical machinery due to energy fails. In addition, also 79% did not have clean water and 14% of intensive care units were not working. Since 2016, the newly-born mortality rate has increased by 66% and 53% for elderly people. This

situation is making harder the work of doctors, many of them, specifically 67%, do not want to remain working at public healthy institutions, because it is not properly remunerated, and they are not in conditions to take care of their patients for the scarcity of resources and the excessive quantity of patients that must be attended.

The biggest percentage of doctors who are working in hospitals at this moment are residents and 70% of them said that they will not keep working in public institutions after they finish their residences. Juan Manuel Olivares recently expressed that “100% de los laboratorios nacionales no se encuentran operando y ningún médico quiere un cargo dentro de un hospital a menos que se trate de un caso de caridad o extrema necesidad”. This has worried the international community which has asked the Venezuelan government to improve their health mechanisms and institutions by acting responsibly about the disposition of the country's funds, but they deny the existence of problems in Venezuela with regards to the health situation and they have not given answers to their citizens.

ACTUAL SITUATION

At present, some foundations like “Barriguitas Llenas” have started to do movements to fight against the national situation, but their efforts are not enough to make considerable differences in the whole panorama and like them, there are so many organizations or social movements pretending to offer their help but because of the shortage of work and logistic, they are not able to make great changes.

Viktor Emil Frankl

Viktor Emil Frankl was a neurologist and psychiatrist from Austria, founder of the logotherapy.



"Cuando ya no somos capaces de cambiar una situación, nos encontramos ante el desafío de cambiarnos a nosotros mismos"

- Victor Frankl

Unknown

"People in declines are always remembering from where they come, great people always remember where they want to be"

- Unknown

QUESTIONS TO THE DELEGATE

- 1:** Then how can we improve the work of these organizations? How can we expand their impact?
- 2:** How can we improve the experience of Venezuelan patients and doctors?
- 3:** How can we make better the access of patients to medicines?
- 4:** How can we make a better future in health in Venezuela?

