SSUNS Position Paper World Health Organization Adam Sayani November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016



# **Delegation of France**

#### **Topic 1: Non-Communicable Diseases**

For far too long the problem of Non-Communicable diseases has gone relatively unaddressed. This lack of action and awareness must be changed, as today almost 63% of deaths are due to this type of disease. When dealing with one of the most pressing issues our world is facing today, we need to understand the urgency of this situation. The longer we wait, the solutions to this problem become harder and harder to obtain. This delegation understands the need for short-term action along with plans to help decrease this negative trend of mortality.

The delegation of France, is one of the few countries in our world today that fully-believes in the power of healthcare for the global-population. In 2011, our government spent 11.6% of the national GDP on healthcare and further provides national health insurance for all citizens. When comparing the life-expectancies of several prominent western states, France ranks as one of the highest with 82.57 years (2012). The success shown by France in the health sector allows this delegation to take a lead in the fight against NCDs, not only in France but for the rest of the world. In addition, France believes in aid through donation towards countries of lower income countries. Having donated 10.3 billion dollars in 2014 alone.

When examining solutions to this dire issue, the delegation of France has proposes a plan that will not only focus on the short-term urgencies of this situation but also allow for future success. First, France believes that low-income countries in the developing world must receive some financial assistance in their fight against NCDs. This delegation would encourage multilateral development aid assistance in areas where health resources are scare, this influx of monetary assistance can provide healthcare to those in need. Second, France understands the need for education on the dangers of Non-Communicable diseases. Due to the fact that NCDs differ from communicable diseases because there usually is no singular vaccination/cure, they go rather un-noticed as an unsolvable problem. To counter-act these ideals, this delegation believes that healthy lifestyle education should be enhanced around the world and specifically in developing countries. Lastly, France asserts the need for universal healthcare. After reaping the benefits of this plan in our own country, we encourage others to do the same. Today, a majority of countries spend less than 10% of their annual government budgets on healthcare. This is not acceptable for these citizens and we encourage countries to invest more into this field. With this

action, France can guarantee that an decrease of mortality due to Non-Communicable diseases. We urge countries to terminate their bystander status and join this important fight.

#### Topic 2: Global Pharmaceutical Development and Universal Access to Medication

In our world today, we are faced with the ever-constant problem of access to medication. This issue focuses on the accessibility of medication economically and development of global pharmaceuticals. With patented monopolization and further inflation based on location, and country rather than need a plan to tackle this controversy must be put into place. The needs and health of our global population must be prioritized, and fought for when identifying this issue.

This delegation takes healthcare very seriously and believes it is one of the cornerstones to a sustainable country. When the WHO was provided assessments of health care systems, it identified France as to "providing close to the best overall health care". Along with providing universal healthcare and national health insurance, France makes it a priority to spend the necessary amounts to assume medication for our system. Due to this firm and progressive stance, France has been able to fully enjoy the advantages of a healthy nation. While this delegation is able to spend money that other countries might not necessarily have, we still believe that universal health care is possible with certain policies put in place in specific countries, and further resolutions that help the unfair distribution of medication in our world.

The delegation of France believes that a solution must be found that focuses on the affordability discrepancies of this issue and further examines access to medication in the future. First this delegation believes that when determining a pricing arrangement, governments need to take more of an initiative of controlling pharmaceutical companies. Becoming more involved in the research and providing further subsidies, can lead to the governments being able to advocate for these companies to sell at lower prices. Second, France believes that the distribution and allocation of drugs must be enhanced. Today, 90% of medications are kept for 15% of the population. This is not right; as a committee we need to understand the need for an allocation board to distribute these medications fairly. Thus, decreasing prices for the other 85% of the population. Lastly, this delegation pushes for governments to start purchasing economy efficient equivalents for the majority of drug products. The majority of countries today, have the ability to buy generic-medicine at a lower cost. In order to help the growing number of patients needing these medicines, this must be done. Policies must be put into place that encourage the use of lower-cost generic medicine. If handled properly, this issue can be dealt with to insure that our global population gets closer to steady ad affordable healthcare.

## **Topic 3: Gender Based Inequities in Global Health**

Gender based inequities is a prevalent issue that needs to be discussed in our world today. The differences between healthcare for men and women in specific countries needs to be identified as a growing problem and further solutions to prevent this issue need to be found. While both genders face a different set of discrepancies, this delegation believes that as a

committee we can find solutions that will help both genders grow together for the global health system.

The delegation of France understands this problem as it has been effected by one specific gender inequity within our health system. For example, in 2012, men in France had a suicide rate of 19.3 per 100,000 which was greater than many of our European counterparts and also three times higher than the French women suicide rate. While, our post-pregnancy mortality rates are very low, the delegation still understands the danger it possesses after examining lower-income countries. Due to this France has started several campaigns to reverse these undesirable and sad trends. It is a goal of France to support countries who also want to decrease these trends.

The solution that France proposes provides different ideas for men and women based on their respective inequalities. For men and specifically high suicide rates, France believes that access to community services along with social support is essential. Further this delegation supports National Male Healthy policies, in bids to provide general populations with the strong evidence of male health. With this, improve access to healthcare for venerable populations of men. Increasing awareness of the problem is of utmost importance to France, and ways to do this would be advertising campaigns and further education on the problem. When dealing with inequities faced by Women, this delegation believes that strengthening communities and developing countries on the dangers of pregnancy and what is safe and not is essential to breaking this barrier. As a committee, the delegation of France believes that together we can stop these terrible trends and look to working with members ready to face the facts and solve the problem.

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