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### Topic 1: Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are chronic illnesses that cannot be transmitted from one person to another. Worldwide, NCDs kill 38 million people annually<sup>1</sup> (which represents 63% of all deaths in one year<sup>2</sup>) and are the main cause of death in developed countries. On the other hand, three quarters (i.e. 28 million) of NCD deaths happen in developing countries such as Ethiopia even though NCDs are not the leading cause of decease. Some cases are caused by widespread, unhealthy lifestyle habits such as tobacco use, while other NCD deaths are caused by autoimmune diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and so forth. In developed nations, governments are actively engaged in the fight against NCDs; they commonly use marketing strategies in order to spread a strong message discouraging unhealthy habits that can lead to premature death (e.g. advertisement on cigarette packs) and curb the effects of NCDs on their population. A focus on improving the accessibility of NCD care is just as crucial. However, low income countries are often left without the necessary monetary support needed to fund these projects and successfully implement new policies; NCDs are of long duration and the people who have them are often unable to afford continuous treatment.

Ethiopia strongly believes that combating noncommunicable diseases is of the utmost importance internationally, especially since NCDs kill many individuals in a younger demographic and cutting down the size of the labour force, thus stalling economic growth in countries that desperately need it. Poorer countries are in desperate need of interventions that are low in cost and high in reward in order to reduce the socioeconomic strain premature deaths bring. It is with international cooperation in mind that the delegation of Ethiopia will represent its country.

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs355/en/>

<sup>2</sup> Retrived from [http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/ncd\\_report\\_summary\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/ncd_report_summary_en.pdf)

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

Although access to healthcare is a fundamental right of humankind, there exists a great injustice regarding the access to medication across the globe. Research and development in pharmaceutical science is very expensive and requires a lot of investment. This, in turn, leads to the dramatic pricing of pharmaceutical drugs; combined with the fact that most cases require prior and continued consultation with healthcare professionals, access to medication in poorer countries is very difficult to afford. Pharmaceuticals selling is also a sensitive subject, as it is a great actor in many economies as well as a basic need for people around the world; the supplier power of drug manufacturers can be a source of corruption and unfair pricing, as these companies can distort drug prices to commercialize medication for profit, thus putting aside the main objective of pharmaceuticals which is to help individuals relieve the symptoms of their illness. The existence of a black market for pharmaceutical drugs only serves to highlight the issues that lie within the existing healthcare system, as well as to worsen these problems.

All in all, Ethiopia believes that the international community needs to bring forth new solutions that apply to all nations. The delegation of Ethiopia wishes to further explore the possibility of government interference in pharmaceutical markets with the objective of improving accessibility to pharmaceutical drugs in its country.

## Topic 3: Gender Based Inequities in Global Health

The physiological differences between males and females can affect equity in global health, some illnesses affect only one gender. Both men and women suffer because of the lack of attention brought to their specific needs. For example, men seem to have lower resistance to infections and are more prone to getting parasites than women; on the other hand, as women are the ones carrying children, lack of access to emergency services during pregnancy and childbirth result in deaths that could be prevented. Many initiatives have been launched in the past, including the Safe Motherhood Initiative (1987), the Millenium Development Goals (2000), and the HIV/AIDS Prevention in the sub-Saharan Africa.

Ethiopia believes that this is an important topic of discussion, as neglect of a disease is just as bad as a lack of treatment.

