



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lake Erie International Model United Nations

Northcoast High School Conference XXXI  
March 30 - April 1, 2010

## CHAIRING STYLE

Hello All,

Allow me to be the first to welcome you to Northcoast XXXI, and more specifically the World Health Organization. I am very excited to be the President of The World Health Organization as it is one of my favorite committees. The purpose of this portion of my president's letter is to inform you of my Chairing style. It is important for the delegates to know what they should expect from a chair beforehand.

First off, I can not stress enough how important the Rules of Procedure are. They are truly a delegate's best friend and should be treated as such. There is nothing more frustrating than a great delegate who does not know the rules well enough. I know the rules, and you should know them as well. I will be following the rules in the committee room. They were written specifically for that reason. I will allow delegates time to catch rules infractions before I jump in to point them out. That being said, I must ask that you be civil when doing this. A Point of Order is a privilege and I will not hesitate in making the committee submit them in writing if I think they are using them to be rude, or simply throw off another delegate.

Secondly, you must come prepared. That means that every delegate should be well researched. If one does not have a firm grasp on what the topics are and what their countries policy is on those topics they put themselves at a huge disadvantage. Furthermore, you will not be able to get by in this committee by simply being a smooth talker. I will be doing my research and I expect that you will be as well.

Also, be professional. When you step into the committee room you are assuming the role of a delegate to the World Health Organization. I expect that you will at least make an attempt to act as if you were one. I will not look favorably upon any sort of horseplay while committee is in session.

Next, you must participate. The only way to ensure that you **WON'T** score well is to not participate. The less you do in committee the less I have to score you upon. Plus it is simply more fun for you the delegate when you are participating as apposed to simply sitting in your chair.

Finally one of my many responsibilities as President of the Committee is to evaluate the delegates. In order to ensure that there aren't any biases, I must maintain a certain level of separation. I will not be having one-on-one discussions with the delegates in the World Health

Organization. Furthermore I won't answer questions that are posed incorrectly, or of a research related nature. I will, however, be more than happy to answer questions that don't violate these criteria.

Now that I have said all of that, I want you to know that it is not my goal to take the fun out of MUN. Quite the contrary, I hope to make this the most fun you have had at a MUN conference. I will allow the delegates to dictate the direction the committee goes in.

Keeping in mind the information I have written above, I see no reason why a delegation that comes prepared, debates well, and stays active, can't receive the sort of award they are hoping to receive. **HAVE FUN** and I can't wait to see you in March.

Before I start my overview of the topics I must note that this is simply a start on your research. If you come armed with simply the knowledge contained in this letter you will not be properly prepared. Further, simply reciting the information in this letter will not score you any sort of points, it will simply frustrate me.

More detailed information on the evaluative process, rules of procedure, and conference policies can be found on our conference website, [www.leimun.com](http://www.leimun.com).

## **THE TOPICS**

\*\*Some information in this Section is provided Courtesy of the World Health Organization Web Site. For further information please feel free to visit [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)\*\*

### **H1N1 Pandemic**

The 2009 flu pandemic is a global outbreak of a new strain of H1N1 influenza virus, often referred to colloquially as "swine flu". The virus, first detected in April 2009, contains a combination of genes from swine, avian (bird), and human influenza viruses.

The outbreak began in Veracruz, Mexico, with evidence that there had been an ongoing epidemic for months before it was officially recognized as such. The Mexican government closed most of Mexico City's public and private facilities in an attempt to contain the spread of the virus. However the virus continued to spread globally, clinics in some areas were overwhelmed by people infected, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) stopped counting cases and in June declared the outbreak to be a pandemic.

While only mild symptoms are experienced by the majority of people, some have more severe symptoms. Mild symptoms may include fever, sore throat, cough, headache, muscle or joint pains, and nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Those at risk of a more severe infection include: asthmatics, diabetics, those with obesity, heart disease, the immunocompromised, children with neurodevelopmental conditions, and pregnant women.

Similar to other influenza viruses, pandemic H1N1 is typically contracted by person to person transmission through respiratory droplets.

As of 3 January 2009, worldwide more than 208 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including at least 12,799 deaths.

The mission of the WHO in this pandemic is to continue the research of this strain of influenza, while making the necessary decisions as to the safety of the rest of the international community. Such things as whether people should be allowed to travel internationally and the closing of borders is all subject to the decisions of The WHO and the WHO Director-General.

Questions:

1. What affect has H1N1 had on your country?
2. What sort of steps has your country taken to prevent the spread of H1N1?
3. What steps has your country taken to combat/research H1N1?
4. What does your country believe the best course of action is?

Research Links:

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/>

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/action/en/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1n1flu/background.Htm>

<http://h1n1.nejm.org/>

<http://www.publicrelations.uncc.edu/default.asp?id=48>

<http://www.flu.gov/>

## **Methods to Raise Global Health Standards**

Better health is central to human happiness and well-being. It also makes an important contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer, are more productive, and save more.

Many factors influence health status and a country's ability to provide quality health services for its people. Ministries of health are important actors, but so are other government departments, donor organizations, civil society groups and communities themselves. For example: investments in roads can improve access to health services; inflation targets can constrain health spending; and civil service reform can create opportunities - or limits - to hiring more health workers.

WHO's work on 'Health and development' tries to make sense of these complex links. It is concerned with the impact of better health on development and poverty reduction, and

conversely, with the impact of development policies on the achievement of health goals. In particular, it aims to build support across government for higher levels of investment in health, and to ensure that health is prioritized within overall economic and development plans. In this context, 'health and development' work supports health policies that respond to the needs of the poorest groups. WHO also works with donors to ensure that aid for health is adequate, effective and targeted at priority health problems.

Questions:

1. What is the current status of Health Care in your country?
2. What has your country done to better its Health Care standards?
3. What if anything has your country done to better the Health Care of other countries?
4. What does your country believe is the most important issue in bettering health Care?
5. How does your country believe we should combat this issue?

Research Links:

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/financial\\_crisis\\_steer\\_20090119/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/financial_crisis_steer_20090119/en/)

<http://www.paho.org/English/D/WHO-AMRO-PartnershipsHealthDevelopment.pdf>

[http://www.who.int/healthmetrics/documents/hmn\\_framework200803.pdf](http://www.who.int/healthmetrics/documents/hmn_framework200803.pdf)

[www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/.../Right%20to%20Health%20position%20paper%20AFGH.pdf](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/.../Right%20to%20Health%20position%20paper%20AFGH.pdf)

<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/content/3/1/2>

## **Maternal & Newborn Health**

Maternal health refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. While motherhood is often a positive and fulfilling experience, for too many women it is associated with suffering, ill-health and even death.

The major direct causes of maternal morbidity and mortality include hemorrhage, infection, high blood pressure, unsafe abortion, and obstructed labor.

Each year, approximately 530,000 women die due to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth; 99% of these deaths occur within the most disadvantaged population groups living in the poorest countries of the world. Recent analyses also show that these deaths are increasingly concentrated in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where 45% and 50%, respectively, of all maternal deaths occur.

These figures indicate that while women in developed countries can generally expect to experience safe pregnancies and positive birth outcomes, women in low-resource nations still face a high risk of dying during pregnancy, delivery, or the postpartum period. This unacceptable

discrepancy must be addressed if the world is to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5), which calls for a 75% reduction in 1990 maternal mortality levels by 2015. Importantly, the gap in maternal and newborn health indicators between rich and poor nations is so vast that it can be considered a major social injustice which is long overdue for international attention.

Although research in maternal and perinatal health has advanced significantly in recent years, most of these advancements have been driven by the needs of health systems in the richest countries. This bias has resulted in the production of pregnancy- and childbirth-related interventions which translate poorly into low-resource settings, exacerbating the gaps in women's reproductive health conditions around the world. The paucity of research efforts targeted at conditions disproportionately affecting women in the developing world has prevented the simultaneous development of effective, affordable, and feasible preventive and treatment strategies with wide applications. Such an approach could potentially narrow the existing disparities in maternal and newborn health.

Questions:

1. What is the Maternal/Newborn Mortality rate in your country?
2. What has your country done in the past to aid in Maternal and Newborn health care?
3. What does your country believe is the biggest issue causing poor maternal and newborn health?
4. How does your country believe we should attempt to combat this issue?
5. What is your country's stance on the gap in Maternal/Newborn Mortality Rates in more affluent areas as opposed to lower income areas?

Research Links:

<http://www.who.int/pmnch/en/>

[http://www.unicef.org/health/index\\_maternalhealth.html](http://www.unicef.org/health/index_maternalhealth.html)

<http://www.eldis.org/index.cfm?objectId=23544DCA-EE8E-2369-6FD27A9BD08886DE>

[http://www.prb.org/pdf06/SNL-ContOfCare\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf06/SNL-ContOfCare_Eng.pdf)

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/topics/pages/maternal-newborn-child-health.aspx>

### **Websites and Research Links**

1. [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) Base World Health Organization Website
2. [www.euro.who.int/](http://www.euro.who.int/) European World Health Organization website
3. [www.wpro.who.int/](http://www.wpro.who.int/) West Pacific World Health Website
4. <http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?lang=en> Pan American Health Organization
5. [www.afro.who.int/](http://www.afro.who.int/) African World Health organization

6. [www.photius.com/rankings/healthranks.html](http://www.photius.com/rankings/healthranks.html) Health Care Rankings
7. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/qa.htm> Basic H1N1 information
8. <http://www.eldis.org/index.cfm?objectId=23544DCA-EE8E-2369-6FD27A9BD08886DE>  
Basic Maternal and Newborn Health information
9. <http://www.globalhealth.org/reports/search.php3?region=global&offset=0> Global Health  
Care Information