

5TH ANNUAL
CBA MIDDLE SCHOOL
MODEL UN

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SECRETARIAT GENERAL...WILLIAM WALSH, BRYAN SOLER
CRISIS DIRECTOR.....DANIEL TREVAL



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Topic A: Childhood Nutrition

Topic B: Childhood Environments

CO-CHAIR.....CATHERINE LODER

CO-CHAIRGINA RIENZO

Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Christian Brothers Academy Middle School Model United Nations Conference. We are so excited to introduce you to our committee, The World Health Organization(WHO). The World Health Organization works within the United Nations to solve global issues relating to public health. The topics of our discussion will focus on childhood nutrition and childhood environment in accordance with your respective countries.

The council will discuss the problems that children face across the globe. It will work to develop solutions concerning the environment children grow up in and how to prevent childhood death because of environmental causes. On top of devising solutions for safe environments for all children, this council will talk about the nutrition of children. We will discuss the global issue of child nutrition that prevents children from properly growing and developing and work to find a solution for more adequate nutrition. Lastly, we hope that after a night of thoughtful conversation, you will advance your public speaking skills and expand your perception as an individual within the global community.

To introduce ourselves, we are Catherine Loder and Gina Rienzo, co-chairs of the World Health Organization. We are seniors at Trinity Hall and this will be our fourth year participating in Model United Nations, and our second year participating in the CBA Conference. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share our passion of Model Un with you all and hope to . If you have any questions or concerns about the committee while you prepare for the conference, feel free to reach out to either of us. We look forward to meeting you all on November 3rd.

Best,

Co-Chair, Catherine Loder
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Background Information

Topic 1: Childhood Nutrition

A healthy mind and a healthy body are fueled by the proper balance of nutrition. For children, a sufficient diet is necessary in order to stimulate proper body growth, to develop a strong immune system, and to ensure maximum brain development. However, adequate nutrition is not as prevalent around the world as it should be; children in many countries suffer from either malnutrition or the obesity epidemic. On a global scale, substandard nutrition early in life takes away the opportunity to reach full potential from nearly 165 million children. One in every five children is obese and one in nine people are malnourished. If more attention was paid to nutrition, especially in the early years of a child's life, dramatic health issues as children evolve could be prevented.

Many obstacles prevent children from receiving the proper amount of food necessary for their bodies to properly develop and thrive. 98% of people experiencing nutrient and food supply deficiencies live in developing countries, the most prominent being Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Kenya. Children in developing countries are at an exposed risk to malnutrition due to poverty and their agricultural based lifestyle, which results in "seasonal hunger". Lacking these required nutrients engenders a weakened immune system, a bad memory, restricted bone growth, and inadequate weight gain. To reduce malnutrition, children need greater food security and an increased awareness of the effects on their development.

On the other hand, over the past few years, other countries have experienced an increase in the obesity epidemic. The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development(OECD) predicts that obesity rates will be on the rise until at least 2030 in notable countries such as the

United States, New Zealand, Hungary, and Mexico. Obesity may be caused by the consumption of many foods that are high in fat or by physical inactivity. Obesity negatively affects the health of all people, however the consequences are more major for children. Obesity can potentially cause cardiovascular disease, diabetes, premature death, disability in adulthood, and difficulty breathing. Children can reduce their risk of becoming obese by limiting their intake of large amounts of sugar, adding fruits and vegetables to their diet, and by participating in regular physical activity.

Because nutrition is a challenge for all countries, the United Nations is getting involved to help combat the issues. The United Nations has declared 2016-2025 an “International Decade on Nutrition” with the goal of “reducing hunger and improving nutrition around the world. To conquer the malnutrition, the UN has developed partnerships with organizations such as UNICEF, World Food Programme, and Committee on World Food Security. As a result of these actions, hopefully the amount of malnourished children will decrease and the increased rates of obesity will recede.

Questions to Consider:

1. How is nutrition an issue in your country?
2. What has your country done in the past (and what can they do in the future) to resolve nutrition related issues at home and worldwide?

Useful Resources:

World Health Organization:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs311/en/>

World Hunger Education Service:

<http://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/>

Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development:

<http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/Obesity-Update-2017.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/nutrition/facts.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/obesity/facts.htm>

Topic 2: Childhood Environment

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency in the United Nations that deals with international public health. Across the globe, children are exposed to air pollution, harmful chemicals, inadequate water, poor sanitation, improper hygiene, and climate change. The impact of this harsh environment can start while the child is in the womb. At young ages, children are more vulnerable and susceptible to contract diseases from their surroundings. Every year, 1.7 million children under the age of five lose their lives because of exposure to a harmful environment. Children are the leaders of the future, and in order to be successfully, all children should have the right to grow up in a safe and healthy environment .

Every child is at risk to being exposed to dangerous environments, but children growing up in under developed nations share a greater risk due to the lack of clean water, proper hygiene, and healthy air quality. Air pollution is a major problem in all nations. Fourteen percent of children over the age of five contract asthma symptoms because of indoor and outdoor air pollution that comes with second-hand smoke, dampness, and mold. 570 thousand children under the age of five pass away because of respiratory diseases from breathing in polluted air. Chemical pesticides used to help protect crops and kill bugs and diseases also contaminate the air that people breathe and leads to acute poisoning among children. The poorly fresh water bodies in nations leads to large mosquito populations that carry diseases and could potentially transmit malaria. Lead exposure is another toxic chemical that children are especially vulnerable to, especially whenever they put their hands in their mouth. In addition to chemicals in the air, higher temperatures are also dangerous to children

because they result in high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The high levels of carbon dioxide are detrimental to child development because it causes health related issues such as asthma, slower lung function, and cardiovascular disease.

If the environment was cleaned up, more than 1 in 4 child deaths could be prevented. If children had access to clean water, 361 thousand children could be saved each year. If water bodies are properly managed, there would be less mosquitos; therefore, children would be at a lower risk of contracting malaria. If all children had access to safe drinking water, not only would they have a basic necessity of life, but it also allows for proper hygiene and sanitation. Instead of harsh chemicals being used to treat crops and the killing of pesticides, people should use natural products and help save children from breathing in the harmful toxins.

The World Health Organization needs to develop methods to prevent childhood diseases caused by the environment. In order to begin to solve this problem that children face in their homes and community there has to be cooperation among organizations involving people with strong backgrounds in health, education, housing, energy, and water are vital to solving the problem and adapting to the needs of the population.

Statistics:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/pollution-child-death/en/>

- “270 thousand children die during their first month of life from conditions, including prematurity, which could be prevented through access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in health facilities as well as reducing air pollution.”
- “200 thousand deaths of children under five s from malaria could be prevented through environmental actions, such as reducing breeding sites of mosquitoes or covering drinking-water storage.”
- “200 thousand children under five die from unintentional injuries attributable to the environment, such as poisoning, falls, and drowning.”

Questions to Consider:

1. What has your country done in the past to address environmental issues?
2. What is the environment that children face in your country?

Useful Links:

World Health Organization:

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

http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/children_environmental_health/en/

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/pollution-child-death/en/>