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Update for the World Health Organization

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

Several significant events happened in the last few months of 2016 regarding the World Health Organization (WHO).¹ The *2016 Year in Review* was published, which is a comprehensive overview of WHO's most important activities throughout the year.² During 2016, WHO was particularly involved in aiding refugees and within the Syrian Crisis.³ Alongside with other United Nations (UN) partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WHO delivered humanitarian assistance to millions of Syrians.⁴ WHO was able to vaccinate over 2.5 million children, train thousands of new health care workers, provide medical assistance, and deliver more than 10 million life-saving treatments to those in need.⁵ Currently there are still over five million people that live in areas that are classified as impossible or hard-to-reach locations, and with the Syria Emergency Response Plan, WHO plans to strengthen the coordination and communication of health information systems in order to be able reach more people, and also provide support and training in order to increase resilience in local communities.⁶ The *2016 Year in Review* further notes that WHO was actively engaged in the monitoring of several outbreaks such as the Zika virus in Latin America and the yellow fever outbreak in Angola.⁷ The committee also recognized significant progress made regarding the transmission of the Ebola virus, which has ended in several Member States including Guinea and Liberia.⁸ Other great achievements that were met in 2016 include the elimination of malaria in Europe, the end of measles in the Americas, and the eradication of trachoma in Morocco.⁹ Additionally highlighted in the review is the response of WHO, alongside the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in Ecuador following the April 2016 earthquake.¹⁰ The disaster injured and displaced thousands of people, and both agencies were able to assist by donating much needed medical supplies.¹¹

From 21-24 November 2016, the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion was held.¹² The conference aimed at helping Member States understand the importance of health promotion, and issues such as food security, clean air, safe water, and adopting an active lifestyle were discussed.¹³ The result was the *Shanghai Declaration on Health Promotion (2016)*.¹⁴ This declaration, sponsored by all Member States present, focuses on creating a healthy environment for people, where governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) collaborate to help education citizens on how to make healthier choices in their lives.¹⁵ At the conference, Member States committed to strengthening regulations on unhealthy products, facilitating the development of technologies that are healthier for people and the environment, and protecting the health and the wellbeing of all.¹⁶ Furthermore, at this conference, the *Shanghai Consensus on Healthy Cities 2016* was created.¹⁷ This document was signed by 100 mayors from several Member States committed to improve the management of their own urban environments in order to improve

¹ WHO, *2016 Year in Review*, 2016.

² Ibid.

³ WHO, *UNICEF and WHO appeal for the lifting of siege on communities in Syria*, 2016.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ WHO, *WHO briefs the UN Security on the health situation in Syria*, 2017.

⁶ WHO, *Syria Emergencies Response Plan 2017*, 2017.

⁷ WHO, *2016 Year in Review*, 2016.

⁸ WHO, *WHO declares the end of the most recent Ebola virus disease outbreak in Liberia*, 2016; WHO, *End of Ebola transmission in Guinea*, 2016.

⁹ WHO, *2016 Year in Review*, 2016.

¹⁰ PAHO, *PAHO mobilizes emergency team to help Ecuador respond to earthquake*, 2016.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² WHO, *9th Global conference on health promotion: Global leaders agree to promote health in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ WHO, *Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2016.

¹⁶ WHO, *9th Global conference on health promotion: Global leaders agree to promote health in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016.

¹⁷ WHO, *Shanghai Consensus on Healthy Cities 2016*, 2016.

the health conditions for people living in those areas.¹⁸ Five governing principles to create healthy cities were presented in the consensus including: health issues when creating policies; addressing the social, economic and environmental factors of health; promoting the engagement of communities; guaranteeing equality in health services; and monitoring wellbeing, diseases and health determinants to improve policy making and implementation in order to increase accountability and transparency.¹⁹

WHO also started the process of electing their new Director-General.²⁰ In October 2016 it published the resumes of the 6 candidates being considered, and in November 2016 each one spoke at a forum held in Geneva.²¹ In January 2017 this process continued with interviews by the Executive Board Members and a short list of 3 candidates was presented to be voted upon in May 2017.²² The new Director-General will then take office 1 July 2017.²³ Additionally, on 12 December 2016, Universal Health Coverage Day, WHO launched a new program to help track progress made in terms of universal health coverage.²⁴ The program includes a data portal that will demonstrate areas in the health sector that Member States need to improve in order to increase health coverage, and what further information they need to provide to WHO in order for the committee to identify potential health.²⁵ Finally, at the end of January of 2017 the 140th session of the Executive Board was held.²⁶ Several topics were on the agenda including health and economic growth, vaccines and the global vaccine action plan, the Sustainable Development Goals, and a global strategy for women, and refugees.²⁷ In the coming months, WHO will continue its work in reducing health risks, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and improving health equality around the world.²⁸

Annotated Bibliography

World Health Organization. (2016). *2016 Year in Review*. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from:

<http://www.who.int/features/2016/EndOfYearReview2016EN.pdf?ua=1>

This year-end report from WHO is a helpful document that delegates can use to advance their knowledge of the major events of 2016 in which WHO was involved. Events such as the Syrian crisis, major disease outbreaks, promoting health equality, protecting children's health, working towards obtaining cleaner air, several natural disasters, and some achievements are all mentioned in this report. Furthermore, the document not only is a great summary of 2016's events, but each subject mentioned in the report contains useful links to other sites and documents that contain more information on each issue area.

World Health Organization. (2016). *Shanghai Consensus on Healthy Cities 2016*. Retrieved 9 January 2017 from:

<http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/9gchp-mayors-consensus-healthy-cities.pdf?ua=1>

The Shanghai Consensus is a valuable document that delegates can use to study how local governments can improve the health of their citizens. This document contains goals made by mayors from around the globe that emphasize health and sustainable development. The document contains specific actions that these mayors will undertake in their cities. Delegates can brainstorm ideas to improve health from the section which highlights the mayors' priorities. This includes delivering basic health needs to all its citizens, working to decrease air pollution, prioritizing the health of children, creating smoke free environments, and protecting cities from infectious diseases.

¹⁸ WHO, *9th Global conference on health promotion: Global leaders agree to promote health in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals*, 2016.

¹⁹ WHO, *Shanghai Consensus on Healthy Cities 2016*, 2016.

²⁰ WHO, *Update: Election process for the new WHO Director-General*, 2016.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ WHO, *New WHO data portal to help track progress towards universal health coverage*, 2016.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ WHO, *140th session of the Executive Board*, 2017.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ WHO, *About us*, 2017.



World Health Organization. (2016). *Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/shanghai-declaration.pdf?ua=1>

This declaration created at the Global Conference on Health Promotion is a very important document that delegates can use in their research as it provides detailed information on current actions by Member States to improve health in their countries. The declaration contains important commitments such as ensuring health equality, strengthening health care systems, and creating policies that can help with the promotion of health and sustainable development. The document provides incentives to discuss the importance of health for a sustainable development and also highlights the importance of good governance for health. The declaration urges political leaders, the private sector, and civil society to participate and help promote health and wellbeing, especially in the SDGs.

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World Health Organization. (2016). *2016 Year in Review*. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/features/2016/EndOfYearReview2016EN.pdf?ua=1>

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World Health Organization. (2016, June 1). *End of Ebola transmission in Guinea* [Press Release]. Retrieved 4 February 2017 from: <http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/item/8676-end-of-ebola-transmission-in-guinea.html>

World Health Organization. (2016). *Health Promotion: Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/shanghai-declaration/en/>

World Health Organization. (2016, December 12). *New WHO data portal to help track progress towards universal health coverage* [Press Release]. Retrieved 8 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/portal-universal-health/en/>

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in Liberia. Retrieved 5 February 2017 from: <http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/item/8699-who-declares-the-end-of-the-most-recent-ebola-virus-disease-outbreak-in-liberia.html>

World Health Organization. (2017). *140th session of the Executive Board* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2017/140th-executive-board/en/>

World Health Organization. (2017). *9th Global Conference on Health Promotion – About* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/about/en/>

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I. Mitigating the Public Health Effects of Climate Change

Recent Developments

In recent months, the international community has been actively discussing the public health effects of climate change, as well as addressing current and potential mechanisms to address the health risks of climate change.²⁹ The World Health Organization (WHO) has been an active participant in campaigns, such as the BreatheLife campaign and conferences, and continues to develop media campaigns and support programs to create further awareness on the public health dimension of this issue.³⁰

In October 2016, WHO promoted the BreatheLife campaign and the negative effects of air pollution during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) in Quito, Ecuador.³¹ The goals of the campaign are not only to create awareness on the health risks of air pollution, but also raise awareness for the resources available to the public to mitigate consequences.³² At the conference, health was determined as a “fundamental driver” of sustainable development, which could aid the progress in reducing inequalities in urban areas, as opposed to only being an indicator of progress.³³ After the conference, WHO published a report on the policy discussions on the relationship between urban development, health and well-being, as well as mechanisms that would address the intersectionality of the issue, to implement the New Urban Agenda.^{34,35} WHO reaffirmed its own role, as well as the roles of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and institutions that work on addressing the public health effects of climate change, in integrating public health with urban development and associated policy discussions and investments.³⁶

WHO was an active participant at the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, and hosted several events to highlight the intersectionality of health, climate, and the environment.³⁷ WHO looked to tackling the health-specific action items to achieve the targets of the *Paris Agreement* (2015).³⁸ The events hosted discussed issues such as implementing a health indicator to monitor the effects of the agreement on climate change-related health problems and the creation of a global strategic alliance amongst key stakeholders in health, environment, and climate communities.³⁹ Additionally, WHO hosted the “UN High Level Side Event on Climate Change and Health – SDG 3: good health and well-being”, where participants discussed areas of support that institutions would require to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.⁴⁰ The *Ministerial Declaration on “Health, Environment and Climate Change”* called for further cooperation between national institutions, WHO, UNFCCC, and other relevant actors to “identify and recommend the most effective mechanisms to accomplish” the relevant action items of the *Paris Agreement* (2015).⁴¹ Furthermore, the Ministerial Declaration demands national policies that mitigate public health effects of climate change by providing insights into the mechanisms of health inequities in Member States.⁴²

Also in November 2016, WHO launched the *Innov8 Approach for Reviewing National Health Programmes to Leave No One Behind*.⁴³ The report identifies ways to take effective approaches to support the “operationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and help deliver promises on maximizing universal health coverage and

²⁹ WHO, *Habitat III: UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development*, 2016.

³⁰ WHO, *Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda*, 2016, p. 1.

³¹ WHO, *Habitat III: UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development*, 2016.

³² WHO, *Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda*, 2016, p. 1.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ WHO, *Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda*, 2016, p. 2.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

³⁷ WHO, *Health topics at COP22, Marrakech*, 2016.

³⁸ WHO, *WHO Health and Climate Change highlights: Health topics at COP22, Marrakech*, 2016, p. 1.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁴¹ WHO, *Ministerial Declaration on “Health, Environment and Climate Change”*, 2016, p. 2.

⁴² WHO, *The Innov8 approach for reviewing national health programmes to leave no one behind*, 2016, p. 24-25.

⁴³ WHO, *About the Innov8 approach*, 2016.

the right to health.⁴⁴ Innov8 approach involves multidisciplinary national review teams to conduct an eight-step review process to enhance the capacity through applied learning, identify entry points for actions and sustained change, as well as improved governance and accountability.⁴⁵ The approach responds to concerns brought forward by environment and health ministers at COP 22 who looked for a cohesive review process to monitor the progress and effectiveness of national protocols.⁴⁶

With increasing public health issues resulting from climate change, certain aspects maintain a priority in national and global agendas and the international community is addressing the intersectionality of the two issues.⁴⁷ WHO continues to be actively involved in the discussions on developing new protocols and conducting evaluations and research on the public health effects alongside Member States, intergovernmental organizations, other relevant UN bodies, and CSOs to address the complex nature of this issue.⁴⁸

Annotated Bibliography

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The work plan provides an outline of WHO's aims and objectives on climate change and health for the five-year period. Identifying the aims and objectives will help delegates understand the role WHO plays in this particular period and how they will further address the topic after this period. Furthermore, delegates will be provided a background understanding of the current initiatives and programs that are presently organized by WHO on this topic.

World Health Organization. (2016). *Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/250367/1/9789241511445-eng.pdf?ua=1>

This report was prepared by WHO in consultation with international experts and organizations that work on urban health and development. The document provides an in-depth background on the effects of climate change on urban health, and the discussions that took place during the UN Habitat III conference. Delegates should note the conclusions of the discussions on how to address the intersectionality of climate change and health.

World Health Organization. (2016). *Ministerial Declaration on "Health, Environment and Climate Change"* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/Ministerial-declaration-EN.pdf?ua=1>

This Declaration is an outcome of the Ministerial Meeting on Health, Environment and Climate Change session that was hosted by WHO for health and environment ministers to identify and discuss ways and means for a future partnership on health, environment, and climate change. Delegates will find this document useful as it highlights area milestones governments wish to take to address the intersectionality of the issue.

World Health Organization. (2016). *The Innov8 approach for reviewing national health programmes to leave no one behind* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January, 2016 from:

<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/250442/1/9789241511391-eng.pdf?ua=1>

This approach is designed to aid national governments in reviewing current and future public health policies that would aid in achieving the SDGs. The link between climate change and health is becoming prominent in public health discussions, and there is an emphasis on the importance of a standardized review process. Delegates will be able to understand the importance of monitoring and evaluation tools and will get an understanding on how this topic is positioned amongst the larger health conversation.

⁴⁴ WHO, *Innov8 Approach for Reviewing National Health Programmes to Leave No One Behind*, 2016, p. 1.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid., pp. 24-25.

⁴⁷ WHO, *WHO Workplan on Climate Change and Health: Aims and Objectives: 2014-2019*, 2015, p. 1.

⁴⁸ Ibid.



World Health Organization. (2016). *WHO Health and Climate Change highlights: Health topics at COP22, Marrakech* [Meeting Summary]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from:

<http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/cop22-programme.pdf?ua=1>

During COP 22, WHO hosted an array of events to discuss climate change and health-related issues. This meeting summary highlights some of the important themes that were addressed. Delegates will find the short summaries helpful to understand the role WHO played at COP 22 and key issues to focus on while discussing the topic.

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World Health Organization. (2016). *Health topics at COP22, Marrakech* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from:

<http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/cop22/en/>

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World Health Organization. (2016). *Ministerial Declaration on “Health, Environment and Climate Change”*

[Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/Ministerial-declaration-EN.pdf?ua=1>

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<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/250442/1/9789241511391-eng.pdf?ua=1>

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<http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/cop22-programme.pdf?ua=1>



II. Ensuring Access to Clean and Safe Water

Recent Developments

In November 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) released updated statistics on the topic of drinking water, noting in particular that although 91% of the world's population now had access to an improved source of safe drinking water, compared to 76% in 1990, over 1.8 billion still drink water contaminated with feces.⁴⁹ Additionally, it was projected that by 2025, over half of the population will live in water-stressed areas.⁵⁰ Likewise, within the past few months, several reports from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have highlighted the persistent problem of obtaining access to clean and safe water for people in many Member States, including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Haiti.⁵¹ In particular, an October 2016 report by UNICEF found that individuals within Member States that have witnessed civil wars and natural disasters have been prone to the consequences that arise from not having access to clean and safe water, such as being exposed to pneumonia, diarrhea, and other preventable diseases.⁵² In Haiti, for instance, poor water sanitation and infrastructure has intensified since the hurricane which occurred early October 2016, and a higher amount of children have been victims of increased exposure to cholera as a result.⁵³

Access to water has now become an issue facing two million civilians in the midst of the Syrian crisis.⁵⁴ As of 30 September 2016, over 270 000 people were known to be trapped in the city of Aleppo where water supply networks have been cut off as a result of the ongoing civil violence.⁵⁵ As a response to this situation, UNICEF has called for a collaborative effort with its partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to help reconstruct the damaged electrical and water systems in Aleppo to ensure that access to clean and safe water will be brought back to the city.⁵⁶ As humanitarian organizations have been prohibited from delivering aid directly to civilians in Aleppo, WHO has called upon all parties within the conflict to allow for the safe evacuation of sick and wounded victims in order to ensure that aid can be given.⁵⁷ Together, the collaborative efforts of these bodies have mitigated the water crisis in Syria by sending water emergency trucks to western parts of Aleppo in order to provide clean and safe water to an estimated 325,000 civilians per day.⁵⁸

In Yemen, over 7.6 million civilians have been exposed to cholera, following a recent outbreak, brought on in part due to limited access to clean water, as well as poor sanitation.⁵⁹ WHO has organized a response to this issue through collaborating with non-governmental organizations, as well as the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Yemen, UNICEF, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.⁶⁰ Despite these efforts, less than 30% of the overall US \$25.5 million needed to coordinate an effective solution towards this issue has been received.⁶¹ In eastern Nigeria, as of 14 December 2016, it was estimated that over 6 million people were in need of life saving assistance, including access to safe drinking water.⁶² WHO has been coordinating their efforts with the Borno State Ministry of Health in order to create a Health Resources Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS), which will enable information on a wide variety of health needs to be assessed within conflict zones.⁶³

⁴⁹ WHO, *Drinking-water*, 2016.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ UNICEF, *Taps run dry for 2 million people as fighting intensifies in Aleppo*, 2016; UNICEF, *Almost half of Mosul's children cut off from clean water as fighting intensifies*, 2016; UNICEF, *Over 300,000 children under five died from diarrhoeal diseases linked to limited access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in 2015*, 2016.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ UNICEF, *Taps run dry for 2 million people as fighting intensifies in Aleppo*, 2016.

⁵⁵ WHO, *WHO calls for immediate safe evacuation of the sick and wounded from conflict areas*, 2016.

⁵⁶ UNICEF, *Taps run dry for 2 million people as fighting intensifies in Aleppo*, 2016.

⁵⁷ WHO, *WHO calls for immediate safe evacuation of the sick and wounded from conflict areas*, 2016.

⁵⁸ UNICEF, *Taps run dry for 2 million people as fighting intensifies in Aleppo*, 2016.

⁵⁹ WHO, *WHO's cholera response in Yemen*, 2016.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² WHO, *Full impact of the devastated health services in north-eastern Nigeria revealed by WHO report*, 2016.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

Nonetheless, the health services costs associated with Nigeria alone amount to over US\$ 94 million and of this amount, WHO requires an estimated US\$ 31 million to continue with its crisis response plans for the coming year.⁶⁴

As noted in a letter from 14 November 2016, by the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations Security Council, fresh water is an essential resource which only counts for 2% of all the water in the world.⁶⁵ Thus, many still face significant difficulty obtaining it.⁶⁶ Although water scarcity remains one of the biggest issues in our fast-changing global society, international organizations have been working together to develop methods to alleviate this problem for future generations.⁶⁷ Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted during a November Security Council debate that ensuring access to clean and safe water must be perceived as a cooperative effort, furthering diplomacy between states, rather than creating conflict.⁶⁸ Moreover, reports made by the High Level Panel on Water following a session held in September 2016, organized by President of the World Bank Group Dr. Jim Yong Kim and former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, have additionally addressed the topic of water scarcity.⁶⁹ In particular, it was found that access to clean water has the potential to grow into a bigger issue for the international community within upcoming years as a result of urbanization, climate change, and a growing population.⁷⁰ The Panel urged Member States to join forces to establish climate-smart water plans in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to ultimately reduce possible consequences linked to water scarcity.⁷¹ The Panel further requested that Member States consider the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 - Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.⁷² Despite some notable progress on this topic, more must continue to be done to ensure vulnerable populations have access to clean and safe water.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, November 22). *Water resources 'a reason for cooperation, not conflict,' Ban tells Security Council* [News Article] Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55626#.WFwlkNIrK70>

In November, the United Nations Security Council held a meeting in which former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the importance of water, peace, and security to participating Member States, as a means to unify the international community and work towards an efficient plan to alleviate the issue. During this debate, Member States focused on establishing ways in which conflict due to water scarcity could be avoided, and ultimately urged the promotion of inter-state cooperation in regards to this issue by highlighting the usefulness of previous international water agreements and treaties, such as the Indus Waters agreement between India and Pakistan in 1960.

United Nations High Level Panel on Water. (2016, October 28). *Joint Statement of the High Level Panel on Water*. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11811Joint_Statement_of_the_High_Level_Panel_on_Water.pdf

The United Nations High Level Panel on Water is a collaborative effort led by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Dr. Jim Young Kim, President of the World Bank. The primary goal of this initiative is to ensure accessible water for all within the international community while ameliorating water sanitation, and ultimately finding sustainable ways of managing global water resources. In this statement, the High Level Panel on Water establishes its main goals in order to help improve global access to fresh water resources despite the current

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ UN Security Council, *Letter dated 14 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/969)*, 2016.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ UN DPI, *Water resources 'a reason for cooperation, not conflict,' Ban tells Security Council*, 2016.

⁶⁹ UN High Level Panel on Water, *Joint Statement of the High-Level Panel on Water*, 2016.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

effects of climate change as addressed by the government of Morocco and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat during the Paris Agreement.

United Nations, Security Council. (2016). *Letter dated 14 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2016/969>

This document provides a detailed summary of an open debate led by the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, which focuses on the topic of water, peace and security within the international community. This debate outlines the controversial aspects in regards to water accessibility, and aims to establish a universal solution in order to alleviate the intensity of these ongoing issues. The document further highlights water scarcity globally, and the need for collaboration by the international community in ensuring water security for the future.

World Health Organization. (2016, September 30). *WHO calls for immediate safe evacuation of the sick and wounded from conflict areas* [News Article]. Retrieved 20 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/health-workers-attacks/en/>

According to Dr. Pete Salama, the Executive Director of WHO's health emergencies programme, prohibiting individuals from access to health care and essential resources such as water and food is a definite violation of human rights. The ongoing crisis in Syria has led to greater consequences for civilians residing in Aleppo, as simple resources such as water and food supplies have become increasingly difficult for them to obtain. This has led to international organizations such as WHO to work towards protecting safety of these individuals by urging for their immediate evacuation into more secure areas, so that they may be provided with the necessary assistance to survive.

World Health Organization. (2016, November 28). *WHO's cholera response in Yemen* [News Article]. Retrieved 20 January 2017 from: <http://www.emro.who.int/yem/yemen-news/who-scales-up-response-to-contain-cholera-outbreak-in-yemen.html>

This detailed report provides useful information in regards to the current outbreak of cholera in Yemen. The constant spread of this disease is heavily linked to the fact that individuals living in cities such as Sana'a City, Aden, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Al-Bayda'a, and other surrounding areas are faced with limited access to water as well as poor sanitation. Despite current efforts made by the international community and organizations such as WHO to reduce the threat of the disease, the report shows that funding for an adequate response plan remains an even bigger issue area.

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World Health Organization. (2016, September 30). *WHO calls for immediate safe evacuation of the sick and wounded from conflict areas* [News Article]. Retrieved 20 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/health-workers-attacks/en/>

World Health Organization. (2016, November 28). *WHO's cholera response in Yemen* [News Article]. Retrieved 20 January 2017 from: <http://www.emro.who.int/yem/yemen-news/who-scales-up-response-to-contain-cholera-outbreak-in-yemen.html>

III. Improving Coordination of Health Services in Outbreaks and Emergencies

Recent Developments

The 140th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board, held from 23 January to 1 February 2017, continued the conversation on improving coordination of health services and the response to large-scale health emergencies.⁷³ The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization, the principal advisory group to WHO on vaccines and immunizations, met in October 2016 to discuss the progress and recommendations of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP).⁷⁴ Following a recent outbreak of Yellow Fever in Central Africa, the advisory group concluded that progress toward eradicating polio, measles, and other diseases as well as increasing access to vaccines was too slow and current control strategies as well as vaccine supplies were not sufficient.⁷⁵ Subsequent, SAGE recommended governments to focus on: enacting laws guaranteeing access to immunizations; ensuring sufficient funds are appropriately managed and allocated to immunization systems; and well as effective reporting to monitor progress and remaining challenges.⁷⁶

In October 2016, WHO published the *Global Tuberculosis Report* emphasizing the need for Member States to move more swiftly to prevent, detect, and treat the disease in order to meet the 2030 goals of a 90% reduction in tuberculosis deaths and an 80% reduction in tuberculosis cases.⁷⁷ The report suggests that meeting these goals requires increased access to tuberculosis preventative treatment as well as improvements in overall health financing by Member States.⁷⁸ WHO later released the *World Malaria Report* in December 2016, showing improved access to diagnostic testing and preventative treatment for children and pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa.⁷⁹ Despite this progress, many states in the region continue to suffer from insufficient funding and fragile health systems that undermine the overall development.⁸⁰

In November 2016, WHO convened the fifth meeting of the Emergency Committee on Zika and microcephaly.⁸¹ The Emergency Committee determined that Zika will maintain a strong presence and continues to be a significant challenge to public health however, it no longer represents a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).⁸² WHO facilitated the threat reduction of Zika through the *Zika Strategic Response Framework*, which outlined actions such as: prioritizing Zika research, improving capacity to detect the virus, and effectively communicating the risk of Zika to at-risk populations.⁸³ Additionally, WHO led a major trial in Guinea with an experimental Ebola vaccine that returned strong results of the vaccine as highly protective against the virus, effectively becoming the first vaccine to prevent infection from the lethal pathogens.⁸⁴ Going forward, continued studies will indicate the safety of the vaccine for vulnerable populations such as children and people with HIV.⁸⁵

Further, the 55th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO announced that a 22-year-long mass vaccination effort against measles has resulted in eradication of the disease in the Americas, marking the first region to eliminate measles.⁸⁶ The milestone was achieved through strong commitments by Member States to implement the surveillance and vaccination strategies recommended by PAHO/WHO.⁸⁷

⁷³ WHO, *140th session of the Executive Board*, 2017.

⁷⁴ WHO, *Full report for the SAGE meeting of October 2016*, 2016; WHO, *Summary of the October 2016 meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE)*, 2016, p. 1.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ WHO, *WHO report warns global actions and investments to end tuberculosis epidemic are falling short*, 2016.

⁷⁸ WHO, *Global Tuberculosis Report: Executive Summary*, 2016, p. 1.

⁷⁹ WHO, *Malaria control improves for vulnerable in Africa, but global progress off-track*, 2016.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ WHO, *Fifth meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) regarding microcephaly, other neurological disorders and Zika virus*, 2016.

⁸² WHO, *2016 Year in Review*, 2016.

⁸³ WHO, *Zika Virus*, 2016.

⁸⁴ WHO, *Final trial results confirm Ebola vaccine provides high protection against disease*, 2016.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ PAHO, *Region of the Americas is declared free of measles*, 2016.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

In December 2016, former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a new approach to cholera in Haiti, which focuses on reducing the number of people suffering as a result of cholera.⁸⁸ The approach focuses on two elements known as “Track One” and “Track Two.”⁸⁹ “Track One” centers on addressing issues associated with Haiti’s poor access to water, sanitation, and health systems.⁹⁰ “Track Two” provides an acute focus on the victims, families, and communities most directly impacted by the cholera outbreak.⁹¹

In observation of World AIDS Day, WHO released a new set of guidelines on HIV self-testing.⁹² The new guidelines allow an individual to privately interpret the results of a HIV diagnostic self-test.⁹³ The guidelines are a major step in implementing WHO’s recommendations that every person with HIV be offered antiretroviral therapy (ART).⁹⁴ While twenty three states already maintain policies for HIV self-testing, policies continue to be developed in many other states.⁹⁵ WHO continues to help guide Member States that have had limited success in implementing appropriate policies by supporting approaches that enable individuals to purchase self-test kits at an affordable price where free distribution of kits is not an option.⁹⁶

Annotated Bibliography

World Health Organization. (2016). *2016 Year in Review* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/features/2016/EndOfYearReview2016EN.pdf?ua=1>

The WHO 2016 Year in Review provides a helpful progress report for what WHO and the international community collectively achieved, and what requires more work. Each slide provides links to more information regarding each topic, many of which are associated with coordinated health services during outbreaks and health emergencies. Delegates will find this useful as a starting point for additional research on what has happened throughout 2016, especially in the final months.

World Health Organization. (2016, November 18). *Fifth meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) regarding microcephaly, other neurological disorder and Zika virus* [Statement]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/zika-fifth-ec/en/>

This WHO statement summarizes the findings of the fifth meeting of the Emergency Committee on Zika and microcephaly. This is a valuable document for delegates to understand the success possible from the coordination efforts of WHO and the international community, and the continued work necessary to achieve further goals. This statement provides further value to delegates as an example of the long-term planning facilitated by WHO in regard to Zika, which can be translated to other topic areas that can benefit from similar long-term planning.

World Health Organization. (2016, December 23). *Final trial results confirm Ebola vaccine provides high protection against disease* [News Release]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/ebola-vaccine-results/en/>

This WHO news release provides the outcome of the Ebola vaccine trials facilitated and funded by WHO in Guinea. The news release delves into the details of the trials and the vaccine for further information on how WHO addresses the development of vaccines. This is an important source for delegates to understand the role of WHO in a major accomplishment regarding a deadly disease. This also provides a parallel for how delegates can address other topics regarding diseases where a vaccine has yet to be discovered, for example the Zika virus.

⁸⁸ UN DPI, *General Assembly calls on Member States to support new UN approach to cholera in Haiti*, 2016.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² WHO, *WHO issues new guidance on HIV self-testing ahead of World AIDS Day*, 2016.

⁹³ WHO, *HIV self-testing*, 2016.

⁹⁴ WHO, *WHO issues new guidance on HIV self-testing ahead of World AIDS Day*, 2016.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.



World Health Organization. (2016). *Summary of the October 2016 meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE)* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: http://www.who.int/immunization/sage/meetings/2016/october/SAGE_October_2016_Meeting_Web_summary.pdf?ua=1

The summary of the SAGE meeting discusses the progress of the GVAP at its mid-term review. This includes successes and where there is still a great need of effort in immunizing the global community. This summary provides a good understanding of the goals of the GVAP, SAGE, and WHO for increasing immunizations to vaccine-preventable diseases as well as the major recommendations regarding how to achieve these goals. Delegates will find this source especially useful for seeing how SAGE addresses different vaccine-preventable diseases and the recommendations provided for further progress on immunizations.

World Health Organization. (2017). *140th session of the Executive Board* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2017/140th-executive-board/en/>

This WHO website is the media center for the 140th session of the WHO Executive Board. It provides a list of links to each of the main topics addressed at the 140th session as well as links to the main documents issued as the provisional agenda for the committee. This source is valuable for delegates as a central link to documents and other relative information that outlines the issue areas that will be the focus of WHO in 2017. Delegates can use this source as a hub for further research and seeing how these issue areas evolve over the next several months.

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