Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Valdosta State University Model United Nations Conference of 2015, and to the UNICEF Committee. My name is Julie Hanna, and I am very happy to be a part of this conference for a second year. This is my second year as a member of the VSU Model United Nations team. I hold an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Wiregrass Technical College and I graduate in December with degree in Political Science with a specialization in International Politics. I start the Master of Public Administration program at VSU in January and hope to graduate the following summer. After graduation I hope to pursue a career as a victims advocate, and ultimately work for the Federal Government. I am currently being trained to be a certified victims advocate at the Lowndes county Solicitors office.

The first conference I attended was the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) Conference held in Atlanta. I also attended the National Model United Nations (NMUN) held in New York City. The rigorous preparation that was essential to competing in these conferences is the strongest form of educational discipline I have ever received. An intense atmosphere involving extensive daily research and comprehensive analysis prepared me for both the conference as well as a truly higher education. Model UN conferences provide opportunities to practice research, public speaking, teamwork, negotiation, and writing skills in a safe and structured environment.

From this experience, I have learned to work with other students diplomatically and have greatly improved my skills in research, negotiation, and public speaking. The ability to travel to these conferences and meet students from all over the world is an extremely rewarding experience, while the knowledge and perspectives gained by Model United Nations participation remains everlasting. The leadership experience and analytical skills acquired through my MUN experience have not only been beneficial in my professional career, they have also changed the way in which I interact with others and solve problems on a daily basis. The UNICEF Committee is committed to saving lives, and building futures. It works to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and advocates giving children the best start early on in life. It believes that the early care a child receives sets the foundation for a child’s future.

The topics for the UNICEF Committee are:

I. Protection of girls in developing countries.
II. Human Trafficking.
III. Immunization.

Good luck delegates!

This background guide was prepared by:
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History of the UNICEF Committee

The UNICEF Committee was established on December 11th, 1946, by resolution UN/GA/57. The United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Following the decision of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) on termination of its activities in August 1946 to apply its residual assets to a fund to provide relief for the suffering children in war-devastated Europe. By Resolution 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, the General Assembly decided to shift the main emphasis of the Fund toward programs of long-range benefit to children of the developing countries. By Resolution 802 (VIII) of 6 October 1953, it unanimously voted to continue the Fund an indefinite period. The official name was shortened to United Nations Children’s Fund but the well-known acronym UNICEF was retained.

UNICEF is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, to which it reports through the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. As an integral part of the United Nations, its work is reviewed annually by the Economic and Social Council (in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 802 (VII), section 5 (b)) and by the General Assembly. The UNICEF financial report, accounts and the report of the Board of Auditors are submitted to the General Assembly and are reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee.

The Executive Board is the governing body of UNICEF. It is responsible for providing intergovernmental support to and supervision of the activities of UNICEF, in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Board meets three times each year, in a first regular (January), annual (June) and second regular session (September). The Board, like the governing bodies of other United Nations funds and Programs (UNDP, UNFPA, and WFP), is subject to the authority of the Council. Its role is to implement the policies formulated by the Assembly and the coordination and guidance received from the Council, receive information from and give guidance to the Executive Director of the work of UNICEF, ensure that the activities and operational strategies of UNICEF are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the Assembly and the Council, monitor the performance of UNICEF, approve programs, including country programs, decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets, recommend new initiatives to the Council and, through the Council, to the assembly as necessary, encourage and examine new programs initiatives, and submit annual reports to the Council in its substantive session, which could include recommendations, where appropriate, for improvement field-level coordination.

The Board has 36 members, elected for a three-year term with the following regional allocation of seats: 8 African States, 7 Asian States, 4 Eastern European States, 5 Latin American and Caribbean States and 12 Western European and Other States (including Japan). The officers of the Board, constituting the Bureau, are elected by the Board at its first regular session of each calendar year from among Board members. There are five officers—the President and four Vice-Presidents—representing the five regional groups at the United Nations. Officers of the Board are elected for a one-year term. The Board year runs from 1 January to 31 December.
The Economic and Social Council elects States to sit on the UNICEF Executive Board from States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Board sessions are held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. All formal meetings of the Board are interpreted in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian). A set of established Rules of Procedure facilitates the conduct of meetings.

The Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board (OSEB) is responsible for maintaining effective relationship between the Board and the UNICEF secretariat. Under the guidance of the President and the Bureau and through regular contacts with them, it organizes the business of and services all Board sessions. The office has similar responsibilities in relation to the wide range of informal consultations, briefings and Bureau meetings.

In addition, OSEB provides editorial and technical services for all documentation submitted to, or resulting from, meetings of the Board, working closely with the United Nations Secretariat, which translates and produces most documents in the required official languages. Documents are distributed to Board members six weeks before the start of each session. The office maintains a permanent record of all deliberations and decisions of the Board.

In close collaboration with the Programme Division and the concerned UNICEF field offices, OSEB organizes and arranges field visits by Board members and the President of the Board.

UNICEF is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. We have the global authority to influence decision-makers, and the variety of partners at grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. That makes us unique among world organizations, and unique among those working with the youth. 13

We believe that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress. UNICEF was created with this purpose in mind – to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child’s path. We believe that we can, together, advance the cause of humanity. We advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person’s future. They promote girls’ education – ensuring that they complete primary education as a minimum – because it benefits all children, both girls and boys. Girls who are educated grow up to become better thinkers, better citizens, and better parents to their own children. We act so that all children are immunized against common childhood diseases, and are well nourished, because it is wrong for a child to suffer or die from a preventable illness.

I. Human Trafficking: A Violation of Rights Across the World

Introduction
Human trafficking is a global problem and one of the world's most shameful crimes, affecting the lives of millions of people around the world and robbing them of their dignity. Traffickers deceive women, men and children from all corners of the world and force them into exploitative
situations every day. While the best-known form of human trafficking is for the purpose of sexual exploitation, hundreds of thousands of victims are trafficked for the purposes of forced labor, domestic servitude, child begging or the removal of their organs. Trafficking in persons was a violation against humanity 200 years ago, as it still is today. Virtually every country in the world is affected by trafficking for sexual exploitation or forced labor. Human trafficking is a violation of rights that has spiraled into a serious and tragic epidemic. As defined by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, human trafficking is “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”.1 When persons are recruited, they are exploited for various reasons that include but are limited to sexual exploitation, forced labor and/or services, slavery, and even organ removal. Human trafficking can take place in within a country as well as between countries. The victims of human trafficking consist of not only women and children, but men as well. Human trafficking is recognized as a consequential crime and significant efforts have been made to terminate this vicious infringement. Human trafficking is one of the most lucrative illicit businesses in Europe, with criminal groups making about $3 billion from it per year, making it a considerable criminal business that preys on the world's most marginalized persons.

In Europe, over 140,000 victims are trapped in a situation of violence and degradation for sexual exploitation and up to one in seven sex workers in the region may have been enslaved into prostitution through trafficking. Globally, one in five victims of human trafficking are children, although in poorer regions and sub-regions, such as Africa and Greater Mekong, they make up the majority of trafficked persons. Women meanwhile make up two thirds of the world's human trafficking victims.

Children are exploited for the purposes of forced begging, child pornography or sex. Children are sometimes favoured as labourers as their small hands are deemed better for untangling fishing nets, sewing luxury goods or picking cocoa. Children are also enslaved as child soldiers in war zones. Women make up two thirds of the world's human trafficking victims. The vast majority of these female victims are young women who are lured with false promises of employment and then raped, drugged, imprisoned, beaten or threatened with violence, have debt imposed on them, have their passport confiscated and/or are blackmailed. Men and boys may be victims of human trafficking for the purposes of forced labour, forced begging and sexual exploitation, and as child soldiers. The percentage of identified male victims is disproportionately lower than that of women for a number of reasons, including the fact that for many years anti-human trafficking legislation around the world tended to focus on trafficking in women and children or trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, of which most victims are women. The many different types of human trafficking mean that there is no single, typical victim profile. Cases are seen in all parts of the world and victims are targeted irrespective of gender, age or background. Children, for example, might be trafficked from Eastern to Western Europe for the purpose of begging or as pickpockets; young girls, for example from Africa, may be deceived with promises of modeling or au pair jobs only to find themselves trapped in a world of sexual and pornographic exploitation; women from Asia may be tricked with promises of legitimate work, which in reality lead to virtual imprisonment and abuse; and men and women
alike, for instance those trafficked from South to North America, may be made to work in
grueling conditions on farms.

**Background**
Human trafficking stems from the idea of slavery, which began in the 1400s. From there, the
idea of slavery and what one can do with it transformed. In 1904, white slave trafficking
appeared which forced or deceived white women and girls into prostitution. In 1932, during
WWII, Japan set up “comfort stations” which forced women all across Asia into sexual slavery
where conditions were atrocious and inhabitable. In 1956, India attempted to decrease
trafficking through the Immoral Traffic Act, however it was said to have a negative effect due to
forcing women out of brothels but into more dangerous situations. By this time, human
trafficking was thriving throughout the world at not much was being done, that is until 1995
when human trafficking was defined and acknowledged as a violation of human rights. Since,
there have great strides in the prevention of human trafficking such as various conferences to
address this issue, acts and protocol to further define, prevent and prosecute, as well as
organizations such as the Polaris Project that aid in the prevention of trafficking.

In human trafficking consists of two parties: the traffickers and the victims. Anyone can be a
victim of human trafficking. Race, age, level of education, socio-economic background are all
varied. But the victims of human trafficking do share one common trait: vulnerability. Those
who have been exposed to war, sexual assault, domestic violence, homelessness, or are
runaways, are typically targeted by traffickers. Victims are often disoriented and have trouble
going help because they may have language barriers, unfamiliarity of surroundings due to
frequent moving, and often their identification has been removed and are under the manipulation
tactics of the trafficker. “Human traffickers recruit, transport, harbor, obtain, and exploit victims
— often using force, threats, lies, or other psychological coercion.” The process of detaining their
victims is through the use of manipulation and vulnerability. Traffickers use promises of jobs,
loving relationships, or even exciting opportunities to coerce their victims while others use
kidnapping or other violent methods. It is estimated that there over twenty million human
trafficking victims globally including over five million children and fifty-five percent consists of
women and children. Children and adults and forced into commercial sex and forced labor and
services. Traffickers will exploit anyone if it means making money. The human trafficking
industry reaches one hundred fifty billion dollars. The is low risk for traffickers and high profit
which is why this industry continues to grow and prosper.

**Trafficking in the West**
Trafficking occurs all over the world including within the developing nations of Africa and in
wealthier nations such as the United Kingdom and the United States. Unfortunately, not many
realize that trafficking is a major problem in the West, and especially in developed, richer
nations. Awareness is necessary in order for the United Nations to combat this dire human rights
issue. Both labor and sex trafficking exists secretly in large numbers and through many venues.
What may appear as a massage business could in fact be a cover for an illegal brothel with
workers forced against their will to participate with little or no pay. Illegal labor is also a
problem even in capitalist countries. Workers that are not paid are often hidden or may even
work for small change way below minimum wage. More action should be taken to prevent these
horrific crimes against lives. The change that must take place should involved communities as
well as set up institutions within government that can help facilitate people to new homes and educational centers for these found victims. Action also needs to be taken to eliminate the traffickers and the complex systems that preserve their business. Public awareness, changes to immigration, and government programs may be the key to decreasing the number of victims of trafficking.

According to polarisproject.org, 41% of sex trafficking cases and 20% of labor trafficking cases in the United States include citizens as the victims. This of course means that 59% of sex trafficking cases and a whopping 80% of labor trafficking cases victimize foreigners. Women were the victims in 85% of sex trafficking cases, and men were victims in 40% of labor trafficking cases. Both men and women are victims, but women appear to be the victim in the majority of these cases.

Data from stopthetraffik.org shows that in one year, trafficking in the United Kingdom increased 13 fold from 131 known cases to 1,745 cases from 2012 to 2013. It is evident that this problem is increasing rapidly and each country suffering from this problem needs to implement solutions. The data also shows that about 5% of victims are United Kingdom citizens, which shows that just like the US, foreigners are also more likely to be victims in the UK. Foreigners need to be treated with dignity and are undeserving of this type of treatment. It also appears that foreign women are the most likely to face this form of slavery. Action must be taken to combat this cultural and societal crisis.

**Current Situation**

It is clear that human trafficking is not just a problem in developing, poor nations. It has become big black market business. At the smallest level, awareness is necessary so that all citizens can recognize trafficking and know how and where to report it. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) has been a great tool for allowing citizens to report potential trafficking cases through online tip forums, emails, or phone calls. In 5 years they had 72,000 reports from citizens in the United States. Public awareness has had its success of reporting the crime, but there are still many more victims than reported cases. With a steady increase of trafficking, education is needed to teach children and adults on how to recognize the signs of trafficking and how and where to report it. Government advertisement on the web or on television is one way to catch the public's eye and spread awareness where some are oblivious to the impact of trafficking in their environment.

The fact that many of these victims are foreigners shows that illegal immigration has its negative consequences on foreigners themselves. With no documentation, it is easier to take advantage of people that do not exist in public records. Desperate individuals may join trafficking cartels just to move to a more developed nation. Both the United States and the United Kingdom allow illegal immigration, and therefore allow trafficking. It is an unintentional, but terrible side effect of allowing undocumented workers within a country. No favor is done for the victim, who works below minimum wage in unregulated conditions. Governments need to enforce immigration laws to protect foreigners and national security. Additional laws and programs may be implemented to allow citizenship to be easier for immigrants. The hassle of obtaining citizenship may be one obstacle encouraging trafficking to take place.
For many victims that have lived in the trafficking environment for many years, their forced career becomes their life and they do not know how to live after trafficking. In some cases child prostitutes stay prostitutes all their lives even after achieving freedom because it is all they know. Children coming out of these horrific situations need to be protected and placed in homes that will treat them with love and understanding. It is important that the government sets up organized, local programs to place these children in the right foster families that will allow them normalcy they have missed in their lives. Adults escaping trafficking likewise need guidance in keeping their freedom and not going back to a dependent life in servitude. Programs should allow people escaping these harsh situations to learn skills and trades that give them a place in society. Without these programs, these victims may fall back into their old lifestyle of servitude and never experience real freedom and independence.

Action Taken

As a first step towards the Global Partnership, Belarus initiated the resolution “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”, which was adopted by consensus at the 61st UN session of the General Assembly in 2006 (A/res/61/180). Then, at the 63rd and 64th sessions of the UN General Assembly in 2008 (A/res/63/194) and 2009 (A/res/64/178) respectively, the resolutions on the same issue reconfirmed importance in promoting better anti-trafficking cooperation globally. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking, recognized that Member States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate this crime and to ensure that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, Recalled its resolution 61/180 of 20 December 2006 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and other relevant General Assembly resolutions on trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery. Recognized that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery.

Conclusion

It is the responsibility of the governments of wealthy nations to end trafficking of their own people and of exploitable foreigners who really just want to experience life in a wealthy nation. With no changes to how awareness is spread, immigration and citizenship, and the programs to help victims of trafficking, we will not see this crisis end.

Committee Directive

Human trafficking is a huge problem. Millions of lives have been destroyed by it. Delegates need to look at past resolutions and focus on what has worked and what has not worked. What contributes to the increase in human trafficking in certain areas rather than in other areas. Delegates need to work with each other and band together, only this will solve the problem.

II. Protection of Girls in Developing countries
Introduction

Education can change lives and break the cycle of poverty that traps so many children and women. Education for girls is particularly important as an educated mother will make sure her own children go to, and stay in, school. Many children in developing countries start life without adequate means of nutrition, learning, and protection. Women and girls are particularly challenged. Uneducated girls are more at risk than boys to become marginalized. They are more vulnerable to exploitation. They are more likely than educated girls to contract HIV/AIDS, which spreads twice as quickly among uneducated girls than among girls that have even some schooling.

As unschooled adults, these girls will be less likely to have a say socially and politically and to be able to support themselves. Women’s rights and access to land, credit and education are limited not only due to legal discrimination, but because more subtle barriers such as their work load, mobility and low bargaining position in the household and community prevent them from taking advantage of their legal rights. These problems affect their children: women earn only one tenth of the world’s income and own less than one per cent of property, so households without a male head are at special risk of impoverishment. These women will also be less likely to immunize their children and know how to help them survive.

Gender bias undercuts women’s rights in other areas. Practices such as early marriage or poor health services result in high rates of maternal mortality. Having a missing or disabled mother severely undercuts a child’s chances of survival and health as well.

The world has recognized the importance of gender equality. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, sets forth provisions that include civil rights and freedoms, family environment, basic health and welfare, education, leisure and cultural activities and special protection measures for all children. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and acceded to by 180 States, sets down rights for women, of freedom from discrimination and equality under the law. Realizing the rights and equality of women is also the key to the survival and development of children and to building healthy families, communities and nations.

Background

Today, nearly 17% of the world’s adult population is still not literate; two thirds of them women, making gender equality even harder to achieve. According to Inter Press Service, “On a global scale, women cultivate more than half of all the food that is grown. In sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, they produce up to 80 percent of basic foodstuffs. In Asia, they account for around 50 percent of food production. In Latin America, they are mainly engaged in subsistence farming, horticulture, poultry and raising small livestock.” Educating girls has benefits not just for themselves but also for their families, communities and countries. With a quality education, girls can make informed choices, improving their country's social and economic well-being by promoting the health and welfare of the next generation.

There is vast evidence suggesting that countries with better gender equality and less gender disparity in primary and secondary education are more likely to have higher economic growth. Some countries lose more than 1 million a year by failing to educate girls to the same level as
An educated female population increases a country's productivity and fuels economic growth.

Educating women is beneficial for the economy. Recent reports from the World Bank, World Economic Forum, and the OECD point to the key economic role played by women as they become more productive citizens through education. Educated women contribute to the quality, size, and productivity of the workforce. They can get better paying jobs, allowing them to provide daily necessities, health care, and education to support the family. Educated women are better at managing their own and their family's health issues, thereby reducing infant and maternal mortality, as well as health-care costs, and improving demographic structures. In a world fraught with war and poverty, hunger and disease, education is one of the few “silver bullets” that can contribute to meaningful improvements in people's lives in most of these areas. More educated women tend to be healthier, work and earn more income, have fewer children, and provide better health care and education to their children. Girls' education literally saves millions of lives, according to UNICEF.

**Actions taken**

Whether it means building child-friendly schools making classrooms mobile, training teachers or even rebuilding an entire educational system—UNICEF will do whatever it takes to support a child's right to education. Morocco gave women greater equality and protection of their human rights within marriage and divorce by passing a new family code in 2004. India has accepted legal obligations to eliminate discrimination against women and outlawed sexual harassment in the workplace. In Cameroon, the Convention is applied in local courts and groundbreaking decisions on gender equality are being made by the country’s high courts. Mexico passed a law in 2007 toughening its laws on violence against women. The CEDAW committee in Austria decided two complaints against Austria concerning domestic violence in 2007. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also noted that within the UN itself, the number of women in senior post has increased by 40%. A major global women’s rights treaty was ratified by the majority of the world’s nations a few decades ago.

Strengthen opportunities for post-primary education for girls while simultaneously meeting commitments to universal primary education.

The Security Council adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system such as the following: Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Invest in infrastructure to reduce women’s and girls’ time burdens.

Guarantee women’s and girls’ property and inheritance rights.
Eliminate gender inequality in employment by decreasing women’s reliance on informal employment, closing gender gaps in earnings, and reducing occupational segregation. Increase women’s share of seats in national parliaments and local governmental bodies. Combat violence against girls and women. Poor women gaining greater access to savings and credit mechanisms worldwide, due to microcredit. A dwindling number of countries that do not allow women to vote including Bhutan (one vote per house), Lebanon (partial), Brunei (no-one can vote), Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (expected in 2010), and the Vatican City.

Current Situation
Yet, despite many successes in empowering women, numerous issues still exist in all areas of life, ranging from the cultural, political to the economic. For example, women often work more than men, yet are paid less; gender discrimination affects girls and women throughout their lifetime; and women and girls are often are the ones that suffer the most poverty. Thirty years after the adoption of CEDAW which stands for the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Many girls still do not have the opportunity to gain knowledge of the rights they have by law. Still in many countries women are not allowed to own property or inherit land. Social exclusion, honor killings (taking/sacrificing one’s life to uphold the family name or tradition), female genital mutilation, trafficking, restricted mobility and early marriage, denying the right to health for women and girls, thus increasing illness and death throughout the life course. When it comes to female education rates, progress has been made around the world, and in many countries girls and young women have outnumbered and outperformed boys and men at all levels of schooling for decades. Nevertheless, these advances have yet to translate into greater equity in employment, politics and social relations.

Conclusion
Violence and oppression of women and girls happens everywhere, every day. To implement programs; supports safe haven shelters that care for street kids; trains and funds women and children protection teams to patrol areas where they are trafficked; develops innovative programs like Safe and Friendly Cities and Safe Schools; and supports groundbreaking national surveys to document the prevalence of violence against girls and boys and help governments build better protection systems.

Committee Directive
UNICEF fully supports each child’s right to an education. Education, especially among girls help’s women obtain rights. Education can bring a country out of the brink of disaster. An educated population contributes greatly to the success of a country. Delegates need to establish an education plan for developing countries that are struggling with an overwhelmingly uneducated population.

III. Immunization: Promotion of Vaccines in Developing Countries
Humans have always used our intelligence and creativity to improve our existence. After all, we invented the wheel, discovered how to make fire, invented the printing press and found a vaccine for polio. ---Naveen Jain

Introduction

Infectious diseases are forever morphing and the United Nations seeks to match the growing need to promote health and wellness in the developing world. Organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank work in conjunction with each other to come up with ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in developing countries. Infectious diseases can be defined as disorders caused by organisms — such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. “Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful, but under certain conditions, some organisms may cause disease.”(1) A few infectious diseases such as chicken pox, measles, or polio are seen as minor complications in developed first world countries who have ready access to vaccinations to prevent the spread or contraction of these diseases. In incident that a citizen in a developed country contracts and infectious disease they are near resources that can treat their ailment effectively and have a high chance of survival. Citizens in developing third world countries do not have the luxury of adequate medical care when they fall ill to an infectious disease. The best way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases is through vaccinations and education of the population on everyday practices they can do to protect themselves.

Background

A chicken coop and a lazy assistant is not where most people would propose that the story of vaccines began. In the 1870’s Louis Pasteur accidentally discovered a way to inoculate oneself to rabies and anthrax due to a lab oversight by his assistant. “His assistant, Charles Chamberland (of French origin), had been instructed to inoculate the chickens after Pasteur went on holiday. Chamberland failed to do this, but instead went on holiday himself. On his return, the month-old cultures made the chickens unwell, but instead of the infections being fatal, as they usually were, the chickens recovered completely. Chamberland assumed an error had been made, and wanted to discard the apparently faulty culture when Pasteur stopped him. Pasteur guessed the recovered animals now might be immune to the disease, as were the animals at Eure-et-Loir that had recovered from anthrax”(6) His findings showed that introducing small doses of what one is trying to prevent could sufficiently block the contraction of the full-fledged disease. By introducing cells to a foreign enemy in small doses, they are better equipped to fight off and are less susceptible to the disease. In fact any symptoms shown by the participants in Pasteur’s experiment were mild at best and all made full recoveries. “Louis Pasteur solved the mysteries of rabies, anthrax, chicken cholera, and silkworm diseases, and contributed to the development of the first vaccines. He debunked the widely accepted myth of spontaneous generation, thereby setting the stage for modern biology and biochemistry”.(3) That was the seed that germinated and created many modern miracles that have nearly eradicated diseases like small pox, measles, tuberculosis, and polio.

Actions Taken
The United Nations recognizes the importance of immunization in developing countries. “Immunization coverage has increased dramatically since the launch of mass vaccination campaigns – such as the Expanded Programme on Immunization promoted by UNICEF and WHO from the mid-1970s. By 2012, approximately 83 per cent of children receive the DTP3 – three doses of the combined diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus vaccine.”(2) When it comes to who is the most susceptible to infectious diseases children of developing countries are the ones who are undoubtedly heavily affected. More children die every year than adults of preventable infectious diseases. Despite extraordinary progress in immunizing more children over the past decade, in 2007, 24 million children—almost 20 percent of the children born each year—did not get the complete routine immunizations scheduled for their first year of life. (4) Nearly one in five children in developing countries die every year from a lack of proper vaccinations coupled with poor overall medical care. These deaths were preventable.

The United Nations has taken action through several resolutions such as resolution WHA61.15 which stated that “Concerned that there are insufficient resources available for introduction of new and underutilized vaccines, especially in low-income and middle-income countries, and given the costs related to procurement and introduction of these vaccines, and taking into account the need to expand the number of manufacturers, particularly in developing countries, that can produce to the standards required to attain and maintain WHO-prequalification and to create a competitive market place for these vaccines; Stressing the vital role that vaccine and immunization programmes can play in reducing under-five mortality and in facilitating the delivery of a package of life-saving interventions.”(5) Another resolution that the United Nations has sought to implement was WHA65.17 which advocated the importance of a global immunization strategy, the Global Vaccination Plan.

**Current Situation**

There are several issues facing organizations like UNICEF and WHO as they strive to improve the health of children and adult globally. One of the biggest issues that they face is funding and the access of vaccinations to distribute to countries in need. “The three key factors that in the past have kept vaccine prices relatively low for developing countries “have evaporated.” Traditionally, manufacturers were able to sell vaccines to developing countries at a lower cost because they could get a higher price from industrialized countries. But industrialized and developing countries no longer use the same vaccines. In addition, manufacturers no longer maintain excess production capacity: supply must be equivalent to demand. Finally, with the exception of the hepatitis B vaccine, there is no longer enough competition among suppliers to keep prices down. (4) The strains of viruses and bacteria that vaccines are meant to combat are evolving rapid into new strains. If the price of vaccines continues to scale upwards, it is highly doubtful that the United Nations will be able to meet the demand to inoculate even every child in a developing country as they have proposed to do.

Another issue global vaccination faces is the mistrust of the government when it comes to the handling of vaccines. Accusations have crept up all over the world that claim that vaccines can cause Down syndrome or create infertility in those that receive them. “In both developing and industrialized countries, loss of public confidence in a vaccine due to real or spurious links to adverse events can curtail or even halt immunization activities. Despite the scientific evidence refuting links between the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism, there has been a decline in coverage in many countries.”(4) Due to this unfounded claims many people are opting not to vaccinate themselves or their children, which results in the resurgence of diseases that
were once thought to be eradicated. Measles is making a comeback in several industrialized countries, including Austria, Israel, Italy, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported record numbers of measles cases in the United States for the first seven months of 2008—many of them in children whose parents had refused vaccination.”(4) In developing countries, they do not have the luxury of choosing whether or not to vaccinate their children. That option does not exist for them for they are not educated on the practices to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Conclusion
The United Nations feels that it is everyone’s right to have access to sufficient immunization resources to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Organizations like UNICEF and WHO have made leaps and bounds when it comes to getting certain diseases under control in developed areas as well as underdeveloped countries. Funding for programs like the Global Vaccination Program would need to be increased to keep up with the demand for vaccines. Proper education and distribution of accurate information when it comes to vaccines is also necessary if the programs set in place by organizations like UNICEF and WHO are to continue to be effective. Complacency when warring against infectious diseases is not a viable option for long-term success.

Committee Directive
The prevention of the spread of infectious disease is a viable goal that has been undertaken by the United Nations as well as associated organizations. Delegates on this committee should accurately depict the stance of their countries’ views on immunization and vaccines. Delegates should be able to create a solution to the rise in need for vaccinations in developing countries and how to safely transport and administer them. Delegates should present methods to distribute accurate education on health to poorer countries as well as overthrow the stigma attached to vaccinations.

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