

MADMUN XVI



# World Health Organization

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## **Introduction**

Hello! My name is Skyler! And I am a Junior at McFarland High School. This is my third year in ModelUn. I've chaired Sochum last Year in Monona Grove and had a blast helping people get motivated and have great Debates! Note that your safety and comfort are always my first priority before the actual debate; you can come up to me with any concerns you may have. If you do before the committee, feel free to email or text (Please include your name and that you're in Model UN if you text.)! Outside of ModelUn, I play Tennis, and I work! I hope you'll think of this background guide as useful and I can't wait to see you guys at the committee!

Hello my name is Sawyer Larson, and I am your other committee chair. This is my Senior year of high school.

## Topic 1: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health threat, occurring when microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve to withstand antimicrobial drugs. This resistance renders treatments ineffective, leading to prolonged illnesses, higher medical costs, and increased mortality. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. Factors contributing to AMR include the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials in human and animal health, poor infection control practices, and inadequate sanitation. The consequences of unchecked AMR are dire, potentially leading to a future where common infections become untreatable and routine medical procedures become high-risk.

The spread of AMR is accelerated by international travel, trade, and the movement of people and animals, allowing resistant organisms to cross borders rapidly. In healthcare settings, AMR leads to higher rates of hospital-acquired infections, longer hospital stays, and increased use of more expensive and sometimes toxic antimicrobial agents. In agriculture, the routine use of antibiotics in livestock for growth promotion contributes significantly to the development of resistant bacteria, which can then transfer to humans through the food chain or direct contact. The economic impact of AMR is substantial, with increased healthcare costs, reduced productivity, and potential disruptions to trade and travel.

Addressing AMR requires a multifaceted approach involving global collaboration, policy changes, and behavioral interventions. Strategies include promoting responsible antimicrobial use in human and animal health, improving infection prevention and control practices, investing in research and development of new antimicrobials and diagnostics, and raising public awareness about the importance of antimicrobial stewardship. Strengthening surveillance systems to monitor the emergence and spread of resistant organisms is also crucial. By implementing comprehensive strategies, the global community can mitigate the

threat of AMR and safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobial drugs for future generations.

Questions to consider:

What specific measures has your country implemented to combat antimicrobial resistance?

How does your country promote the responsible use of antimicrobials in healthcare and agriculture?

Are there any national policies or action plans in place to address antimicrobial resistance?

How is your country investing in research and development to combat antimicrobial resistance?

What public awareness campaigns or educational programs are in place to inform the public about antimicrobial resistance?

## **Topic 2: Mental Health Crisis**

Mental Health problems have been on a significant rise. Mental health including depression rose from 180 million in 1990 to over 290 million in 2019. In 2019, 970 million people lived with mental health disorders (Depression, ADHD, Autism, etc.). According to the Queensland Brain Institute, 50% of people who live to 75 years old will have at least one mental health disorder. First onset of mental health issue on average is around 14.5-15 year old with 50% of mental health cases developing at that point. Violence, Poverty, stigma, exclusion, and living in fragile areas are outside influences that could develop a mental health disorder like Depression. By the age of 18, most disorders aren't found, nor treated. Unfortunately as of 2024, Suicide is the third leading cause of death amongst the youth across the world. Worldwide, around 300 million people live with depression according to WHO. Covid itself rose mental health crisis 25%. Between 1993 and 2013, Depression and Anxiety rose by 50%. Social media has affected mental health through its existence. According to Yale, Young girls are more likely to suffer negative impacts from Social media more than Young boys statistically have, it is important to note that Social media's impact does impact both genders heavily with their mental health as it creates unrealistic standards that people push themselves to be. 11% of adolescents shows signs of problematic usage of their screens (addictions.) According to WHO,

Girls have a higher rate of 13% compared to the boys 9%; for gaming, only 12% of “Gamers” are seen as problematic. Today, the world still seems a struggle with the growth of mental health across all age groups. With efforts from WHO to create community based healthcare and therapeutic centers to help reduce the increase of mental health problems. Around the world, more workplaces has opened up mental health days off, and support for those who struggle with mental health. As awareness spreads, more places have spent more money trying to develop their services for those who need it. However, there is a big problem, 20% of people around the world are unable to get help due to the lack of services. Although there has been advancements in support for those who struggle with mental health, the future seems to be promising.

#### Questions to consider:

- What services has your country put in place to help fight mental health stigmas?
- How has your country work to help those who struggle with mental health?
- Is there any policies that are set to be put in place to help your country?
- How is your country preparing for the future of mental health and its stigmas?
- Has mental health increased or decreased since 1993 in your country?

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