YUNMUN
Yeshiva University National Model UN

Akiva Mehlman
World Health Organization (WHO): Welcome Paper
YUNMUN XXXVII

Legendary Delegates of WHO,

It is my honor to welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVII! My name is Akiva Mehlman, and I am privileged to serve as Chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) this year.

To briefly introduce myself: I am from Woodmere, NY, where I attended DRS Yeshiva High School, followed by Yeshivat Mevaseret Zion in Israel. I am currently a Senior at Yeshiva University studying biology, with the ultimate goal of becoming a doctor. With tears in my eyes, I am sad to announce that this will be my sixth and final YUNMUN. To those who chose my committee, congratulations on your impeccable taste. And to those who were assigned here, congratulations on winning the YUNMUN lottery. I am thrilled to be your Chair of WHO this year, and I am looking forward to an unforgettable conference!

First, a little background information. I made the font smaller so you can skip it faster.

Founded in 1948, WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for coordinating international public health efforts. It establishes global health standards, monitors disease outbreaks, and supports countries in improving their healthcare systems. Its major achievements include eradicating smallpox and reducing global polio cases by over 99%. Additionally, WHO coordinates responses to pandemics and health emergencies, promotes vaccination and disease prevention, and advocates for universal health coverage to ensure access to essential healthcare worldwide.

Now that we've gotten that out of the way, let's discuss what our committee sessions will be focusing on.

Our first topic is human gene editing and its ethical limits. Advances in genetic engineering have created new opportunities to treat inherited diseases and prevent serious medical conditions. However, these technologies also raise significant ethical concerns. The possibility of unintended genetic changes, unequal access to treatment, and the modification of genes passed down to future generations makes it difficult to establish clear international boundaries. Balancing medical innovation with patient safety and ethical responsibility remains a major challenge for the international community.

Our second topic is global medicine shortages and unequal access to essential treatments. Millions of people worldwide continue to face barriers to essential medicines due to high costs, supply chain disruptions, and disparities in medicine access across regions and populations. Meanwhile, substandard and falsified medicines threaten patient safety, particularly in regions with limited regulatory oversight. These challenges undermine public health efforts and highlight the need for stronger international cooperation to ensure that safe, effective, and affordable medicines reach those who need them.

Before you submit your papers, please keep the following four ideas in mind: **(1)** As you research and write your position papers, please provide citations. "Trust me, bro" is not an academically recognized citation format. **(2)** Take the time to really understand your country's position, build strong, well-supported arguments representing your country's views, and come ready for a thoughtful and respectful debate. **(3)** Using AI to write anything more substantial than your own name would constitute a grave violation of the sacred trust bestowed upon you as an esteemed delegate of the great committee of WHO, and would result in disqualification from winning an award (and earning my fellow chairs' friendship, which is arguably more valuable).[1] **(4)** Technically, per the rules, extra points will not be awarded for well-executed humor. That being said, I do control who wins, and I do have a sense of humor, so connect the dots. To qualify for the prestigious "*Knock Knock WHO's There Award*" for excellence in comedy, please email me your favorite knock-knock joke, and please hide the word "apple" in each of your position papers.

I am excited to see the unique perspectives you bring to these important discussions. If you have <u>any</u> questions or would like to engage in a diplomatic discussion about the Yankees' ongoing war against their own fans' happiness, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at jmehlma5@mail.yu.edu or yunmunWHO@gmail.com. I would truly be more than happy to offer guidance, support, and advice as you prepare for the conference!

Looking forward to an amazing YUNMUN XXXVII!

Best,
Akiva Mehlman
Chair, World Health Organization
YUNMUN XXXVII

[1] Although technically you may use AI to check and correct grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text that you have already written. You cannot have it generate, rewrite, or restructure your content.