ArcMUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

"Learning our way through change"
Study Guide

Table of Contents

1. Welcoming Letter

Dear delegates,

We are very happy and proud to welcome you to ArcMUN 2022 and especially to the Social Humanitarian Committee. This year's conference is based on a situation that has plagued our society since 2019; the coronavirus pandemic, which has cost millions of lives all over the globe. It is a fact that our society has been affected deeply and variously by this crisis and we cannot deny its impact. This committee is the sector responsible for the discussion of this matter and it is our firm belief that there are many different topics to exchange views and perceptions on. Due to this year's circumstances, the arcMUN conference will be cut short to a day. This is why we adapted this study guide appropriately. As the Chairs of SOCHUM, we are here to provide you any help needed and we are looking forward to meeting you, even via online sessions!

Best regards,

Stathis Konstantinos,

Ouzounidou Alice

2. Introduction to the Committee

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee represents the third body of the United Nations General Assembly. This committee is one of the main commissions, as it is responsible for the discussion of several social matters and humanitarian affairs. Such topics are the preservation of human rights, the protection of vulnerable people (women or children in distress, people with disabilities), the support to refugees and the combat of racial discriminations.

3. Introduction to the Topic

A pandemic is a worldwide health crisis that crosses international boundaries, and it deeply and roughly affects society. It is evident that, when we hear of a pandemic, we usually think about its health costs. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore its impact on various aspects of social life. The pandemic of Covid-19, running currently, could not differ; the lockdown has triggered a real social crisis. Many people have been affected psychologically and, thus, there have been certain excessive reactions, such as domestic violence. Besides that,

people have created a significant distance between them. However, despite the technological advances of our period, the physical, face-to-face, contact cannot be, in any way, replaced. In addition, from an economical perspective, the pandemic is a serious factor responsible for the extreme increase of unemployment rates worldwide, which is surely an undeniable cause for people's attitude. Of course, the expenses needed for medical equipment, in order to combat the virus, on a national level have not permitted wide humanitarian actions during this period. Lastly, because of all the trouble coronavirus has caused, society casted away all of the remaining social issues. As a result, vulnerable groups have been left alone, without any essential help.

4. Points to be Addressed

1. In which ways could Member States achieve a balance between the combat of the pandemic and the offer of humanitarian aid?

2. How could the United Nations find a solution to the problem of vaccination, without violating human rights?

3. May you provide some ways in order to supply suffering countries with "weapons" to fight and decrease the causes of the pandemic?

4. Which are the ways to support economically people affected by the crisis?

5. Should economically advanced countries show a greater degree of solidarity and empower weaker nations?

6. What could be the role of NGO's and international organizations during this harsh period?

7. May you suggest some ideas in order to support people left unemployed during the pandemic?

8. How have social relations been affected and what steps should we take to ameliorate the conditions?

9. Through which paths may individuals reinforce the work done by NGO's?

10. After all, how deep is the true impact on our society as a whole?

5. Bibliography

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3. Global research on coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Accessed December 21, 2021. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov

6. Further Resources

1.https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/UN-response

2.https://gchumanrights.org/preparedness/article-on/is-mandatory-vaccination-against-covid-19-justifiable-under-the-european-convention-on-human-rights.html

3.https://bchumanrights.ca/publications/vaccination/

4.https://www.unwomen.org/en

5.https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/covid-eu-solidarity/

6.https://government.gov.gr/?s=Covid-19