

King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

World Health Organization (WHO)



Delegate Guide & Tutorial Committee Position Paper Writing Guide

February 25-26
Arianna Mastrolonardo

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to welcome you to the eighth annual King'sMUN Conference: Voices of the Voiceless. Since the debut of the King'sMUN conference in 2013, we have striven to create a conference that enables students to push past their comfort zones, connect with their peers, and learn more about the world around them.

Model United Nations (MUN) is a youth simulation of the United Nations where students have the chance to debate the world's greatest issues, problem-solve, and produce creative resolutions with their peers. Throughout my MUN journey I have developed my critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills, which have transferred into many different avenues of my life and which I attribute to many of my successes in high school.

We are living in a time where certain people groups are marginalized and discriminated against based on prejudice and unjust systems. At King'sMUN we strive to lift the songs of those who are oppressed and listen to the stories and experiences of those whose mouths have been sealed for far too long. This year, the theme of the King'sMUN conference is Voices of the Voiceless. I hope you take this to heart both during the conference and as you move forward into your future.

These past few years have, without a doubt, been ones of hardship and challenge. The COVID-19 Pandemic has built many barriers not only between countries, but within countries, communities and families. At King'sMUN we acknowledge the past to live actively in the present, but look to the future with hope. One thing the COVID-19 Pandemic has not taken away is our creativity and will to connect to one another. With a range of committees branching from tutorial to advanced, and real to fictional, delegates with all levels of experience have an opportunity to collaborate with peers and grow as young leaders and changemakers at King'sMUN, despite the current predicaments.

Once again, I am extremely excited to greet each and every one of you at the eighth annual King'sMUN conference. Myself and the King'sMUN Secretariat look forward to seeing you on Friday, February 25th and Saturday, February 26th, 2022.

Sincerely,

Arianna Mastrolonardo

Secretary-General, 2022

King'sMUN

Topic 1: Ending Preventable Deaths of Newborns and Children Worldwide

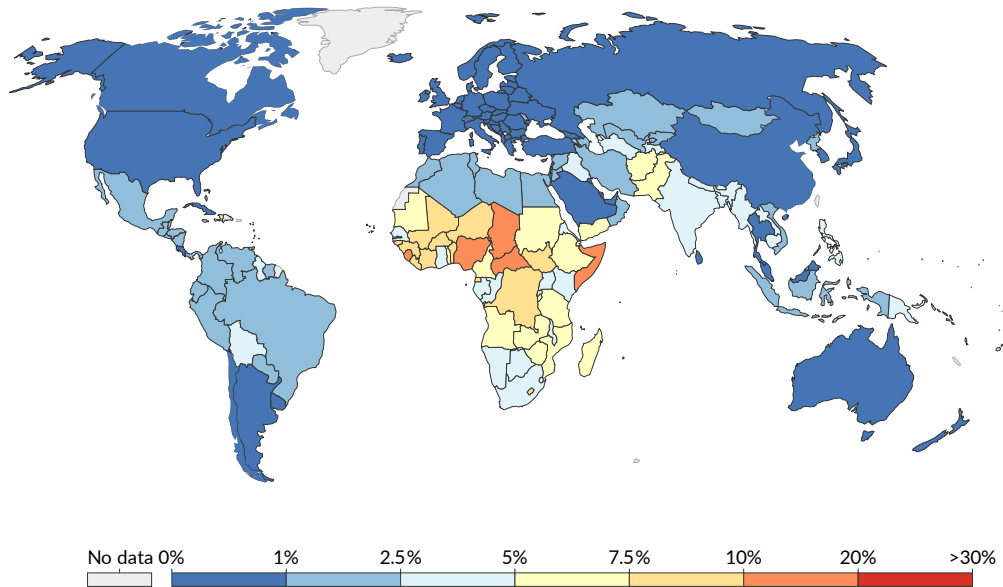
Background Information

Children and newborns dying preventable deaths is a pressing issue that must be addressed by nations from all over the globe. It was estimated that 5.2 million children under the age of five died of easily preventable causes in 2019 alone. This number is alarming to say the least, but when it was broken down further, it was concluded that 2.4 million of those deaths were of newborns (i.e., children under 28 days), 1.5 million were of children aged one to eleven months, and 1.3 million were of children aged one to four. The trend here shows that almost half of the total 5.2 million children died before they had lived 28 days, which showcases the importance of ensuring these newborns are given additional attention during these days to reduce their chance of death (World Health Organization, 2020).

Since 1990, there has been notable progress made in reducing preventable deaths of newborns and children worldwide. For example, in 1990, there were 12.6 million deaths of children under 5, compared to the 5.2 million in 2019. However, this statement is not true for every region of the world and there are many countries that have much need for improvement in increasing the mortality rate of children under five. Specifically, in Sub-Saharan Africa 1 in 13 children are dying before they turn five. This was achieved by the rest of the world, on average, in 1999. Alongside this, the top five countries with the lowest mortality rate of children under five are: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia (World Health Organization, 2020).

Child mortality rate, 2019

The share of newborns who die before reaching the age of five.



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (via World Bank)

OurWorldInData.org/child-mortality • CC BY

Note: The child mortality rate expresses the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of 5 years, if subject to age-specific mortality rates of that period. This is given as the share of live births.

Figure 1: A graph describing the child mortality rate in 2019 (World Bank, 2019).

In looking at the factors that are killing these children and newborns, it can be broken down into six main causes: (1) Premature birth at 18% of the deaths, (2) Pneumonia at 16% of deaths, (3) Birth defects at 13% of deaths, (4) Newborn infections, malaria, sepsis, measles at 13% of deaths, (5) Birth complications at 11% of deaths, and (6) Diarrhea at 9% of deaths. However, the World Health Organization has stated that it is childhood malnutrition that stands at the centre of deaths of children and newborns, accounting for 45% of all of these deaths (Huber, 2016).



Figure 2: Malnutrition is a huge factor in the number of children dying before they turn five (Dejongh, n.d.).

Luckily this dire situation is not hopeless yet, the World Health Organization has a series of solutions that they are suggesting will reduce the causes of deaths of children under the age of 5. This includes: (1) Immediate breastfeeding upon birth, (2) Skilled attendants and access to healthcare for women and their babies before, during, and after birth, (3) Access to nutrition, (4) Provision of education to families on warning signs in their child's health, (5) Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, and (6) Greater access to immunizations. These are just a couple of numerous solutions to take to reduce the number of preventable deaths in newborns and children around the world (Huber, 2016).

Sustainable Development Goal

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a series of 17 goals created by the United Nations in 2015 for the global community to achieve by 2030. The third SDG (i.e., SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing) has a focus of promoting healthy lives for everyone including children under the age of five. Within this goal, there are a number of targets with specific actions that must be done to achieve the goal. For example, SDG 3.2.1 is focused on preventing deaths of newborns and children under the age of five by 2030. Within this there are two main targets: (1) "To reduce the newborn mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births in

every country”, and (2) “To reduce under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births in every country.” One hundred and twenty-two countries have achieved these SDG 3 targets in 2019, with twenty countries expected to reach it by 2030. Unfortunately, if trends continue, fifty-three countries will not reach the target by 2030, and the World Health Organization, suggests that a greater attention be given to Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia to assist them on reducing the mortality rate of children under five.

Questions to consider

1. How is your assigned country’s mortality rate of children under five and what are the main factors influencing it?
2. How can you improve your assigned country’s mortality rate of children under five?
3. What can the global community do to reduce preventable deaths of children and newborns under the age of five?

References

- Authors at World Health Organization. (2020 September 8). Children: improving survival and well-being. *World Health Organization*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/children-reducing-mortality#:~:text=Global%20response%3A%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goal%203.2.&text=1%20is%20to%20end%20preventable,under%2D5%20children%20by%202030.&text=Reduce%20newborn%20mortality%20to%20at,live%20births%20in%20every%20country>.
- Dejongh, F. (n.d.). An image of a child being tested for wasting. [Photograph]. *UNICEF*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/child-wasting>.
- Huber, C. (2016 January 13). Child Mortality: Top causes, best solutions. *World Vision*. Retrieved from: <https://www.worldvision.org/health-news-stories/child-mortality-causes-solutions>.
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Position Paper Template

Committee:

Population:

Delegate:

Location:

School:

Government type:

Topic:

President/ prime minister:

Nation:

Religions:

National languages:

Give a brief description of the topic of debate to show the chair that you have a full understanding of it. This description should be general and not specific to your country.

What is your country's point of view on the topic? What previous actions has your country taken regarding this topic? How has this topic affected your country? Propose a possible resolution that your country wishes to pass.

List countries that have a similar opinion/view point on the topic (this will be helpful when trying to pass a resolution).