Country: Republic of Cuba

Commitee: WHO Committee

Topic Area: Zika Virus

Delegate: Murat Bolat

Good morning delegates and chair,

Republic of Cuba is located in the northern Caribbean. South of the USA and Bahamas. Cuba has 11 million residents. Cuba’s GDP is over 100.000 US Dollars as of 2018. Cuba has a healthcare system where it’s available and free for all residents. We believe that this system has helped us a lot during the crisis of Zika virus. Because since the citizens have easier access to healthcare, it was easier for us to implement the strategy of detect and isolate.

As we all know the main issue, which is Zika virus, originated from the Zika Forest in Uganda at 1947. However it didn’t become any important for the world until 2015-2016 epidemic. This epidemic started from Brazil and in no time it jumped to some parts of North and South America. When this virus arrived at our neighbours, we knew that Zika virus is a global threat and it’s serious. Our president at that time, Raul Castro, wrote a national message which includes the threat of Zika virus, how it gets spread and what kinds of effects are seen on unborn childs. He ordered all Cubans to help for the fight against this virus. Also he had deployed 9000 military personnel along with 200 police officers to disinfect the houses and public buildings against the mosquitos that are spreading the virus. We had began to build an aggresive system, specially for mosquitos after 1981 dengue fever which killed 181 people. Cuban health minister, Pena Garcia, said “The Cuban people don’t forget that.” who also said “Visit every house in Cuba, look for mosquitos and kill them.” We also increased the frequency of prenatal screening so that we could take precautions for babies with microcephaly. As a result of these precautions there have only been 33 confirmed Zika virus cases in Cuba.

First of all, the whole world must understand that Zika virus is real and it’s dangerous. Nowadays the world is boiling with Covid-19 pandemic. However we must not ignore Zika virus because of Covid-19. We believe there are 2 parts to eliminate this virus and they are, preparation in case of virus and vaccination to eliminate the threat of Zika virus.

This delegation proposes these solutions to help solve these problems:

• As we already mentioned, detect and isolate strategy plays a crucial role in the fight against this virus. All countries must implement this strategy.

• There must be professional teams to mobilize when there is a situation of Zika virus.

• We must monitor the people that came from countries which has the virus.

• We need to remember that we live in the same planet and only way to find a permanent solution such as, vaccination, is with global unity. We must put our differences aside and work towards a vaccine.

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