



# World Health Organization

*junior*

**Agenda Item: Covid-19's Effects on Education**  
**UnderSecretary-General: Ada Sayal**

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## 1. Letter From Secretary-General

Distinguished Participants,

As the Secretary-General of YÜKOMUN'20, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the Yükselen Model United Nations Online Conference. To briefly introduce myself, my name is Burak Yağız Güllü, I am currently a high school student in Yükselen Science High School and I'm also dealing with coding and electronic projects.

Since the beginning of my MUN journey I always dreamed of organizing my own conference with a successful and hardworking team and first INFIMUN is my pupil. However, YUKOMUN'20 was the first and best conference that I will do for my school. I hope you will be satisfied with our hard-working academic and organizational team and executive board. Welcome to a conference that will distract you during the prolonged online MUN period and hopefully give you an amazing experience.

I would like to thank three special people, our Academic Advisor Ceylin Kızılkaya, our Director-General Levent Şahin and our Deputy Director-General Çağan Şimşek. They always supported me no matter what and gave their best to organize YUKOMUN'20. Our conference would not be able to accomplish without them.

We are more than honored to see you in our family. I hope you have fun and an unforgettable experience during YUKOMUN'20.

Best Regards,

Secretary-General of YUKOMUN'20

Burak Yağız Güllü

## 2. Letter From Under Secretary-General

## 3. Introduction to the Committee and the Agenda Item

The World Health Organization (WHO) was first established on April 7, 1948 and is an active organization ever since. Working with 194 Member States, across six regions, and from more than 150 offices, WHO is focused on providing healthcare. Being a part of the United Nations (UN), WHO is the most reliable and the most comprehensive organization concerning health.

The most recent outbreak, currently affecting thousands of people, COVID-19 is the topic of this committee. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a virus that has been affecting everyone globally since the end of 2019.

Most people who get infected with coronavirus will go through mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The elderly are the most at risk, ages 60 and above tend to have the highest death rate due to COVID-19.

#### **4. What is COVID-19**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease which can affect the lungs and airways of a human body caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It is a pandemic virus that can spread easily in crowded places like concerts, Model United Nations conferences, theatres, shopping malls etc.

According to the World Health Organization's database, there are more than 267,000 confirmed cases all around the world and more than 11,000 people died because of this new coronavirus so that means this virus has nearly 4.2% death rate and mostly affects people who are above 50 years old. Additionally, this virus is not lethal as the media reflected however even though younger people can be cured more easily or they might not get sick, they can be a carrier for this new coronavirus. That's why governments take strict precautions against this disease.

The first case of this coronavirus disease has been seen in China, and nowadays most of the countries and territories have at least one case of this illness. However, most countries have a lot more cases than just one, going up to 2 million.

##### **a. Symptoms of COVID-19**

There are three main symptoms of coronavirus, which are cough, high temperature (at least 38 °C), and shortness of breath. If a person has these symptoms this doesn't mean that he/she necessarily has COVID-19. Cough and high temperature are common flu or The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. Shortness of

breath is a sign of possible pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention.

## **b. How COVID-19 Spreads**

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

## **c. Effects of COVID-19**

Since COVID-19 is a global epidemic virus it has different and excessively effects on nearly all eras but major ones are health, population, economy, politics and social life.

### **i. Health**

Coronavirus is a fatal illness. It mostly affects elderly people rather than young citizens, similar to SARS and H1N1 (Swine Flu) however COVID-19 is spreading rapidly and causes more deaths than SARS and H1N1 viruses. Scientists and doctors are stating that the immune system is decreasing while people grew older and for that matter the higher the immune system, the less possibility off getting COVID-19. Mortality of COVID-19 is 10%, 98% of the deaths occurred on citizens older than 65. On occasion COVID-19 contaminates young citizens by the help of their strong immune system they do not show any symptoms and they do not get sick however in that case they serve as carriers of the virus. Even Though they do not notice, the virus contaminates more people from the main carrier and spreads to more areas.

### **ii. Population**

World population had been increasing substantially since the 19th century. The elderly population was growing substantially. Scientists and investigators were stating that substantial uncontrolled growth in population might cause countless negative effects such as but not limited to: 1. food and water wars 2. famine 3. drought 4. decreasement on domestic income 5. increasement on consumption

and environmental pollution<sup>[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16][17][18][19][20][21][22][23][24][25][26][27][28][29][30][31][32][33][34][35][36][37][38][39][40][41][42][43][44][45][46][47][48][49][50][51][52][53][54][55][56][57][58][59][60][61][62][63][64][65][66][67][68][69][70][71][72][73][74][75][76][77][78][79][80][81][82][83][84][85][86][87][88][89][90][91][92][93][94][95][96][97][98][99][100]</sup> However substantial growth in population started to decrease with the deaths caused by COVID-19, it seems it will keep decreasing. Already 316.519 people affected by COVID-19, 13.599 of them died.

### iii. **Economy**

COVID-19 affects the country's national economy and also the global economy in a bad way. Some countries such as Italy and Spain declared national quarantine and some others such as Turkey and the United States of America paused education and closed most of the working areas and called people to stay at their home in order to prevent the Coronavirus spreading. Some governments postponed charter prices, taxes, electric and water bills in order to help people who are not able to work in these circumstances, even some governments are giving pocket-money.

In the meantime, some governments also giving free medical support to their citizens such as free masks, free COVID-19 test kits and free examinations at the hospitals they are trying to satisfy the need of quarantined hospital beds and intensive cure unit (ICU). Obviously expenditure of governments are substantially increasing none the less their income are scarcely any so that most of the countries' economy which has COVID-19 go from bad to worse and covering this worsening's effects will be very hard in the future.

Worsening on the national economies is hitting the global economy even harder. China is the world's second-largest economy and leading trading nation, so economic fallout from COVID-19 also threatens global growth. Businesses are dealing with lost revenue and disrupted supply chains due to China's factory shutdowns. UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) warned of a slowdown of global growth fewer than 2% this year, effectively wiping \$1 trillion off the value of the world economy.

### iv. **Politics**

Politicians from all around the world are trying to take control of the epidemic in their own country and also on the globe before the

COVID19 outbreak there were tensions between United States of America and Iran, United States of America and China, Turkey and Russian Federation, United Kingdom and European Union at the agenda. Now, most of the countries are trying to help each other in order to take control of the COVID-19 outbreak globally rather than discussing other reasons, which are causing tension between states.

#### **v. Social Life**

Many governments declared national quarantine and that restricted people's social activities such as going to cafes and restaurants, shopping, doing outdoor or indoor sports, going to school or work etc. Most countries transferred to online education and called business centers to be switched to home office business and others closed for a while. Some countries just declared quarantine for hazard group which is the people older than 65.

#### **vi. Education**

To slow down the spread of COVID-19 many countries took a break off school. When education lacked too much, online education started. However, there are still many problems regarding online education. First of all, not all students have access to Internet or technological devices to connect to their classes. In addition, it is not easy for students to concentrate from their home environment thus a decrease in academic success. But there are benefits as well, faster learning, the recording of classes and easier 'commute' to school. The agenda item of the committee is the effects of COVID-19 on education. Each member state is to discuss their policies and behavior towards education in their countries.

### **5. Questions to be Addressed**

- How can the virus be prevented in an academic environment?
- What effect will the outbreak have on the learning of students?
- How can Member States inform their citizens about COVID-19 risks the students carry?
- Which rules or laws should be regulated in order to slow down the spreading of coronavirus amongst learning environments?

## 6. Further Readings

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_2](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_2)

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg\\_policy\\_brief\\_covid-19\\_and\\_education\\_august\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf)

<https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/impact-of-coronavirus-on-education/>

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